

The Myth of Christianity

by Jason Simmons
Collegian Staff

Often I hear and read the preaching of people telling everyone to look towards God to provide a path of enlightenment and to find answers. I have yet to understand why these righteous people do not ask us to look into ourselves for the answers, assuming such answers exist, and to utilize our own talents to promote our well being. Why look externally when our success relies upon our own dedication and adherence to responsibilities? We can not sit back and wait for things to magically appear, we must make things happen. Do not follow luck, but create it.

Our inborn talents give us a specific edge that makes no single person the same. Dedication, persistence, work ethic, and problem solving are the workings of our brains, not that of an entity. Such as in everyday affairs like our omnipotent college work, myself as an example has been receiving A's and a few B's during this semester, not because of a belief in God, but due to my own dedication to my

school work. I looked within to temper my desire to play and frolic in the woods; to give up the temptations of procrastination was my choice, and I worked through my nights to receive my grades. I made a commitment to myself to improve my college grades.

By now I know you must disagree with my viewpoint. God is an all encompassing entity filled with benevolence and forgiveness. It is also our Creator. So where is It? Where is proof in Its existence? The Bible is the answer one may be tempted to say, but it is merely a book that may be written by the greatest con-artist mankind has yet to acknowledge. But the Book has no proof that it came from God. Just because the text says it is from God, does it mean it is true? Do you believe printed material has to be true?

I also acknowledge the fact that I can neither disprove God's existence. The existence of God can not be proved either way. That is why most theological discussions between those of opposing beliefs often end up in arguments. One

just can't prove one's point upon another. Evidence leaning towards each theological spectrum may be given and supported, but too many unknowns are intertwined in the logical equation of theology; just as X has more than one answer in an algebraic equation.

Oh, and yes I am an atheist. I have felt this way since I was young as I can remember. I am neither cruel nor cold-hearted. I may not believe in moral standards in the sense that most do, but I do have values that are preferable to act upon. It is preferable to be kind and trustworthy. It is also preferable to be treated as such. The word atheist is not synonymous with evil or bad; it is only another logical viewpoint.

I wish not to impose my beliefs upon others despite their criticisms towards mine, however I wish only to briefly present another belief. My belief in particular, tends to look inwards towards myself to do good and accomplish my goals instead of looking outwards towards a god that may or may not exist.

Letter to the Editor

I was reading a letter a lesbian had posted to the LGBSA list-serve last week. She seemed to be stressed out about her job situation, and it went something like this: "...I want to tell my coworkers I'm a lesbian, but I'm afraid of the consequences..."

I've always felt that there was a certain inconsistency with queers thinking they needed to come out to straights. I have never had a co-worker or new acquaintance hesitantly approach me and in a hushed voice say, "I'm... I'm ... I'm a hetero ... I'm a ... I'm straight." Have you ever seen anyone wearing a button that read: "9 out of 10" or "Heterosexual Ally" or "Take Heed, We Breed?"

Speaking from experience, I know all there is to know about being gay in an anti-queer job. I work weekends for a forester and weekday mornings at a shipping dock. Foresters are a breed of people -- mostly men -- who primarily like to talk about hunting, fishing, and sports, and they usually assume any gay man will automatically want to bed them down. Dock boys are men who talk about females and female private parts and they swear and they grab their crotches' (their own) and they spit and they blow their nose by placing their thumb against one nostril and forcibly exhale through the other nostril. These are less than ideal jobs for being gay in.

But I have had jobs where I was out: cashier, bus-boy, sales clerk, etc., and I never actually CAME out. My co-workers figured it out on their own, as I'm sure my current co-workers might eventually do. And I've never had any serious problems related to being gay. Of course, I wasn't planning on any of these jobs as a permanent life-long job, so I didn't care much about the consequences of anyone discovering "The Horrible Truth." But I learned some valuable rules from these experiences. People who know you will usually treat you the way you treat yourself. Now, this might seem a bit profound coming from someone like myself who is merely a Math major, but here's what I mean: Since I myself felt comfortable with my queerhood and didn't care who knew, most everyone else felt comfortable as well. And the very few who didn't like it kept their hill-billy attitudes to themselves due to peer pressure.

But don't forget that I never actually came out to anyone. I'm not saying I hid it or lied about it, I'm just saying I didn't go out of my way to be flaming or shocking. I purposely didn't wear "gay" clothes, but don't we all have a certain way we need to look for our job? There are certain dress-codes and "behavior-codes" we have for when we're at work and when we're at home and when we're at the Mall and when we're out cruising the bar for meat, and this is true if you're queer or bisexual or heterosexual or do animals. This is not being insincere! And anyway, gay or straight, a \$50 GAP shirt and a G-string wouldn't be appropriate for the loading dock!

Some people might think I'm a big fake or a manipulator. But I believe it's more important to be ourselves and do our job than to worry about our fellow workers learning of our secret identity as a queer agent. I do good work at both my jobs and I am well liked by everyone. So if my co-workers eventually use all two digits of their IQ to figure me out, then (just like before) they'll already know me for ME and not just that my partner has a unit instead of a vaj!

