**Orientation and achievement**

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There is no correlation between sexual orientation and scientific or artistic achievement. One does not become a finer scientist, musician, painter or poet by virtue of being a homosexual or a heterosexual.

Hence, phrases such as "gay citizens' achievements" have to be approached very carefully in the context of the law recently passed by Gov. Jerry Brown.

If the point of this law is to require a reporting of past events pertaining to homosexuals' lives, then it bears merit, not because it has anything to do with homosexuals, but because it has everything to do with the pursuit of truth -- a cornerstone of western civilization. What happened has already happened. We cannot change it; we can only report it, and should do so completely and accurately.

However, if this law is used to sexualize the great accomplishments of the past, then it is certainly misdirected. It takes an unhealthy mind to evoke the sexual orientations of great thinkers and creators of the past when describing or enjoying their theories, inventions, poems, novels, paintings, sculptures or symphonies. What is more relevant as a context would be the human condition not the sexual condition.

Excellence knows no sexual orientation.

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Fresno