An Exhibition

April 6th – July 31st, 2000
Gallery '50
Special Collections & University Archives Gallery
Archibald S. Alexander Library
CELEBRATING THE TRADITION

30 YEARS OF QUEER PRIDE AND ACTIVISM
AT RUTGERS

Joseph P. Consoli, Co-Curator
Erika Briana Gorder, Co-Curator

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Archibald S. Alexander Library
Rutgers University Libraries
Erika Gorder: Cases 1-10, 14 and 19

Joseph Consoli: Cases 11-13, 15-18 and 20-22
IN MEMORY OF

DAVID W. NICHOLS III

(1950-1994)
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Creating an exhibition the size and scope of “Thirty Years of Lesbian and Gay Activism at Rutgers” is truly a collective endeavor. We have been fortunate enough to work with many dedicated and talented professionals who labored long and hard to make this exhibition possible. We would first like to thank the unflappable Ruth J. Simmons, Curator of Exhibitions and the Griffis Collection, for her dedication to detail and her aesthetic sensibility in the design and installation of the exhibition. The Special Collections and University Archives preservation staff, headed by conservator Kristen St. John, did remarkable work in preparing the exhibition. She and her student-assistants spent hours mounting the materials.

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CASE 1: THE GAY LIBERATION MOVEMENT

The seeds of the gay liberation movement were sown by homophile groups formed in the 1950s and early 1960s, such as the Mattachine Society and Daughters of Bilitus, who pushed for integration of homosexuals into society and an end to overt discrimination. The Stonewall Riots of June 1969, however, are recognized in the political and historical discourses as the mobilizing catalyst of the gay and lesbian rights movement. Forged in the radical ferment of the late 1960s, the Gay Liberation movement, in tandem with the Women’s Liberation movement, redefined and energized their predecessors’ vision by identifying and attacking gendered oppression in society.

On June 28, 1969 police raided the Stonewall Inn, a gay bar in New York City’s Greenwich Village. For the first time, gay men and lesbians resisted, initiating the Stonewall Riots. In quick reaction to the momentum produced by the riots, new gay and lesbian activist groups emerged. Most notable of these was the Gay Liberation Front (GLF)—a radical organization based in New York City, with close political and social ties to the New Left. Utilizing and modifying the rhetoric and organizational tactics of politically radical groups of the late 1960s, the GLF acknowledged its radical heritage but transformed the language and ideologies of the New Left by centering its mission on gay and lesbian politics and culture. Among its pioneering efforts, the GLF developed a strong information network. The Rutgers Student Homophile League would draw upon many tracts and informational bulletins printed by the Gay Flames Collective—the publishing arm of the GLF.

The Student Homophile League (SHL) at Rutgers, because of physical and ideological proximity, was influenced by the new spirit of gay liberation exploding on the scene in response to Stonewall. The Rutgers Student Homophile League was formed just months after Stonewall, making its successors, the Rutgers Gay Alliance, RULGA, and Bi-GLARU, the second oldest gay and lesbian student organization in America.


   One month after Stonewall, the Mattachine Society and Daughters of Bilitus organized the first mass rally for Gay Rights in New York City.

   This tract includes description of the oppression of gays and lesbians in American society, as well as referencing Third World Revolution and the Women’s Liberation Movement.
CASES 2 & 3: STUDENT ACTIVISM AT RUTGERS

Student activism born out of the radical ferment of the sixties was part of a continuum. At Rutgers, student protest movements mirrored the phenomenon common in American universities at the time and reflected the growing radicalization of the larger American social, political, and cultural scene. Many scholars locate the origins of political activism on campus in the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s. One can certainly trace activism to the early civil rights movement of the 1950s. But a unique student consciousness emerged in the early 1960s as students with non-violent integrationist goals participated in voter registration drives and anti-segregationist sit-ins in the south. By the late 1960s, black activism, transformed by the philosophies of Malcolm X and the Black Power movement, organized grassroots initiatives within predominantly white institutions to change policies and attitudes to recognize the realities of a multi-racial society.

