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Campus editorial damned

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Campus editorial damned

To the editor:

Oh boy. Here we go again.

The *Maine Campus* editorial staff has suddenly decided that it is the spokesman for the vast majority of students on campus and the dauntless defender of civil liberties. Student Government has never had any pretensions of being able to voice the opinions of all students all the time but it is dedicated to serving in the best interests of the entire student body. The "damned if you do-damned if you don't" attitude of the *Campus* is getting to be a little bit hard to take.

Student Government has made an honest effort to treat the Wilde-Stein Club as fairly as any other student organization and I believe we have accomplished that goal. In controversial issues such as this there are bound to be strong differences of opinion and members of the Student Senate have a duty to represent their constituents in the manner they feel most appropriate. This must be worked by senators and the people they represent — it cannot be dictated by the Student Government administration or the *Maine Campus*. You say "the signature is on the dotted line." Yes, the opinions and votes of all senators are public record. Maybe it would be a good idea if the authors of your editorials signed their name under each piece they write.

You compare Student Government to certain Maine Republicans. Perhaps the same analogy can be made between the *Maine Campus* and William Loeb's *Manchester Union-Leader*. That paper also tries to ram its sanctimonious views down its readers' throats. Perhaps the *Maine Campus* editors and their counterparts in New Hampshire are grown in the same garden, fertilized by the same self-righteous bullshit, and harvested by the same sloppy journalistic machine. I hope not.

I deplore the economic blackmail that certain members of the Maine Legislature are trying to use on the university but I also deplore the self-righteous attitudes that *Campus* readers are so often subjected to. There are many serious problems with lasting implications facing this university today. I would hope that in

the future we can work together in trying to solve these problems instead of wasting valuable time and resources on unending sensationalism.

Ted O'Meara
Vice President, UMO Student Government

Your claim that student government has treated the Wilde-Stein Club in the same manner as any other student group is suprious on its face -- when has student government found it a pressing necessity to write the Portland Press-Herald to publically disclaim giving money to a student group? Yet, such a letter concerning the Wilde-Stein Club appeared in the Gannet paper over your name and student government title.

Although the letter was published after the senate voted to give \$150 to the Wilde-Stein Club -- and I understand it was written before such action was taken -- when can we expect a letter correcting Student Government's position? Such a public disclaimer indicates the prejudice of the Student Government leadership which is reflected by votes in the student senate.

In its eagerness to disassociate itself from a controversial issue, student government reveals where its concern really lies -- not with its student body, student organizations or student constituency, but with its own pristine PR image -- PR hardly could be said to stand for public responsibility.

Campus editorials are signed when the writer disagrees with a majority of the editorial staff. We willingly print such dissent. Otherwise, editorials may be considered to reflect the opinion of the newspaper. Obviously, we see nothing wrong or unethical in expressing what is often a minority opinion. —Ed.