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1-14-1974

## Correspondence from a UMaine Alumnus

Jon H. Towle

Lester J. Nadeau

*Executive Director, General Alumni Association*

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REC'D JAN 14 1974

Jon H. Towle  
67 Center St.  
Bangor, Maine

Director  
General Alumni Association  
University of Maine at Orono  
Orono, Maine

Dear sir;

It is with deep regret that I find myself compelled to write this letter to you.

As of late certain diatribes have been issued against the administration of this institution for having allowed the formal recognition of an organization called the Wilde-Stein Club. As I have been informed this organization was established on the Orono campus to afford homosexual students the opportunity to express their views and conduct educational and social functions on the U.M.O. campus. Whereas I personally neither condone nor condemn homosexuality, I do recognize that homosexuality is indeed a very wide spread propensity in civilized culture. And, as such, such sexual orientation presents itself as a major governing factor to Western social thought and culture. Thus, any study, information, representation, and/or organization which is established to enlighten social thought on the issue serves the academic community in a very favorable light. Also, whereas the University of Maine so established by the Morrill Act of 1862 provides for inclusion of the constitutional objectives of the Bill of Rights, and in particular, the right to free, open and peaceful assembly, I feel that it is not only proper but mandatory that the University of Maine at Orono not only support the Wilde-Stein Club but also take such actions of support for that body which will serve the interests of Americans in their right to exercise lawful assembly. In short, as an alumnus of the University of Maine at Orono, I demand that the administration, in no uncertain terms, give its full fledged support to this organization.

My objective for this demand is based on my fundamental regard for the integrity of constitutional law. Whereas the University functions as a branch of the government of the State of Maine, the University of Maine has the obligation to serve the ideological criterion which formalizes our American educational system. In short, the University has the obligation to support all student organizations which adhere to the laws of the land and to the policies so written by the University of Maine Board of Trustees. In discussing the matter at length with the leadership of both the U.M.O. Student Government and the Wilde-Stein Club I have learned that the latter is in complete compliance with State, federal, and University policies and law.

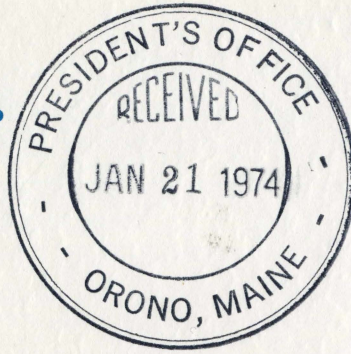
If the administration of the University of Maine at Orono should refuse to support any legally recognized student organization which is found to be in compliance with all legal criteria I will be forced to use the financial resources of our family to do all that is legally within my power to rectify this situation.

Regretfully

*Jon Hannaford-Towle*  
Jon Hannaford-Towle  
*Class of 1973*



General Alumni Association  
University of Maine at Orono  
North Hall Alumni Center  
Orono, Maine / 04473  
Tel. 207-581-7331



Memo To: President Howard R. Neville  
From: Lester J. Nadeau '59, Executive Director  
Date: January 18, 1974  
Re: Enclosed letter from John H. Towle '73

Howard, I'm wondering if you have a conventional statement for people who are writing in about the Wilde-Stein situation on campus.

I would be more than happy to answer John Hannaford Towle's letter, but I rather think he is directing it through us to the administration. I do want to answer John either to respond in total or to say that I have routed it on to you and that you will be writing. I will await your directive.

Incidentally, the Hannaford name referred to by John Towle is the wholesale grocery distributors in Portland, Maine, servicing all of the Shop and Save markets throughout Central and Northern Maine and the George C. Shaw supermarkets in Portland. It is indeed a big outfit but I have nothing in my files to indicate what relationship and where on the family tree John appears.

cc: Ralph L. Hodgkins, Jr. '59  
Gordon I. Erikson '43

For your information

President Neville:

I would be inclined to check the authenticity of this letter. In checking our student directory for 1972-73 there is a Jon Harold Towle, Class of '73, from Springvale, Maine listed. The Registrars Office has a record for a Jon Harold Towle but none for Jon Hannaford Towle. The Hannaford name is widely known in Maine but I would question whether or not the author of this letter is a Hannaford.

Joan

1/21/74 (P.S. - He is not listed on the Alumni roles either.)  
J.