

Educationally Speaking
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Get it Straight (Seriously)

All right – who’s using my name in the Town Crier again? Evidently I’m now a Christian Bible-basher. In my last column entitled “You Didn’t Ask in the Form of a Question” I actually had a secret plan to covertly start a small riot in Salem from the comforts of my own home. I don’t know that I’ve succeeded yet. Let me try again for the last time because I’m getting tired of writing about these topics.

I’ve received a few comments from close friends regarding my past few articles and I will admit they have been a bit awry from my usual writing style. I don’t wake up everyday hoping to incite a riot from halfway across the state. I don’t wake up hoping to jot down some sort of anti-religious slur either. The caller claims I’m a Christian Bible-Basher. I never said I was anti-Christian or that I don’t believe in the Bible. I’m all for spirituality – it’s clearly working for millions of people across the world. Several recent medical studies even suggest being spiritual can also be healthy for your physical body. Don’t think I don’t believe the Bible either – I don’t doubt for a second that a guy named Jesus lived and then died on a cross. I don’t dispute stories about Moses or the Apostles either. I even believe there was likely an ark and the Red Sea parted. But the caller never answered specifically why people should believe the Bible other than because the Bible says so. You have to prove God (factually) exists first. Saying God inspires the Bible is fine, but by the same logic I have a cookbook in my kitchen that’s inspired many of my dinner-time meals.

I’ve had a couple comments that state that I “expound my ideas as truth and gospel”. There is a key word in that statement – “ideas”. You can’t always prove an idea. Ideas aren’t facts; otherwise you’d have to make up a word like “ideacts” or “fadeas” to properly convey the correct meaning. Christianity is itself a “belief”, or something that is an unproven assertion based on one or more fundamental assumptions. That assertion may be not be provable. No one can adequately provide proof that says “Yes, God exists and here’s why.” Unless you can muster up God’s birth certificate or tell me what his favorite color is, God is a belief or an idea held by a large group of people. My idea of God cannot be described using pronouns like “he” or “she”, God is “God” and my idea of God does not take on any human characteristics as a result. God does not feel jealousy or anger or any other human emotion.

Next, the caller made a statement saying, “The Christian men that you bash have lived a lot longer than you but some young people know it all.” I’ve said it time and time again – of course young people know it all. That’s what makes us awesome. Aside from that, the caller is speaking of evangelical conservatives like James Dobson, Bill O’Reilly and Pat Robertson. Age is a lousy argument for knowledge. If that’s the case don’t call me the next time your computer breaks. Plus, they’re weird – Dobson has been quoted on his website, www.family.org, that an excellent way to help young boys grow up heterosexual

is for the father to shower with them. If I walked down the street one day and a young boy told me his father was forcing him to shower together I'd be obligated to call the police.

Lastly, I'm ending my argument on this note: the Pentagon released a statement on June 20th, 2006 stating, "Homosexuality and homosexual tendencies are part of a mental disorder." The evangelicals like O'Reilly and Robertson really need to get what the White House wants them to say in order because this is an opening to disaster. The military says homosexuality is a mental disorder. Fine, if it's a mental disorder homosexuality cannot be a choice because no one can choose to have a mental disorder. Moreover, the Americans with Disabilities Act would therefore prohibit discrimination against gays because they have a "mental disorder". I don't think the Bible or any Christian scripture advises people to discriminate, belittle or disregard human beings with disorders as anything less than human, either. Not to mention the fact that not one credited medical school in this nation would *ever* claim being homosexual is a mental disorder. That theory was discredited more than thirty years ago. Evidently the Pentagon has a little catching up to do.

Don't think for a second that I'm destroying anyone's faith because of what I write or believe. The evangelicals have their rights to beliefs just like me but the arguments they make will hurt and tarnish their image as it becomes more evident that they are no longer capable of keeping their ideology straight. No pun intended.