Title: Lesbian Schoolworkers records
Date (inclusive): 1977-1978
Collection number: 1987
Creator: Lesbian Schoolworkers.
Extent: 1 document box (.5 linear ft.)
Abstract: With a commitment to "fighting racism, sexism, class and oppression within our own movement and this society," the Lesbian Schoolworkers organized in 1977 to defeat the Briggs Initiatives. Their records consist of an organizational history, principles of unity and structure, press releases, leaflets, newsletters, and photographs. The records also contain the drafts and final script for the slideshow, "Don't Let It Happen Here," produced by the Schoolworkers to inform people of the dangers of the Briggs Initiatives.
Language: Finding aid is written in English.
Language of the Material: Materials are in English.
Repository: University of California, Los Angeles. Library Special Collections.
Los Angeles, California 90095-1575
Physical location: Stored off-site at SRLF. Advance notice is required for access to the collection. Please contact UCLA Library Special Collections for paging information.
Restrictions on Access
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Provenance/Source of Acquisition
Provenance unknown. This collection is part of an outreach and collection-building partnership between the June L. Mazer Lesbian Archives, the UCLA Center for the Study of Women (CSW) and the UCLA Library.
Processing Note
Processed by Kimberlee Granholm, 2012.
Sponsor
The June L. Mazer Lesbian Archive at UCLA is an outreach and collection-building partnership between the June L. Mazer Lesbian Archives, the UCLA Center for the Study of Women (CSW) and the UCLA Library. These collections expand the pool of primary source materials available to researchers and to the community at large. This partnership was initiated by CSW and is funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to inventory, organize, preserve, and digitize more than eighty Mazer collections pertaining to lesbian and feminist activism and writings.
Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Lesbian Schoolworkers records (Collection 1987). UCLA Library Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library, UCLA.
UCLA Catalog Record ID
UCLA Catalog Record ID: 7103359
Biography/History
With a commitment to "fighting racism, sexism, class and oppression within our own movement and this society," the Lesbian Schoolworkers organized in 1977 to defeat the Briggs Initiatives, Propositions 6 and 7. The organization was among the many to rally against the anti-lesbian and gay bill, but it was among the few groups which actively campaigned against the anti-lesbian and pro-death penalty laws, continually pointing out the relationship between Third World oppression and the oppression of all lesbians.
The Schoolworkers was structured into three primary committees: Media, Outreach, and Fundraising. With a core group of twenty, and over seventy participants, the group planned numerous educational activities, sponsored cultural events, and produced leaflets and newsletters aimed at defeating the legislation. Representatives often went before various civic groups, councils and educational organizations to speak against the measures.
The Schoolworkers are probably best known for their slideshow, "Don't Let It Happen Here." Designed to inform people of the dangers of the Briggs Initiatives, it drew together such crucial struggles as the Bakke case, abortion, death penalty, and women's and lesbian oppression. Amber Hollibaugh, political activist from San Francisco, traveled throughout small Northern California towns presenting the slideshow, participating in public debates with all types of opposition leaders. Throughout the election fight, the Schoolworkers emphasized that the struggle against Proposition 6 was not a single campaign issue or just a fight for civil rights, but "to make it clear to people that we are all suffering at the hands of a common enemy."

**Scope and Content**
The Lesbian Schoolworker Records consist of an organizational history, principles of unity and structure, press releases, newsletters, and photographs. There is also information about both pro and anti-Briggs organizations; a San Francisco Board of Education study on the possibility of including "gay lifestyle" into school curriculum on family and health studies; and the Oregon State Task Force of 1977 report, which collected "information on homosexual men and women in Oregon in order to make recommendations on legislation and administrative policies that would ensure the civil rights of all Oregonians."

**Organization and Arrangement**
Materials are arranged according to subject.

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

**Subjects**
Lesbian Schoolworkers --Archives.
Lesbian teachers --United States --Archival resources.
Homosexuality and education --United States --History --20th century --Archival resources.

**Related Material**
Refer to Title the Coalition for Human Rights (Los Angeles) Records, housed in the ONE National Gay and Lesbian Archives.

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**Box 1, Folder 1**

**Proposition 6 and 7, Senator John Briggs. 1977-1978.**

Physical Description: Printed materials
Scope and Content Note
Information regarding proposition 6&7, proposed by Senator John Briggs.

