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Outraged at bigotry and insensitivity

To the editor:

Roger Bondeson: Your letter to the editor in Wednesday's paper concerning the Wilde-Stein Club's "ingenious cheap shot on innocent people (innocent of what, Roger?)" evoked in me, first feelings of outrage, and then of pity--outrage at such bigotry and insensitive dismissal of the rights of the gay segment of society; and pity for such ignorance and blindness.

First, Mr. Bondeson, you are wrong in saying that "when Friday rolls around, there is going to be a picture of more support (for gay rights) than there really is." True, many people will wear jeans this Friday. But those who do so without realizing the temporary significance of their Lees or Levis will neither be supporting nor denouncing the gay movement. So, you can set your mind at rest about the campus populace's being

deceived about an overwhelming show of support for gays--people are more realistic than that.

Secondly, Mr. Bondeson, you might feel less violently opposed to homosexuality if you realize a couple of things: one, that a person's sexual preferences are no more affected by loud noises that they are by air pollution (you can turn your stereo back up); and two, that both you and I are actually in more danger of being molested by a straight man or woman than we are a gay man or a lesbian. Gays seek from relationships nothing more or less than you--yes, you, Mr. Bondeson--or I do. They seek love, security, understanding, a sense of sharing, and yes, sexual fulfillment, from their partners. Are those things perverted or "kinky?" Is the fact that a man or woman prefers intercourse with one of his or her own sex so wrong? And by the way, Mr. Bondeson,

that fact that homosexual relationships can never result in pregnancy does not in and of itself make the relationships wrong, either; if procreation were the sole justification for a relationship, a sterile woman or a man would be wrong, too, to enter into one.

The saddest part of your letter, Roger, is that it reflects so clearly society's unwillingness to accept people for their own worth, instead of for the degree to which they will conform to what is and has been considered "normal". I hope that you truly meant what you said in the last sentence of your letter-- that you someday may learn to tolerate gays, and to accept them as equal, "normal" members of our society.

Kathryn Roberts
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