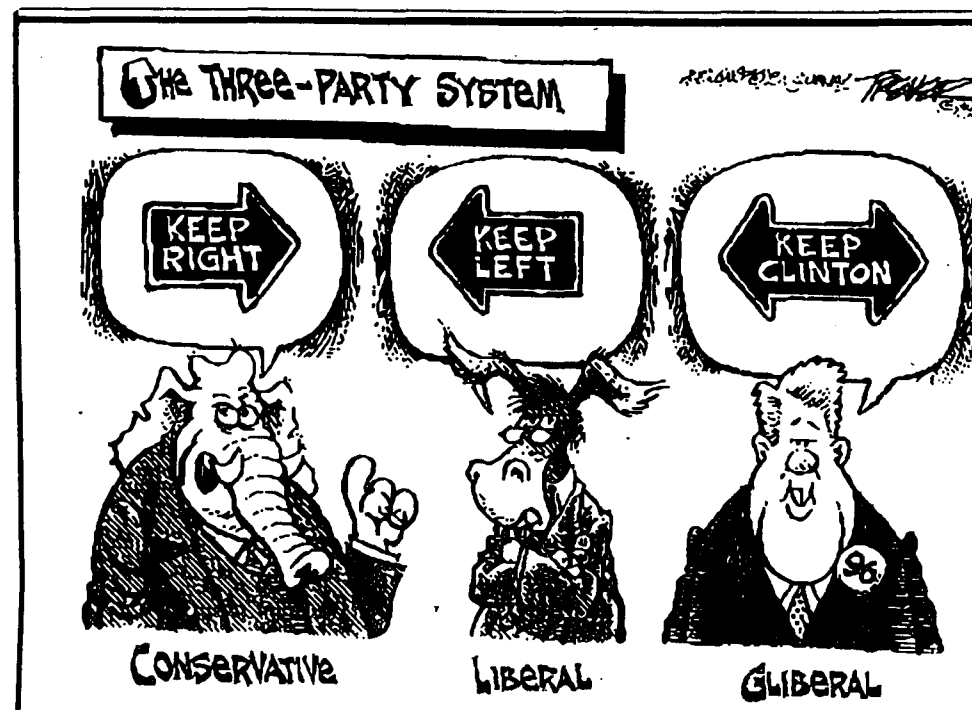
And people will figure it out. People are animals, and just like the lower animals (for all the vegetarians and animal rights people, when I say "lower" I mean all the other animals besides humans, and

I'm not trying to make a morale statement that other animals are less valuable than people, even though it's a scientific fact that we ARE higher up on the food chain than them), people would be able to figure things out a lot faster if it were socially acceptable to greet each other with a good butt-sniff instead of the less interesting hand shake.

To conclude, I would like to ask the gays and lesbians why you are at your job. Are you there to be queer? Is being queer a requirement in your job description? Just be yourself! My personal belief is that you are not a queer person, but you are a person who happens to be Queer! If you run into problems because you're queer, just remember this: there are always going to be job problems! You are not having problems on the job simply because you are a lesbian! A person will have job problems if the following two conditions are true: they have a pulse and they have a job. Gay, straight, or whatever, some people are going to be cutthroat and mean on the job, and that's just the way it is!

So keep your chin up, make sure your outfits always match, and enjoy the challenge of being queer!

Dan Ester
Senior Math Major



The Behrend College Collegian

Published weekly by the students of
The Pennsylvania State University
at Erie, The Behrend College

- Editor in Chief**
Jennifer V. Colvin
- Business Manager**
Jennifer Heilman
- News Editor**
Danielle Murphy
- Assistant News Editor**
Doreen Foutz
- Sports Editor**
Nick Zulovich
- Assistant Sports Editor**
Julie Stocker
- Entertainment Editor**
Joe Mottillo
- Photography Editors**
Sheila Bickel
Joe Stiller
- Opinion Editor**
Chad Clouse
- Advertising Manager**
Thomas D. Keefe
- Copy Editor**
Michelle Gruendl
- Advisor**
Mrs. Cathy Mester

Collegian Staff: Mary Began, Ryan Bogart, Richard Casey, Crystal Dehart, Nicole Gennuso, Brian Gregory, Bryan Gomolchak, John Hafner, Bryan Harkins, Kyra Kindon, Adria Kovaly, Steve Landon, Adam Levenstein, Heather Mc Mahon, Sarah Melchiorre, Sharain Naylor, Jeannine Ouillette, Matt Plizga, Colette Rethage, John Rossomando, Joe Ryan, Sean Siekkinen, Jason Simmons.

Photographers: Brian Charnock, Brian Fisher, Colleen Gritzen, Gina Leone, Bob Misulich, Chris Nelson, Eric Smith.

Postal Information: The Collegian is published weekly by the students of The Pennsylvania State University at Erie, The Behrend College; First Floor, The J. Elmer Reed Union Building, Station Road, Erie, PA 16563. 814-898-6488 or 814-898-6019 fax. ISSN 1071-9288

Letter Policy: The Collegian encourages letters on news coverage, editorial content and University affairs. Letters should be typewritten, double-spaced and signed by no more than two persons. Letters should be no longer than 400 words. Letters should include the semester standing and major of the writer. All letters should provide the address and phone number of the writer for verification of the letter. The Collegian reserves the right to edit letters for length and to reject letters. Letters submitted to The Collegian become the property of the newspaper. The Collegian is published every Thursday during the academic year on recycled paper.