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## Letter from Gordon S. Bigelow to Madeleine Giguère

Gordon S. Bigelow

*University of Maine at Portland-Gorham*

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# UNIVERSITY OF MAINE *at Portland - Gorham*

Vice President for Educational Services

College Avenue  
Gorham, Maine 04038  
207/839-3351

January 25, 1974

Ms. Madeleine Giguere  
Associate Professor of Sociology  
Portland Campus

Dear Madeleine:

The Registrar's office reported to me this morning a distressing situation with regard to the use of your name in yesterday's issue of the student newspaper concerning delinquent grades.

Dave Sullivan, Associate Registrar, tells me that the University Free Press called after a number of students had expressed concern over the fact they received grades of "NG" (no grade) from some specific courses for the fall semester and wondered why this was the case. David Sullivan released names of those professors to the Free Press whose grades were logged into the Gorham office of the Registrar on or after January 4, 1974, two weeks after the close of final examinations, and too late to be included in the computer grading run. Mr. Karatsanos, reporter for the newspaper, made an agreement with Mr. Sullivan that any article used in this regard by the Free Press would be read to either Bob Grant or Dave Sullivan for review prior to publication. The Registrar's office has been badly misquoted in the past and wanted to prevent another such occurrence. This was never done, and a number of inaccuracies appear in that article. Six of the faculty names listed turned their grades in earlier than January 4 to the Portland Registrar's office, a fact which was discovered in double checking the list by the Registrar's clerical staff but too late for the student newspaper. However, since the newspaper had never called to reconfirm the article, the Registrar's office felt that the issue was dropped by the Free Press. To Mr. Sullivan's obvious and total embarrassment, the incorrect list was published.

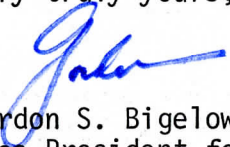
In addition to that, the Free Press infers that the Registrar referred to those on the list as "habitual offenders." This is absolutely untrue. Bob Grant never made that statement. There are a few habitual offenders among the faculty here as there are at every institution across the country but many of the names published are not habitual offenders and some faculty who traditionally are late were not included in the newspaper list. The Registrar's office is preparing a very pointed letter to the editor for the next issue on both of these subjects.

I'm sure you will hear directly from the Registrar's office, Madeleine, but I want you to know how sorry I personally feel that misinformation such as this was released by an administrative office within the Educational Services

Division. I suspect it will be a long time before any further interviews are granted the Free Press by the Registrar's office but, nonetheless, the damage in the case of six prompt faculty members was done yesterday and an apology after the fact is hollow.

Believe me, this will not occur again.

Very truly yours,



Gordon S. Bigelow  
Vice President for  
Educational Services

cc: President Miller; Vice President MacLeod; Registrar Grant; Dean Feig