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Letter of Support from Parents of a UMaine Student

F. L. Bull

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March 6, 1974



President Howard R. Neville
University of Maine
Orono, Maine 04473

Dear President Neville:

We are writing in regards to the existing situation relative to homosexuals on the U.M.O. campus. Much of the mounting journalistic comment as well as the unchristian attitude of clergymen on this subject have disturbed us.

Being indigenous residents of the State as well as parents of a University of Maine student, we feel a responsibility to make this comment.

The age of violence on the college campus has thankfully subsided. At present, we see students involved in nonviolent action to achieve goals which are important to them, the University and the society as a whole. We commend these actions. It is, however, upsetting when the University and the society ignores or suppresses the reaching out of a small group of students who are merely asking to be considered as normal individuals regardless of his or her sex preference.

The crime is not that this group of individuals are seeking acceptance of themselves and what they are, but that they are forced to do so in what has traditionally been the bastion of human rights and individual freedom.

Maine has often lead the nation in many important areas which affect the nation as a whole. The State, however, is far behind on this issue. True, a strong positive position on your part may be unpopular with many of Maine's residents, but hopefully we have come far beyond that in recent years.

Finally, we fear if positive action is not taken, this group will again be forced inward. Communication has always been an important concept to the success of a University campus.

The quality of education on the University of Maine campus has improved by leaps and bounds in recent years.

Surely, this issue will not be the downfall of our institution. It is, however, a symbol of the kinds of freedom which have made other campuses great.

These individuals are asking for your help and understanding. Please answer their call strongly.

Sincerely,

Mr. & Mrs. F. L. Bull

Mr. & Mrs. F. L. Bull
RFD #2, CP 80
Kennebunkport, Maine 04046

March 11, 1974

Mr. and Mrs. F. L. Bull
RFD 2 - CP 80
Kennebunkport, Maine 04046

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Bull:

Thank you very much for writing about the current situation on the campus. We are continuing our discussions here and I think everything will turn out as directed by the Board of Trustees as it seems to be the consensus of opinion on the campus and in line with the constitution of the country.

Thank you very much for taking time to write.

Sincerely yours,

Howard R. Neville
President

HRN:ht