



Archives and Records

Finding Aid

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

Pamphlets
Newsletters
Organization Constitution

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

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 II: Related Organizations (documents and publications of the B.U. Homophile Club, Graduate Student Homophile Association of Harvard, Campaign for Homosexual Equality, Society for Individual Rights, Council on Religion and the Homosexual, and newspaper clippings related to homophile organizations and activities).

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