

PTL donations run low after recent publicity

By AMY WINSLOW
Staff Writer

As long as people think Jim Bakker will return to PTL, they will not contribute to the ministry, PTL officials said.

In a PTL board meeting last week, the Rev. Jerry Falwell, president of the founding television ministry known as both Praise The Lord and People That Love, said donations to the organization had plummeted, largely because of the Jim Bakker scandal.

Bakker turned over his \$172 million television ministry and amusement park to Falwell after admitting to a sexual encounter seven years ago with church secretary Jessica Hahn. Hahn testified earlier this week in Charlotte before a federal grand jury investigating PTL's activities under Bakker.

In the first week of September, donations to PTL totaled \$1.4 million but dropped to \$400,000 over the next 15 days, said Linda

Ivey, public relations spokeswoman for PTL.

Adverse publicity always affects donations, said Gene Boyett, executive vice president for finance and administration for PTL.

"We certainly have had that with the various scandals that have hit the press with Jim Bakker and his close associates," Boyett said. "Every time we get back on track, (bad) things come out."

Although Bakker has said he wishes to return to PTL, Boyett said the "Bring Back Bakker" movement has attracted few supporters.

Although the ministry is about \$68 million in debt, Boyett said there is "absolutely a chance for its survival."

Reorganization plans are being discussed, Boyett said, but details cannot be disclosed until after October 1, the reorganization deadline under Chapter 11 bankruptcy proceedings.

Thrift shop gives money to local PTAs

By KELLY JOHNSON
Staff Writer

The PTAs of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro city schools will be more than \$285,000 richer on Monday, when the PTA Thrift Shop makes its annual donation to the associations.

Sponsored by the local PTAs, the Thrift Shop consists of two non-profit, service-oriented stores in Chapel Hill and Carrboro. The program has been operating in the area for 35 years.

Thrift Shop representatives will present the check, made out to ten local PTAs, at the school board meeting, said Kitty Dingleline, co-chairman of the shop's board of directors.

The thrift shops continue to raise more money annually, said Gerry House, city schools superintendent. The shops' profit this year was \$20,000 more than last year.

The money is divided among each school's PTA according to a formula based 60 percent on a school's student enrollment and 40 percent on the number of shop hours school volunteers have worked, House said.

Dingleline said each PTA decides how to spend its share of the Thrift Shop money. The schools use the

money for projects such as field trips, playground equipment, computers and library books, she said.

"In the end, the parents have the final say on how the money is spent," Dingleline said. "I think that's quite unique."

This aid is very important, House said, especially with the recent federal funding cutbacks in education.

The PTA Thrift Shop relies heavily on volunteers although it is supervised by a manager, two assistant managers and more than 25 paid employees. Volunteers work in the store, make window displays and wash the merchandise that is donated to the store, Dingleline said.

House said the Thrift Shop can make a great deal of money because volunteers still do a majority of the work.

People in the community also remember the Thrift Shop when they clean their houses by donating odds and ends instead of throwing them away, Dingleline said. The shop is also successful, she said, because there is not a Goodwill or Salvation Army in Chapel Hill.

The stores sell mostly clothes, books and records, but they also have furniture, appliances, computers and

musical instruments, Dingleline said. People have even donated cars, a tractor and a camper, she said.

"It's pretty hard to think of something that hasn't been given," she said. "A lot of unusual things pop in."

Dingleline said requests have come from all over the country for more information about the stores, which were featured in Family Circle magazine in 1984. By sharing information about the organization, Thrift Shop organizers have helped other people start similar stores in Hillsborough, Durham and Pittsboro, she said.

"There is plenty of room for other thrift shops," Dingleline said.

At least once a month, the school

volunteers hold a "bag day" to help clean out stock, she said. Customers can buy a grocery bag of merchandise for \$1. Halloween is also an occasion when the shelves are cleared by shoppers looking for costumes and props, she said.

Volunteers make a Thrift Shop float for the local Christmas parade to publicize the stores, she said. They also advertise by word of mouth and by fliers.

The Thrift Shop owns the Carrboro store, where it has been in business since 1979, and has rented the Chapel Hill store in Kroger Plaza since 1980. The Thrift Shop also has about 12 donation boxes in the area, she said.

Admissions

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leaders of the future."

Strickland said the office has six application readers, and the number has not increased with the recent influx of applications. The Admissions Office needs about three more application processors and three more readers, he said.

