

oregon daily emerald

Vol. 80 No. 37

Eugene Oregon 97403

Tuesday, October 24, 1978

Who makes a living converting 'corrupt college hell-raisers'?

By JOCK HATFIELD
Of the Emerald

For 13 years, brother Ray Chisholm has been carrying the word of Christ to West Coast campuses. He's been slapped on both cheeks by a radical at Berkeley, he's been punched in the stomach, and two years ago at this university, he was shoved over a railing into some bushes. Monday he made his seasonal return in front of the Fishbowl.

A large crowd turned out to listen, shout insults and defend hedonism.

"If you want to be corrupt, attend this school," shouted Chisholm. "You're whore mongers, wine drinkers, pot smokers and hell raisers. You'll find your ruin in hell." The students raised a cheer.

"You're a good example of a Godless college student," he said, pointing at a heckler. "The Bible has your number."

After the two-hour performance, Chisholm dropped his bombastic front to reflect on his job as campus savior.

"College students are more open-minded, more susceptible to change," he said. "They challenge me. I don't feel I'm preaching successfully unless I'm offending the crowd."

One of his first hecklers, in Portland, later became his wife.

"She started out doubting," he explained, "but later she came around to my way of thinking."

Although he lives in Portland, Chisholm said he works fulltime for God on campuses from California to Canada. He moves with the seasons. When it's sunny, he speaks to Oregon colleges and high schools. During the winter he heads for California.

His pay and support for his wife and three children come solely from the Lord and donations, he said.

"I'm on the heavenly payroll. 'Students think I get paid for doing this, but it's all volunteer.'"

Chisholm preached at Berkeley during the demonstrations. Next to the University of Oregon, he said, it's the most decadent of his projects.

It is second only to this campus. "Half of the students at this university would have been stoned a week ago under Judaic law," he complained. The students cheered.

"If we go to heaven, are we going to have to hear more people like you?" offered one student.

Chisholm said he enjoys dealing with hecklers.

"After 13 years of work and getting pretty much the same questions each time, I've been sharpened for retorts."

"I've been listening to you here for seven years," said one heckler. "And I'm tired of being called evil. I'm not evil. Put a sock in it."

"You're driving a Model A," said Chisholm. "And God has power steering and power brakes."

"The Bible says there will be mockers and Pharisees," cried Chisholm. "Do you know what causes inflation? The selfishness of man. You look in the mirror, you think you're number one. But what are you doing for the family of man? Are you making this a better place to live?"

"Are you?" replied a student.

"I'm doing something about you, you little devil. Am I a sinner? No, I'm a saint."

Chisholm said he has had his share of conversions, too. There was the woman in Ellensburg, Wash., who prayed and "gave her heart to Jesus Christ," a professor who devoted himself to the Lord and a student at the University of San Diego who came out in front of everyone and knelt down.

"I was going to be a playboy," he recalled. "Wine, woman and song. I was going to get it on every Friday night. But there was something missing." He then went to church, was born again and three years later took up the campus saint profession.

"For those who don't know," said a student who has been attending Chisholm's appearances for five years, "this is Reverend Ray, or you can call him Jay or you can..."

Brother Ray



Photo by Dennis Hickok

Campus savior Ray Chisholm returned to campus Monday to warn students: "God has your number." He has visited West Coast colleges for 13 years, amid many protests and some cheers.

today

Gov. Bob Straub spoke to a University crowd Monday and detailed Oregon's recent progress on environmental issues. Straub is running for re-election this year. See Page 3.

The Drug Corner, a new Emerald column submitted by the Drug Information Center, is designed to inform students on current drug technology. This month's column on Page 6 summarizes the drug analysis results from September.

Ever spend the night before a test in the throes of neurotic anxiety? Waris Ishaq, a University graduate student, conducts test on University students to control and remove "test anxiety." Turn to Page 7 for details.

Emerald reporter Steve Dodge wraps up the consumer's series by examining the glut of consumer agencies and how "referral" could be given less often. See Page 11.

ASUO reports election stance

The ASUO has announced its position on five state-wide ballot measures, including those dealing with property tax reform and state-funded abortions.

The ASUO, as a state-funded organization, is prohibited from endorsing political candidates.

A one-page sheet entitled "ASUO General Election '78—Ballot Measure endorsements," urges a 'no' vote on the California-style property tax-limiting Ballot Measure 6, citing a resulting rise in other taxes.

The ASUO also objects to a loss of local control of taxes and renter's rebates. ASUO endorsement panel members were unable to agree on a position for Measure 11, the Legislature's effort at solving the property tax problem. No

endorsement was given.

"The OSL (Oregon Student Lobby) came out against it," says Jeff Warren, ASUO vice president for state and federal affairs, "and we weren't in favor of it enough to cause any friction with the OSL."

The ASUO opposes Ballot Measure 7, which would eliminate state-funded abortions, on the grounds that it would deny needy women of their constitutional right to an abortion and would prevent support going to victims of rape and incest.

The ASUO, long a proponent of land-use planning, also opposes Measure 10, which would nullify the current Land Conservation and Development Commission guidelines and, in the ASUO's opinion, "hamper and disrupt all

progress made thus far in land-use planning."

In other measures, the ASUO supports Measure 9, which would prohibit public utilities from charging customers for new construction, unless that construction is providing a direct service to the consumers. The ASUO believes utility company stockholders not rate payers would pay for the construction costs, and that the measure will slow down rising utility rates.

The ASUO also backs Measure 4, which would help create locally-based People's Utility Districts. Passage of the measure would help these PUD's obtain power from the Bonneville Power Administration more cheaply and lower utility rates to customers, the ASUO says.