

Richmond Gay Documents Collection

Richmond gay documents 1974-1988

1974-1988



Title Statement

Richmond Gay Documents Collection A Guide to the Richmond Gay Documents Collection, 1974-1988 M 317

Subtitle: A Collection in Special Collections and Archives, James Branch Cabell Library, M 317

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Publication Statement

Publisher: VCU James Branch Cabell Library

Special Collections and Archives 901 Park Avenue

Richmond, Virginia 23284

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URL: <https://www.library.vcu.edu/research-teaching/special-collections-and-archives/locations/#cabell>



2006

Profile Description

Creation: This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2024-10-31 07:22:28 -0400.

Language Usage: Description is written in: English, Latin script.

Descriptive Rules: Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

M 317

Unit ID

/repositories/5/resources/147

Unit Date

1974-1988

Language

English .

Creator

Gay Awareness in Perspective

Creator

Gage, Samuel W.

Creator

Redden, Mr.

Creator

Richmond Chapter of Dignity-Integrity

Creator

Gay Rights Association

Creator

Virginia Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Rights

Creator

Richmond Virginia Gay/Lesbian Alliance

source

Swisher, Robert

Creator

Virginia Gay Alliance

Extent

0.23 Linear Feet 1 microfilm reel and 0.23 linear feet of materials.

Repository

VCU James Branch Cabell Library

Administrative Information

Access restrictions

The collection is open to research.

Use restrictions

There are no restrictions

Acquisition Information

The microfilm was donated to VCU Libraries by Bob Swisher in December 1988.

Preferred Citation

Richmond Gay Documents Collection, Collection Number M317, Special Collections and Archives, James Branch Cabell Library, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Va.

Historical Information

Gay Awareness in Perspective (GAP) was Richmond's first fully organized gay rights organization. The group met for the first time in April 1974 and principally concerned itself with a wide range of personal and sociological aspects of homosexuality.

Gay Rights Association (GRA) was formed on 23 October 1977, two weeks after anti-gay crusader and Miss America Anita Bryant visited Richmond. The group's mission was to formulate action programs aimed at the repeal, enactment, and modification of laws and ordinances for the benefit of the gay community in Richmond.

Virginia Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Rights was a state-wide gay rights organization formed in 1978 intending to unite the various gay and lesbian groups and advocates in Virginia.

Richmond Gay and Lesbian Alliance was originally called the Richmond chapter of the Virginia Gay Alliance and formed in the early 1980's. The organization attempted to bring together the various gay and lesbian groups in the Richmond area into one alliance.

The Richmond Pride was a monthly newspaper edited by Bev Rainey and Mary Dean Carter that served the lesbian and gay community of the greater Richmond area from 1986-1988.

Gay Alliance of Students was a student organization at Virginia Commonwealth University created with support from assistant dean Stephen Lenton and student leaders Walter Foery and Brenda Kriegel in 1974. The organization applied for space and monetary assistance from the university and was denied, sparking a long court fight between the Board of Visitors and the organization. The organization received financial support from both the ACLU and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, ultimately providing it with the

opportunity to win a ruling from the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals. The ruling ultimately altered law in ten regional states.

Dignity-Integrity, Richmond chapter, advocated for gays within the local Catholic (Dignity) and Episcopal (Integrity) churches. The organization was founded in 1974.

Scope and Contents

The collection, 1974-1988, consists of documents concerning the gay and lesbian community in Richmond, Virginia. Principally contains clippings, correspondence, legal files, minutes, newsletters, and publications, concerning local gay organizations. Organizations represented include Gay Awareness in Perspective (GAP), the Gay Rights Association (GRA), the Virginia Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Rights, the Richmond Gay and Lesbian Alliance, the Gay Alliance of Students (VCU), and the Richmond chapter of Dignity-Integrity. At the end of the reel, there is a copy of Sodomy in Virginia: Comments on the Statute and the Cases, 1 April 1975.

Keywords

Homosexuality -- Law and legislation -- Virginia -- Richmond.

Gay liberation movement -- Virginia -- Richmond.

