

# editorial

## 'I am gay, no one knows'

As I expected, National Blue Jeans Day received some adverse comments. How sad.

I am gay, for the most part, no one knows.

I do not hurt anyone by being gay, except those who choose to be hurt. I do not hang out in bathrooms, have limp wrists or molest children.

I could be your brother, your sister, your father, your mother or your friend!

I am a unique person, yet I am just the same as anyone else, except that I love (yes, there is love involved) a member of my own sex.

I do not wear strange cloths (unless you count my color coordination, which is atrocious). Sure, there are some pretty weird gay people, just as there are some weird straights, weird Catholics, weird blacks and weird English majors.

But there also are some decent straights, Catholics, blacks and English majors. (Some of my best friends are straight Catholic black English majors.)

I can't believe so many people would

deliberately change their everyday attire because they are—afraid, I guess.

It seems to me that the people who are the most outspoken against gay people are the ones the most unsure about themselves. Anita Bryant must be awfully insecure.

Truly heterosexual people are not bothered by gays because they know where they stand. That's fine with me. What's right for me may or may not be what's right for anyone else.

I don't tell people how to live their lives, and I would hope they wouldn't try to tell me how to live mine.

I wore blue jeans Friday. (Maybe I needed to do my laundry and it's all I had left!)

If you know who I am, come tell me. I will not deny having written this letter. The point is, you can't.

I'm no different than anyone else. Except perhaps more at peace with myself than those who need to harass others.

The Daily Nebraskan policy is that letters to the editor must carry a name, telephone number, grade level and major of the writer, although special consideration will be made for withholding names. However, an occasion sometimes arises where a letter submitted without a name is seriously and logically addressing current issues. This letter is one of those occasions.

## RHA move adds red tape

The Residence Hall Association wants to allocate more of the students' money that administration now controls.

In a proposal presented at the Thursday RHA meeting, president Mike Gibson said giving RHA distribution powers would tend to unite the living units behind RHA and guard against administrators ignoring RHA recommendations.

Although Gibson's first argument is a legitimate one, the second is a bit off base.

As the allocation now stands, the

\$3.50 of the room and board fees automatically goes back to the residence hall the student lives in.

It is an equitable, clear way of allocation. The per capita allocation is not mired in red tape as many other budgeting processes in bueraucracies are.

True. The proposal does give RHA more power, but it is a messy, time-consuming way of doing it.

RHA should think twice before endorsing it and find a better way to unite the residence halls behind RHA.

## Talk comes out of closet

It faded away without much hassle, but in its wake was much discussion.

National Blue Jeans Day elicited much discussion Friday of gay activism and many people showed their biases.

Perhaps discussion was the point of the entire scheme. Homosexuality is something that needs to be brought out into the open and talked about. Talk about homosexuality, like many homosexuals, is still locked into the closet.

With frank knowledge that homosexuality exists around us, we are inhibited to touch the subject in discussions.

Of course, there were the many, many rude and unintelligent comments that are often thrown about in any talk about homosexuality, but there also was discussion of gay rights or gay rights to exist.

If nothing else, National Blue Jeans Day may have prompted some thought, not just comment.

## Greeks, Independents need to be openminded, cooperate

The animosity cannot continue to go unrecognized, the rudeness is too loud and obnoxious. The din of the conflict is remarkable in contrast to the silence which occurs when the problem begs for answers.

I am speaking of the residence hall-campus vs. Greek antagonism.

rather deny it's existence or lessen it's significance. But it's an undeniable fact and perhaps one that needs to be dealt with more extensively than it has in the past.

The conflict is not one that lends itself to large groups yelling and rioting against the other. Rather, it is a much subtler individualistic type aimed at the more personal level, with perhaps less specific objectives than the former, more open type! But nonetheless, it is a negative force.

Does identifying yourself as either Greek or Independent automatically put you into conflict with the other? Sometimes yes, sometimes no, depending on the situation.

It seems there are isolated parties in each group which makes this the rule rather than the exception. And there are isolated parties, with big mouths and little brains, who unheedingly do great damage to relations with their narrow-minded

actions.

I am speaking of the Greeks who position themselves on their rooftops and hurl obscenities and debris at passing people and cars. Very impressive guys. I'm speaking of people coming back from bars, tossing bottles through windows in Greek houses and destroying their property. Real sharp.

