

Response to Mayes

I am writing in response to Rick Mayes' article in the Feb. 21 issue of The Collegian. First of all, I would like to say that there can only be openness in an environment that allows it and fosters it. Unfortunately, this is not what the University of Richmond is to many students. This university, while nobly striving for diversity, still lacks the kind of community spirit that makes groups such as the Lambda Coalition comfortable with being open and upfront about an issue such as homosexuality.

Second, Mr. Mayes makes a connection in his article that is illogical. He says that a common feeling of homosexuals at U of R is fear (drawn from the preceding articles in The Collegian). He says that in response to this fear, they (homosexuals) create a secretive organization. He states this as if it does not make sense. I think it makes perfect sense. To form an organization in which one feels comfort and support in response to the fears that he/she has will aid that person in battling the fear.

Third, Mr. Mayes makes a very dangerous analogy. It is all well and good to point out that some people find homosexuality and abomination, but to further point out that even Jesus (!) loved the outcasts of the world is to further assert the idea of an abomination. To conclude that we should "be nice" to this type of person because Jesus would do it makes it sound as if they are the dregs of society (that we "normal" people have a duty to be kind to) and it denies their individuality, of which sexual orientation is only a small part.

I am so pleased that Mr. Mayes has homosexual friends. I have friends also, who happen to be homosexual. Let's not confuse the two points. If someone tells you they are homosexual, so be it, that's their decision. Otherwise, it is none of your business, and no one should be pressured to give their name in an article so that the entire school can know at a glance who is homosexual on this campus. No one else is forced to announce their heterosexuality.

I understand that Mr. Mayes has a right to express his opinion, but he has no right to tell others what their expression or mode of expression should be. To attempt to do this is way out of line.

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