Graffiti on campus
a disgraceful mess

No member of the Tufts community could fail to miss the words “Fags Must Die” emblazoned atop Memorial Steps all week. Worded differently, the same sentiment appeared in several other spots on campus.

In the wake of the Tufts Gay Community-sponsored Blue Jeans Day and its ensuing controversy, this graffiti is cause for alarm. Tufts has always appeared to have an open-minded and intellectually tolerant atmosphere. But that is now in doubt, as members of a certain minority find themselves under attack by others less inclined to grant them the same freedoms they themselves enjoy.

Sexual preference is not at issue here. What we are affirming is the right of each to choose. While we have no doubt that this defacing of university property was the work of only a few, those few present a danger to all. We condemn the attitude inherent in this action as a product of ignorance, and hope that the individuals involved will seek to broaden their knowledge by more academic means. The expression of such sentiments does not deserve public space.

One other question: why did it take university personnel so long to remove the offending slogans? We have no doubt that the university was as disturbed an enraged by these words as we were: the question is, why were they allowed to remain so long, for all to see?

We hope that these recent negative expressions will not inhibit the Tufts Gay Community from continuing its efforts to educate the campus about homosexuality. Indeed, it seems that the need for such education is more desperate than ever before.