

Right or Wrong

Dear Editor,

The question, or rather the fact of homosexuality has always been a difficult one for society to cope with. The traditional standpoint, as voiced by the Executive Committee of Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship at Lafayette last week in reply to the formation of a "Gay Society" here, is that homosexuality is inherently "wrong."

I find this standpoint somewhat oversimplified and in fact disheartening. It is based on the highly idealized premise that there is a clear cut difference between right and wrong and that all reality will fall neatly

into one of these two categories.

"...by forming a Gay Association, we try to fool ourselves into believing that what is wrong is right." This is an extremely complex world and reality, if it exists at all, is a sliding scale type arrangement in a constant state of flux. Nothing is absolute. The "right" and "wrong" of the Executive Committee's argument are merely the endpoints of this scale, and we spend our lives somewhere in the infinite space between them. "Right" and "wrong" are the extremes; reality is all of the varying degrees in between.

This is the nature of the universe that God created. It is a divine and dynamic

conglomeration of limitless complexities, each fantastically alive and individual. The Executive Committee has taken all this and stuffed it into the limited and rather boring framework of "right" and "wrong" or "good" and "evil." It warns against "making idols of material success, scholarly fame, athletic achievement, or whatever else would make us worship ourselves instead of God." Yet the argument the Committee is supporting idolizes the arbitrary concepts of "right" and "wrong." The Committee is telling us to worship "right" and "wrong" instead of God and His manifest complexities.

Rather than being regarded as "right" or "wrong," homosexuality should be viewed as just another complexity, another way of doing it. It is an integral part of an extraordinarily fascinating and diverse universe; and in that the universe is good. Attempts by society to condemn what should be regarded as an integral part of it are short-sighted and self-defeating. No matter how disagreeable homosexuality may seem to us, we have no grounds to condemn it.

This is clearly the attitude taken by the College Chaplain, who is sponsor and mediator for the "Gay Association." In sticking his neck out for the gays at this school he fulfills the role of enlightened religion in modern society. In order to be of any value to society, religion must keep pace with its development. As the times change, religious outlooks must adapt to them. At one point in our history, polarized religion which could relate to reality only in terms of "right" and "wrong" was perfectly adequate, for the universe was only viewed in terms of duality. Now that society is becoming aware of its own complexity, however, a more liberal and sophisticated approach to religion is in order. In this respect, the Executive Committee of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship is falling far short of its responsibility to the College Community.

Ped Fisher

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Bell of Pennsylvania