Finding aid of the Beowulf Thorne Papers

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Finding aid of the Beowulf Thorne Papers

Collection number: 2003-10

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society
San Francisco, California

Processed by:
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Encoded by:
Rebekah Kim

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Beowulf Thorne Papers
Dates: 1964-1999
Collection number: 2003-10
Creator: Thorne, Beowulf
Collection Size: 4.0 linear feet2 manuscript boxes, 2 cartons, 1 oversized box
Repository: Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society
San Francisco, California 94105

Abstract: Beowulf Thorne (Jack Henry Foster) was a political activist on issues affecting PWAs (people with AIDS). He was one of the founders, with Tom Shearer, of the humor magazine, Diseased Pariah News (DPN). He used his skills as a writer, editor, and graphic artist on the magazine. The collection documents the operations, both commercial and artistic of DPN, as well as the work of Oakland's Condom Resource Center.


Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English

Access
Collection open for research.

Publication Rights
Copyright to unpublished manuscript materials has been transferred to the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society.

Preferred Citation

Acquisition Information
Donated to the Library by Daniel Bao on April 3, 2003.

Biography
Beowulf Thorne (born Jack Henry Foster) was born in San Diego on November 6, 1964. He attended the University of California, Santa Cruz. A political activist regarding issues affecting PWAs (People with AIDS), he was one of the founders, along with Tom Shearer, of the PWA humor magazine Diseased Pariah News (DPN). He used both his skills as a writer-editor and as a graphic artist in creating and publishing DPN. A total of eleven issues of Diseased Pariah News were published from 1990 to 1999.

Beowulf Thorne passed away from complications relating to AIDS on May 8, 1999, the second co-founder to pass away from AIDS (Tom Shearer passed away after the second issue of DPN was published). Thorne was memorialized in the final issue of DPN in an irreverently titled piece of which he would have approved: "Dang! Our Founder and Guiding Light Died."

Scope and Content of Collection
Few personal papers are included in this collection. It's primarily focus is on Thorne's experience as a person with AIDS (PWA). This collection mostly consists of the textual and graphic records of Diseased Pariah News. An additional series relates to Oakland's Condom Resource Center, headed by director Daniel Bao, who worked closely with DPN.

The series is organized into 5 series:

Series 6. Objects, undated, 1990

This series consists of personal documents and other effects of Beowulf Thorne such as his passports, birth certificate, personal notes on his estate, and articles he wrote for POZ Magazine, a magazine for and about people living with HIV. There are also personal photographs in this series.

This series contains materials relating to the Thorne's magazine Diseased Pariah News. All eleven issues of the magazine are included as well as background materials and other items related to publishing the magazine such as drafts of articles, artwork and photographs. Also found in this series are reviews of the magazine and articles in other publications about DPN. Finally there are correspondence files containing letter to the editors requesting back issues, subscriptions, or expressing opinions about the magazine.

This series consists of other zines collected by Thorne. These publications had a similar irreverent approach to the AIDS crisis.

This series contains materials produced by the Condom Resource Center (CRC) in Oakland. Thorne worked very closely with this organization, helping create artwork and other content for their safe sex campaigns. Included in this series are examples of some of Thorne's artwork as well as photographs. There are also several publications put out by the CRC such as several versions of the Condom Educator's Guide.

This series consists of the photographs and other artwork created by Beowulf Thorne. His skills as a photographer and an artist are illustrated by these items.

Series 6. Objects, undated, 1990
This series contains ephemera from Diseased Pariah News and other organizations.

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

AIDS
San Francisco (Calif.)
Persons With AIDS
AIDS Activists
Graphic Artists

Related Material
Diseased Pariah News(Periodical)
Series 1. Personal 1964-1998

Photos

Physical Description: 11 folders
Scope and Content Note
This series consists of personal documents and other effects of Beowulf Thorne such as his passports, birth certificate, personal notes on his estate, and articles he wrote for POZ Magazine, a magazine for and about people living with HIV. There are also personal photographs in this series.

