

letters

Appreciation

A June 3 letter by Karen Beaman laments the lack of "honor" the University gives its graduating seniors. Commencement exercises are simply a public affirmation of the private knowledge that jumping through the proper hoops brings a diploma. It is not the piece of paper that is important, nor how it is presented, but hopefully the process that has taken place internally.

Honor is something bestowed externally that passes quickly, as does any sort of graduation ceremony. The aim of education is the creation of thinking individuals who live richer lives because of their encounters with a wide variety of subject matter. Unfortunately, in our society it is an opportunity that all too few share.

As one who has received the benefits of this University, and its many fine teachers, I feel the answer to "Why should I" give is readily apparent. "Library Project '83" is one way of expressing appreciation, and is a small step toward maintaining a quality institution for those who follow. Indeed, giving of what we have gained here might be a worthy project for a lifetime.

Louise Green-Mares
senior, English

Mockery

The most recent display in the case in the lobby of the EMU by the Maranatha Christian Ministry makes a mockery of comparative religion. It

stated that, though both the Buddha (Siddhartha Gautama) and Mohammed claimed to have "the truth," both are dead while the Christ (Jesus) who is the truth, died and was resurrected to rule in heaven.

As a Christian, a Buddhist, a Muslim, a Hindu, a Taoist and a Jew, I must protest this butchering of the profound truth in three of this planet's great religions. My Christian self is outraged that these narrow-minded bigots claim to represent Christianity. My Muslim self cries out in anguish that the bloody wars of the Crusades between Islamic and Christian zealots still lie smoldering in the bowels of modern zealots. My Buddhist self cackles at the irony that these pompous Christian fundamentalists, who pass off a 2,500-year-old bag of skin and bones as "the Buddha," are themselves perfect embodiments of Buddha-nature, while paradoxically they have a lot of excess baggage to cast off before they can realize their Buddha-nature.

Those who would try to limit the many faces of an infinite God with words are fools. Worse, religious intolerance is directly responsible for many of the greatest travesties of mass murder this planet has known. Maranatha owes this planet a public apology for the sin of conceit.

Jack Straton
graduate, physics

Learned

Those audacious enough to claim some people are born homosexual either haven't

thought the issue out well or are deliberately promoting the myth that it's biologically predetermined in order to legitimize granting civil rights minority status because "they can't help how they are."

If someone were predisposed towards homosexuality due to biology then hormonal or chromosomal differences would have to exist between homosexuals and heterosexuals. Since no differences can be found in genes then what about hormones? The same is true.

Tourney and associates found no significant differences existed between homosexuals and heterosexuals tested for FSH, ICSH or testosterone levels (American Journal of Psychiatry, 1975, p. 288). Birk's studies found an earlier and often reported study claiming differences existed, could not be replicated and testosterone values were the same for both groups (New England Journal of Medicine, 1973 p. 1236). Friedman found no differences for LH, testosterone, estradiol, prolactin and estrone levels (American Journal of Psychiatry, 1977 p. 571). And Parks found similar results even when all environmental factors were identical between his test groups (Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism, 1974, p. 796).

Homosexuals choose their lifestyle and deserve no more special civil rights guarantees than exhibitionists, zoophiliacs or any other minority "sexual preference" category.

Rex Watkins



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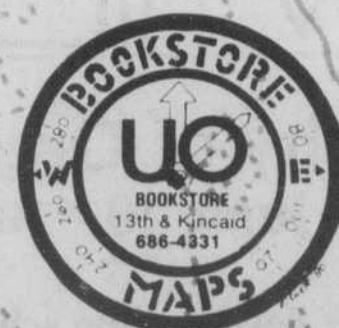
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