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## Ideal women' standards are arbitrary

Jane K. Bailey

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# Letters to the editor



## 'Ideal women' standards are arbitrary

To the editor:

In response to an article published in your newspaper, dated March 8, 1974, concerned with the meeting of the Women In Maine group.

I am a participant in the Miss U.M.O. Scholarship Pageant, and I feel that the women involved in the meeting have no more right to impose their standards of the "ideal woman" on me than I do upon them. There are many conceptions of the ideal woman and I am entitled to mine, as they are to theirs.

I feel that to criticize the

pageant without investigating any of its aspects or speaking with any of its participants is a mistake. Destructive action, i.e. destroying the chance for a scholarship, is not going to further the women's movement.

The recipient of the scholarship will use it to further her education and will thereby become a more aware and enlightened person, and better able to fulfill herself as a woman. I ask you to examine your consciences and do your research before you attack something about which you obviously have pre-conceived ideas. I am not sitting in

judgement of the women's movement. I only feel that if it is to be successful on this campus (and I hope it will be), it should turn its attention to more constructive and important issues.

I feel you are narrowing women's opportunities to express themselves in any way they so desire. All I want is the right to express myself as I see fit. Freedom of action and the right to choose from a number of diverse options is what I feel the women's movement is all about.

Sincerely,  
Jane K. Bailey