

The University of Maine

DigitalCommons@UMaine

Social Justice: Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

Special Collections

10-31-1978

Gays plan Jeans Day

The Maine Campus

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/social_justice



Part of the [Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Commons](#), [Gender Equity in Education Commons](#), [Higher Education Commons](#), and the [United States History Commons](#)

Repository Citation

The Maine Campus, "Gays plan Jeans Day" (1978). *Social Justice: Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion*. 389. https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/social_justice/389

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@UMaine. It has been accepted for inclusion in Social Justice: Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@UMaine. For more information, please contact um.library.technical.services@maine.edu.

Maine Campus

Vol. 84, No. 15, Tuesday, October 31, 1978

Gays plan Jeans Day

In an effort to make people feel "uncomfortable," UMO's Wilde-Stein club has labeled Friday "Gay Blue Jeans Day" and will consider the wearing of denim clothing a visible display of support for gay rights.

"We want people to experience a little bit of the prejudice we do every day," one club member said.

Last year's Gay Blue Jeans Day drew heated criticism from many students who felt they were being manipulated by a handful of Stein members.

Three disc jockies at campus radio station WMEB-FM read announcements over the air calling for "those opposed to gays at UMO" to wear hats in protest. Students also wrote letters to the Maine Campus complaining that wardrobes must be altered to avoid being labeled a homosexual.

In addition, concern was expressed that persons who forgot it was Jeans Day would

wear blue jeans and subject themselves to embarrassment.

Undaunted, Stein members called the reaction "childish" and saw value in the emotions they elicited throughout the campus.

"It opened up a lot of minds," one member said, describing last year's efforts as a "social experiment."

Last year's club spokesperson, Diane Elze, said Jeans Day was designed "to get people to expose their attitudes toward gays. And judging from the hat plan and the petition being circulated, those attitudes are coming out."

Elze said any "inconvenience" caused to students would be "healthy." "I hope we do inconvenience some students," she said, "then at least they will have been forced to examine their thoughts on homosexuality. If they forget to wear jeans, fine. Then they can get an idea of the ridicule and jokes we homosexuals are

subjected to every day of the year."

The intent of this year's Jean's Day, stated in the pamphlets being distributed around campus, reflects the objectives of a year ago.

"The point we are trying to get across is very simple," one club member said.

"If you can't whistle or if you wear white socks or anything green on Thursday, that is a sure sign 'you must be some kinda faggot.'

"What we're doing is taking something you may do everyday without thinking and making you feel about it in much the same way a gay person might feel."

The pamphlet goes on to ask, "Does that make you feel uncomfortable? It's supposed to."

One Stein member expects a different reaction this year because, he said, people are more "aware" of the situation.

That member said he hopes people wear

[continued to page 10]

● Jeans Day

[continued from page 1]

jeans either in support or in spite of the club's dictum. He said that would be the same as a homosexual saying, "The hell with it, I'm going to cross my legs in public anyway."

Although last year's Jeans Day was part of a national movement, this year's event is sponsored entirely by the UMO Wilde-Stein club.