Language of Material: English
Contributing Institution: The Bancroft Library
Title: Sexual Freedom League Records
Creator: Sexual Freedom League
Identifier/Call Number: BANC MSS 83/181 c
Physical Description: 11.25 linear feet Number of containers: (9 cartons, 1 oversize folder)
Date (inclusive): 1962-1983
Date (bulk): 1964-1973
Abstract: Research and reference files (including correspondence). Includes a substantial, but incomplete, run of the SFL Newsletter (March 1965-April 1971), as well as scattered samples of other serials on issues of sexual freedom.
Language of Material: Collection materials are in English
For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library's online catalog.
Finding Aid Author(s):
Processed by Elizabeth Stephens; finding aid completed by Mary Morganti
Finding Aid Encoded By:
GenX
Access
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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Sexual Freedom League Records, BANC MSS 83/181 c, The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley
Title: Social Protest Collection,
Identifier/Call Number: BANC MSS 86/157 c
  1. Selected printed materials have been transferred to the book collection of The Bancroft Library.
Acquisition Information
The records of the Sexual Freedom League were given to The Bancroft Library by Jefferson Poland on September 4, 1970. Additions identified and separated from Poland's contribution to the Social Protest Collection were added in 1995.
Organizational History
The Sexual Freedom League was founded in 1963 in New York City. Julian Beck, Allen Ginsberg, and Dr. Leo Koch were among those on the Advisory Committee of the original group, which was active in demonstrations for a wide range of causes. Initially composed of a small membership of independent local chapters in New York, San Francisco, and London, the organization grew rapidly, especially in the San Francisco Bay Area after 1966, when the emphasis shifted toward nude parties. The League reorganized in 1967 as the Sexual Freedom League, Incorporated with its national headquarters in Oakland and chapters in San Jose, Los Angeles, San Diego, Chicago, San Francisco, and elsewhere.
The League advocated three main issues: the right of each person to make his or her own choices in sexual matters, without coercion or restrictive laws; the psychological and spiritual liberation which allows people to joyfully accept their sensuality; and the right of all persons, including women and homosexuals, to be free from sexual discrimination in the exercise of their non-sexual rights and liberties. Each independent group chose its own emphasis and methods, with activities ranging from legislative lobbying to parties; most concentrated on laws, while some focused on personal growth.
Scope and Content
While the records of the Sexual Freedom League reflect their international activities, the bulk of the collection primarily concerns their presence in the San Francisco Bay Area and New York from 1964 to 1973, and particularly Jefferson Poland's involvement as founder and chief promoter of League organization. Divided into four series, the collection consists of correspondence, newsletters, and other records of the National headquarters of the League, variously located in New York City, San Francisco, Berkeley, and Oakland, with chapters in other west coast cities. A major component are the Research and Reference Files, containing clippings, notes, flyers, and solicitations from a variety of sources reflecting the League's broad interest in personal freedom, with miscellaneous printed materials, including sample issues of journals and mail order catalogs. The collection concludes with correspondence, writings, and other personal material by and pertaining to Jefferson Poland.

A portion of this collection was described in *Alternative Lifestyles; a Guide to Research Collections on Intentional Communities, Nudism, and Sexual Freedom* by Jefferson P. Selth (Greenwood Press, 1985: p. 63-73). The alphabetical arrangement noted therein applies only to the research and reference files series of this collection, and folder and item counts are no longer accurate as duplicates have been weeded and the material further organized.