What is ironic is that neither of the groups have real legitimate gripes about the other, outside of isolated instances blown out of proportion; it appears to be a case of guilt by association.

Neither of the groups makes an effort to learn about the other or to cooperate in any type of activities—extracurricular activities of each exclude participation of the other except in intramurals.

Perhaps both groups could be a little more open-minded about the other, and try to see the other's perspective. Doesn't it seem rather odd that a person can have

friends who are Greeks or Independents, and yet not hesitate to condemn the other at the first opportunity?

Leaders in both groups might consider tackling this problem in an effort to alleviate further negative reactions. Exchange dinners, shared parties or F.A.C.'s with ALL invited! It's an obvious chance to improve relations where not much attention has been heeded in the past.

It's so much easier to condemn someone behind their back rather than offer a hand and smile in friendship and try to understand them.

The time is right to take the harder course and the initiative to improve a problem situation.

It will be interesting to see how mature and far-sighted each group can be; the potential for a constructive, powerful relationship exists between these groups on campus. Let's realize that potential and make it work.

michael  
nikunen

It's amazing how little public acknowledgement this problem receives considering its frequency. It's a negative aspect of campus relations, one that is difficult to deal with; everyone seems a little embarrassed to talk about it in public and would

## letters to the editor

With the arrival of spring and the appearance of many bicycles among university students and faculty, the article on laws that affect bicycle use was an excellent idea. I must comment, though, on some parts of the presentation.

Bicycle operation is prohibited nowhere in Lincoln except on the Interstate. Many of the arterial routes carry heavy traffic at high speeds; thus, they are hazardous for slower traffic, particularly bicycles.

Any bicycle used after dark must be equipped with the light and reflectors stated in the ordinance.

The purpose of the lights and reflectors, of course, is to increase visibility. At night a bicycle without lights or reflectors and ridden by a person wearing dark clothes cannot be seen by someone driving a car.

One of the most important parts of the laws affecting bicycle operation is the requirement that bicycles are subject to all traffic laws.

Sidewalks in congested commercial districts are off limits to bicycles, although a bicyclist can always become a pedestrian and walk his bike on the sidewalks.

William Wayne

Lincoln Bicycle Safety committee member

## Jeans ridicule

I was disappointed with the reactions and comments I heard expressed about National Blue Jeans Day.

First, I would like to compare the homophile movement with the abortion issue. Many have strong values against abortion and would never consider it for themselves, yet they believe that under varying circumstances the woman should have the right to choose whether or not she should have one. It is a matter of personal choice.

This country professes freedom for all. This includes political and religious beliefs and preferences along with values. Does this mean that one should try to force one's own preferences upon others simply because those of the latter are different from one's own and when they in turn do not attempt to force their's upon others?

Who can say for sure that homosexuality and lesbianism are wrong? Sex itself was once considered to be against all morals if it was enjoyed. It was only considered right if solely for the purpose of procreation. Fornication was and still is a bad word. There are still laws against it.

However, the rate of premarital inter-

course is amazingly high considering this fact.

I admit that my own sexual preference is heterosexual. I only support the homophile movement because I believe it is a right for all humans to be entitled to their own preferences. It is a value of freedom of beliefs which our country professes and seeks as an ideal.

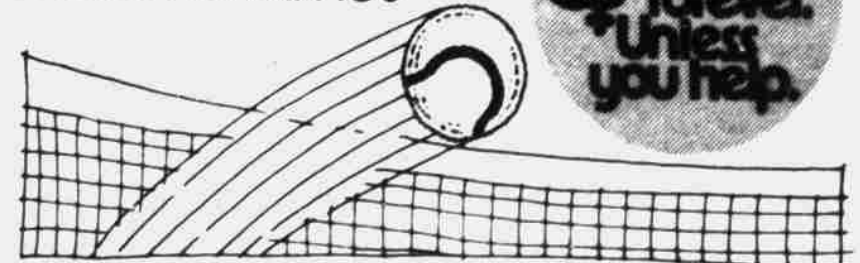
I am not against those who are against the homophile movement. I am only some-

what disappointed that there are so many closed minds.

They have the right not to support movements they do not believe in. But why put a movement down and ridicule it if it has no affect on your personality? It would probably be just as easy to ignore the issue completely and just be yourself.

Anne Fenderson  
Senior psychology and sociology major

It's your return  
that counts!  
March of Dimes



THIS SPACE CONTRIBUTED BY THE PUBLISHER