



Archives and Records

Finding Aid

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.

Contact the History Project for further information:

29 Stanhope Street
Boston, MA 02116
617.266.7733
info@historyproject.org
www.historyproject.org

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Michael Riegler, 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, Riegler taught at Franklin and Marshall College and ended his teaching career at Cornell. Throughout the 1970s, Riegler 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, Riegler 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, Riegler became involved with the anarchist paper *The Fag Rag* and became part of the *Gay Community News* staff in 1979. Riegler 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. Riegler 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 Riegler died on January 10, 1992 after a long struggle with AIDS.

-Bronski, Michael and Amy Hoffman. "Obituaries: Michael Riegler." Gay Community News Vol. 19 No. 26, January 19-25, 1992.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Mike Riegler 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 Riegler. Although the collection consists primarily of clippings and other collected materials from various gay and mainstream media from 1973 to 1990, Riegler'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 Riegler 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. Riegler'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 Riegler 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

Riegler 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 4: Newsletters and Publications – *Dykes, Disability and Stuff* 1988- 1989
Folder 5: Newsletters and Publications – *The Disability Rag* 1986- 1987
Folder 6: Newsletters and Publications – *The Disability Rag* 1988-1990

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 6: GLBT in Curriculum – Curriculum Outlines 1981-1985, undated
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

Folder 1: 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