

To whom this may concern,

I write to you this evening as I feel it important to put forth my views as to the name change and state an alternative which could prove beneficial to the college's future.

Suggestion: Being that this issue will of course continue to be pushed, I will place forth my own alternative, one which I find to be both respectful to the institutions legacy and history, but also it's future appeals to tolerance and diversity, not merely of people but also ideals. For that reason my suggestion is not that of one, but two people of entirely different views and values, both of whom would define their generations and indeed the very future of this island. I would argue the library should be renamed the CARSON-REDMOND library in honour of the greatest minds of the early stages of our sovereignty and partition- Edward Carson and John Redmond. The library in question stores largely, legal, historical and parliamentary (political) books and as such I would find it a wasted opportunity not to recognise the greatest barrister of his generation - Carson, two of the greatest political players of the early 20th century and ultimately fundamental characters in our nations history - the former, a literal idol outside of Stormont and the latter, the only man not to be a leader of a modern political party to hang in the Taoiseach's office. Ireland is a nuanced and diverse atmosphere. It's past is not a homogenous blot of singular opinion. I would argue that going forward our future must prove equally respectful of the heritage and values of others and as such to recognise that Trinity is a place of diverse minds and nuanced characters I put these Trinity alumni into nomination to be named jointly in recognition of that library.

Statement about the change: I wish to follow this suggestion by claiming that I do not believe that a name change is necessary. Berkeley not only died over 50 years before any Western country abolished slavery or the slave trade and played a minimal role in its advancement. His legacy and philosophical principles as such touch off slavery in the slightest of fashions...as much as any influential philosophers (e.g John Locke - perhaps the greatest of the time). It is my view that the Student Union in this case is fomenting outrage in a case where any other person of that time (or earlier) would be regarded by them with the same scorn (ie almost anybody born before approx 1800 would be attacked as unredeemably evil and undeserving of historical remembrance). It is foolish to condemn people for accepting practices in the time which they lived (even if those practices were awful yet nonetheless generally accepted) and as such this process of retrospective purity only serves to enshrine our own beliefs and interpretations upon the peoples of the past (our beliefs which, by the same token will doubtlessly be scorned by future generations if they take the same approach the Students Union seeks to pursue now). I do not believe it is just to attribute a modern condemnation to people from the past for acceptance of what was to then a norm of the time (no matter how barbaric) unless said person earned their legacy from that 'norm'. We should accept the contributions of people who lived in worse times without condemning them for living in those times - if not, our history is reduced to merely a modern index of wrongs and villains who must be airbrushed to make way for that which is current. Being that I am not so self indulgent, I believe people can do good in spite of their customs and while I believe the custom in question is perhaps the most historically evil known to humankind, it is wrong to burn the great works of dead people who never lived to witness the superior customs that we have now and as such carried out their lives unwitting to the moral evil they had not yet recognised. If this course takes place, I ponder how long it shall be before the Eliz Room is renamed, before the paintings are removed from the Exam Hall and before various lecture theatres bearing the names of deceased figures are scrubbed from the record books because some person tomorrow believes it to be outrageously repugnant that the values of 1685 or 1753 do not match that of the present day. I personally abhor the vile practices of the past as much as any person on this campus (from burnings to slavery to witch trials to mother and baby homes) - I study these practices comprehensively both in law and in history - however knowing history we know that customs die out but great works remain valuable...to deny great

works merely because they and their authors are of another time is to leave ourselves with nothing but our own views, something universities should strive to prevent. The legacy department to which I write would be barren without history and for that reason it must consider to what extent we should separate the names of people and their great works from their physical environment and the times they inhabited.

Yours sincerely,
James Turley