Box: Folder 1: 1
Birth Certificate, passport, vaccination record 1964-1988
Box: Folder 1: 2
Notes on his estate
Box: Folder 1: 3
Life insurance 1996
Box: Folder 1: 4
Article submitted to POZ on living with Lymphoma 1988
Box: Folder 1: 5
Notes for POZ article on Collateral Damage 1998
Box: Folder 1: 6
Notes for POZ article on Depression 1996
Box: Folder 1: 7
Notes for POZ article on Suicide 1997
Box: Folder 1: 8
Tienanmen week at Stanford 1991

Box: Folder 1: 9-11

Photos

Box: Folder 1: 9
"Steam"
Box: Folder 1: 10
Personal
Box: Folder 1: 11
"A Certain Undisclosed Location in Long Beach"


Physical Description: 45 folders
Series Description
This series contains materials relating to the Thorne's magazine Diseased Pariah News. All eleven issues of the magazine are included as well as background materials and other items related to publishing the magazine such as drafts of articles, artwork and photographs. Also found in this series are reviews of the magazine and articles in other publications about DPN. Finally there are correspondence files containing letter to the editors requesting back issues, subscriptions, or expressing opinions about the magazine.

Box: Folder 1: 12-22

Magazine

Box: Folder 1: 12
#1 1990
Box: Folder 1: 13
#2 1991
Box: Folder 1: 14
#3 1991
Box: Folder 1: 15
#4 1991
Box: Folder 1: 16
#5 1992
Box: Folder 1: 17
#6 1992
Box: Folder 1: 18
#7 1992
Box: Folder 1: 19
#8 1993
Box: Folder 1: 20
#9 1994
Box: Folder 1: 21
#10 1995
Box: Folder 1: 22
#11 1999

Box: Folder 1: 23-30

Articles

Box: Folder 1: 23
Notes for a story: "A Brief History of Malaysia"
Box: Folder 1: 24
The Art of Raifing 1998
Box: Folder 1: 25
Submitted by Edward Zold 1997
Box: Folder 1: 26
Annotated draft of articles for issue #11 1989
| Box: Folder 1: 27 | "Nutrition and PWAs from AIDS Patient Care" 1988 |
| Box: Folder 1: 28 | Nutrition and Recipes 1987-1994 |
| Box: Folder 1: 29 | "Pseudo Intellectual Stuff from the Halls of Academe" 1996 |
| Box: Folder 1: 30 | "Vague Ideas for DPN" 1992 |
| Box: Folder 1: 31 - 2: 15 | DPN Artwork |
| Box: Folder 1: 31 | DPN # 1 1990 |
| Box: Folder 1: 32 | DPN # 2 1991 |
| Box: Folder 1: 33 | DPN # 3 1991 |
| Box: Folder 1: 34 | DPN # 4 1991 |
| Box: Folder 1: 35 | DPN # 10 1995 |
| Box: Folder 2: 2 | Artwork by Kira |
| Box: Folder 2: 3 | "Jesus Came to My House" |
| Box: Folder 2: 4 | "History of Malaysia" |
| Box: Folder 2: 4 | Paper Merit Badges for DPN Buttons |
| Box: Folder 2: 5-14 | DPN Photographs |
| Box: Folder 2: 5 | DPN # 1 1990 |
| Box: Folder 2: 6 | DPN # 2 1991 |
| Box: Folder 2: 7 | DPN # 3 1991 |
| Box: Folder 2: 8 | DPN # 4 1991 |
| Box: Folder 2: 9 | DPN # 5 1992 |
| Box: Folder 2: 10 | DPN # 6 1992 |
| Box: Folder 2: 11 | DPN # 7 1992 |
| Box: Folder 2: 12 | DPN # 8 1993 |
| Box: Folder 2: 13 | DPN # 9 1994 |
| Box: Folder 2: 14 | DPN # 10 1995 |
| Box: Folder 2: 15-19 | Press |
| Box: Folder 2: 15 | Promotional Material |
| Box: Folder 2: 16 | Press Kit 1991 |
| Box: Folder 2: 17 | Articles 1991-1994 |
| Box: Folder 2: 18 | Reviews 1991-1995 |
| Box: Folder 2: 19 | Bay Guardian's Best of the Bay Award to DPN 1996 |
| Box: Folder 2: 20-24 | Correspondence |
| Box: Folder 2: 20 | Forms |
| Box: Folder 2: 21 | Postcards and Christmas Card Printed by DPN 1991 |


Physical Description: 4 folders
Scope and Content Note
This series consists of other zines collected by Thorne. These publications had a similar irreverent approach to the AIDS crisis.