Support of Civil Rights by the students and faculty of Rutgers was evident by 1963. In September of that year, Donald S. Harris, a recent Rutgers College alumnus, was arrested in Americus, Georgia for participating in a voter registration drive for the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee. He was jailed and charged with insurrection—a capital offense in the State of Georgia. Through reports in the Targum, newly informed students and faculty, rallied and raised money for his legal defense. This mobilization marked the beginning of increased concern over race-matters at Rutgers.

In 1969, black students took over Conklin Hall on the Rutgers- Newark campus, followed by demonstrations in New Brunswick on the Rutgers and Douglass College campuses—wherein black students dumped trays of food in the respective dining halls in an act of rebellion. What is now known as the “Black Student Protest Movement” at Rutgers was born. During the Spring of 1969, a series of negotiations between students, the administration, and faculty proceeded covering topics of minority enrollment, student needs, and curriculum changes. These events began the radicalization and organization of minority groups on the New Brunswick campuses that would have lasting effects into the 1970s.

Rutgers was also home to widespread unrest regarding the conflict in Vietnam and Southeast Asia, beginning with the controversial series of “Teach-Ins” in 1965 and later, anti-war student protests and strikes in 1969 and 1970.

CASE 2

1. Broadside: Announcement of SDS “Teach-In” on the Cold War, October 13, 1965
   This was the third teach-in at Rutgers. The first two were organized by faculty, the third was organized by Students for a Democratic Society (SDS).
2. Photograph: Douglass Students protesting in support of Sit-Ins in the South, ca. 1963. Probably taken at a rally held at Voorhees Chapel on the Douglass Campus to support SNCC field secretary and Rutgers College alumnus Donald Harris.


5. Photograph: Women’s Liberation Front members in front of Brower Commons, ca. 1969

7. Photograph: Yippies anti-war/ROTC activities, ca. 1969 Features Lionel Cuffie, founder of the Student Homophile League, at far left.

**CASE 3**


2. Photographs: Student activists take over office of Rutgers President Mason Gross, as a protest over U.S. invasion of Cambodia in May 1970.

3. Broadside: “Gay People Unite Against the War,” n.d. This offers an example of the political heritage of the Gay Liberation Movement at Rutgers and its solidarity with other radical causes.
In the autumn of 1969, gay liberation found a place at Rutgers with the establishment of the Student Homophile League (SHL). The oldest college group formed as a result of the Stonewall rebellion, SHL was founded by Rutgers College sophomore Lionel Cuffie—a black activist and Yippie—with the assistance of his college roommates and members of the Columbia Homophile League. The Columbia group (recognized by the university in 1967) was considered the first of its kind in the United States. Cuffie hoped that the SHL “would ultimately aid in the breakdown of social and political persecution and discrimination directed against minority groups.” Indeed, the core mission of the group was at once based on leftist radicalism and education.

Fifty men and one woman attended the first meeting of the Rutgers SHL which was held in December 1969. By early 1970, the group established its office in the Rutgers Student Center on the College Avenue Campus. The new student center provided the physical space from which the SHL would launch its groundbreaking initiatives. Borrowing from Yippies, Black Panthers, and Feminist ideologies and rhetoric as a political group, the early SHL had its roots in late 1960s radicalism (as did the gay liberation movement in general). The SHL also had ambitious educational and social goals. Indeed, the League was an alternative to Manny’s Den, the local gay bar in New Brunswick which served an older, more conservative crowd. It was an institution that represented the generational and ideological uniqueness of the student experience and provided a safe space which nurtured lesbian and gay culture.

1. Portrait of Lionel Cuffie. 1971 [wall]

2. Portrait of Lionel Cuffie, n.d. [wall]


4. Broadside: Early SHL announcement, ca. 1969-70

   Description of the Gay Liberation philosophy with reference to women’s movement.


