1978

Blue Jeans Day

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To the Cigar:

The Gay Student's Coalition is like a pile of fresh chicken dung that somebody keeps shoveling into new and then, and the stench is horrendous.

They have proclaimed April 14 as "Blue Jeans Day" as a means to promote gay rights. I can hardly take in the audacity of this.

They propose to take blue jeans, practical a national uniform, and adopt it as their own special label of perversion! It is like proclaiming, "All Nuns wearing habits are in favor of free notepads in public phone booths." The connection is completely non-existent between the symbol and the support in both cases.

Since the proclamation will be largely ignored, people will wear the usual - blue jeans. All that is needed next is for some flaming fool to look out on the Quad on April 14 and say, "Look at those jeans - I guess gay rights are here to stay."

The homos must be pretty desperate to pull such a charade as this, and I am sure, considering student wardrobes, that the "support" will be overwhelming.

Philip W. Noss

"Homophobic" rebutted

To the Cigar:

Once again I feel compelled to rebut another homophobic letter ("Blue Jeans Day Hit," Cigar, March 29, 1978.) However, first I would like to thank Mr. Noss for affording Gay Students' Coalition some free publicity.

Mr. Noss' letter starts with a somewhat silly but scorching simile about an organization that he can know nothing about since he has never attended any of our meetings.

In the second paragraph the Gay Students' Coalition is given credit for proclaiming April 14, National Gay Blue Jeans Day. While we would like to take credit for such a good idea, it is actually the brain-child of the National Gay Task Force (NGTF), an organization of nearly 10,000 members nationwide.

Further, Mr. Noss, refers to our project as audacious. Thanks again, for one of the antonyms of audacity is diffidence, and the Gay Students' Coalition, as would any other political group, chooses to stand up for its rights rather than to sit back in diffidence and apathy.

Still continuing, Mr. Noss again demonstrates his lack of knowledge of the actual facts of the issue when he speculates as to the motives of Blue Jeans Day. According to the NGTF, "On the individual level, each person who knows about the event will be forced to make a conscious decision about something most college students (and many faculty) do automatically, and as a result will have to consider what it's like to be a member of America's 'most discriminated-agains: minority."

The theme of Blue Jeans Day is, "If you are Gay or if you support Gay rights, then you should wear Blue Jeans on April 14."

Furthermore, the connection between Blue Jeans and Gays is very simple - Gay people come from all walks of like. They are an invisible minority. By donning Blue Jeans, two things happen. First, straight people upon rising on Friday, April 14, will be compelled not to wear Blue Jeans for "fear" of being thought gay and hence will know just a moment what it's like to be discriminated against. Secondly, Blue Jeans Day will add a measure of visibility to the community.

Further, according to an article by Grace and Fred Hechinger (N.Y. Times Magazine, March 23, 1978, entitles "Homosexuality on Campus,"

"At several campuses of the University of California, where Blue Jeans were to be worn on "Gay Solidarity Day," an extraordinary number of tailored trousers and proper skirts made a one-day appearance, obviously to avoid any chance of mistaken identity."

Additionally, this project is tried and true. Blue Jeans Day was held last year with tremendous success. It is a national event held on the majority of the larger campuses around the country. National news coverage is planned by the NGTF. Also, both RIC and Brown are participating this year.

Finally, Mr. Noss, I hope that you don't plan to wear Blue Jeans on April 14, 1978. I wouldn't want anyone to think that you are "one of us."

Carl Swanson, President
Gay Students Coalition