

This letter appeared in the Chico Enterprise Record on 12-22-2012. I prepared and submitted a response. The Enterprise Record refused to print my reply.

Letter: Billboard timing not coincidental
Chico Enterprise-Record
Posted: 12/22/2012 12:04:55 AM PST

The Coalition of Reason campaign, launched this month, is a "pleasant coincidence" according to local coordinator George Gold. Really? Does anyone believe that a national organization's advertisements declaring "God is not real" or "God does not exist," initiated before Christmas, was by accident or "coincidence?" If Gold and these other groups' participants are so "steadfast" in their beliefs, why lie about the timing of Christmas for the initiation of their anti-God campaign?

The Christmas timing illustrates that this is not about declaring "fellowship" or "club activities" for nonbelievers: It is about the intolerance and disdain for those people who do believe in a divine creator of life (God) and an eternal spirit beyond our human existence.

Our Declaration of Independence proclaims "all men are equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights." Natural law and the Creator grant man his rights; not man. Our Constitution declares "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." We are free to worship our faith or not worship at all. We are free because of our Judeo-Christian founding. While I respect anyone's right not to believe in God, I do not respect deliberate, malicious disregard for those that do.

"Conscience — sense of moral goodness or blame worthiness of one's own conduct, intentions or character together with the feeling of obligation to do right or be good."

The intentions of these advertisements are clear. Let your conscience be the judge. Laus Deo.

— Pamela Cinquini, Chico

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Christian Values?

Dear Ms. Cinquini: You wrote, "While I respect anyone's right not to believe in God, I do not respect deliberate, malicious disregard for those that do." Ms. Cinquini you indicated our billboards say "God is not real" or "God does not exist" and yet that is NOT the wording on our billboards.

Our billboards do say, "Don't believe in God? Join the Club" and this violates your own definitions exactly how? Do these words tell you what to think? Do these words tell you what to believe? Our billboards, in a commercial space not on government property, reach out to people who are not like you. Your anger at our exercise of free speech and a sign that reaches out to people not like you, is laughable. Our words attack your religion how? You malign me and the rest of Chico with a charge of lying without any evidence. You challenge a simple statement on a billboard that has nothing to do with you, by calling me a liar? When you have no logic behind your position, you call people names? You call yourself a Christian by calling me a liar?

You can have your own opinion, but not your own facts. It's interesting about respect, if you don't give it, you won't receive it. Among the many who love our billboards, in part it's people like you that have contributed to the overwhelmingly positive response and success of our message so, thank you.

George Gold