7. Rutgers Student Center, 1969.
   Built in 1969, the physical space would aid in the development and expansion of student activities at Rutgers. The stairwell pictured here lead from the study area to the downstairs lounge where the campus pub was located.
CASE 5: THE EARLY YEARS

In its first two years, the Student Homophile League laid the groundwork for a thriving student organization and campus political movement. From its inception, the SHL projected both visibility and a voice by disseminating information and providing a free, safe space for the lesbian and gay community. The league launched its first “NJ All Gay Mixer” and issued its first newsletter in 1970; by 1971 a four page “Gay Liberation Supplement” appeared in the Targum. During the academic year of 1970-1971, the League instituted its Speakers Bureau, which dispatched lecturers to educate the public, both on and off campus, on homosexuality and gay liberation. The League extended its support to the surrounding local gay/lesbian community by sending representatives to gay meetings and conferences in the tri-state area and providing meeting space for the New Jersey Gay Coalition.

The SHL was not untouched by controversy in its early years. In May 1970, the SHL and Rutgers College Programming Board co-sponsored an exhibition, on loan from the Gallery of Erotic Art in New York, entitled “The Homosexual.” Displayed in the main lounge of the Rutgers Student Center, the exhibit featured an installation piece entitled “The Silent Soldier” wherein founding SHL member Patrick Mattiola hung nude upon a cross with his back to the audience. Some viewers were so offended that they attempted to pull him off the cross. SHL members and supporters linked arms to keep the angry spectators away. In a compromise with Dean of Students, Howard Crosby, the SHL moved the piece to a private viewing room. Within the context of Rutgers University, the exhibition had far-reaching significance. University President, Mason Gross—himself embroiled in controversy regarding recent anti-Vietnam protests on campus—received complaints from legislators. But, according to Dean Crosby, in the spirit of the groups right to freedom of speech and expression, Gross held his ground in support of the SHL.

Largely because of Mason Gross’s profile as a champion of freedom of speech for students, the university, however indirectly, provided an atmosphere of institutional tolerance for the SHL. The group’s visibility did not go unnoticed by the Rutgers student body. Over the years, the SHL received positive support from students. But some heterosexual students reacted negatively to the SHL presence on campus by circulating a broadside entitled “Heterosexuals Unite,” in 1970.

1. RSHL logo. From Scarlet Letter, 1972. [wall]


The first newsletter of the SHL was issued in April 1970 and included a Manifesto, election results, poetry, results of a poll taken at Rutgers student centers regarding students’ opinions on homosexuals, and a transcript of Lionel Cuffie questioning psychologist Albert Ellis during a lecture on sex at the RSC.


8. *Rutgers Student Fund–Check voucher for the Looking Glass Band. December 4, 1970*

The group, made up of Rutgers students and New Brunswick residents, who reached national acclaim with the hit single “Brandy,” played the SHL’s first anniversary dance.

9. *“Gay Liberation Supplement” from Targum. December 7, 1971*
CASES 6 & 7: PROGRAMMING AND MISSION DEVELOPMENT

The early 1970s was a time of incredible growth for the SHL as a political, social, and educational organization. The history of the League in the seventies reflected not only expansive programmatic development but also radical ideological change. Feminism (lesbian feminism in particular), for example, charged the complex atmosphere of the group. Responding to the need for diversification, special groups crystallized within the SHL to represent unique lesbian and gay constituencies at Rutgers. Among such new “cells” were R.U. Fags (a radical action caucus), the Livingston Gay Men’s Collective, and the SHL Black Caucus.

From 1971 to 1975, the SHL organized five successful, well-attended conferences on Gay Liberation and Culture which consistently drew large audiences of 200-300 attendees. These were major events for the East Coast lesbian and gay community. Some of best known lesbian and gay activists participated. The first of these, simply titled “Conference on Gay Liberation,” took place in the Spring of 1971 and included speakers Barbara Gittings, Franklin Kameny, Barbara Love, Isabel Miller, Martha Shelly, Gregory Battcock, and representatives from the Gay Liberation Front and Radicalesbians. Panel discussions and workshops addressed political, social, religious, and lesbian-separatist issues. A barbecue and dance rounded out the three-day event.

