

# *Jeans prompt 'stares'*

I am white and middle-class. Consequently, I have never felt anger because I was jeered at or frustration because I was being isolated. Until yesterday, that is. I wore blue jeans. I am not sure, but I think what I have experienced must be similar to what many gays feel after they have professed their homosexuality.

I began walking across the Grounds feeling as normal as everyone around me. I didn't think that I looked or acted any different, yet I was being singled out as the recipient of both comments and stares. After a few moments I felt very odd, very nervous. For a minute I actually wanted to go back home and change.

I'm very glad I didn't because there is nothing wrong with me, nor is there

anything wrong with those who have chosen to act on their homosexuality. There is something very wrong with a society, however, that is so bound by conformity there is no room left for the expression of individuality.

I want to thank the Gay Student Union for broadening my views a little bit. I also want to thank all those who abstained from wearing jeans. You have finally brought me out of my naivete and made me realize that everything is not as it should be and there is still a lot to be done.

Kara Sheridan  
Coll. I

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[Eight other students signed the letter.]

# *Editorial analogy seems 'remarkably inappropriate'*

I would like to thank The Cavalier Daily and its staff for all the help afforded me and other members of the Gay Student Union, as well as to the organization itself, in connection with the current Gay-Lesbian Celebration Week. We have appreciated greatly The Cavalier Daily's extensive and enlightened coverage, the strong, positive editorials and the assistance of your advertising staff in planning and placing of our advertisements.

I must nonetheless remark on what I consider an unfortunate analogy in the editorial column of the April 2 issue of The Cavalier Daily. While the editorial was an excellent one on the whole, enlightened and positive, it seems remarkably inappropriate to say that a non-gay person would have as much difficulty in understanding what it is like to be gay as a healthy person would in understanding what it is like to suffer from leprosy. As the remainder of your coverage and this editorial seem to say, being non-gay is not analogous to being healthy, and

certainly being gay is in no way analogous to having leprosy.

Perhaps you could have said that a non-gay person would have as much difficulty in understanding what it is like to be gay as an average well-fed American citizen would have in understanding what it is like to be a starving Cambodian refugee, or as a man or woman of average height would have in understanding what it might feel like to be as tall as Ralph Sampson. The analogy you employed in your editorial, however, was at best ill-considered. I hope that in the future, your enlightened good will may be accompanied by an equal amount of enlightened good sense.

Bob Schwartz, Treasurer  
Gay Student Union  
Law III

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[The analogy was not intended to suggest that gays are unhealthy, but that gays are ostracized in our society just as lepers were ostracized in earlier times. — Ed.]



# Council, CD too liberal

Judging by their recent actions, The Cavalier Daily and the Student Council are way out of line with the opinions of the majority of students here at the University. From what I observed Wednesday, most of the student body made a conscious effort not to wear blue jeans, and a good number of students wearing them did so only out of negligence, not to show support for homosexuals' concerns.

Thus once again I see that Student Council and The Cavalier Daily really have created their own little world in Newcomb Hall's upper regions. The majority of students here are basically conservative on most issues; it's just that the Student Council and The Cavalier Daily are not. So how can you justify the existence of these organizations as a student council and a student newspaper?

It's time for the University's "silent majority," which still believes in God, Country, and Heterosexuality, to get

rid of the "intellectually liberated" persons who dominate its student organizations, but fail to represent its students. Not everyone thinks that Craig Slingluff is a fascist, or that Josh Henson is innocent.

It's about time we had a Student Council that tries to represent the students, or a student newspaper that respects the views of the students. C'mon guys, quit trying to shock us with your fashionable liberal views, because we've heard them all before.

Eric F. Peterson

Coll. I

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[Student Council did not endorse Blue Jeans Day. The Cavalier Daily does not attempt to represent majority student opinion, and we have never called Craig Slingluff a "fascist."— Ed.]

# Tactics 'insult logic'

I write in response to your editorial and news coverage of Gay-Lesbian Celebration Week. The more I read, the more I am convinced that there are too many people who are living lives inevitably destined to be frustrated.

For those who are ever leveling diatribes against evangelical Christians for their lack of support for gays, two points are noteworthy:

- The individual who advocates gayness as an alternative lifestyle can no longer by definition be an evangelical.
- Those who castigate evangelicals

for their religious principles, and practices do not manifest the same principles of tolerance which they demand of evangelicals.

Further, to publish in a university newspaper that the wearing of jeans on a certain day is symbolic of support for gay rights is tantamount to saying that all who carry umbrellas when it rains are Communists. Such political tactics would be an insult to the logic of the Stone Age.

Harold L. Bare  
Grad. A&S VI

# *Day caused Terror'*

I thought the letter from 19 first-year men was marvelous; though it could have been GSU propaganda, I'm willing to accept it as genuine.

