

"Bible" Jim a bigot

I was rather disturbed by your story about "Bible" Jim Webber and his tirade in the EMU Court-yard. It's people like him who have caused me to question my faith in Christianity in the past.

I'm sick of all of these Bible beater-offers like Webber who use the Bible to preach their hate to the world. He and his kind are bigots plain and simple. This is not the 1950s. "Bible" Jim's sign proclaiming impending judgment on "Queers, IRS Agents, Mormons and Rebellious Women," among other things, just shows what a scared, little man he is.

The Bible is not a tool of anger, and people who preach hate should not use it as such. Too many people use Christianity as a shield for their anger. As for people like Webber, all I can say is four words: Love thy neighbor, baby!

Gregory Darusmont
Economics

I am angry because I am an actively out lesbian student on this campus, and my personal safety and identity is threatened by Jim's supposedly "Christian" rhetoric. I am not one to challenge the First Amendment, but there's this little thing inside a person called a boundary ... and he crossed mine.

The most upsetting thing about Webber's recurring tirades on our campus is that people still give him the time of day, still stop and pay attention to him, argue with him and therefore encourage him and support him in his mission — whatever that may be. "Touch people's hearts?" I doubt it.

It seems to me that the *Emerald's* supposed devotion to fair reporting and equal representation is a farce. It's not bad enough that "Bible" Jim still draws a huge crowd, but the *Emerald* has to condone the whole scene by displaying it on the front page as a "newsworthy event." Save it for Hard Copy, please. Frankly, I'm a little sick of bigotry being entertainment.

Cassie Salewske
English, Women's Studies

Save it for Hard Copy

I am writing to voice my outrage over the *Emerald's* decision to run a cover story and photos of "Bible" Jim Webber (ODE, Oct. 22). Not only is Webber full of hot air and hatred, but he is sexist, racist and homophobic. I would hardly call the mob scene on Oct. 21 a "religious debate."

Yes on 48

In 1992, Oregonians passed term limits with an overwhelming 70 percent of the vote. I felt then, as I do now, that term limits are the only way to bring accountability back to our govern-

ment. This November we have another chance to demand responsibility from our politicians by voting yes on Measure 48.

Term limits are the cornerstone of all political reform. Cutting short the tenure of our representatives would open up the political arena to citizen legislators, who are solely missing from the congressional roll. Take a look at our city councils. They aren't clogged with lawyers and political professionals. They are filled with common citizens and are better managed than Congress. As it stands, however, long term incumbency makes it virtually impossible for the average citizen to win office. Free media, franked mail and special interest money make fair elections a joke.

Seniority has other negative repercussions as well. Long term incumbents are virtual puppets to lobbyists and special interest groups that fuel their election war chests. Short terms would deny these groups their influence and return our delegates' attention to us, their constituents.

Members of Congress will never forfeit the perks and prestige of "public service" voluntarily. If we want a responsive, ethical government, we must demand it at the polls. Vote yes on Measure 48 and return the government to the people.

James Boscole
Sherwood

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