The League was one of the largest student organizations on campus. With membership surging to over eighty men and women, the SHL increased its social and educational programming. Dances and social happenings, such as the “Open Closet Coffeehouse” and “Way Out Coffeehouse,” were popular. The dances often drew up to three hundred people and turned out to be excellent fund-raising and galvanizing events. Education and community outreach became the most successful of the SHL’s programming during the 1970s. With the establishment of the New Brunswick Gay Switchboard and specialized rap groups, the SHL extended its services to the area of peer counseling and consciousness-raising. Rutgers Student Homophile League achieved a balance of political action through continuing advocacy of human rights for homosexuals and the repeal of anti-gay legislation, outreach to the student and non-student gay/straight community, and social activities.

CASE 6

   This documented the first “Conference on Gay Liberation.”

   The SHL and the first “Conference on Gay Liberation” received front-page coverage in this New York-based newspaper.
   This image, reproduced from the pamphlet Tactics for Change, was taken at the dance of the first “Conference on Gay Liberation,” 1971.

   Includes poster from Symposium on Gay Liberation and Education, 1974.

5. Telephone logbook: New Brunswick Gay Switchboard, a counseling service operated by the League, 1975-1976


CASE 7

1. Broadside: Open Closet Coffeehouse, n.d. [wall]

2. Poster: Gay Men’s Collective, n.d.. [wall]

3. Pamphlet: Gays on Campus, 1975
   The booklet was edited by J. Lee Lehman, active member of the Student Homophile League, and published by the National Gay Student Center, which was headquartered at Rutgers.

4. Scarlet Letter, 1972


   Provides examples of the myriad of sponsored activities.
CASE 8: VISIBILITY AND CONFLICT ON CAMPUS

Voice and visibility characterized the significance of the gay and lesbian student activities on campus. In its first ten years, the Rutgers Student Homophile League/Rutgers Gay Alliance developed an organizational structure and mission based upon these themes. By the mid-to-late 1970s, the SHL's presence on campus was "out"—but the consequences of that liberation at times turned into conflict.

1974 was an active and significant year for SHL. The League, with the Graduate School of Education presented a symposium on "Gay Liberation and Education" and also sponsored its fourth annual "Conference on Gay Unity." In conjunction with these conferences, Friday April 19, 1974 was declared National Gay Day on campus. Celebrated as "Blue Jeans Day" the SHL announced in the Targum that if one wished to be counted gay on that day, simply wear blue jeans. The event received much attention and comment; its intent was not to survey the actual number of homosexuals on campus, but rather, function as a consciousness-raising exercise to be applied to the whole Rutgers student body.

The SHL achieved a high level of visibility on campus. The speakers bureau thrived, producing at least fifty lectures per year throughout the college and state. The Gay Switchboard operated regularly and provided a wealth of information and counseling services to lesbians, gays, and straight individuals. The monthly dances drew hundreds and remained a lucrative and popular social activity. The SHL was also heavily publicized in the Targum and represented in the Scarlet Letter.

At the end of the decade, the League's visibility garnered backlash and confrontation. The second annual Blue Jeans Day was held in April 1976. This year one of the fraternities, Delta Kappa Epsilon (DKE), hung an effigy from a tree in front of their house on College Ave. On it was a sign that read: "The only good gay is a dead gay—back to your closets homos." Although many gay men and lesbians were outraged, the League failed to protest the effigy. But a group of feminists did object and protest outside of the DKE house and eventually brought about the removal of the effigy. No official university action, however, was taken. This event marked the beginning of a running clash between the SHL and DKE fraternity.

The next year saw a decline in membership for the first time. On the third annual blue jeans day, (April 27, 1978) another effigy was hung on DKE's property. Again in 1979, without any SHL activities planned, an anti-gay banner appeared on the DKE house. This time, fifty protesters gathered, one was hit on the head by a rock thrown from the DKE house and was treated at the medical center. The violence of this last incident prompted the university to investigate DKE, and the whole Rutgers fraternity and sorority system came under scrutiny.

