

# EDITORIALS & COMMENTS

## Materialism - Is It God?

"Honor the Lord with thy substance, and with the first fruits of all thine increase," says the Bible in Proverbs 3:9. Some so-called preachers of the electronic or television ministry, have interpreted, or more accurately, prostituted this verse to mean that they should "layeth up treasures for (them)self..." but ignore the latter part of this verse from Luke 12:21 which says a person with such treasures "...is not rich toward God."

It appears to us that three recent news reports about clergymen who claim to have brought millions of people to Jesus Christ have themselves stepped away from Christ because of a blinding quest for increased wealth and riches for themselves on this earth.

Quite evidently we are referring to recent reports that Jim Bakker, Oral Roberts and Robert Schuller, three of the major television ministry personalities have each alleged acted as "...the ungodly, who prosper in the world; (and) increase in riches." (Ps. 73:12). Jim Bakker's PTL ministry reportedly spent \$440,000 recently on an oceanfront condominium in Florida and on new PTL studio dressing rooms for Jim and his wife, Tammy, that are equipped with gold-plated plumbing fixtures. Ironically, the decision to make this expenditure in October, 1982, was at a time when PTL was claiming it was in a serious "financial crisis" and had laid-off nearly 100 of its employees. Ironically, too, is the fact that a personal aid of Jim Bakker's was supervising the purchases and decorations while Bakker was claiming he had asked his board not to buy the condo and the board reportedly claiming it approved a condo purchase but had no knowledge of the sales price.

### TV Ministry

It appears that Jim Bakker may need to re-read that part of 2 Kings 12:13 which says, "Howbeit there were not made for the house of the Lord bowls of silver...vessels of gold...But they gave that to the workmen."

The Rev. Oral Roberts, an ordained minister, reportedly said he has received a personal message from God to solicit to pledge of \$240, or \$20 per month per person for one year to enable him to complete building his city of Tower of Faith because "God has picked me (Roberts) to find a cure for cancer."

We sincerely hope God has sent such a message to Oral Roberts, or anyone else, if it will result in finding a solution to the dreaded disease of cancer. How-

ever, we have to wonder why if Rev. Roberts is certain of God's message he does not solicit financial assistance from some of the research foundations as opposed to, as one person claims, soliciting help from retired people on fixed incomes.

The book of Genesis (11:3) notes "...let us build us a city and a tower...to reach unto heaven." An the scripture adds God was not pleased with man's plan. We think Oral Roberts should renew his understanding of why God opposed the building of such a tower before further soliciting in the name of God's work.

Lastly, the Rev. Dr. Robert Schuller, pastor of the Garden Grove (Calif.) Crystal Cathedral, an \$18 million glass church has reportedly been charging people \$12 and \$17 for tickets to attend concerts in the church.

### Reach Unto Heaven

California tax officials claim that since the church is being used for a variety of profit-making enterprises, it must pay about \$200,000 annually in taxes.

Again, we look to the Bible as a basis for questioning the wisdom or lack of it, behind Dr. Schuller's use of his church for commercial purpose when he already has a relatively wealthy 10,000 member tide-paying congregation and a prosperous television evangelist ministry. Matthew 21:12 says, "Jesus went into the temple of God, and cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the money-changers..."

While The Post is mindful too that Jesus has said, "He that is without sin...let him first cast a stone," (John 8:7), we believe that anyone who chooses to question or criticize what these apparent money-hungry television ministers are doing should look to the Bible as a basis for such criticism because the Bible is supposedly the source of strength of these alleged men of God. Each of these men will face judgment before God's Court.

### A TEAM WITH CHARACTER

When Dean Smith's Tar Heel basketball team got off to a very poor start this school year losing half its first six games, and again when their 18 game winning streak was broken which cost them their No. 1 national ranking, his comments were always in the context of "We" did or did not do something.

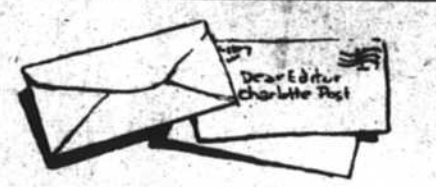
### ...And One Without

Earlier in Hal Wissel's continued march toward a losing season with his UNCC 49ers, he publicly criticized one of his players then apologized for it.



