Blue Jeans Day Public Response

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Blue Jeans day arrives amid mixed reactions

by Kathleen Yanity
Cigar News Staff

Blue Jean's Day has arrived and the controversy generated by students, straight and gay, continues. What exactly does it mean to be wearing blue jeans today?

Does it mean you're gay or just a supporter?

"The number of people wearing blue jeans is irrelevant," Carl Swanson, president of the URI Gay Students Coalition, said. "Blue Jeans Day is a consciousness-raising effort. "For one moment on Friday morning students will have to think about what it is like to be gay."

Swanson said students will have to deal with the social pressures a gay person must deal with every day of his life.

Swanson acknowledged that blue jeans are a "national emblem" and said for the straight person Blue Jeans Day is a "minor inconvenience."

He said he expected less people to be wearing blue jeans on Friday than usual. "Even if Friday never comes people have begun to think." The project, Swanson said has already achieved its purpose. "Just look at the letters in the Cigar alone."

"Gays" Swanson said "do not want to impose their lifestyle on the majority, but are just asking for breathing room."

The openness of the gay rights movement, Swanson said, is something not seen in the past.