In spite of the steady decline in membership that may have been a result of the DKE incidents at the end of the decade, the new leadership began a systematic publicity program for the Rutgers Gay Alliance (name changed in 1975).
   Reference to the first Blue Jeans Day.


3. Photograph: Delta Kappa Epsilon house on College Avenue

   In response to one of the anti-gay slurs by the DKE fraternity,


6. Photograph: Demarest dorm  
   Unofficially considered a “hotbed of homosexuality,” especially in the 1980s.

   Featuring Dave Nichols, historian of gay and lesbian activism at Rutgers and organizer of  
   the Rutgers Gay and Lesbian Archives Project.

CASE 9: LESBIANS & FEMINISM

The women's liberation (or feminist) and gay liberation movements were both inspired by the movements that preceded them and were infused with New Left politics, vocabularies, and culture. As the sixties came to a close, sexuality and gender emerged at the center of an unfolding new political and social radicalism. Lesbians found themselves positioned between two opposing forces. They negotiated between their identity as women, an oppressed class within society, and the male-dominated leftist groups of the late 1960s, and their identity as lesbians in the heterosexual feminist community.

SHL members were influenced by both the New Left and the critique of sexism that was being formulated by radical feminists. Sexism was recognized as a factor in gay oppression, but conflicts between men and women arose. Indeed, as with the New Left, women in the gay activist groups increasingly expressed the simmering tensions—criticizing the chauvinism of men, including their gay comrades. As the tenuous relationship between feminism and the New Left legacies played out in the larger discourses, the SHL was no exception. Nowhere was this dynamic tension more evident than at the first Conference on Gay Liberation. After two days of workshops and discussions, lesbians took over the closing proceedings in protest against the sexism of gay men in the movement, prompted by a photograph of nude women featured in Gay.

Organized feminism at Rutgers University became visible in the 1970s. The first campus organization referring to itself as “feminist” originated at Livingston College—the co-educational college founded in 1969. During the early 1970s, several feminist and/or lesbian groups were active on the New Brunswick campuses. They worked collaboratively with the SHL, and periodically were allied as a coordinate branch of the League. These activist groups included: the University Coalition of Lesbian Women, the University Coalition of Lesbian Feminists, and the Lesbian Feminist Coalition. In the late 1970s, the Douglass Feminist Collective (DFC) was formed by two lesbian separatists. This organization was comprised of a lesbian rap group and a political committee. DFC co-sponsored many activities with RGA. Another radical feminist group formed in the late 1970s was the College Avenue Feminist Terrorists [. . and Women's Sewing Circle.] The CAFT’s membership was comprised partly of a small group of Lesbian feminists living in Demarest dormitory. Officially, they were not a part of RGA but were closely associated with some of its members. The CAFT’s activities targeted pornography and used tactics like bomb scares at fraternities and destruction of porn films shown in Scott Hall.

Collectively, the gay liberation and feminist movements had a symbiotic relationship and to the present day have maintained an alliance. Feminism was a new radical movement which examined gender, sexuality and paternalistic oppression, as did the gay and lesbian civil rights movement. Though not always in collaboration, both movements certainly shared ideologies and intellectual concepts.
   Report on Women’s walkout on first “Conference on Gay Liberation” and their objection to photograph printed in the newspaper.

2. Photograph: Barbara Lee, ca. 1971
   First female chairperson of the SHL, elected in 1970.


5. Douglass Feminist Collective sign, ca. 1979


   Example of activities sponsored by the Lesbian Feminist Coalition in conjunction with SHL.


   This band’s predecessor was the Celibate Sluts, a lesbian-oriented rock band.
CASE 10: STUDENT ACTIVISM IN THE 1980s

As the 1970s grew to a close, political action waned for the Rutgers Gay Alliance (RGA), a group founded with a tripartite mission of political action, education, and social activity. In the wake of declining membership, the RGA re-directed its efforts into publicity for both educational and social programs. It did this in order to create a high-profile organization that might seem larger than it indeed was to attract new members and dispel their anxiety. With this revival of purpose, the RGA became involved through other campus organizations in political activism and education. For example, it participated in fund-raising for the March on Washington for Gay Rights, which took place in 1979. Also in the early 1980s, a Cook College student started a radio show, "Gaybreak," and wrote a tract on gays and activism entitled, "Nuclear Power is a Gay Issue, Too." The Alliance organized a rally in protest of Jerry Falwell. During the 1980s the Alliance addressed the growing concern over AIDS and participated in the genesis of AIDS awareness and activism.

