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Bostonian urges support for Wilde-Stein

To the editor:

As a regular reader (from Boston) of *The Maine Campus*, I wish to respond to the letter of Feb. 12 signed by Pitarys, Osoline, et al. The reactions of these seven persons to the Wilde-Stein Club makes any intelligent person realize more than ever the need to give full support to the Wilde-Stein Club. Their antagonisms to the club are based on their prejudices, fears, and the anti-gay propaganda that they have been fed all their lives by the straight media.

Before the black people were freed from slavery--only a little more than 100 years ago--whites came up with all kinds of similar reasons why they should not be freed.

We gays are an oppressed group of people. We exist (and have existed) in all cultures and all times. You see little of us, because we are afraid. We are afraid of your verbal abuse. We are afraid of your jails, and your beatings, and the loss of our jobs.

The ideas of gay people as child seducers, perverts, and the like is a heterosexual myth. Most child molesters, by the way, are, in fact, heterosexual. We are *human beings*. We are human beings loving each other in a beautiful way. We do not want "a club to enjoy sex" as the Pitarys letter states. Sex, is a small, but important part of being a total person, homosexual or heterosexual. Yes, sexual relations are personal. But we

want and will take the right to walk the streets with our lovers, and do other non-sexual things in open. We want to enjoy the same rights, no more no less, than heterosexual people enjoy.

What does the Wilde-Stein Club do? We discuss our oppression and how to overcome it. We work together on changing the laws against our people--I remember clearly all the anti-Jewish laws not too many years ago. We are working in media (T.V., radio, and newspapers) to get the truth to everyone. We discuss roles of men and women, so that we can become full human beings.

instead of the usual "men dominating women" syndrome of heterosexuality. We discuss the gay person's relation to a patriarchal religious system that denies women and gay people equal rights. We discuss prisons, realizing that most gay people in prison are political prisoners under an oppressive regime run by heterosexual, white men. We are not a sex club, as is now obvious even to the most dense of brains.

Talk to us. Get to know us. All you have to lose is your ignorance.

Donald M. Klein