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Jeans Day a success, says Steiner

by Doug Bailey and Ann Fridinger

Despite some student opposition and organizational problems, Friday's Gay Blue Jeans Day was termed a success by one club member.

"There seemed to be many people wearing jeans and not as many counter-protesters as last year," said Tim Lane, a member of the Wilde-Stein Club, UMO's homosexual organization. "Last year there was much more opposition to the event."

The purpose of Jeans Day, according to Stein members, is to show people the prejudice homosexuals experience every day. People who support gay rights were told by the club to wear jeans.

"I talked to about 20 people wearing jeans last Friday," Lane said, "and most of them told me they were not about to change their dressing habits for just one day. I took that as a sign of support. Only a few people who were wearing jeans told me they were opposed to gay rights."

Lane said last year the Gay Blue Jeans Day prompted some counter-protests. Wearing hats was considered by some to be an expression of disapproval.

"Last year someone burned a dummy on the mall in protest of gays, and many members were verbally harassed. This year I found very little of that on campus," Lane said.

But Mike Dragoon, president of Alpha Tau Omega, said there were some people wearing protest hats last Friday; he was one of them.

"I know quite a few people who are opposed to the club getting

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● **Club 'copping out'**

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money from the student activity fee," he said.

In addition to some student opposition to the club, Stein members admit to organizational problems. They have yet to elect officers this semester, and until they do, the club will not receive any money from the Student Government.

Lane said the group misses the cohesive influence of Diane Elze, last year's club leader and an ardent supporter of gay rights.

"Diane did a lot for the group," Lane said. "She kept the group together."

Susan Leonard, Student Government vice president, said group members have not accepted the money because they want the members' names kept confidential.

"I can understand their reasoning," Leonard said. "If an employer found out their sexual preference, they might be discriminated against.

Even with professors and other students, they might be subject to pranks."

Lane said the club members are "copping out."

"One of the reasons for establishing the Wilde-Stein Club was to help gays cope with the problems of coming out of the closet," he said. "Now they want to have the organization but don't want to face the problems of admitting they are gay."

Leonard said she thinks the club should be funded because the senate already voted to allocate \$769.35 to the organization and they have a right to it.

"I think they should get it (the money) but we need the names of the members for our own purposes," she said. "I would be willing to keep the names of members confidential, but students may feel the names should be public. Confidentiality is something that must be explored."