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URL: http://one.usc.edu
Language of Material: English
Contributing Institution: ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, USC Libraries, University of Southern California
Title: Ernie Potvin papers
creator: Potvin, Ernie
Identifier/Call Number: Coll2011-070
Physical Description: 1.25 Linear Feet1 box.
Date (inclusive): 1947-1998
Abstract: Writings, photographs, correspondence, clippings, mailing lists, pamphlets, flyers, graphic art, award certificates, videotapes, and other material from gay activist Ernie Potvin, 1947-1998. Potvin was a founder of Puerto Rico's first gay and lesbian rights organization in 1972. The bulk of the collection documents Potvin's gay activism in Los Angeles and Puerto Rico.

Biography
Born in Massachusetts in 1931, Ernie Potvin moved to Puerto Rico in 1956. He later helped to found one of Puerto Rico's first gay and lesbian rights organizations, Comunidad De Orgullo Gay, in 1972. After moving to Los Angeles in 1976, Potvin worked as an actor, a journalist for local gay publications, and a commercial graphic artist. He volunteered for gay organizations such as the Los Angeles Gay Men's Chorus, Christopher Street West, and the ONE Institute and Archives. Potvin died of heart failure in 1998.

Conditions Governing Access
The collection is open to researchers. There are no access restrictions.

Conditions Governing Use
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Acquisition
Donor and date of acquisition unknown.

Processing Information
Formerly box #103-058. Collection processed by Marc LaRoque; revised by Loni Shibuyama, April 2014.

Scope and Content
Writings, photographs, correspondence, clippings, mailing lists, pamphlets, flyers, graphic art, award certificates, videotapes, and other material, 1947-1998, from gay activist Ernie Potvin, founder of Puerto Rico's first gay and lesbian rights organization Comunidad de Orgullo Gay. The bulk of the collection documents Potvin's gay activism in Los Angeles and Puerto Rico, and includes photographs from Puerto Rico's first gay pride parade. Also included are videotapes (VHS) of the 1994 International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA) conference.

Arrangement
This collection is arranged alphabetically.

Preferred Citation
[Box/folder #, or item name] Ernie Potvin Papers, Coll2011-070, ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, USC Libraries, University of Southern California.

Related Materials
Potvin was the art director of the The San Juan Review, 1964-1966. The digitized publication is available at www.sanjuanreview.com.

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Clippings
Gay activists -- California -- Los Angeles
Gay community -- Puerto Rico
Gay pride parades -- Puerto Rico
Photographs
Potvin, Ernie
Box 1, Folder 1-2: Articles, writings by Potvin circa 1981-1982
Box 1, Folder 3: Award certificates 1982-1985
Box 1, Item 29: Award plaques

"Great American Yankee Freedom Band of Los Angeles; In appreciation to Ernie Potvin for Outstanding Service as Manager" 1978-1979
"Great American Yankee Freedom Band of Los Angeles; Special Service Award to Ernie Potvin" November 10, 1981

Box 1, Folder 4: Becoming a People by Jim Kepner, with annotations by Potvin 1995
Box 1, Folder 5: Clippings 1972-1998
Box 1, Folder 6: Correspondence 1984-1998
Box 1, Folder 7-9: Gay and lesbian article printouts from American Online (AOL) News and Associated Press (AP) 1997-1998
Box 1, Folder 10: Gay and lesbian organization flyers, mailers, and publicity material 1980-1998
Box 1, Folder 11: Gay Cuban refugees, interview notes 1980
Box 1, Folder 12: Graphic designs by Potvin 1978-1985

Physical Description: 11 videocassettes (VHS).

Box 1, Folder 13: Kepner, Jim, memorial 1997-1998
Box 1, Folder 14: Lambda Arts Council, draft proposal 1979-1980
Box 1, Folder 15: Mailing and distribution lists 1981
Box 1, Folder 16: Moscow, Russia, gay and lesbian material 1996

Photographs
Anti-war protests undated
Physical Description: 5 b&w photographs.

Box 1, Folder 17: Potvin, Ernie 1983
Physical Description: 7 b&w photographs and 3 color photographs.

Box 1, Folder 18: Puerto Rico 1995-1996
Physical Description: 5 photographs.

Box 1, Folder 19: Puerto Rico gay parade 1996
Physical Description: 82 color photographs.

Box 1, Folder 20: Women Take Back the Night Rally 1980
Physical Description: 11 b&w photographs.

Box 1, Folder 21: Miscellaneous 1974-1997
Physical Description: 6 b&w photographs and 3 color photographs.
Scope and Contents
Includes photographs of Jim Kepner, a Griff's bar softball team portrait, a gay men's wrestling team, participants in a AIDS symposium session (1983), Tony Taylor, Colin Booth, Freddy Berkovitz of Dragazine, the Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) group at the Los Angeles gay pride parade (1997), and Potvin at a pride parade.

Box 1, Folder 22: Miscellaneous paper printout images, annotated 1993
Scope and Contents
Includes images of Fred Frisbie, Louisa Sola, Don Slater, Marilyn van Veersen and Bren Chambers.

Box 1, Folder 23: Potvin Family history 1985-1992
Box 1, Folder 24: Puerto Rico Comunidad de Orgullo Gay 1974-1976
Box 1, Folder 25: Puerto Rico gay and lesbian material 1985-1995
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<td>Ventura County gay and lesbian resources 1988</td>
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