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Sexual Freedom League

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NATIONAL OFFICE FILES 1964-1972</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>carton 1, Folder 1-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 1, Folder 6-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 1, Folder 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 1, Folder 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 1, Folder 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 1, Folder 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 1, Folder 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 1, Folder 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 1, Folder 15-18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 1, Folder 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 1, Folder 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 1, Folder 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 1, Folder 22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 1, Folder 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 1, Folder 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 1, Folder 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 1, Folder 26-38</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NATIONAL OFFICE FILES 1964-1972

Correspondence 1964-68
Administrative 1964-65
Campaigns 1964
Newsletters 1964-65
Articles and press releases 1964-65
Leaflets 1964-65
Clippings and miscellaneous 1965-68

San Francisco Headquarters

Correspondence 1964-69
Administrative 1965
Newsletters 1965-71
Monthly newspapers
  Journal of the San Francisco Sexual Freedom League 1970-71
  Sexual Freedom 1972
  The Fug's Songbook 1965
Articles and press releases 1966-71
Flyers and miscellaneous 1966-71 undated

PUBLICATIONS 1966-1973

Newsletter of the National Sexual Freedom League 1966-73
Love, Inc. Magazine 1966
Intercourse, A Journal of Sexual Freedom 1968-70
Position 1969
Sexual Freedom Quarterly 1970

LOCAL CHAPTERS 1965-1983

Chicago 1970-72
Detroit 1970-73
Eastbay 1965-73
Los Angeles 1967-68
Oregon 1969
San Diego 1970-83
Santa Rosa 1970
Seattle 1967-70
South Bay 1970

CAMPUS GROUPS AND RELATED ORGANIZATIONS 1965-1973

Campus Sexual Freedom Rights Forum 1965-66
Grove Street College 1971-72
Merritt Sexual Freedom Forum 1966
CAMPUS GROUPS AND RELATED ORGANIZATIONS 1965-1973

Carton 3, Folder 22
San Francisco State University 1965

Carton 3, Folder 23
Stanford Sexual Rights Forum 1965-66

Carton 3, filebox 24
University of California, Berkeley 1972

Carton 3, Folder 25
Miscellaneous campuses undated

Psychedelic Venus Church

Correspondence 1969-73
Administration 1969-72
Committee on Religious Cannabis 1972-73
Articles and press releases 1970
Flyers 1970
Miscellaneous printed material 1970 undated

SERIES 2: RESEARCH AND REFERENCE FILES [ca. 1960s-1970s].

carton 4, Folder 1-3
Abortion

Carton 4, Folder 4
Academic Freedom

Carton 4, Folder 5
Alpine Liberation Front

Carton 4, Folder 6
Alternative Family Structures

Carton 4, Folder 7
Bill Baird Defense Fund

Carton 4, Folder 8-9
Birth Control

Carton 4, Folder 10
Bruins for Voluntary Parenthood Sexual Liberty

Carton 4, Folder 11
California Committee to Legalize Abortion

Carton 4, Folder 12
Campus Contraceptives

Carton 4, Folder 13-14
Campus Sexual Freedom

Carton 4, Folder 15-16
Censorship

Carton 4, Folder 17
Citizens Alert

Carton 4, Folder 18
Cochran, Bert - article

Carton 4, Folder 19
Committee for Free Beaches

Carton 4, Folder 20
Committee for Homosexual Freedom

Carton 4, Folder 21
Council on Religion and the Homosexual, Inc.

Carton 4, Folder 22
Daughters of Bilitis, Inc.

Carton 4, Folder 23
Disciplinary Eroticism

Carton 4, Folder 24
The Discordian Society

Carton 4, Folder 25
Eden-West

Carton 4, Folder 26
European Sexual Freedom Movement

Carton 4, Folder 27
Family Planning
Carton 4, Folder 28
Carton 4, Folder 30
Carton 4, Folder 31
Carton 5, Folder 1
Carton 5, Folder 2-5
Carton 5, Folder 6
Carton 5, Folder 8
Carton 5, Folder 9
Carton 5, Folder 10
Carton 5, Folder 11-12
Carton 5, Folder 14-20
Carton 5, Folder 21
Carton 5, Folder 22
Carton 5, Folder 23
Carton 6, Folder 1
Carton 6, Folder 4
Carton 6, Folder 5
Carton 6, Folder 6
Carton 6, Folder 7
Carton 6, Folder 8
Carton 6, Folder 9
Carton 6, Folder 10-13
Carton 6, Folder 14
Carton 6, Folder 15
Carton 6, Folder 16
Carton 6, Folder 17
Carton 6, Folder 18
Carton 6, Folder 19
Carton 6, Folder 20-21
Carton 6, Folder 22

