

Dear Sir/Madam,

As a TCD alumni (Class of 2013), I would like to make a submission in regards to the changing of the name of the Berkeley library in response to a student petition.

Proceeding with such an action will set a worrying precedent, whereby at the whim of a small minority, the recognition of the achievements of any individual and their contribution both to the university and wider society can be annulled on the basis of actions or words that are not considered acceptable by modern standards or according to a political agenda - regardless of the fact that such actions and words may have taken place in a different era under different circumstances, and are not the reason that figure was celebrated for.

If we examine any historical figure, or indeed any person who has ever lived, one would inevitably find some action or opinion that one section of society or another would think of as offensive to their own particular agenda.

If we start to judge historical figures on the basis of their failings, rather than their lasting contributions, we would quickly run out of any worthy names to affix to buildings!

George Berkeley should be judged on the strength of his achievements, and while his faults must be recognised and rightly so, they should not define the contributions he has made, and the recognition of such.

Kind regards,
Eoin Mulvey
Class of 2013