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**Correspondence from UMaine Alumni/Parents of a Female Student**

Name Redacted

Name Redacted

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Dr. Lawrence M. Cutler, Chairman
University of Maine Board of Trustees
31 Grove Street,
Bangor, Maine 04401

Dear Dr. Cutler:

I am writing this letter to respectfully express our concerns not only for the decision relating to the Wilde-Stein Club, but more particularly for the residential life-styles so freely permitted on campus and about which the general public has little or no awareness. I express these concerns for my wife and myself as parents of a daughter who graduated in 1968 and of another daughter now a resident student, also as contributing alumni, and as citizens.

First of all, the unfortunate decision relative to the gay convention was extremely distasteful to us. Basically, I believe this to be another result of the extreme protective attitude that our high courts have taken with respect to the so-called small minority groups, and I hope this was the sole basis for the Trustees' decision. The publicized accusation by a faculty member that the citizens of Maine are culturally ignorant in opposing the Wilde-Stein Club is deplorable, and does not in any way improve the image of certain segments of the University faculty. If I were to make such a comment concerning my employer, I would expect to be censured and looking for another job.

The continuing degree of permissiveness and apparent lack of administrative controls in dormitory living and campus social life is another area of concern which I believe needs to be carefully re-evaluated.

The adoption of parietals, or co-ed visiting hours, several years ago was the first of many steps in acceding to students' popular demands. The provision that room doors be open during visits has long since ceased, and now all doors are closed including those of the young resident couples who apparently care little what transpires in the dormitory so long as it does not disturb them.

Visiting hours are now 11:00AM - 1:00AM on weekdays and until 3:00AM on weekends as voted by individual dormitories. There is no apparent attempt made to insure that these hours are adhered to, and as may be expected, there are common instances of all-night visits.

We now read in the Maine Campus that the administration has approved a plan proposed by the Director of Residential Life to convert eight (8) more dormitories to co-ed living, for which there seems to be no valid reason, and to offer six (6) dormitories the privilege of voting on the removal of all parietal limitations, in other words, 24-hour visits! It doesn't take a great deal of insight to understand
some students would favor such a plan, and the only conclusion to be drawn is that this proposal encourages and promotes opportunities for freedom of sex activities among the student body. The only remaining step will be the assignment of male and female joint room occupancy on a semester basis.

Several months ago, I believe the Vice-President for Student Affairs expressed concern because so many students vacated their dormitory rooms, and proposed that a study be made at considerable expense to determine the reasons therefor. It doesn't require a degree in psychology to understand that there are many students on campus who are intent on pursuing their courses of study for which they or their parents are making a substantial investment. The problems created by the reluctance of college administrations to provide for the control of visitations, noise, rowdism, and liquor in the dormitories can hardly promote an atmosphere conducive to study. I share the belief of many others that these chaotic conditions compounded in some instances by over-crowding should not be tolerated and most certainly are some of the prime factors for which Dr. Kaplan was searching.

In summary, I believe it is time for those in authoritative positions to take positive action in the unpopular role of exerting control over the conduct of on-campus activities and to halt the continual erosion of authority by the popular demands of immature students.

I appreciate your taking the time to read this lengthy letter, and I suggest that it might be well for the Trustees to become more closely acquainted with residential life at the various campuses that they may judge it in the light of exposing their own children to this mode of living.

Copy to:
Dr. Neville

Very truly yours,