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Topic:

Alan Turing's Story Could Be Rebooted By Calls to Pardon Late Computer Legend

The article first discussed the possibility of redress the sentence of Alan Turing, who was forced to undergo many inhumanely treatments because of his homosexuality.

Alan Turing was one of the founding father of the field of Computer Science, but his personal life was instead, quite unfortunate and miserable. Because of his great accomplishments during his life and more and more people are becoming supportive towards homosexuality, many are expecting the British government to eliminate the charges on Turing for being homosexual. Two sides are popped up for this debate. The first opinion that many people hold is that Turing's conviction should be cleared. People claim that Turing's contribution to the field of computer science is significant enough for us to reshape his figure as a hero. More importantly, homosexuality itself should not be a conviction at all. Thus Turing is guilty without a doubt, and the elimination of that charge is needed. On the other side, however, people refuted that though Turing's conviction is somewhat regretful, even inaccurate, it is not that important to redress a sentence that has passed for so many years. Moreover, if Turing is pardoned, why not the writer Oscar Wilde, the actor John Gielgud and the thousands of other less-notable Britons once punished for the love that dare not speak its name?

In my opinion, I would agree with the first argument that supports the elimination of Turing's conviction. Even though Turing has passed away for many years, and what he left in this world are mostly his famous models and theories, it is important to give back what he deserved, an identity of a normal human being, not a prisoner. Moreover, homosexuality nowadays is widely accepted by the society, such action of respecting the truth and minority would give people confidence and security.

In the second part, the article talks about some of Turing's behind-the-scene accomplishments such as worked secretly for British army for decoding Nazi's military code Enigma.

Finally, the article mentioned many of his famous mathematical models such as the Turing Machine and how heroic he has become after people realizing the great impacts that his models have on today's electronic devices. The article ended with words of Turing's family that although Turing's conviction was unfortunate and his death was even more mysterious, we should really remember the great things that he accomplished and care less about those that are not so much important.

To me, the above words are what exactly I agree with. I learned the Turing Machine in CS181 last quarter, and was truly amazed by the computing power of such a simple but powerful model that has becoming one of the coolest thing I have ever studied. I hope that as time goes, people will accomplish more with the help of his model, and appreciate his efforts as a computer scientist. I think that is what Turing really wanted to see.