

Rousing success

Editors—

Denim Day was a rousing success. To calm your fears, we weren't trying to accurately count the Gay population at Iowa State. We didn't take pictures of all of you wearing jeans nor do we intend to print lists of names to open up to a libel suit.

Denim Day was an educational experience for Iowa State students unlike what you'll get in the classroom. It brought you in touch with your personal feelings about Gayness when the subject directly affects you. Whether you realize it or not, many of you went through lots of the same hassles and fears that Gays go through every day. We hope it was a sensitizing and consciousness-raising experience in that sense.

It has been said that Gay oppression will end when words like "faggot" and "straight" are not used as weapons and the words "homosexual" and "heterosexual" will be used as adjectives rather than nouns. This does not mean heterosexuals will turn into homosexuals, just that specific

acts would be homosexual or heterosexual.

On Denim Day, several students (males) went to the bother of printing up T-shirts saying, "Eat shit, GPA" or "Don't even think about it, faggot!" These persons have an almost neurotic compulsion to prove their heterosexuality. Why weren't more students laughing with us at our Halloween prank rather than freaking out?

Some people were upset at the inconvenience of having to change their life style for one day (people who would normally wear jeans but did not.) Gays are inconvenienced every day by you same people! We are virtually always presumed heterosexual; we are often as afraid of the label "Gay" as many people were on Denim Day (how many Gays do you think made it a point not to wear denim . . . lots!) The next time you are going to make a remark about "queers" (to reinforce your heterosexuality) remember how you felt on Denim Day. You may be making someone else feel the same way.

The Daily accused us of helping to create a dichotomy. This is a common tactic of the oppressor (in this case, a "professed heterosexual.") It's easy to lay blame on the oppressed class any time they stray from their "rightful" place. In truth, we only served to expose the dichotomy, for if it didn't already exist there would not be so many "professed heterosexuals" running around and freaking out over what they should wear or ever what others were wearing. No one would have cared. Too bad so many of you were cowering in the woodwork on Denim Day; we know that's a bum trip.

—Stephen Court
TCA 3
Sec, Treas GPA
Greg Menard
Ames
Co-chairperson GPA

Understanding

Editors—

To Ed Downey, Cathie Mathes,

et al.: Please remember that GPA did not request that straight people not wear denim. The massive flight to dress clothes on Thursday only demonstrates their point—the stigmatization for gay-ness by this society. Ideally no one should have cared if one wore denim or not, for being Gay should be completely acceptable. (If a student group had requested that, say, all American Indian students wear denim, would this reaction by the student population have been observed?)

If you felt "demoralized . . . by roaming eyeballs" or as if your rights had been infringed, perhaps you can begin to realize the prejudice an open Gay must confront every day. Please, try to use the situation to develop a deeper understanding of Gay People—don't let it degenerate into distrust and anger.

—Rhonda Crow
Econ 3

Poor reason

Editors—

My congratulations to the Gay People's Alliance! Never before have I seen such widespread paranoia on a college campus resulting from an announcement by such a small group of students. Imagine several thousand students approaching their closets on a Thursday morning saying to themselves, "Better wear cords today, don't want anyone to think I'm a goddamn queer."

In my opinion, "denim day" was proposed to GPA for the knee-slapping good time of watching several thousand students worry about something of negligible import, i.e. whether or not someone else thinks they are gay. In this day of supposed openness and awareness there are still many people concerned with being stigmatized. From my knowledge of history, I seem to recall 17th century Salem, Mass. Is he a witch? Is she a witch? ARE YOU A WITCH? Lord have mercy.

—Thomas Georgou
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