

# Letters to the Editor

To the Editor,

Once again the people are insulted by an insinuation that they are but gullible morons who have not a thought in the principal that sits atop their shoulders. Jerry Falwell expressed his concern for "all the children, and especially the Black children of South Africa."

The words reek of irony when, with calculated deliberateness he spends a million dollars . . . not to do anything for those children for whom he professes to be so concerned — but instead, to attempt to change the way the moral people of the world view and accept apartheid as a way and means of life. If, as he claims and masquerades, Jerry Falwell is truly a man of God who believes in God's word and God's legacy (the Bible), it is hoped that he lives by, patterns his life to, and teaches from that legacy. If he is truly a minister of God, and God has provided him with a surplus of \$1-million, I believe God's way would be to use it for those Black children in South Africa for which he is "concerned", or better yet, at home, here in America, where millions are starving and out on the streets with no place to go. What is South Africa to him, anyway? What's it to him to squander a million dollars to promote a system which anyone with morals and integrity and a feeling of what it means to be a human being who lives . . . knows is unfair, and unjust? What's it to him to waste any amount of money to promote any way of life cross-country when so many people genuinely need it for constructive purposes . . . even for their very survival? Somewhere, in America, is a child who is dying because his parent does not have the money for a life-saving operation for him. Somewhere in America now is a Black child who is dying slowly because he sees no opening through which to dream. Today, in America, whole families of children are going to bed hungry because their parents are unemployed or poverty-stricken. Somewhere in America now are families who spread their pallets underneath the bridges at night because they have no home. I could go on and on. And he uses a million dollars to sell a wrong . . . and he passes himself off as a Minister of God's Ideals.

It is obvious to me that Jerry Falwell is one who has the arrogant confidence to view himself (along with his gift of gab) as supreme enough to manipulate the thoughts of his counterparts who have each been given identical tools — a mind and a heart with which to think, to rationalize, to analyze, and to make decisions and commitments concerning life and living. It is obvious to me, also, that he has been provided funds and sponsored in money to buy "air time" in the mega-media to promote something which has absolutely nothing to do with his mission as a minister of God's word and God's way. His attitude and efforts are totally contrary to that which he claims to represent (the Bible

speaks of such . . .). According to the Word, such tongues do not wag to the acknowledgement of Him, and will not wag in His kingdom. It is of the essence that Mr. Falwell continue to pray. . .

J. COURTNEY GORDON

P.S., For the record, I am not a religious person, but I do try to live by (therefore believe in) The Ten Commandments and in the age-old (but still guaranteed to work) "Do Unto Others. . .", and I do try to be respectful and fair of my fellow-man. . . if only just because he or she was (obviously) identically worthy to be put here. Mr. Falwell would do well to drop the title (at least for the time being) and do as much. I am simply a conscientious, observing, and concerned woman who happens to be inhabiting this earth (God's earth), during these particular times, and I just think it's too bad that many, many who pass through, pass on. . . without ever having gotten an opportunity to live (according to the standards of his time), and to be . . . all because there are those of us who instigate hard times for others because of personal greed, selfishness, and arrogance (likely due to self-doubt). What a waste of something very special — life and living.

To the Editor,

Ballot Measure No. 1, or the Sales and Use Tax (correct name), not Oregon's balanced tax plan as quoted in the comic book put out by the group wanting us to foot our own property tax relief with a sales tax.

Why would a new business come to Oregon with a sales tax? They know property tax can still go up — city and counties still get a 6 percent tax base. Schools get 6 and 12 percent tax base the first two years if the sales tax passes.

More jobs in Oregon because of sales tax? That's a laugh! We don't have a sales tax now and companies are not hiring.

They talk of tourist money for Oregon — do you know we would lose more in revenue from our neighboring states such as Washington, Idaho, Nevada, and California? These people come here to buy big items because we have no sales tax.

If the sales tax passes we will have an extra tax burden of \$108.6 million a year on our shoulders. The yearly cost of collecting this new tax would be \$30.5 million, that is more than tourists would bring in plus we lose the out-of-state business.

They say you get 35 percent tax relief, an example to the contrary — your income is \$25,000, home value \$50,000, property relief \$385, income tax relief \$142, break-even purchases \$10,500. Five percent (5%) of \$10,500 = \$525.00 (no relief).

