

Thou shalt not be a bigot

By Georgette Todd
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Last Friday, a small group of non-denominational Christian demonstrators caused a stir amongst the CSUS student body in the Library Quad. Their purpose was to preach to people about Christ's message. Instead of using well-groomed elderly people to pass out Bibles, these demonstrators condemned many students for their lifestyles by screaming at them, wagging their fingers and parading around with sadistic signs. This recent display of force-fed behavior is just another example of how people can abuse the right to practice freedom of speech.

If these demonstrators wanted to preach the word of Christ, there are many avenues one could take to get their point across. Yelling at students for being the spawn of Satan just because of (put whatever God forsaken reason here) is not the best way to motivate students to follow and learn more about God. Let's face it, the demonstrators' approach is no different from the abortion activists that invaded our campus last semester. Yet, instead of using horrific pictures to make a statement, they used signs with hateful messages on them.

These demonstrators should know that their use of the "shock method" usually has an adverse effect. Instead of being looked upon as "prophets," they're seen as fanatics. Almost all fanatics are never taken seriously, and if anything, they're perceived as a joke. Perhaps the demonstrators don't care how they're perceived, as long as they get a reaction from people. If that is the case, then those people succeeded and the students who strongly disagreed with them, whether they know it or not, contributed to their success.

To the students who openly argued with the demonstrators, you wasted your breath and time. The problem with people like the ones in the quad is that their blatant narrow-minded views are not open to discussion. Those demonstrators are not interested in hearing what you have to say; all they care about is that you listen to their gospel and apply it to your life so you can "save yourself."

One has to question the purpose of the demonstrators' visit. They knew and even admitted that they were going to face serious opposition. In their choice of mindset, they truly believed that they were on a mission to relay "God's message." While there's nothing wrong with that, it's unfortunate, however,

that it never occurred to the demonstrators that their hateful approach distracted their attempt to educate about the love of Christ.

Religion is a touchy subject, it's caused wars for centuries. There is a wide spectrum of beliefs. Some people don't even follow a religion or believe that organized religion is a farce. And then there are those that believe that without organized religion there would be no brakes to society's wrongdoings. Either way, we'll be fine if we can all at least agree to disagree about religion and how the demonstrators' message was lost in their approach. Amen.

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