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**SECTION:** EDITORIAL, Pg. B2

**LENGTH:** 175 words

**HEADLINE:** THE JURY IS OUT ON HOMOSEXUALITY AS A GENETIC PREDISPOSITION

**BYLINE:** WILLIAM FRICK SQUIRREL HILL

**BODY:**

Phillip H. Branan ("Don't Call Me a Homophobe," March 1) may be unaware that the scientific jury is still out as to whether homosexuality is a genetic predisposition. Recent research raises legitimate questions in this regard. Sexuality may be as immutable a characteristic as race, gender or right- and left-handedness.

Second, disregarding the scientific questions, what is the harm to you, or to any other third party, from homosexual behavior? If two human beings choose to love each other, why is that wrong?

Please don't quote me Bible verses. The Bible is a wonderful book, but when you attempt to limit God's inspiration to the narrow confines of one dogma or another you are underestimating God's capacities.

We can't decide important questions solely on the basis of religious writings. We are human beings, and we must use the tool God has given us -- our mind's ability to reason -- to sort out questions of right and wrong.

I won't call you a homophobe, sir, but take care that you don't become a "cognitiphobe."

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