Correspondence from a Maine Citizen

Name Redacted

Howard R. Neville  
*President, University of Maine*

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Dr. Neville:

I have just heard that 100 "so called" ministers have approved the idea of a meeting of homosexuals at the University of Maine. One can hardly accept as ministers 100 men who do not believe in the Bible. Nothing is more evident throughout the Bible than the condemnation of homosexuality. If you do not believe me, please refer to Leviticus 18:22-30, and St. Jude 7 and 8 for specific examples. It states that a nation (or land) which permits it is to be condemned also.

As for the Constitution allowing peaceable assembly, it doesn't say where, and I can think of a lot of other places where the meeting would be less offensive.

I strongly suspect that behind the rise in popularity of homosexuals are people who are favoring abortion as a means of limiting the population. From talking with some of these people, I gather that they will approve of anything that will cut the population, regardless of the consequences.

These are what I would call "panic solutions" for like a man drowning, they clutch at the nearest sign of rescue, even though it means their own destruction.

Sincerely,

P.S. As for their saying that they do not mean to recruit, one must be very naive to swallow that.
January 23, 1974

Statement of a Resolution of the Board of Trustees:

Recognizing that many citizens have differing views on the matter of who and which groups should have an opportunity to meet on our University campuses, the Board of Trustees reaffirms the previous policy as approved in 1967 and 1969 of open campuses and the greatest amount of freedom of speech and of dissemination of ideas. Accordingly, we see no reason to deny any student group the right to meet on our University campuses for lawful purposes or in accordance with University policy.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED.

Statement by President Neville and he has read it to one of the television stations:

"In a recent court decision in the State of Georgia concerning the rights of a homosexual group to meet on the University of Georgia Campus, Judge Wood said, 'University presidents have the unenviable position of trying to maintain a precarious balance between the right of members of the academic community and the wishes of the taxpayers and alumni who support that community. Nevertheless, it is not the perrogative of college officials to impose their own preconceived notions and ideals on the campus by choosing among proposed organizations, providing access to some and denying a forum to those with which they do not agree.'

"Because the request of the UMO Wilde-Stein Club to hold a statewide gay conference in Orono has possible far-reaching consequences for the entire University and because of the varying opinions of Maine citizens, I conferred with Chancellor McNeil about our options, if any, and then he and I discussed the matter informally with the members of the Board of Trustees.

"The Trustees, by their action today (January 23, 1974) have, in a sense, directed the administration of UMO to approve the request of the Wilde-Stein Club to hold a gay conference this spring. I have directed the Office of Conferences and Institutes to proceed with the planning according to regularly established rules and procedures."
Did the Attorney for U of M Trustees Ever Read This Statute?

IT'S THE LAW
Title 17 — Ch. 41
CRIME AGAINST NATURE

Sec. 1001, Penalty: Whoever commits the crime against nature, with mankind or with beast, shall be punished by imprisonment for not less than one year nor more than 10 years.

Maine Courts Explain:

"...prohibits all unnatural copulation with mankind or beast... and is not restricted to sodomy or buggery... the crime of "sodomy" or of the "crime against nature"... being too well known and too disgusting to require other definition or further details or description... consent is no defense to a prosecution for sodomy... the offense includes all unnatural copulations with mankind or beast and may be committed without compulsion or force..."
April 19, 1974

R. 1 - [Redacted]
Wells, Maine 04090

Dear Ms. [Redacted]:

I thank you very much for taking time to write about some of the things that are going on at the University.

As you may know from reading in the newspaper, the conference which we are holding here is a result of a position taken some time ago. We are all as much concerned about it as I am sure you are. Enclosed is a copy of the Trustees' action and my personal statement made shortly thereafter.

I hope that you will continue to give the University your own support as we try our best to make what changes as are directed for us in this difficult world in which we live.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely yours,

Howard R. Neville
President

HRN:ht
Enc.