In the 1982-1983 school year, the group again changed its name to the Rutgers University Lesbian/Gay Alliance. Lesbian concerns and debates over lesbian separatism within the Gay Liberation movement had, throughout its history, divided the group. The name change reflected a new awareness of lesbian culture in hopes to encourage a more active lesbian presence. Also during the 1980s, RULGA strengthened its ties to the lesbian and feminist movements by participating in protests against pornography and becoming a presence in the "Take Back the Night" anti-rape marches organized by the women of Rutgers.

By all accounts the RGA/RULGA of the late 1970s and early 1980s decreased its emphasis on political radicalism for specific gay concerns. The confrontations with fraternities, at first glance, were isolated instances of conflict. In reality, they were symptomatic of dangerous homophobia on campus. The DKE problem marked the beginning of the university's growing involvement to support the needs of lesbians and gays at Rutgers. These new initiatives would not have been possible without a strong and vocal student lesbian and gay organization.

   RGA raised funds and coordinated New Jersey delegation.

2. Broadsides: Activism in the 1980s.

CASE 11: QUEER RESEARCH & WRITING AT RUTGERS

Rutgers University is, of course, famous for being the second major institution of higher learning (after Columbia University) to develop organizations that support gay and lesbian students on campus. Less well-known, perhaps, is the institution’s commitment to research, reference and writing from a striking variety of concerned individuals who are now, or were at one time, affiliated with Rutgers University. The breadth of writing is truly staggering, beginning with the preparation of the first guide to gay and lesbian topics for Rutgers Students by Kevin Mulcahy, then Head of Reference at Alexander Library (Sept. 1989). More recently, Jackie Mardikian, a member of the Science Reference team, has prepared Web pages and published bibliographies of intense interest to students concerned with the AIDS epidemic. Related efforts in Reference service include published essays by Joseph P. Consoli, a Humanities Librarian, and Catherine Geddis, an Administrative Librarian, in reference volumes on gay and lesbian topics. These include Italian, British and Modern Greek Literature, as well as essays concerned with less likely subjects, such as ghost and horror fiction.

Books and Pamphlets:


CASE 12: QUEER RESEARCH & WRITING AT RUTGERS

Rutgers writers have been quite prolific in the realm of gay and lesbian poetry and poetic criticism. We are indeed fortunate to have the famous poet Cheryl Clarke, Director for Diverse Community Affairs and Lesbian and Gay Concerns here at Rutgers. She is represented by three of her poetry books in this exhibit. English Professor Louie Crew has generously loaned his fascinating chapbooks. Also represented are examples of poetry of Victor Fragoso and Adrienne Rich, both of whom taught at Rutgers in the past.

Books and Pamphlets:


CASE 13: QUEER RESEARCH & WRITING AT RUTGERS

Scholarly research conducted by many famous scholars from Rutgers University includes Ed Cohen's groundbreaking study on Oscar Wilde and Michael Warner's noteworthy text on the politics of shame and sexuality and HIV. Paul Schalow has contributed a significant translation of a Japanese text dealing with homosexuality as well as a number of articles on homosexuality in the East included in anthologies on various aspects of homosexuality. Also on display are works by the controversial figure Luz Maria Umpierre-Herrera, along with a critical essay on her work by our own Larry LaFountain-Stokes.

Significant research publications in lesbian studies are well represented in the exhibit with works by Charlotte Bunch, professor at the Women's Global Center, Catherine Stimpson, former Dean of the Graduate School, and Susan Cavin, onetime professor at Rutgers.

