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Students avoided jeans Monday

S. Alex Bradstreet

University of Maine

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Respon

Students avoided jeans Monday

To the editor:

I would like to take the time to say a few words about Monday's "wear jeans to support gay/lesbian/bisexual awareness week". Sadly, my next statement will cause most of the readers of this letter to turn the page in disgust.

I support the rights and feelings of all homosexuals. There, I've done it now. Shoot me. Beat me and throw me off a bridge. I've committed the ultimate sin.

In Maine, we have a lot of things. We have beautiful mountains. We have wonderful evergreen forests. And we have homophobia.

I was frustrated, outraged, and disgusted as I walked around campus on Monday.

I saw many types of clothing; shorts in various color, sweatpants, and slacks, and pants. I saw almost every color of the rainbow.

The color which was missing was blue. Yes folks, the official Maine article of clothing, blue jeans, was missing on campus Monday.

I wore a jean jacket to show support, but I feel that I should have pinned a sign on the back saying something like "I support

you, but I don't have any jeans. Sorry." I do not blame everyone. I'm sure many people just wanted to enjoy the 60 degree weather in their shorts. And I don't blame the scattered few jean wearers.

I blame the graffiti artists who write "Don't wear jeans on Monday, April 8." And I blame the boyfriend who said to his girlfriend "Jeez, I'm sure glad I didn't wear jeans today!"

When I see and hear these things, I just want to shout, "My God, what is wrong with you people?"

But, I guess, I know the answer to that question. We live in a homophobic society. Bangor is on the map because of it. (11 year-olds joke about the "chuck-a-homo" bridge). People like the leader of the so-called Cristian Civic League, Jasper Wyman, thrive on this fear.

So it is by no accident that my meandering study came up with the following statistics: 60% of all female students, and nearly 90% of all male students observed, were NOT wearing jeans on Monday.

Yes folks, we've got trouble right here in river city. Homopho-

bia showed its ugly face on Monday and it was our faces. The destructive monster exists, and very few people notice.

But there is hope. I give a word of thanks to the few people who did support the day, and to other people who will admit (Ha!) to caring for a friend, relative, or other loved one who is gay. I laugh because here it is bad to even know a gay person.

To the so-called "closet homosexuals": I am very sorry that we force you to hide a part of yourself. I wish this part of the world were more civilized.

To all homosexuals who have "come out": Have faith. Thank you for being you.

You are like a light shining in the darkness, drawing others to you. You truly deserve respect. You have more courage than most people would ever hope for.

I pray, that though you will be thrown against the crushing rock of homophobia again and again, you will retain at least a little hope. To you, I offer my sympathy, and this letter.

S. Alex Bradstreet
Cumberland Hall