Letters to The Tech

Gay Oppression I

To the Editor:
The following handbill was distributed on campus expressing the purposes of Gay Wednesday: "The reason behind Gay Wednesday is not to crown Gay people but to demonstrate oppression. If you're wearing blue jeans, you're oppressed. If you're not, you're not only safer but not then oppressed. But you'll live with it. We've lived with it for a long time. It's the day of the year in which we will think about it.—MITSHIL

The key features of the experiment are indicated by the words "demonstrate oppression" and "think about it."
The purpose was not so much to turn the tables of oppression as to use these tactics to drive home a point. Blue jeans were picked because of the general applicability to the community. Anyone who wore Gay Wednesday who had not previously given sufficient thought to matters of human sexuality was liable to feel oppressed, whether wearing blue jeans or not. Anyone insecure in his/her own sexuality and/or extrapped by their own prejudices (overly concerned with what others might think) or intolerant (or intolerant of the view of others) is among the most unliberated, and under such conditions, the jeans could be upset enough to allow such a trivial thing as the proclamation of Gay Wednesday to rule their life that day. Such people may be untraceable by an assault that the purpose of Gay Wednesday is meant to be the raising of in or refraining from wearing their usual friend (or, for example, the wearing of feathered hats). People who wore jeans felt a bit of the oppression faced by homosexuals every day. Many persons hesitated to wear them until they realized that the wearing of jeans was intended, and that constructive intelligent thinking has been promoted.

Henry Harry Member, MITSHIL
Henry Undergraduate Pres., MITSHIL
For Englander Graduate Pres., MITSHIL

Human Wednesday

To the Editor,
In view of the Letter entitled "Human Wednesday" in The Tech (Dec. 10, 1974) and Friday's "Straight Day," I would like to make some comments about Gay Wednesday. The controversy over the "human" in question was stated in leaflets posted around the Institute on Dec. 11. Gay Wednesday was held in the hope of making the latter answer the points feel a bit of the oppression faced by homosexuals every day. Many persons hesitated in or refrain from wearing their usual friend (bluie jeans) for fear of being associated with other homosexuals, reading the SHL and Bulling Board, etc. It is very difficult to "come out," and be open about yourself when you have been seen by your friends and suspected of being gay. People who knew the purpose of Gay Wednesday and were not gay themselves with the same indifference that they would feel towards people on any other day are the truly liberated people on campus. The first step in attacking oppression anywhere is an identification with the oppressed, and by wearing jeans and feeling the anxiety that many Gay people feel every day serves this purpose well. See now the other ten things below you decide that the majority can arrange for itself the exclusive right to distasteful social events.

Steve Kopfman

Gay Oppression II

To the Editor:
All the ads for news events on Gay Wednesday might be cut and amusing excursions in temporal horror, but Gay Wednesday is not to be seen as merely the first in a series of playful lacks. Its purpose was clearly and succinctly expressed in a leaflet distribut- ed on the afternoon of December 11. IT WAS NOT TO COUNT Gay people or for mutual identification by Gay's The issue of band hand was and remains oppression. Those who wore jeans by Gay or, and thought the day on the verge of an anxiety attack are among the oppressed. So are these people, Gay or straight, who wanted to wear jeans but didn't for fear of being seen by their friends and suspected of being Gay. People who wore Gay Wednesday and were not gay themselves with the same indifference that they would feel towards the others that they might be. We do not feel that removal of the information board serves these needs in the best way possible. The removal of the board will be further justified in certain short-lived exhibitions, we feel that setting up the board while the board was not only at the time of their installation.

Steve Kopfman

Corridor Art

To the Editor:
While the IFC (Interfraternity Confer- ence) recognizes that the student activity information cases have been removed for short periods of time in the past, we feel that the proposed two to four month exhibitions for the main corridor far exceeds the spirit of the "temporary removal" plus made with Physical Plant at the time of their installation. The feeling of the IFC representatives is that the case serves a very valuable purpose in terms of central information distribution for the activities involved. Removal of these cases to a non-central location will not only stifle the informa tion distribution to directly affected groups, but will also stifle such distribution to casually interested passersby. While the same argument can be applied with arguing for an exhibition in a central place such as the Main Corridor, our consensus was that the benefits derived from the activities cases far outweigh the benefit seen in any month long exhibition of art or Institute history. As students, we believe that the Institute should serve the needs of its students for the school's whom its administrators, however well-intentioned may be. We do not feel that removal of the information board serves these needs in the best way possible. While there may be some value to certain short-lived exhibitions, we feel that setting up the board while the board was not only at the time of their installation.

Steve Kopfman

CHRISTMAS IS FOR KIDS.

But it won't be unless you help out!

You wouldn't want any kid, especially one here in Cambridge, to wake up Christmas morning with empty stockings. Gay says: "Happy holiday to you!"

So McDonald's has set up collection boxes just opposite its new Central Square location at the Engine 2, Ladder 3 Fire Station. You can drop by any time till December 18th and drop in a shiny new toy by way of warm mittens, a clanging fire engine, a throw-over-the-shoulder scarf, a new bicycle, or whatever you can think of that doesn't have to cost much. As long as it's new. And is given with love.

We've seen how your contribution goes to a youngster through the churches, settlement houses and youth centers of Cambridge. Please help us put a lot of joy in some kid's heart. And in yours. 

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