

June 1, 1986

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To: the faculty and staff

In the early hours of Sunday, June 1, graffiti was written in chalk throughout Dewing Hall: in every open classroom, on both sides of all doors, in bathroom stalls, on all blackboards, and on several walls.

Here are some examples of what was written:

NO GAYS ALLOWED
HOMOSEXUALITY EQUALS DEATH
KILL ALL GAYS AND LIBERALS
AIDS IS YOUR PUNISHMENT
MEN FUCK WOMEN, NOT EACH OTHER
HOMOSEXUALITY IS A PITFALL; NOT A POWER
GC HOME GAYS

In addition, several members of the student community received unsettling telephone calls during the early hours of Sunday morning.

Perhaps this was the work of only a few individuals, representing their own "beliefs." Perhaps this was the work of only a few individuals, representing the beliefs of many. Regardless, more than a few individuals on this campus are deeply hurt by this incident, and feel that these acts are representative of a widespread intolerance of "the individual" on our campus.

Frankly, we are frightened. We are frightened for our personal safety, and for the safety of other homosexual students. For that matter, we are frightened for the safety of all persons on this campus. We are frightened by what may happen in our dormitories, in the lines of SAGA, along the quad, and in our classrooms.

We are also experiencing anger. It is crucial to us that this anger is not stifled, but rather directed intelligently and effectively to bring about at least some degree of increased sensitivity toward all minorities on this campus. Gay students are not the only ones who have experienced this form of humiliation; over the past year, members of Chaverim, the Women's Interest Group, and the Black Student Organization have undergone similar abuse.

At an institution which attempts to foster tolerance and understanding of diversity, we feel that a concern such as this merits attention from all members of the college community, not simply from gay students, nor simply from the College's disciplinarians, nor simply from newspaper staff members, nor simply from those in academic disciplines which are more "sensitive" to matters of social intolerance. We feel that we must all work together to solidify our opposition to incidents such as this.

For this reason, this quarter's final Index issue will center around this incident and the variety of responses it provokes. Your written contributions to this concern, whether brief or extensive, would enhance our efforts to create a broader understanding of the need for genuine tolerance amongst all groups in all communities. Deadline for submissions is noon on Wednesday.

Thank you,

Sara Evans, Patrick Mahany,
Linda Topolsky, David Torresen,
Mila Visser 't Hooft