

Letters to the Editor

Columbus Dispatch

Left-handed people weren't always accepted or affirmed

While now known to arise from various factors related to biology, genetics, environment and personal preference, left-handedness has historically been associated with the devil, witchcraft among the pious, blasphemy by world religions, deviance, incorrigibility and perversion.

Through the years, left-handed persons have endured the distress of social stigma among family, friends and the wider community. And when forced to conform, they have performed more poorly in school and work while suffering physical, mental and emotional illness as well.

Gratefully today, the non-conforming identify of left-handedness is largely now accepted and affirmed within mainstream American social norms and rarely met any longer with such unjustified ridicule.

Unfortunately, the same cannot be said of the unjustified ridicule associated with non-conforming sexual and gender identities.

In the interest of strengthening the community by caring for our neighbors, let's do all we can to accept and affirm those identities too.

For such non-conforming identities are, in essence, no less normal than being left or right-handed.

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