COLLECTION NUMBER: Coll.10
TITLE: Student Homophile League Collection

COLLECTION SUMMARY

Creator(s): The History Project
Title: Student Homophile League Collection
Extent: ½ Linear Foot
Repository: The History Project, Archives and Records Department

Finding aid prepared for The History Project, Archives and Records Department by Lauren Vander Zanden, student in the History/Archives masters degree program at Simmons College, under the supervision of Andrew Elder, Fall 2008.

SUBJECT TERMS

Subject Names:

- Boston University Homophile Club
- Campaign for Homosexual Equality
- Christopher Street Liberation Day
- Daughters of Bilitis
- Eastern Regional Homophile Conference
- Gay Liberation Front
- Gay Male Liberation
- Graduate Student Homophile Association at Harvard
- Homophile Union of Boston
- Mattachine Society of New York
- MIT Homophile Club
- North American Conference of Homophile Organizations
- Scottish Minorities Group
- Society for Individual Rights
- Student Homophile League

Subject Topics:

- Gay Liberation Movement—Massachusetts—Boston
- Gay students—Massachusetts—Boston

Document Types:

- Flyers
- Letters
- Newspaper Clippings
BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

The Student Homophile League was a self-described "service group organizing social and political action for the college age community" and was active between 1969 and 1980. First organized by MIT student Stan Tillotson in 1969, the organization became official in April of 1970 with Harry Phillips as the president. SHL was disbanded by the Vice President and the Secretary in December of 1970, and then started with a new executive board and constitution in January of 1971, as described in the letter of the new president William J. Canfield II. The reason given for the rearrangement of the organization was a need for improved structure and communication. Along with its political function, the SHL also served a social function, as reflected by the numerous dance flyers and lists of other activities. There was at times a great deal of dissent within the SHL, which can be seen in the disbanding and restarting of the organization in 1970, and the at times scathing editorials and articles in Liberation, a SHL publication. The majority of the documents in the collection are either undated or are from 1970. The latest document is a letter from 1980 written to David Lynch and other members of the board requesting that all the membership lists for the organization be destroyed and it appears that organization was defunct after that point. Also notable in the collection is the great deal of overlap there was between various Boston homophile groups with the SHL being directly affiliated with Graduate Students Homophile Association of Harvard, B.U. Homophile Club, MIT Homophile Club, Gay Liberation Front, and also working with Eastern Regional Homophile Conference and the North American Conference of Homophile Organizations.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection consists of one ½ box of loose papers, flyers, leaflets, Liberation newspaper (a SHL publication), and newspaper clippings. A little more than half the material is related directly to the SHL (with the bulk being the Liberation newspaper). The other half of the materials is documents belonging to other homophile or gay liberation organizations.
DESCRIPTION OF SERIES

Series I: Student Homophile League (organization constitution, meeting minutes, correspondence, public education surveys, organization flyers and Liberation, a SHL publication).


SERIES AND FOLDER LIST

Series I: Student Homophile League
Folder 1: Organization Constitution, meeting minutes and proposed activities
Folder 2: SHL correspondence
Folder 3: Public education surveys and papers
   Includes a list of homophile organizations and contact in the United States in 1970.
Folder 4: Dance flyers, meeting flyers, and leaflets (The Pocket Lawyer: what to do if you are arrested)
Folder 5: Liberation (a S.H.L. publication), volume 1, # 3-10, 11 (numbered as 10), 12-13.
Folder 6: Liberation, volume 2, # 1-4

Series II: Related Organizations
Folder 1: B.U. Homophile Club
Folder 2: Graduate Student Homophile Association at Harvard
Folder 3: Campaign for Homosexual Equality and Scottish Minorities group
Folder 4: Society for Individual Rights
Folder 5: Council on Religion and the Homosexual
Folder 6: Newspaper clippings
   The Cambridge, Vol. 1, # 3
   The Gay Christian, April 1973
   "Gay Fourth at P-Town" from The Phoenix, July 18, 1970
   "Gay Liberation in the House of the Lord" from The Real Paper, February 14, 1973
   "Taking a Straight Look at Homosexuality" from The Michigan Daily, March 25, 1973