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The Maine Campus
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A spokesman for the Wilde-Stein Club expressed dismay Monday at the refusal of the Distinguished Lecture Series committee to grant the group $500 to sponsor Dr. Harold Brown as keynote speaker for the gay conference to be held this April at UMO.

Brown, president of the National Gay Task Force, had offered to speak at the conference for $500. The money was to be donated to the Task Force. A former member of New York Mayor John Lindsay’s cabinet, Brown gained national recognition when he publicly announced his homosexuality.

Jeff Hollingsworth, chairman of the DLS committee, said his committee had expected the Wilde-Stein request for funds after the Senate refused a grant to sponsor speakers for the conference. An invitation had been sent to the Wilde-Stein Club to submit their proposal to the DLS committee.

Explaining the unanimous vote against sponsoring Dr. Brown, Hollingsworth stated that if the committee had granted the money it would have set a precedent of turning over funds to outside interests wishing to sponsor events entirely apart from DLS activities.

"On such grounds, any conference could supposedly come in and request funds," he said. "Now, according to this vote, they probably would not get funds.

"There is no written policy on how our money is to be spent," Hollingsworth continued. The DLS committee operates on a budget of $12,000, granted by the Student Senate. He added that three other organizations also requested funds for speakers, two of which were also turned down.

The group, Maine People for a Constitutional Government (MPCG) asked for $750-1,000 to bring Charles Morgan, head of the ACLU, to Orono. The request was refused because the "committee members felt the subject of impeachment had been dealt upon already," Hollingsworth said. A request by the Women’s Groups for $1,500-2,000 to bring three women speakers to Orono was also turned down. Hollingsworth reported, because the committee decided that the benefit to the students would not have equalled the cost implied.

The committee did vote to fund the School of Human Development, in coordination with Omicron Nu honor society, for $1,750 to sponsor a lecture by Dr. Joyce Brothers.

Hollingsworth added that the Wilde-Stein Club proposal was turned down with the proposition that a separate proposal apart from the conference requesting funds to sponsor a speaker an individual speaker would be considered by the DLS committee.

Hollingsworth stressed that there is no established policy governing DLS committee decisions, and that he is compiling a list of proposed guidelines to be considered for adoption by the committee.