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Internal memos regarding "the homosexual issue"

JoAnne Fritsche
University of Maine

Howard R. Neville
President, University of Maine

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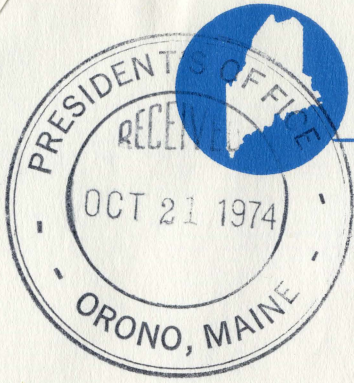


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UNIVERSITY OF MAINE *at Orono*

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10/21/74
N.S.

"An Equal Employment Opportunity Employer"

Alumni Hall
Orono, Maine 04473
207/581-7147

October 21, 1974

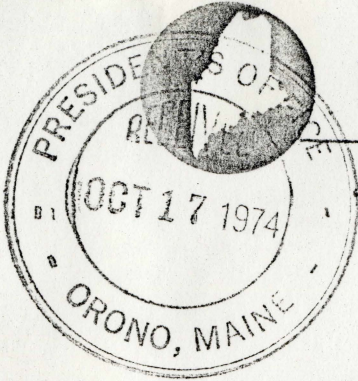
TO: Dr. Howard R. Neville
FROM: JoAnn Fritsche *JoAnn*
RE: Wilde-Stein

Yes, I hope that the homosexual issue will become neither a local nor a statewide issue. But apparently someone from the Wilde-Stein Club gave some information to the Campus. A Campus reporter interviewed me this *(Friday)* morning. Since I thought that answering her would quell more fears than my not answering her, I submitted.

In the interview I emphasized that both Bob Keane and I have asked that the University attorney give a legal opinion as soon as possible. I indicated also that my conversations with the administrators concerned made me believe that all officials involved are eager to resolve this issue in a manner consistent with fairness and with the law. I made the points also 1) that I must refer the matter to others for further consideration; 2) that discussion of the case at this time is premature, because we have not yet had time even to discuss the issues with all the administrators directly or indirectly involved; 3) that the American Psychiatric Association's position is that homosexuality is not an illness and that the latter professional position makes some people question why the homosexual issue is raised on a medical form.

I hope I handled the interview in a way you would approve. Since I had no advance warning about the interview topic, I was unable to clear the interview with you. It seemed to me that once the reporter was across the desk all I could do was to act as if the issue was just another routine matter which had not been acted upon in the past because the question had not been brought to our attention until Tuesday.

copy



UNIVERSITY OF MAINE *at Orono*

"An Equal Employment Opportunity Employer"

Alumni Hall
Orono, Maine 04473
207/581-7147

October 17, 1974


TO: Dr. Howard Neville
FROM: JoAnn Fritsche *JoAnn*
RE: Wilde-Stein matter again

Jack Blake said that he has already asked Barney Shur to add the homosexual issue to the list of subjects he is to discuss within the next two weeks. My inquiry of Shur had not yet gone out, fortunately. Jack indicated that he would inform me of the legal opinion as soon as Shur has given it.

I'm very pleased that Jack took prompt action on this matter. I want to try to prevent the students from creating a state-wide issue.

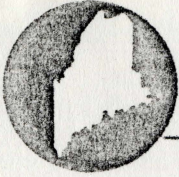
10/18/74

J.A. cc: Jack Blake

or local 

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AKW.



UNIVERSITY OF MAINE *at Orono*

"An Equal Employment Opportunity Employer"

Alumni Hall
Orono, Maine 04473
207/581-7147

October 17, 1974

TO: Dr. Howard Neville
FROM: JoAnn Fritsche *Jo Ann*
RE: Wilde-Stein grievance

Apparently Bob Keane has taken the position that legal opinions should be checked out regarding homosexual preference. The Wilde-Stein people returned this morning to tell me this. (They resented his statements which implied a view of homosexuality as a sickness.)

Therefore, if you agree, I would like to contact Barney Shur for a detailed legal response. I have told the Wilde-Stein representatives that within two weeks I shall try to have legal opinions on this matter. They told me that they would take no action until I had had time to investigate the matter.

Would you please indicate any wishes you may have about procedures I should follow?

*(10/17/74
back to JoAnn)*
↑
*All the way you are
proceeding -
you may want to talk to
Blabe - Keane reports to him -
JAF.*