Answer To "Black On Black" Crime...Better Team Work!

### Letters To The Editor:



### Still Living In Racist Society

Dear Sir:  
In viewing the new on TV and reading the Observer March 11, 1983, I find myself still living in a racist society. A society where we, as black people, are made guilty before due process of the law. In our Democratic society, we as American citizens are innocent until proven guilty.

kindergarten (he has been arrested a second time), but the picture of the black teacher from Hawthorne Junior High made headlines, a big picture, also the pictures of the young black men accused of robbery in Texas.

band, the Bishop George J. Leake III, was always a target for the news and the TV.

The new media has a way of dealing with blacks who are accused of committing a crime. It tries us, and makes us guilty before a fair trial, by making sure the public knows we are black by parading pictures on the front page of the paper.

Let me say here I do not condone anyone, black or white, for breaking the law. My children and I have felt the results of the double standards in printing the news about blacks and the black community in a white paper. My late hus-

Are we still living in the 60s? Will we ever be accepted as true American citizens with a heritage? Must we always be the ones to suffer or made to look as if we are not a proud people having morals and values? What will we say as blacks about this in a black community? Double standards in a free and Democratic society?

We in the community have yet to see a picture of the white man charged with sexual misconduct involving young children at a

Despite the tremendous expenditures for health care which approaches 12 percent of our Gross National Product (GNP), almost 50 million Americans remain with little or no health insurance.

for basic health care for all Americans; protect all families from ruinous medical bills; reform adequate health services on underserved areas and emphasized preventive services.

### Pen Pal Needed

Dear Sir:  
I am incarcerated in the North Carolina prison system and the loneliness that surrounds me is far than any man should have to endure. I'd greatly appreciate it if you would place my ad in your paper, in hopes that someone out there will see it and be willing to accept my friendship.

Babies born to poor families are twice as likely to die before their first birthday as babies born to middle-income families. More than one out of every three black mothers (age 22-40) does not receive prenatal care until they are at least four months pregnant.

Senators Jesse Helms and John East voted yesterday to eliminate the benefits of 35,000 unemployed workers in North Carolina. It was only through the good graces of the 82 senators who voted for the bill that these 35,000 workers are not losing their unemployment benefits.

I am a 32 year old black male, 5'11" m 180 pounds, and would love to hear from anyone.

National health insurance needs to be one of America's priorities for 1983. We should call for a national health insurance plan which would provide

In North Carolina, the unemployment rate is 10.0 percent. Although there may be national spokesmen who can glibly say that the economy is getting better and that we are rounding the corner on unemployment.

Until I hear from you, I will remain.

Very truly yours,  
Floyd Howie  
835 W. Morgan St.  
Raleigh, NC 27603

State Rep. B. Holt

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### From Capitol Hill

## Blacks Gearing For All Out Assault On Reaganomics

By Alfreda L. Madison  
Special To The Post  
If the Reagan election means anything to blacks, it is a blessing in disguise, because not since the 60s have blacks become so organized to learn and find ways of really becoming a part of "we the people" of the United States Constitution.



The Joint Center for Political Studies launched a nationwide voter registration drive, which is highly emphasized by all black political organizations, the Congressional Black Caucus keeps blacks informed of major legislation, that affects them, the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights and National Urban League in their recent annual meetings alerted blacks of the problems and the impact their support has had in turning back some of Ronald Reagan's assaults on civil rights gains and how they can continue to prevent the Administration's anti-black gains.

told how they can participate in the Bureau's Operation Network, which is the grassroots lobby designed to link NAACP members to local branches and state conferences to monitor civil rights legislation.

states rights. Many social programs have been combined, but funding for them has been cut and non-discrimination regulations have been removed. Reagan's Medicare changes for 1984 require the co-payments of the patient and Medicare; at present it is free for the first 60 days, premiums which are presently \$12.50 will rise to \$14.50 January 1984. Since 43.5 percent of elderly black women and 32.3 elderly black men live far below the poverty line, these Medicare cuts will prove disastrous for them.

this would divert from public education which serves the majority blacks, middle and low income students to private schools that serve the rich.

tendees were urged to contact Senators Metzbaum and Biden, members of the Senate Judiciary, to continue to hold up all Reagan Civil Rights Commission appointments.