Box: Folder 2: 26 | The Daily Plague #6

Box: Folder 2: 27  Factsheet Five: Zine Reader 1997
Box: Folder 2: 28  GAWK Newsletter (Gay Artists and Writers Kollective), #4-6 1990
Box: Folder 3: 1  HardWear: The Art of Prevention, Hugh Rigby and Susan Leibtag 1994


Box: Folder 3: 2  Condom Updates 1990-1994
Box: Folder 3: 3  Corrected Draft and Layout of Condom Educator’s Guide ca. 1991
Box: Folder 3: 4  Condom Educator’s Guide ca. 1991
Box: Folder 3: 8  Official Condom Tester Catalog 1990
Box: Folder 3: 9  National Condom Week Booklet 1997-1998
Box: Folder 3: 10  Condom Primer. # 1 and 2 1988-1990
Box: Folder 3: 12  Captain Condom’s Original Party Pack Booklet 1991
Box: Folder 3: 13  Ephemera 1990
Box: Folder 3: 15  Artwork Related to CRC Organizer 1991


Box: Folder 3: 16-30  Photos

Box: Folder 3: 16  My Vapid Youth
Box: Folder 3: 17  Nerd Pictures
Box: Folder 3: 18  Use Your Head
Box: Folder 3: 19  Socks for Cocks
Box: Folder 3: 20  Biffy with Lube Bottles 1991
Box: Folder 3: 21  Cranky and Dusty Fellating Unseen Spirits 1989
Box: Folder 3: 22  Voyage of Dysfunctionality; Tommy Jo’s Last Trip Home 1990
Box: Folder 3: 23  Biffy Doing Rain Dance with Proper Prophylaxis
Box: Folder 3: 25  Greetings from Greater Slobovia (for GAWK #5) 1989
Box: Folder 3: 26  Cranky, Humpy and Sleazy for DPN Xmas Card 1991
Box: Folder 3: 27  Use Your Head
Box: Folder 3: 28  Strange but True; Odd Bits of Tom Shearer
Box: Folder 3: 29  What’s Wrong with This Picture? (unsolicited snapshots from fans)
Box: Folder 3: 30  Model Releases 1992

Box: Folder 4: 1-9  Artwork (oversized box, 20” x 16” x 3.5”)

Box: Folder 4: 1  Drawings of People
Box: Folder 4: 2  Drawings of Dinosaurs / Monsters
### Series 5. Photos/Artwork 1989-1992

**Artwork (oversized box, 20" x 16" x 3.5")**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box: Folder 4: 3</th>
<th>Drawings of Various Subjects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box: Folder 4: 4</td>
<td>Typeset Pages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box: Folder 4: 5</td>
<td>Source Artwork Related to Conceptual Ideas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box: Folder 4: 6</td>
<td>Un-mounted Posters, Covers, Photo, and Miscellaneous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box: Folder 4: 7</td>
<td>Mounted DPN Covers (#4, 6, 7, 8,9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box: Folder 4: 8</td>
<td>Mounted Drawings: Panels of Captain Condom, Other Mounted Art</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box: Folder 4: 9</td>
<td>Mounted Drawings: Modes of Transportation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Series 6 Objects undated, 1990

**Physical Description:** 1 box

**Series Description**

This series contains ephemera from Diseased Pariah News and other organizations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box: Folder 6</th>
<th>9 &quot;T Cell 100 (One Hundred) or Less&quot; buttons, undated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box: Folder 6</td>
<td>6 &quot;Kiss Me! I'm a Diseased Pariah&quot; buttons, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box: Folder 6</td>
<td>2 &quot;Porn Potato likes that!&quot; buttons designed by Beowulf Thorne, 1990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box: Folder 6</td>
<td>21 miscellaneous buttons, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box: Folder 6</td>
<td>1 Stanford AIDS Education Project's Fourth Annual Great Condom Rating Contest pamphlet with condoms, 1990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box: Folder 6</td>
<td>1 &quot;Kiss Me! I'm a Diseased Pariah&quot; t-shirt, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box: Folder 6</td>
<td>1 Diseased Pariah News t-shirt, 1990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box: Folder 6</td>
<td>1 Captain Condom Fan Club t-shirt, undated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>