

A Guide to the Quiet T. Please Manifestos, 1979-1996 SC 0294

Quiet T. Please Manifestos
1979-1996



Title Statement

A Guide to the Quiet T. Please Manifestos, 1979-1996 SC 0294

Author: Tiffany Cole

Publication Statement

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820 Madison Drive
MSC 1706
Harrisonburg, Virginia 22807
Telephone: (540) 568-3612
library-special@jmu.edu
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Profile Description

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Revision Description

02-25-2020 Updated to include August 2019 donation of two additional manifestos.

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

SC 0294

Unit ID

/repositories/4/resources/604

Unit Date

1979-1996

Language

English

Abstract

The Quiet T. Please Manifestos, 1979-1996, comprise 38 pages of manifestos, varying in size, written by Please, long-time Harrisonburg resident and eccentric.

Creator

Please, Quiet Tortouga, 1935-2019

source

Whitmer, Nick

source

Knicely, Alice S.

Extent

0.35 cubic feet 1 flat file

Repository

James Madison University Libraries Special Collections

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research. Researchers must register and agree to copyright and privacy laws before using this collection. Please contact Research Services staff before visiting the James Madison University Special Collections Library to use this collection.

Use Restrictions

The copyright interests in this collection have not been transferred to the James Madison University Special Collections Library. For more information, contact the Special Collections Library Reference Desk (library-special@jmu.edu).

Acquisition Information

The Quiet T. Please Manifestos were donated by Nick Whitmer, former employee of the Massanutten Regional Library, who collected Please's writings. Two additional manifestos were donated by Alice Knicely of Charlottesville in August 2019.

Processing Information

Nick Whitmer's typed recollections of Quiet T. Please, dated May 2019, were donated with the manifestos. They are retained in the collection control file and are available upon request.

Preferred Citation

[identification of item], [box #, folder #], Quiet T. Please Manifestos, 1979-1996, SC 0294, Special Collections, Carrier Library, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA.

Bio/Historical Note

Quiet T. Please (1935-2019), born Stanton Paul Chassignac Jr. in New Orleans, Louisiana, was the son of Stanton Paul Chassignac Sr. and Katherine O'Brien Chassignac. Please was a long-time Harrisonburg resident, activist, and visionary, and was passionate about human rights and environmental issues. Please was educated in New Orleans Catholic schools and attended Louisiana State University and Tulane, and possibly the University of Virginia and Princeton University, though specific dates of attendance are unclear. Please moved to Harrisonburg sometime around 1975, but never took up permanent residence, instead he slept in fields and other secluded areas. Per a manifesto dated May 4, 1990, Please was attracted to the Harrisonburg area because of the abundance of turkey feathers and because he was offered a job disassembling an eighteenth-century building. In 1979, Please ran an unsuccessful write-in campaign for Rockingham County Sheriff, but he was unable to secure a spot on the ballot due to his lack of a fixed address. In June 1986, Please also ran for a local government position, receiving only one vote. Please was known in Harrisonburg for writing and distributing manifestos related to topics of feminism, community, politics, sex, and the military, often written in a stream-of-consciousness style prose.

The donor's reminiscences of Please, which include personal stories and allude to Please's eccentric personality, are retained in the collection's control file.

Scope and Content

The Quiet T. Please Manifestos, 1979-1996, comprise 38 pages of manifestos, varying in size, written by Please, long-time Harrisonburg resident and eccentric. Many of the manifestos are oversized photocopies/photostats (copied on the back of architectural drawings and dot matrix printings of real estate records). The manifestos also comprise silk-screen prints. One page is written in his hand. Also included is a newspaper clipping from the *Daily News-Record* reporting Please's 1979 run for Rockingham County sheriff. Topics discussed in his often times disjointed and incoherent writings include abortion, government power, religion, race, global political events and international relations (Middle East, Israel, Vietnam), and local current events with commentary on industry (Valley Mall, Coors). Please frequently used acronyms in his writings.

Keywords

Manifestos
Newspaper clippings
Political activists
Harrisonburg (Va.) -- History
Harrisonburg (Va.) -- Social life and customs
Whitmer, Nick
Knicey, Alice S.

Bibliography

Obituary of Quiet T. Please, May 14, 2019, <https://www.kygers.com/obituary/stanton-p-chassaignac-jr-quiet-please> (accessed June 5, 2019). Nicole Hostetter, "'Maybe he knew something we didn't know': The legacy of Quite T. Please," *The Citizen*, June 6, 2019.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged in the order in which it was received from the donor.

Description of Subordinate Components

Quiet T. Please Manifestos

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/18690

Unit Date 1979-1996, undated

Mixed Materials [1000898290] 1 (Flat File)