"Our basic job is saying yes or no," Strickland said. "We really don't have the staff for even that. If we are to become more personal, we need more personnel."

"There are many things we could expand on and refine if we had more staff," Strickland said.

Human services board rejects budget request

By LINDSAY HAYES
Staff Writer

The Chapel Hill Human Services Advisory Board voted Tuesday not to go to the town council with a \$1,000 funding request for the Dispute Settlement Center's new program.

The board makes budget recommendations to the council for local human services organizations in May, but the Dispute Settlement Center missed the deadline for its Communities Penalties program. The program would offer non-violent felons alternatives to imprisonment.

The program will begin in October with 90 percent of its funding from the state, Claire Millar, director of the Dispute Settlement Center, said Thursday.

The center must raise 10 percent of its funding, or \$3,500, from sources in the area of Orange and Chatham counties, said Chairman Al Mebane.

Local funding came this year from Siler City, Pittsboro, Carrboro and the Orange County Commissioners to begin program operations, Millar said.

The board also voted down a suggestion by board member Mary Jane Burns to ask the council for less than the \$1,000 request.

The board communicates with various human service agencies throughout the fall and winter to assess their funding needs, said Vice Chairman Lyman Ford.

"This request can always come up again (before the board) next year," he said.

"Next year we will try to get more money from the private sector," Millar said.

Chairman Al Mebane said the board should not request the money from the town council until the center offers evidence that it has solicited money from the private sector, such as private individuals, organizations, and businesses.

"Coming to us is not community support," he said.

Since the center has enough money to start operating this fall, it will not need to come up with more financial support until state program funding stops July 30, said Human Services Coordinator Tina Vaughn.

Board member Anne Dellinger said she thought it was unusual that cities and counties should provide

money for an alternative to imprisonment, which is a state responsibility.

Funding for the program should come from the community to indicate community support, said board member Rick Courtright.

Next year, the state will pay 80 percent and the center will have to come up with 20 percent of the funding, or about \$7,000, Millar said. The United Way, which supports the center, will be the first place the director said she will go for funding.

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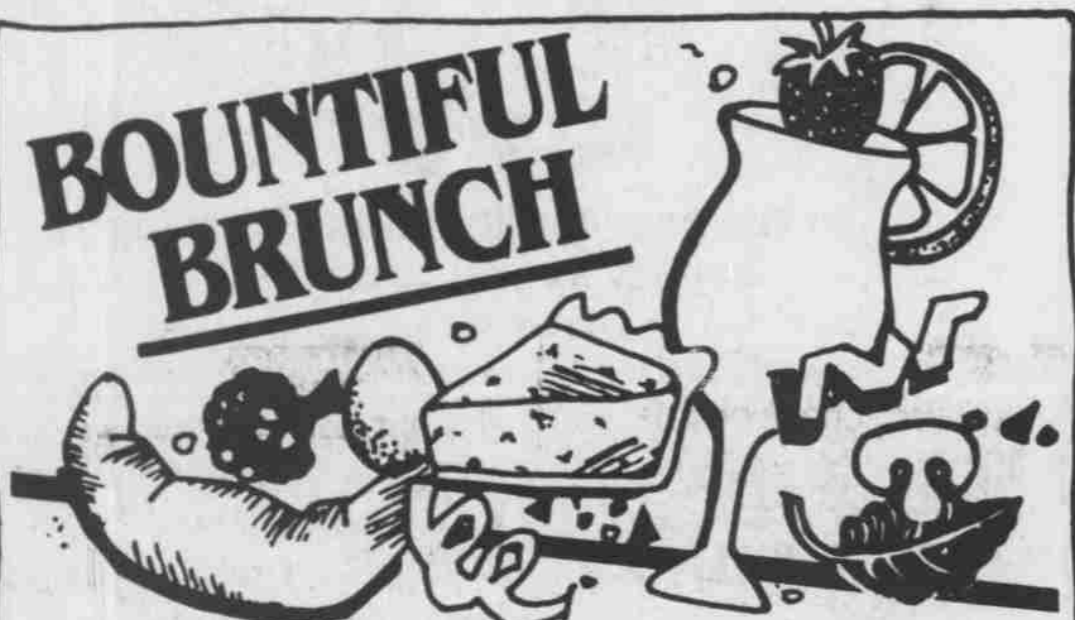
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