

The University of Maine

DigitalCommons@UMaine

Social Justice: Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

Special Collections

3-8-1974

Wilde-Stein expected to air rebuttal to Gass' attack

The Maine Campus

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/social_justice



Part of the [Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Commons](#), [Gender Equity in Education Commons](#), [Higher Education Commons](#), and the [United States History Commons](#)

Repository Citation

The Maine Campus, "Wilde-Stein expected to air rebuttal to Gass' attack" (1974). *Social Justice: Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion*. 272.

https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/social_justice/272

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@UMaine. It has been accepted for inclusion in Social Justice: Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@UMaine. For more information, please contact um.library.technical.services@maine.edu.

On the other hand

Wilde-Stein expected to air rebuttal to Gass' attack

In accordance with the Federal Communication Commission's Fairness Doctrine, WLBZ has responded favorably to a written request by the Wilde-Stein Club to answer what the club calls "malicious and distorted charges" made against it by Rev. Robert Gass on his Sunday broadcast "Glad Tidings."

A spokesman for the Wilde-Stein Club said he received a letter from the WLBZ-TV management yesterday extending an invitation for the club members to meet with station officials to work out details of going on the air to rebut Rev. Gass's charges.

No specific time has been set up for the club by WLBZ, and a spokesman for the television station said he would release no comment concerning what type of format would be offered to the gays, or the length of time they will be permitted to speak. "Everything is pretty iffy right at the moment, and I'm not going to make any comment concerning their (the club's) air time until we have a meeting. Right now, they haven't had time to respond to the letter sent by us," he said.

The spokesman for the W-S C explained that the group is not familiar with the process involved in presenting a rebuttal over the air, and consequently was not sure what type of format would be offered. He added that WLBZ offered to meet with the

club to discuss details at the club's convenience.

The spokesman qualified the purpose of the club's request by saying the gays had no intention of pressuring WLBZ to take "Glad Tidings off the air, but rather, wanted only an opportunity to answer some of Gass's charges.

"We won't be threatening Rev. Gass off the air, we respect his right to his opinion. It's just that, from our point of view, his comments constituted a very malicious and distorted attack," he said.

Irving Hunter, WLBZ radio station manager, emphasized that the Wilde-Stein Club is laboring under a misconception if it thinks its letter to him concerning Rev. Herman Frankland's attacks on the gays caused the cancellation of his radio program, "In Times Like These."

"We cancelled that program because the station owner, the Maine Broadcasting System in Portland, decided that the place for a religious program was not a Saturday morning, and we have the right to cancel any program at any time," Hunter said, adding that the station also felt Frankland was putting too many controversial issues on the air, a practice that would force the station to seek out opposing views, under FCC guidelines. "The fact that we cancelled the show at the same time the Wilde-Stein Club sent its letter is purely secondary," Hunter asserted.