COLLECTION NUMBER: Coll.1
TITLE: Mike Riegle Collection

COLLECTION SUMMARY

Creator(s): Mike Riegle
Title: Papers of Mike Riegle
Extent: 3 linear feet (2 cartons, 2 boxes)
Date Span: 1950, 1973 – 1990
Repository: The History Project, Archives and Records Department

Finding aid prepared for The History Project, Archives and Records Department by Alexandra Bisio, student in the History/Archives masters degree program at Simmons College, under the supervision of Andrew Elder, Spring 2010.

SUBJECTS TERMS

Subject Names: Mike Riegle

Subject Topics:

Gay Journalists -- United States
Gay Press
Gay Press Publications
Education--Curricula—Gay and lesbian studies
Social movements – -Gay liberation movement

Related Collections: Coll.1.2: Prison Project Papers of Mike Riegle; Coll.16 – Gay Community News; Coll.54 – Black and White Men Together/Men of All Colors Together

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Terms of Use/Copyright: Unrestricted, though some items in the collection are copyrighted by individuals and/or organizations outside The History Project.

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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Michael Riegle, journalist, gay liberationist and prisoner rights activist, was born in 1943 in Gary, Indiana. The son of a steel mill worker, he attended Knox College where he received his Bachelors Degree; he later received his Doctorate in the psychology of language from the University of Minnesota. Upon receiving his Doctorate, Riegle taught at Franklin and Marshall College and ended his teaching career at Cornell. Throughout the 1970s, Riegle traveled extensively through Europe, primarily Italy and France where he worked as a translator, English and children’s tutor. Fluent in both French and Italian, Riegle maintained an avid interest in language and continued studying Russian, Spanish, Greek and American Sign Language until his death. In 1978, upon his return to the United States, Riegle became involved with the anarchist paper The Fag Rag and became part of the Gay Community News staff in 1979. Riegle expanded the newspaper’s policy of providing free penpal ads to prisoners and began a program providing gays and lesbians behind bars with legal and health information. Riegle was an active advocate for prisoners and published on the subject extensively in GCN. He became a part of the Redbook Prison Book Program and advised the American Friends Service Committee and the AIDS Action Committee on the concerns of prisoners. Mike Riegle died on January 10, 1992 after a long struggle with AIDS.


SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Mike Riegle Papers contain a variety of printed media, including newspaper articles, magazine clippings, whole newspapers and magazine issues, published essays, bibliographies, advertisements, pamphlets, newsletters, comics, fiction and poetry all related to the research and collective interests of Gay Community News journalist Michael Riegle. Although the collection consists primarily of clippings and other collected materials from various gay and mainstream media from 1973 to 1990, Riegle’s handwritten research notes on a variety of subjects can be found throughout, including those used in preparation for a review of Michel Foucault’s History of Sexuality for Gay Community News.

Among the clippings, the collection also contains many non-English articles from European magazines, primarily Italian and French. In addition to the foreign language material, researchers should be advised that some material in this collection is of an erotic nature. Included in this collection are also a few statistical reports from the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and the Department of Justice regarding anti-Gay Violence from the mid 1980s. Other political materials focus on issues related to family and children, especially gay fathers, education, feminism, and rights vs. liberation. Information regarding his work on gays and lesbians in prison can be found in Coll.1.2. A portion of the Mike Riegle Papers has also been removed to create collection No. 54, a collection of newsletters and flyers regarding Black and White Men Together and Men of All Colors Together.

DESCRIPTION OF SERIES

Mr. Riegle’s personal papers are divided into two series, People and Subject Files, both acting as a series of subject files. These series are further broken up into subseries based on subject, and as established by Riegle himself. All subseries and folders are arranged alphabetically, and items within folders are arranged chronologically where applicable. The first series of this collection is made up of files related to specific individuals of interest to
Riegle including Carrie Dearborn, whose subseries includes correspondence, and Ellen Willis. The second series is a collection of subject files, mostly clippings and collected materials, ranging from topics like abortion, to education, history, stereotypes and violence.

BOX AND FOLDER LIST

Box 1

Series 1: People

Subseries: Carrie Dearborn
Folder 1: Articles and Press
Folder 2: Correspondence
Folder 3: Essays

Subseries: Michel Foucault
Folder 1: Articles and Interviews 1979-1990, undated
Folder 2: Essays – Sexuality and Postmodernism
Folder 3: Reviews - The History of Sexuality

Subseries: Pier Paolo Pasolini
Folder 1: Articles – English
Folder 2: Articles – Non-English

Subseries: Ellen Willis
Folder 1: Ellen Willis

Series 2: Subject Files

Subseries: Abortion
Folder 1: Abortion

Subseries: Advertising and Business
Folder 1: Articles, Advertisements 1973-1983, undated
Folder 2: Articles, Advertisements 1984-1985