Gays -- Societies and clubs -- Virginia -- Richmond

Gay Awareness in Perspective

Gay Alliance of Students

Gay Rights Association

Richmond Virginia Gay/Lesbian Alliance

Richmond Chapter of Dignity-Integrity

Virginia Gay Alliance

Swisher, Robert

Virginia Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Rights

Reproduction Note

Microfilm., Richmond, Va. : Richmond Microfilming, 1988., 1 microfilm reel ; 35 mm.

Existence and Location of Originals

Arrangement

Arranged in seven series:

Series I. Gay Awareness in Perspective Files, 1974-1978 Series II. Gay Rights Association Files, 1977-ca. 1978 Series III. Virginia Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Rights Files, 1979 Series IV. Richmond Gay and Lesbian Alliance Files, 1982-1986 Series V. Richmond Pride Newspaper, August 1986-October 1988 Series VI. Gay Alliance of Students v. Alfred T. Matthews, et.al. Case Files, 1974-1976 Series VII. Dignity-Integrity, Richmond Chapter Files, ca. 1981-1983

Description of Subordinate Components

Gay Awareness in Perspective Files

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/46260

Unit Date 1974-1978.

Microform 1 (box)

Physical Location This series is the first item on the reel.

Scope and Contents

Files, 1974-1978, of Gay Awareness in Perspective (GAP) consisting principally of *GAP Rap* newsletters, October 1974-April 1978; the constitution and by-laws; blank GAP informational surveys for the gay community; and three complaints filed on behalf of gay men to the City of Richmond Commission on Human Relations alleging harassment on the part of the Department of Public Safety (police).

Gay Rights Association Files

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/46261

Unit Date 1977-1978.

Microform 1 (box)

Physical Location This series is the second item on the reel.

Scope and Contents

Files, 1977-1978, of the Gay Rights Association (GRA) including newsletters; correspondence concerning City of Richmond legislation, the Department of Public Safety Vice-Squad, and allegations of solicitation between GRA members and city officials; meeting minutes; Richmond City Council candidate questionnaires; and the constitution of the organization.

Virginia Coalition for Lesbian Gay Rights Files

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/46262

Unit Date 1979.

Microform 1 (box)

Physical Location This series is the third item on the reel.

Scope and Contents

Files, 1979, of the Virginia Coalition for Lesbian Gay Rights principally consisting of meeting minutes, October 1979.

Richmond Gay and Lesbian Alliance Files

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/46263

Unit Date 1982-1986.

Microform 1 (box)

Physical Location This series is the fourth item on the reel.

Scope and Contents

Files, 1982-1986, of the Richmond Gay and Lesbian Alliance generally comprising letters to members, 1982-1986; minutes, 1985; by-laws, 1985; a policy and procedures bulletin, 1985; VGA newsletters, 1985-1986; a Richmond Pride Festival programs, 1984-1985; a contact list and activities calendar, n.d.; and clippings, n.d.

Richmond Pride newspapers

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/46264

Unit Date August 1986-October 1988.

Microform 1 (box)

Physical Location This series is the fifth item on the reel.

Scope and Contents

Copies of the *Richmond Pride* newspaper published from August 1986 to October 1988.

Gay Alliance of Students v. Alfred T. Matthews, et.al. Case Files

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/46265

Unit Date 1974-1976.

Microform 1 (box)

Physical Location This series is the sixth item on the reel.

Scope and Contents

Files, 1974-1976, related to the lawsuit filed by the Gay Alliance of Students against the Virginia Commonwealth University Board of Visitors and its president Alfred T. Matthews seeking full rights as a student organization on campus. Consists of correspondence and legal files concerning the case.

Dignity-Integrity, Richmond Chapter Files

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/46266

Unit Date ca. 1981-1983.

Microform 1 (box)

Physical Location This series is the seventh item on the reel.

Scope and Contents

Files, ca. 1981-1983, consisting of a history of the organization published by Samuel W. Gage in 1983, correspondence between the organization and Congressman Thomas Bliley, and newspaper clippings.