Freedom for Adoptive Children
Fort Funston Free Beach Nude-In
Gay Liberation Front
Harrad West - Group Marriage Community
Homophile Organization Listing
Homosexual Freedom
Institute for Rational Living
Interracial Sex
Kerista
Marital Relations
Mattachine Society, Inc.
National Organization for Women (NOW)
Natural Childbirth
Nude-Ins and Nudity
Peace and Freedom Party
Penal System
Personal Freedom
The Phoenix Society
Planned Parenthood
Playboy
Population Control
Pornography
Project Communication - Maxine Sanini
San Francisco Peace and Freedom Movement
S.E.M. (Sexual Emancipation Movement)
"New Life" Newsletters
Sex Education
Sexual Politics
Sloan, Sam - article
Society for Humane Abortion
Society for Individual Rights (SIR)
Sunbathing Magazines
Swingers
Topless Night Clubs
Trojan Book Service
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Carton, Folder</th>
<th>Series: Research and Reference Files [ca. 1960s-1970s].</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6, 23</td>
<td>Vasectomy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6, 24</td>
<td>Venereal Disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6, 25-29</td>
<td>Women's Liberation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Lilith</em> 1968</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>One: The Homosexual Viewpoint</em> 1962-63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Two: The Homosexual Viewpoint in Canada</em> undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Tangents</em> 1966</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Vector</em> 1972</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>The Works</em> undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Magazine samples</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7, 1</td>
<td>Newsletter samples</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7, 2</td>
<td>Newspapers - Berkeley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7, 3</td>
<td>Berkeley <em>Barb</em> 1969-72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Berkeley <em>Tribe</em> 1969-70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Miscellaneous 1971-72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7, 10-11</td>
<td>Newspapers - San Francisco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>The San Francisco Free Press</em> 1971</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Miscellaneous 1969-1970 undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7, 12-16</td>
<td>Newspapers - various samples relating to: ca. 1960s-1970s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8, 1-8</td>
<td>Clippings ca. 1960s-1970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8, 9-11</td>
<td>Mail order advertisement samples undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8, 12-13</td>
<td>Miscellaneous undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8, 14</td>
<td>Ephemera Advertising Events, including Women's and Erotic Film Festivals, Poster Produced by Society for Individual Rights (SIR) 1966, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>oversize_folder 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Correspondence 1964-1973</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>The Sex Marchers</em> 1967</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Notes and research material 1968</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>General</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>History of Sexual Freedom Movements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9, 23</td>
<td>Sexual Freedom Girls 1969</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>General</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Recruitment of essayists</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Carton 9, Folder 24 | Nude-Ins booklet undated  
|                    | General  
|                    | Draft, notes, and related material |
| Carton 9, Folder 25 | Drafts of articles, fragments undated |
| Carton 9, Folder 26 | Notes for article, *The future of sex* 1967 |
| Carton 9, Folder 27 | Notes on bisexuality undated |
| Carton 9, Folder 28-29 | Notes on sex 1966 undated |
| Carton 9, Folder 30 | *Masturbators Notebook* undated |
| Carton 9, Folder 31 | *Poems of the Flesh* 1969 |
| Carton 9, Folder 32 | Expulsion from Merritt College 1967-69 |
| Carton 9, Folder 33 | Grove Street College 1972 undated |
| Carton 9, Folder 34 | Certificate of Ordination, Neo-American Church 1968 |
| Carton 9, Folder 35 | Credential of Minister, Universal Life Church 1969 |
| Carton 9, Folder 36 | Name Change 1969 |
| Carton 9, Folder 37 | Miscellaneous undated |