Blue Jeans Day works two ways: it lets gays and gay supporters express themselves, and it gives a random group of blue-jeaned homophobes who didn't see the publicity a big shock. For one day they are mildly vulnerable to an irrational hatred they are more accustomed to handing out. For one day they have to make an effort to "pass" as straight.

Blue Jeans Day, unlike homophobia, has no effect on their careers, their psychological stability, their family lives. But their reaction — terror — is strong enough to make them write a letter demanding more publicity for next year and the use of pansies instead of blue jeans. They

have 364 days of smug trance ahead of them, but that isn't reassurance enough; it'll take a lot of extra fag jokes to restore their equilibrium.

Here's hoping they get over it. In the meantime their panic is a matter of record, and their phrase "walls of acceptance" deserves to live forever. What's the opposite of a wall of acceptance? A bridge of rejection? These guys aren't used to thinking about their attitudes, and they don't make much sense right now.

I never much liked Blue Jeans Day because it seemed so childish. I couldn't believe anyone, gay, pro-gay, indifferent or homophobic, could take it seriously. But I was wrong, and it's been fun.

Adam Mars-Jones  
Grad. A&S VIII

# Author 'very sick person'

I was shocked when I read "Nothing to fear when you come out of the dungeon" on yesterday's Cavalier Daily editorial page. I was not shocked by the content. Evidently Shadyac is a very sick person; his sickness is his prerogative. But for The Cavalier Daily to give him space to air his views in such a distasteful, sickening manner speaks poorly, to say the least, of the newspaper. I was mistakenly under the impression that The Cavalier Daily's editorial page consists of reasonable, responsible comment. Tom Shadyac's editorial

was neither reasonable nor responsible, and hardly humorous, if humor was the writer's intent. By printing such an article, The Cavalier Daily has reduced the quality of the editorial page to that of a Klan hate-sheet.

But there is nothing lost, I guess. Shadyac feels that homosexuality is disgusting. In making his point, he has exposed himself to be the same — simply disgusting.

Lisa Buchsbaum  
Coll. IV

# *Student challenges 'Christian hypocrisy'*

This is in response to Mr. Larry Bamford's letter of March 31 concerning the "Christian" view of homosexuality. As a former "born-again" Christian, I wish to point out that Jesus Christ had absolutely nothing to say on the issue of homosexuality, and the very few Biblical references to it are just as historically oriented (and therefore ~~not necessarily deserving~~ of "commandment" status) as are the Biblical pronouncements on the inferiority of women and the proper length of men's hair. Ultimately, Jesus demanded only one thing of us — that we love our neighbor as ourselves. All the specifics flow from this one principle, and the loving, responsible homosexual is no less capable of this than are heterosexuals.

I resent Mr. Bamford's smugness in presenting himself as a "disciple of the only God," and then informing us of his "position" on the issue of homosexuality. Clearly, the only person for whom Mr. Bamford speaks with any "authority" is himself. And as for the Bible verses, how about "Judge not, lest ye be judged"?

Since I am familiar with the self-righteous attitude displayed by many born-again Christians, I was prepared to forgive Mr. Bamford for his lack of humility. However, I will not forgive his lack of intelligence if he purports to speak as an authority on a subject.

Specifically, it is unthinkable to

associate homosexuality with racism and murder. The latter two involve harmful activities to which few submit voluntarily. And their consequences hardly fall under the guidelines of "do unto others as you would have them do unto you." Mr. Bamford equates murder, racism, and homosexuality, thus totally denying his earlier proclamations of Christian "love" for homosexuals, and reveals his total lack of understanding of homosexual love.

I challenge Mr. Bamford to explain how a loving homosexual relationship in itself, without the pain caused by society's negative reaction, harms anyone. When he's done thinking, he can apologize to the gay community for his hypocrisy.

Beverly Haney  
Grad. A&S VI

## *'Organization' pleased*

Our organization was greatly pleased with the student response on Wednesday. Our data indicate that upwards of 80 percent of the students chose not to wear blue jeans.

All in all, I think it was a very successful Gay Rejection Day.

Ken Johnson  
Engr. IV  
President, Friends Against Gays

# Letter in 'poor taste'

Thomas Shadyac's April 3, 1980 letter to the editor, "Nothing to fear when you come out of the dungeon," is living proof of the necessity for a Gay Awareness Week here at the University of Virginia.

I found his letter in extremely poor taste at best, and at worst an example of the humor of a typical University student. That his cruel irony amused fellow students of mine is indicative of their bigotry; it is incredible to me that anyone reading it would experience any emotions other than shock and outrage — and a sense of shame.

I find it unbelievable that Shadyac's letter could bring laughter from

allegedly intelligent, educated adults; yet I heard laughter from many students reading it. I am appalled at the attitudes which produce such amusement; students who laugh at such "humor" simply have no regard for the rights of humans — of which gays are a group.

I simply hope that every student who found Shadyac's letter amusing, or who condones or even agrees with his attitudes, will one day find himself or herself the minority when the majority rules.

Barbara Hull  
Coll. I