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## Blue jeans fever

The Maine Campus

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Editorial

## *Blue jeans fever*

The UMO Wilde-Stein club missed the nail completely in promoting another Gay Blue Jeans Day on campus.

While their message—gays are human and deserve to be treated as such—is relevant, their form of expression is a bad choice.

Their proclamation that anyone wearing jeans on Friday is homosexual or supports gay rights is not only absurd but harmful to their cause.

Any attempt to ram the issue down students' throats will be met with rejection and protest. That was clearly evident last year when protesting students criticized the club's action in letters sent to the Campus.

Their action is puzzling, considering there doesn't appear to be any major conspiracy on campus designed to suppress gay rights. It's as if the gays are throwing grass in the air to see which way it will blow. Unfortunately, for their purposes, there is no wind.

UMO is a quiet, liberal (as far as Maine goes) community. There usually is not much thought given to gay rights one way or another. The prevalent attitude seems to be "You do your thing as long as it doesn't interfere with mine."

For gays, it would appear, that would be a desired attitude. No vocal opposition or discrimination—just complacent indifference.

But now they've broken that balance and forced people to think about the gay issue, only

nobody's laughing. For many people, this will be the first time a personal involvement is mixed with the rights of homosexuals. For some, it will be an unpleasant experience causing embarrassment, discomfort and anger.

If Wilde-Stein wanted to procure sympathy from the public, they certainly went about it in the wrong way.

Homosexuals don't have to walk around with a bee up the zinger to get a reaction. But by proclaiming another Gay Blue Jeans Day, this is the attitude they project.

Statements like "I hope we do inconvenience some students" only undermine their efforts to achieve public approval. It emphasizes the "them against us" mentality, which is exactly what gays are trying to eliminate.

While every person or group is entitled to free speech and afforded the means to express ideas, the test to be conducted by Wilde-Stein is about the biggest mistake that group could make.

Critics of the gay movement probably are rubbing their hands together with a smile on their face as they recant an old adage, "Give them enough rope..."

Persons with a genuine interest in equality and human rights, on the other hand, are just sitting back pondering the intent of such a move and calculating when, if ever, its negative effects will be forgotten.