

# Both extremes in the wrong

**Dustin Ragsdale**

*The Clackamas Print*

You know what really boils my blood?

The fact that Bible-bashers think they're any better than Bible-thumpers!

This is not an attack against religion or other forms of spirituality, nor agnostics and atheists.

This is an enthusiastic pair of middle fingers in the faces of religious and anti-religious extremists – those who would save/destroy the world by parroting exhausted clichés and engaging in sophomoric mudslinging.

Bible-thumpers: psychos who dwell on the extreme edge of literal interpretation and dogmatic law. They are zombies who hear and repeat without listening or considering, involving only their mouths and egos as they regurgitate and befool well-meaning ideals.

Again, this refers to a *minority* of religious and spiritual people – mostly those waving or wearing signs on the streets of downtown.

A sufficiently pungent stink has already been raised about unthinking, holy-book-wielding

automatons and their hypocritical practices – so no additional slamming is needed here.

However, not enough noise is blasted back into the ears of superficial, anti-Jesus screamers.

Bible-bashers: losers who dwell on the extreme edge of anti-religious "activism" and malicious slander. These creatures remain blissfully ignorant of the fact that they embody the very thing against which they claim to stand. They differ from Bible-thumpers only in that which they preach.

It is thoroughly exhausting; listening to broken-record bitching that thinly veils an adolescent sneer towards authority figures.

Grow up.

It is one thing to have one's own beliefs, or even to choose not to believe anything at all.

However, it is a different matter entirely when one chooses to overtly attack the beliefs of religious people.

Anyone who displays and spews ant-religious propaganda is just a backwards-evangelist, hereafter referred to as an "adamangelist."

There are an infuriating number of anti-religious zealots that have not even bothered to read the holy book(s) they claim to understand well enough to contest. This means that any thoughts on the actual meaning of said texts are strictly *second-hand*. They are zombies who hear and repeat without listening or considering, involving only their mouths, egos and etcetera.

Nobody is impressed when an adamangelist quotes a pair of unrelated snippets without context from a religious text and points out "flaws" or "hypocrisy." That sort of critical "thinking" ceased to be funny in the early

'90s.

The most glaring example of adamangelism is an all-too-frequent spectacle. Someone will approach a person or group, greet them, ask about their day, *listen* to the response and politely ask if they could spare a moment to talk about God.

The response is an inflammatory remark, often leading into an abusive tirade.

A simple "no" would do just fine, or one could simply walk away.

The evangelist in question honestly believes in their heart that they are attempting to help someone find a path to salvation.

To summarize, one can not claim to be an individual standing against something while remaining ignorant of that entity's nature. Aping the protests of others makes you no less a mindless follower than your stereotypical counterparts.

In essence, black wool makes one no less a *sheep*.

Chaoscius says, "To have a clear voice of revolution, one must know the heart of old songs to be changed. Otherwise, one sings with the voice of a jackass."



*Jack Thompson compares himself to known vigilante*

When it comes to trying to control peoples' lives, and spewing conservative bigotry, nobody does it better than pinhead attorney Jack Thompson.

Thompson came into the limelight in the late '80s and early '90s for trying to ban rap albums released by 2 Live Crew and N.W.A. in Florida because they were "indecent." He would send photocopies of his driver's license to his "opponents" with a picture of Batman pasted over his own face.

When asked why Thompson sent pictures of Batman to his opponents, he responded, "I have sent my opponents pictures of Batman to remind them I'm playing the role of Batman. Just like Bruce Wayne helped the police in the movie, I have had to assist the sheriff of Broward County."

After his stint pretending to be Batman, Thompson joined up with the psychotic, pin-headed Oliver "Should-be-in-prison" North and his disgustingly patriotic group, Freedom Alliance. Around this time, Thompson was going after the song "Cop Killer," by Ice-T, claiming that it advocated the killing of police officers.

Besides going after rappers, Thompson has also attacked radio personalities. Most notably, Thompson can be blamed for Clear Channel pulling Howard Stern off the air in Florida by filing a complaint to the pinhead government agency, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

Thompson was offended by Stern's vulgar show, and said that "Either broadcasters will accept the light harness of decency that has been the law for decades and start cleaning up their acts, or the public's deepening outrage will foster a more fearsome governmental response."

Okay, I will admit that a lot of what Thompson tries to ban can be described as "indecent." However, Thompson needs to realize that it's not up to him, and especially not up to the pinhead government, to dictate what people can or cannot listen to, read, watch, write, perform, say, etc.

Thompson believes that violent and sexual images/words are the root cause of all the violence in the world. No, I'm sorry, but the root cause of violence is humans. Humans make stupid decisions all the time, and bad parenting and poor education make for even worse humans.

If we want to rid the world of violent behavior and ignorance, let's be better parents and have an education system that actually does something. Oh, and banning Jack Thompson, and other people of his ilk, from existence wouldn't hurt either.

Jack Thompson's pinhead rating: Thompson is such a pinhead he breaks the scale of pinheadery.



Illustration by Katie Wilson & Dustin Ragsdale Clackamas Print



**Laura Cameron**

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I knew it would happen.

The moment the news broke that eight climbers were "lost" on Mt. Hood, I knew – with the cold certainty that only cynicism can bring – that there would be another spate of anti-climber rage in the media.

It arrived, right on time, two days after the climbers were brought safely down off the mountain.

"Why would anyone be so stupid as to climb the mountain in the winter?" one letter to *The Oregonian* read. Many people couldn't understand why anyone

## Conflicts abound over resources dedicated to mountain rescues

would want to go climbing. Almost all demanded mandatory Mountain Locator Units – MLUs – for anyone going above Timberline, or making stranded climbers pay for their rescues.

Hardly surprisingly, none of the people yelling are from the mountain climbing community. Not only are they not climbers themselves, but they show an amazing lack of knowledge about the sport for which they want to set the rules.

Safety on Mt. Hood is an important subject and should be debated. But first, let's take a look at the actual facts and hopefully dispel some misconceptions about hauling yourself up a mountain.

First: Why would anyone go climbing in the winter?

Answer: Because that's the safest time to do it.

No, really. The mountain climbing "season" is the late fall, winter and early spring. This is because the snow-

fields and glaciers melt during the spring and summer.

Climbing up a melting glacier is not safe. Melting glaciers tend to crack, shift and spill off large chunks of themselves. Also, the rocks that make up the top of the mountain are mostly held together by ice.

Again, this ice melts in the summer – that's why you see more rockfalls on Mt. Hood in the summer than in the winter.

True, the weather in the winter tends to be inclement. But, honestly, it's easier to get out safely in the face of a growing storm than it is in the face of an avalanche.

Mostly, though, people don't understand why anyone would want to climb mountains in the first place. They don't see the point.

I don't see the point of golf, but plenty of people do that.

Some people jog. Some people knit. Some people

hike. To quote the sadly defunct TV show *Firefly*, "Some people juggle geese!"

It's a hobby. Just because it's not something you would do doesn't mean it's not a worthwhile pastime.

Remember: Each year, more snowboarders get lost than climbers. I'm not saying that snowboarders are inherently stupid. I am, however, annoyed at how every time a snowboarder decides to leave the bounds of the snow park, gets lost and has to be hauled half-frozen off the mountain, they are treated like a returning hero. But when a group of climbers get in trouble, do what they are taught to do to get out alive, and are therefore quickly and easily rescued from the mountain, they are vilified.

Maybe we should require everyone who sets foot on the mountain to wear an MLU.

Or, maybe we should just shut up and let the climbers climb.