Recently, the NAACP held its usual March agenda session. Thirty-eight states were represented. This conference was planned and organized by the Washington Bureau, which translates association's policies and resolutions into legislative pro-

grams. This is done by closely scrutinizing actions of both the legislative and executive branches. Director of the Washington Bureau is Attorney Althea Simmons. When Clarence Mitchell held that position he was often called the 101st senator. Althea testifies before congressional committees on all issues that affect blacks and she is most often seen buttonholing key legislators on these. She can easily be considered the black female senator.

The chapter members were fully briefed on effects the Reagan proposed budget with its balanced budget rhetoric, and deficit of nearly \$2 billion echoes freeze on social programs, but at the same time is really reducing funding for these programs.

The President talks about public housing build up, public housing is supposed to have an annual production of two and a half million units, he has cut the construction to less than a million units. The conference members were urged to put pressure on Senators to prevent passage of the Hatfield amendment which requires each individual to bring a housing discrimination case and then he has to prove "intent."

Civil Rights Commission explained the President's complete assault on civil rights gains. Mr. Reagan is attempting to shape the Commission in his own conservative image by changing appointment custom of only making appointments when vacancies occur to replacing members with persons who will carry out the Administration's views of weakening the Commission. At-

This NAACP agenda meeting, after the expert presentations, always turned into a constructive dialogue. Branch members highly stressed that they received information, symbolically explained, and that they were leaving with increased determination to block the Reagan assaults on black justice and progress.

### Moss Earns Morrow Scholarship

Elizabeth S. Moss, 5114 Glenbrier Drive, Charlotte, has been awarded the Mary Morrow Scholarship by the North Carolina Association of Classroom Teachers.

The new Federalism was shown as a synonym for

which were for special programs to aid low achievers which have proved highly effective have been cut. The audience was told to beware of tuition tax credit and vouchers since

the scholarship is based on character, personality, scholastic achievement, and promise for becoming a successful teacher. She will be recognized at the N.C. Association of Classroom Teachers state convention April 15.

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## Ticket Out Or Working Up?

Many young minority athletes believe their ticket out of the neighborhood is to be a superstar athlete: they want a ticket out instead of working up. A ticket out is only achieved by a select few exceptional superstars. Julius Erving, O. J. Simpsons and Arthur Ashes do not come down the avenue like new Fords. They are born with a gift; it is cultivated, supported on its way up and rewarded upon reaching the top. Thousands are good, but few are exceptional.

Of the thousands of good athletes, more than half are talented in other areas such as business, technology, art and music. However, because of the obsession with making the pros one day, these talents go undeveloped and overlooked. Why? Because everyone has dreams of being nationally or internationally known but sometimes dreams get in the way of reality. Not to say that dreams are useless or should not be; however, they should be put into perspective and parallel with reality.

There is a tendency for parents, teachers and coaches to push good athletes into the school starlight and, in a sense, brainwash the individual into believing that he or she will be a professional athlete one day. Under this approach the team takes over and neglects the intellect. Athletic development should parallel intellectual development, not outweigh it. The days of the dumb jock are fading; today's superstar athletes are well educated and do have something other than glory to rely on in the future - themselves.

Working up on the other hand starts out as a reality and develops into a dream. Working one's day up in the neighborhood and community comes with the realization of personal and intellectual potential, the desire and drive to be everything one can be. George Jefferson of the TV show "The Jeffersons" is a good example of this belief. George Jefferson believed that he could successfully own and run a cleaners and dreamed of owning a chain of stores - the rest is known history. There are minorities who live this life and there are many more who could if their dreams did not cloud the clarity of thinking and planning.

Improving one's station under the working up theory involves reaching an equilibrium of the body and mind. The strengths and weaknesses of the body and mind are realized causing there to be a competition of will versus dream. The will being a success and the dream public celebration. Success brings with it personal security among the family and financially. It means living the life one really wants and enjoys.

Working up generally does not neglect one's entity of the self, but demands of all. A ticket out focuses on only one, and it is not the mind. As stated by the United Negro College Fund - "The Mind Is A Terrible Thing To Waste," because it is one of the greatest resources among minorities. You decide which is best - a ticket out or working up.