

ION

QUOTE

Karla Kraynak Bruno

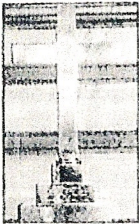
"The glass case holding the Millington Cross could have been placed in front of the altar since the majority on the committee opposed having it on or behind the altar."

Offensive siting of the cross

The Virginia Gazette, Williamsburg 4/18/2007 19A

William & Mary's Committee on Religion announced that it has determined the meaning of "prominent" with regard to the Wren Cross. The committee must have a different dictionary than I do because placing the cross on the side of the chapel is not prominent at all.

With an altar centered on the east wall, surrounded by a Communion rail, and pews that face each other, the only truly prominent spot in the place is behind the rail. The glass case holding the Millington Cross could have been placed in front of the altar since the majority on the committee opposed having it on or behind the altar.



So the decision to have the cross and its Cinderella case up against the wall where an innocuous chair is now residing seems to be the best compromise the committee can offer. There are many Christians who will see this as offensive, as an offhanded and clumsy way of deeming the cross unfit for the 21st century ways of a public university, despite that no other public or private university in Virginia has had to do this with their own crosses.

I see it as the inevitable result of a Board of Visitors who abdicated their responsibility as stewards of the college to a Nichol-selected group heavily weighted to his cause in the first place. They should have addressed Nichol's original order at their November meeting. They should have slapped him on the wrists for rash judgment, put the cross and policy back in place, and moved on.

LETTERS

The Board of Visitors has proven itself to be weak, spineless and ineffective. I call for the governor to replace them all at the first opportunity with men and women with strength of character and a sense of moral responsibility to the college they serve.

If, by some miracle, the board when it meets this Thursday and Friday decides that Gene Nichol has done enough damage to the college, then I just might change my mind about the state of their spines.

Karla Kraynak Bruno
Class of 1981 and 1992
James City