

WILDE - STEIN CLUB

University of Maine

ABENAKI — MEMORIAL UNION

ORONO, MAINE 04473

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 22, 1974

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UNIVERSITY GAY RIGHTS ORGANIZATION TO SPONSOR CONFERENCE

ORONO - The University of Maine Wilde-Stein Club, an officially recognized student organization on the Orono campus, will host the first state-wide Gay conference. The conference, which was postponed from March 21st at the request of the University because of the energy crisis, has been rescheduled for Saturday, April 20 at the Hilltop Conference Center pending final approval from Vice-President Poulton.

The conference will be open to Gay and interested non-Gay people alike. This conference follows a New England Gay conference on the Emerson College campus in Boston on March 15, 16 and 17. Emerson College has provided space and financial support to Gay people to make the conference possible. Another state-wide conference is scheduled in February at the University of Rhode Island campus.

At Orono, student organizers for the Maine conference are scheduling a full day of activities for those who plan to attend. The highlight of the morning's activities will be two featured speakers, one male and one female, who are

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active in the national Gay movement. While the male speaker has not yet been chosen, Ms. Nathalie Reckhill, women's coordinator for the National Gay Task Force in New York will address the meeting. The President of the National Gay Task Force is Dr. Howard Brown, former head of Mayor Lindsey's Health Services Administration.

Following lunch at the Hilltop Center, workshops will be scheduled for conference attendees on such varied topics as bi-sexuality, problems of rural gays, 'coming out', organizing for political action, and Lesbianism. A supper and dance will follow at the Unitarian Parish House in Bangor.

Child care services will be provided for children of Gay parents who wish to attend the conference.

Participating in the Conference will be Gay organizations from various parts of the state. There are presently eight groups located throughout Maine.

In addition to sponsoring the state-wide Gay conference the Wilde-Stein Club holds weekly meetings at the student Union Building. The Club, named in honor of writers Oscar Wilde and Gertrude Stein is also a pun on the Maine Stein Song, the University anthem.

The purpose of the organization is to provide an acceptable social outlet for the University homosexual community and to enlighten the public on the unfair and

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inaccurate stereotypes and misconceptions its holds
with regard to its Gay citizens.