Books:


13. **Award**: Victor Fernandez-Fragoso Caribbean Award. Given to recognize outstanding creative or scholarly work in the area of Caribbean literature, Hispanic poetry or theater.

14. **Photograph**: Victor Fragoso with friends.

15. **Broadside**: Queer Writers of Color Réading. Jaime Manrique and Other Writers from *Besame Mucho*. 
Established in 1989 through the tireless efforts of David Nichols, Rutgers College Class of 1975 and active member of the RULGA, the Rutgers Gay and Lesbian Archives Project is a cooperative venture in documenting the lives and activities of the gay, lesbian, and bisexual community at Rutgers and throughout the State of New Jersey. Housed in Special Collections and University Archives of the Rutgers University Libraries, the Gay and Lesbian Archives Project has created an excitement among numerous groups and individuals to preserve and make available for research historical collections that document the history of community, political, and social life. Some of the collections acquired over the past decade include the records of the New Jersey Lesbian and Gay Coalition, Presbyterians for Lesbian and Gay Concerns, the President's Select Committee for Lesbian and Gay Concerns at Rutgers University, and the personal papers of such notable activists and scholars as Phyllis Noble, Susan Cavin, and John Gish. These collections, which comprise diaries and journals, correspondence, minutes, proceedings, financial and legal documents, literary works, printed and published material, scrapbooks, broadsides, ephemera, photographs, and other pictorial material, provide a rich source of information for research.


8. Finding Aids: Inventories and guides to Lesbian and Gay collections in the Rutgers University Archives at Special Collections and University Archives.
Includes Inventory to the Records of Rutgers University Lesbian and Gay Alliance (RULGA), Inventory of the Records of the President’s Select Committee on Lesbian and Gay Affairs, and Guide to the Susan Cavin Papers.
CASE 15: AIDS ACTIVISM & EDUCATION

No group has been more deeply affected by the impact of the AIDS epidemic than the gay and lesbian community. Rutgers has been no exception, losing sons and daughters from its faculty, students, alumni/ae, and friends to this dreaded disease. The Gay and Lesbian community has reacted quickly, vigorously, continuously, and vociferously to help contain and curb the spread of this disease by working as members of the Rutgers AIDS/HIV Task Force, holding colloquia, passing out educational information, distributing red ribbons on World AIDS Day (December 1), and performing the controversial act of inserting condoms in some student newspapers as well as successfully having condom machines installed throughout the campus.

Members of the Rutgers GLBT Community continue to combat the disease. The community is responsible for drafting the University HIV/AIDS policy and circulating it throughout the three campuses. Other activities include programming events every World AIDS Day, marching in parades and attending rallies, participating in AIDS Walks throughout the country, and distributing instructive paraphernalia including safe sex kits. Two of the most effective and creative instruments that have been created to date include the Interactive Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Infection computer program, produced by Professor Monica Devanas from the Teaching Excellence Center, and Rachel Hadas’ edited book of poems, "Unending Dialogue: Voices from an AIDS Poetry Workshop", conducted on the Newark Campus.


7. **Letter**: From U.S. Senator Frank Lautenberg to Tina Sebekos about AIDS funding.
8. **Red Ribbon:** “Today Wear a Ribbon,” distributed by the Rutgers AIDS Task Force on World AIDS Day (December 1st) throughout the campus.

9. **Broadsides:** These broadsides advertise meetings and events.

10. **Buttons and Pins:** The buttons and pins focus on fighting aids and the quilt project.

11. **Broadside:** The Quilt Project broadside lists participants, and when/where quilt will travel.
CASE 16: CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF THE TRADITION

The 1999-2000 academic year marks the thirtieth anniversary of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer activism on the campus. In celebration of this significant event the Office of Diverse Community Affairs and Lesbian/Gay Concerns has organized sixty-seven events to be held over the course of the year on all three campuses. These include poetry and textual readings, lectures from celebrities and politicians, art and photographic exhibits, celebrations of diversity, database demonstrations, experimental films, puppet shows, comic entertainment, colloquia, panels and dances.