MARGARET WILSON  
Chairman Lane County  
Consumers Opposing Sales Taxes  
Eugene, OR 97401

To the Editor,

Theodore Johnson, a Black youth, while incarcerated and under the jurisdiction of MacLaren School for Boys, was indicted for three charges of sodomy. One of these cases has already been tried with a "Not Guilty" verdict returned by the jury, and another case has been dropped.

These charges have been very detrimental to Theodore's progress and rehabilitation. First of all, he has been held at the Marion County Courthouse for over four months. Secondly, these charges are without factual evidence, but impose a heavy psychological burden for a young person who has worked and achieved great steps during his personal rehabilitation. Thirdly, it is clear to observers at Theodore's trial, that staff members at MacLaren hold enormous animosity towards Theodore. It is questionable whether Theodore will receive fair and equitable treatment upon his return to MacLaren, once he is cleared of the remaining charge. Why is Theodore L. Johnson faced with continued persecution by the state of Oregon? We, as well as you, are concerned that our young people who are incarcerated are treated fairly, and given positive role models to assist them in their rehabilitation.

Enough is Enough. . . The Children's Legal Defense Fund for Theodore L. Johnson's Committee has found it necessary to write this open letter to call for Community support. Theodore's attorney has tried to work with the district attorney's office in Marion County to no avail, the district attorney is still continuing to pursue the case against Theodore, with more costs to the state for no reason. The trial is scheduled to begin September 16, 1985 at 8:30 a.m. in the Marion County Courthouse. People interested in car pooling to salem, or needing transportation should call 287-7756.

EQUAL JUSTICE FOR ALL.  
CHILDREN'S LEGAL DEFENSE  
FUND FOR THEODORE L. JOHNS

CHILDREN'S LEGAL  
DEFENSE FUND FOR  
THEODORE L. JOHNSON

To the Editor,

As part of their million dollar-plus campaign to sell the sales tax, the so-called "People for a Better Oregon" submitted no less than 12 of the 15 "Arguments in Favor" of Measure 1 in the official Special Election Voters' Pamphlet.

One of these bought-and-paid-for "statements," under the name of one Jack R. Barnes, listed as "Chairman of Legislative Comm., Oregon State Council of Senior Citizens," asserts that "Oregon Seniors Back Balanced Taxes" and that "On Sept. 17 We Will Vote for Measure 1."

That is an outrageous and totally false misrepresentation of the Oregon State Council for Senior Citizens' stand on the sales tax. Neither Mr. Barnes or "People for a Better Oregon" had any authorization whatsoever to speak for the Oregon Council on this issue. In fact, the only position taken to date by our Council on Measure 1 occurred at our August 23rd joint membership-Board of Directors quarterly meeting, when those present voted to recommend opposition to the sales tax at the September 17th Special Election.

Along with other low and middle income families — seniors would be hit hardest by a sales tax — inasmuch as they must spend a greater percentage of their fixed incomes on sales taxable purchases than would wealthier persons — who stand to gain most of the so-called "property tax relief." What's more seniors are heavy users of over-the-counter medications which would be taxed. As for food, seniors would find their restaurant meals costing more. And like everyone else, close to half of most seniors' grocery carts are made up of non-food items subject to the sales tax.

No — no amount of misrepresentations spread by the well-heeled "People for a Better Oregon" — whether in cartoon booklets or statements in the Voters' Pamphlet — can disguise the fact that a sales tax would be bad news for most Oregonians, especially seniors and others on fixed incomes. The Oregon State Council for Senior Citizens recommends a "NO" vote against Measure 1 on September 17th.

NATIONAL COUNCIL  
OF SENIOR CITIZENS  
Raymond F. Fisher, President  
Nate Davis, Vice-President

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We will be publishing messages about these and other changes in the weeks ahead, and we are always available to speak with you about any phone-related matter.

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## The Royal Esquire Club's Community Service Statement by A.D.S.

Volume VII

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Now, finally, here is something of value that just about everyone can afford to be a part of and receive immediate benefit. The A.D.S. Phoenix Club's membership offer. You should take advantage of this membership offer and here is why you should.

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For a limited time, you will also receive a free associate membership to the Royal Esquire Club of Portland, so Act Now!

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