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Bubar started Gay hysteria

Susan W. Henderson
University of Maine

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Letters to the editor



Bubar started Gay hysteria

To the editor:

At this time, I think we need to put the whole furor over the Wilde-Stein club in perspective. The club has been in existence since September, and there have been gay groups in the area before that. They haven't held any orgies, nor have they gone about propositioning straights, molesting children, or any other horrendous things homosexuals are erroneously thought to do. (Why would a gay *want* to proposition a straight in the first place? It seems that reason flies out of the window in the face of ignorance and fear.)

In fact, the local gays have been so orderly and discreet that no one noticed them until the Rev. Bubar, whose ignorance is exceeded only by his lack of Christian charity, chose to point the finger at them. How odd that he chose appropriation time to do it! I thought Christian clergymen were supposed to be above such shabby devices as blackmail. Whereupon a great hue and cry went up about all the terrible perverts in Orono. The people we're talking about have lived among us for years and done us no harm--why should we fear them now?

It will be a sad comment on the integrity of educated people if an itinerant demagogue like Benjamin Bubar can set us at

our neighbors' throats. An institution of learning can survive an appropriations cut, but it cannot survive a witch hunt. The purpose of the university is to promote learning and protect freedom of thought and of association. Let us never forget that.

The forthcoming gay conference will provide an excellent opportunity for us straights to learn about a largely unknown and unjustly vilified minority. I plan to attend and hope that many of you, my fellow scholars, will do likewise. It will be a good opportunity to broaden our horizons and strike a blow for civil liberties.

Susan W. Henderson