**Box 1, Folder 2**

**History of Principles of Unity. 1977-1978.**

Physical Description: Printed materials
Scope and Content Note
History and principles of unity, including organizational structure, purposes and goals.

**Box 1, Folder 3**

**Committee structure. 1977-1978.**

Physical Description: Printed materials, notes
Scope and Content Note
Committee structure, including stipulated tasks and projects.

**Box 1, Folder 4**

**Fundraising. 1977-1978.**

Physical Description: Printed materials, notes
Scope and Content Note
Fundraising applications and information pertaining to Vanguard Public Foundation.

**Box 1, Folder 5**

**Script rough-drafts. 1977-1978.**

Physical Description: Printed materials, notes
Scope and Content Note
Rough drafts of scripts discussing Senator Briggs, myths about gays, and schools' treatment/perception of gays.
Box 1, Folder 6  **Final Script and Presentation Tips. 1977-1978.**
Physical Description: Printed materials
Scope and Content Note
Contains a final script of "Don't Let It Happen Here," tips on presenting the slide show, tips on group presentations/discussion, and a pamphlet on Proposition 6-specific public speaking.

Box 1, Folder 7  **Speeches, Press Releases, Outreach. 1977-1978.**
Physical Description: Printed materials, notes, letters
Scope and Content Note
Speeches, press releases and outreach letters of the Lesbian Schoolworkers and Gay Teachers Schoolworkers.

Box 1, Folder 8  **Legal information on Marches/Arrests. 1977-1978.**
Physical Description: Printed materials, notes, book photocopies
Scope and Content Note
Contains legal information relating to marches and arrests (specifically for election night), as well as information on city municipal codes and ordinances.

Box 1, Folder 9  **Drafts of logos and leaflets. 1977-1978.**
Physical Description: Drawings, paste-ups
Scope and Content Note
Drafts of logos and leaflets, including paste-ups and hand-drawn art.

Box 1, Folder 10  **Leaflets. 1977-1978.**
Physical Description: Printed materials
Scope and Content Note
Contains election night chant lists and leaflets for events related to the Briggs initiatives or sponsored by the Lesbian Schoolworkers.

Box 1, Folder 11  **Newsletter. 1977-1978.**
Physical Description: Newsletters, printed material, handwritten notes and forms
Scope and Content Note
Contains Vol. 1, No. 1 and No. 3 issues of the Gay Teachers and School Workers Coalition newsletter, a list of labor-related newsletters and organizations, and 3 mailing list/donation responses.

Box 1, Folder 12  **Media Mailing Lists. 1977-1978.**
Physical Description: Printed materials, notes
Scope and Content Note
Media mailing lists related to school, labor, and "third world" groups.

Box 1, Folder 13  **Gay Teachers Schoolworkers Coalition. 1977-1978.**
Physical Description: Printed materials
Scope and Content Note
Documents related to Gay Teachers and School Workers Coalition, including history/purpose statements and letterheads.
Box 1, Folder 14  **San Francisco Teachers Association. 1977-1978.**

Physical Description: Printed material, letters

General note
San Francisco Classroom Teachers Association statements of official position and two typed letters regarding the Briggs initiatives.

Box 1, Folder 15  **Other Organizations Against Proposition 6. 1977-1978.**

Physical Description: Printed materials, pamphlets

Scope and Content Note
Contents include information related to other organizations or events against Proposition 6.

Box 1, Folder 16  **Other Organizations--General information and flyers. 1977-1978.**

Physical Description: Printed materials

Scope and Content Note
Collection of flyers and general information printed material from similar or affiliated organizations.

Box 1, Folder 17  **Right-wing literature. 1977-1978.**

Physical Description: Printed materials

Scope and Content Note
Right-wing literature, including an information sheet on the California Defend Our Children initiative (Proposition 6), a statement and letter from Senator Briggs, and a petition booklet.

Box 1, Folder 18  **"Gay Lifestyles and the Family Life Curriculum". 1977 February 24.**

Physical Description: Printed report

Scope and Content Note
San Francisco Unified School District Board of Education's "Gay Lifestyles and the Family Life Curriculum."

Box 1, Folder 19  **"Oregon Task Force of 1977 Report". 1977.**

Physical Description: Printed report

Scope and Content Note

Box 1, Folder 20  **Photographs. 1977-1978.**

Physical Description: Photographs, scans

Scope and Content Note
Contains photographs, including shots of marches/demonstrations, classroom teaching and interactions, and a martial art event.