Subseries: Age-ism
Folder 1: Articles and Notes
Folder 2: Articles and Notes
Folder 3: Newsletters and Publications

Subseries: AIDS
Folder 1: AIDS

Subseries: Class Politics/ Issues
Folder 1: General 1983, undated
Folder 2: General 1984 -1989
Folder 3: GLBT

Subseries: Death
Folder 1: Articles
Subseries: Disability
Folder 1: Articles and Notes
Folder 2: Correspondence
Folder 3: Newsletters and Publications
Folder 5: Newsletters and Publications – The Disability Rag 1986-1987

Subseries: Education
Folder 1: Bibliographies
Folder 2: General
Folder 3: GLBT in Curriculum – Articles and Publications 1978-1979, undated
Folder 4: GLBT in Curriculum – Articles and Publications 1981-1984
Folder 5: GLBT in Curriculum – Articles and Publications 1985-1990
Folder 7: GLBT in Curriculum – Film 1970s, undated
Folder 8: GLBT in Curriculum – Flyers and Announcements
Folder 9: GLBT in Curriculum – Notes

Subseries: Lesbian Sexuality
Folder 1: Bad Attitude Magazine 1984 – 1985
Folder 2: Lesbian Contradiction Winter 1989
Folder 3: Articles 1976-1979, undated
Folder 4: Articles 1980-1990

Subseries: “Natural” (or, Homosexuality “Nature vs. Nurture”)
Folder 1: “Natural” (or, Homosexuality "Nature vs. Nurture")

Subseries: “New Right” (Neo-Conservatism)
Folder 1: “New Right” (Neo-Conservatism)
Folder 2: “New Right” (Neo-Conservatism)

Subseries: Pornography
Folder 1: Pornography

Box 2

Subseries: Family
Folder 1: Articles 1973 – 1988, undated
Folder 2: Essays 1982-1987, undated
Folder 3: Fiction and Poetry
Folder 4: Notes
Folder 5: Pamphlets and Newsletters
Folder 6: Political Media 1973-1986, undated

Subseries: Feminism
Folder 1: Articles 1976-1980
Folder 2: Articles 1981 – 1985
Folder 3: Articles 1986-1990
Folder 4: Articles, undated
Folder 5: Essays and Presentations
Folder 6: Notes
Folder 7: Off Our Backs 1980, 1985 (2, 8)
Folder 8: Pamphlets

Subseries: France & LGBT
Folder 1: Articles and Magazines 1979-1984
Folder 2: Articles and Magazines 1985 – 1990
Folder 3: Essays and Fiction

Subseries: History
Folder 1: Articles 1950 - 1979
Folder 2: Articles 1980 – 1990
Folder 3: Articles, undated
Folder 4: Bibliographies and Essays
Folder 5: Pamphlets and Programs

Subseries: Humor
Folder 1: Articles 1982- 1989
Folder 2: Articles and Advertisements, undated
Folder 3: Articles - Non- English
Folder 4: Articles and Advertisements – In Touch For Men
Folder 5: Articles and Advertisements – In Touch For Men
Folder 6: Booklets
Folder 7: Comics and Pictorial Media
Folder 8: Essays and Fiction

Subseries: “Look-ism”
Folder 1: Articles, Essays and Advertisements 1979-1987, undated

Subseries: Media
Folder 1: Articles 1976-1990, undated
Folder 2: Essays, 1985, 1986
Folder 3: “The Fenway” – Articles and Letters 1984
Folder 4: The Gay Press Association
Folder 5: Resources and Activism

Box 3

Subseries: Religion
Folder1: Articles 1980-1986, undated
Folder 2: Essays
Folder 3: Letters 1983- 1987, undated
Folder 4: Magazines and Newspapers 1974-1987, undated
Folder 5: Newsletters, Pamphlets and Journals 1980- 1988, undated
Folder 6: Photographs and Artwork, undated

Subseries: Rights vs. Liberation
Folder 1: Articles 1973- 1983
Folder 2: Articles 1984-1990
Folder 3: Articles, undated
Folder 4: Essays
Folder 5: Newsletters 1975-1987
Folder 6: Notes, Excerpts, and Outlines
Folder 7: Organizations – Bylaws and Manifestos 1974-1987

**Subseries:** Separation
Folder 1: 1978–1983, undated

**Box 4**

**Subseries:** Sexism
Folder 1: Sexism

**Subseries:** Sexuality
Folder 1: Sexuality

**Subseries:** Stereotypes
Folder 1: Advertising and Presentation
Folder 2: Articles and Publications
Folder 3: Articles and Publications

**Subseries:** “Violence/Aggression/Brutality”
Folder 1: Reports Pamphlets and Flyers