

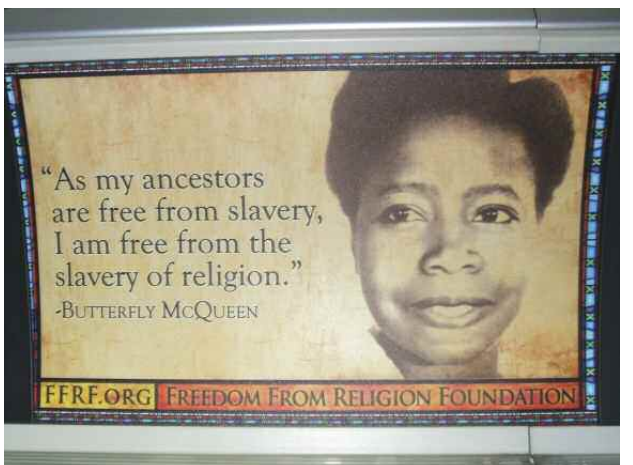
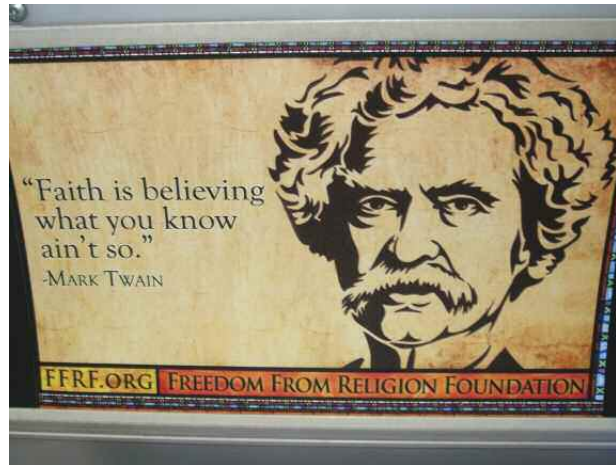
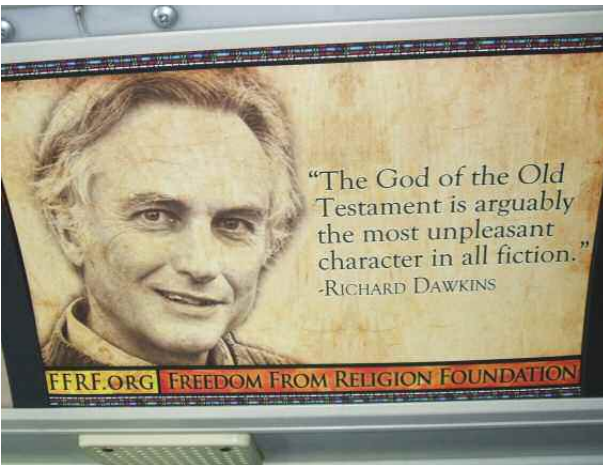
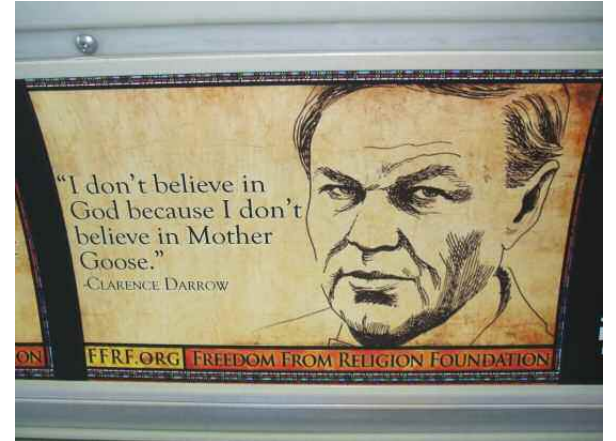
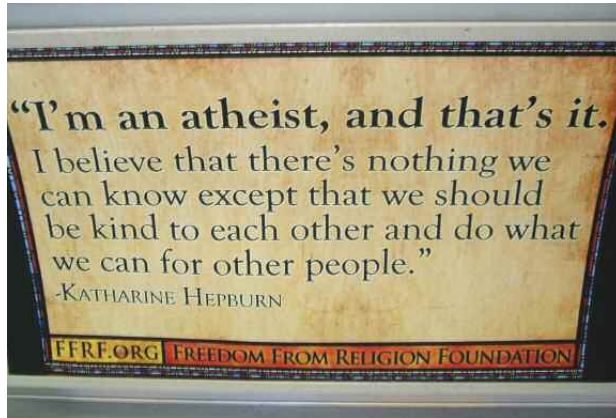
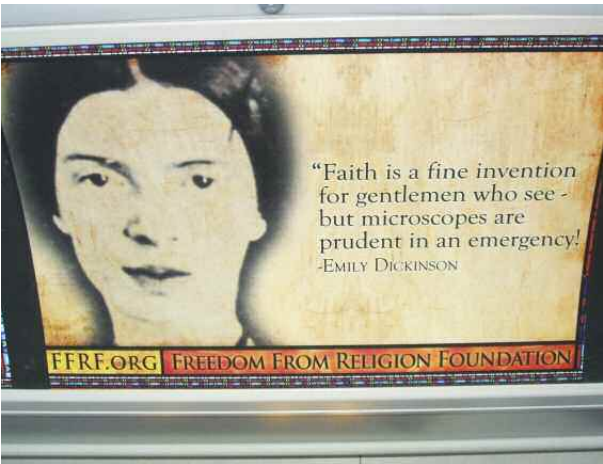


Photo—Dan Krejcie



FFRF's Seattle bus sign campaign includes 100 Santa "King" exteriors. Another 300 provocative quotes (below) went up in bus interiors.

## Signs of the Times



## FFRF's Colorado Billboard Defaced: 'It's a Double Hate Crime'

The Freedom From Religion Foundation's "Keep Religion OUT of Government" billboard in Grand Junction, Colo., was defaced in late October just before its scheduled removal. A vandal X'ed out the word "religion," and painted in the word "fag."

"This is the first time one of our billboards has been defaced," commented Foundation co-president Annie Laurie Gaylor.

"We consider it a doubly hateful crime, targeting two minorities—non-believers and gays. It was sad to see our message honoring the Constitution

turned into ugly hate speech."

This was the first time the Foundation debuted this particular message, "Keep Religion OUT of Government," on a billboard. It was intended to send a message to local governments to stop praying during government meetings.

"The city and county governments have sent an unfortunate message that citizens who believe in God, and more particularly, believe in Jesus, are the

insiders, excluding the rest of us. When religion is allied with government, there is always persecution," Gaylor added.

The vinyl billboard cost \$500 and the month-long lease was another \$500. The Foundation's offer of \$1,000 leading to arrest and conviction of the perpetrator(s) so far has not elicited any leads.



Local members gather by billboard. (Photo—Anne Landsmen)



Ugly defacement.