1. Pin: The official pin of the *Thirty Year Celebration.*


3. Calendar: Spring Semester Catalog of Events.


5. Broadsides:
   - Queer’s Symposium, *The Lavender Vote.*
   - Lecture on *Enduring Equality* by Divina Cooper.
   - Rutgers Film Coop, *The Source* and *Pull My Daisy.*
   - Queer Writers of Color, readings by Jaime Enrique.
   - Queer Read Announcement.
   - Independent film and Film Makers: *Everything Will Be Fine, Badass Supermama, Migrant Imagination,* and *Chocolate Babies.*

6. Tote Bag: Celebrating the Tradition 30 Years.


8. Buttons and Pins: These buttons reveal a variety of gay and lesbian concerns including civil rights, and a plea for a broader definition of diversity and of family values. Some buttons are particularly humorous: I’m straight but not narrow. Closets are for clothes. Homophobia is a social disease.
CASE 17: ANNUAL QUEER RECEPTION

Each fall the Office of Diverse Community Affairs and Lesbian - Gay Concerns holds a Queer Reception inviting all interested campus groups, alumni/ae associations, and interested members of the community. Administrators, Deans, Chairs of Departments, Directors of Campus Organizations, and other interested parties are invited to step to the podium and express their commitment to diversity issues on campus.

This display case contains invitations, booklets, and memorabilia which have been distributed at the Reception over the years.


2. **Invitation:** Annual Q Reception invite from Rutgers gay and lesbian organizations.

3. **Photographs:** Three unidentified snapshots from the Annual Q Reception.

4. **Dogtag:** “Queer Reception Fall 1994.”

5. **Toys:** Rainbow colored slinky, and Tinky Winky Teletubby.

6. **Key Chain:** RU2?

7. **Sunglasses:** Queer Reception, Fall 1998.

8. **Drinking Cup:** BiGLARU (Bisexual, Gay, and Lesbian Alliance of Rutgers University).

9. **Buttons and Pins:**
   - Hate is Not A Family Value.
   - Lambda Alliance, Rutgers-Camden.
   - Homophobia.
   - Honorary Lesbian.
   - Queer (LGBT) Reception, Fall 1996.
   - Someone You Care About is Lesbian or Gay.
CASE 18: LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL & TRANSGENDER
STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Today, six student organizations in New Brunswick carry on the university-wide legacy of the early years of activism: BIGLARU (the Bisexual Gay Lesbian Alliance at Rutgers University - the successor of the Rutgers University Lesbian / Gay Alliance), LABIA (Lesbian and Bisexual Women in Action), RUGBI (the Rutgers Union of Gay and Bisexual Men), LLEGO! (The Latina/o and People of Color Lesbian / Gay / Bisexual / Transgender Union of Rutgers University), COUCH (Council of Organizations United to Combat Homophobia – a.k.a. RCAB, the Rainbow Community Action Board), and the Alliance of Queer Graduate Students (a.k.a. Queer Graduate Students Association). In Newark, the Gay and Lesbian Association (GALA) and in Camden, the Lambda Alliance and the Lesbian and Gay Law School Association are active as students’ organizations.

The Bisexual / Gay / Lesbian Outreach Hotline of Rutgers was active for many years on the New Brunswick campus, but in 1999, it concluded its services to the community, now so well served by the local Pride Center and the Internet.

BIGLARU was founded in 1969 as the Student Homophile League. LABIA was born out of the struggle to focus on and organize around women’s (specifically queer women’s) issues. LLEGO! followed to address the specific issues and needs of queers of color at RU. RUGBI provides a social alternative for gay and bisexual men.

Rutgers also has a Queer Studies Special Interest Residence Section, open to all students affiliated with Rutgers College who would like to pursue queer studies.


3. Pamphlet: Pro-Gay Lesbian Guide Book, prepared for faculty and staff liaisons for lesbian / gay groups at Rutgers

4. Photographs: Three photographs of Hub City Spoke Repair, a comedy troupe which is primarily composed of Rutgers students and alumni/ae. The photos display the multifaceted abilities of this talented troupe.
5. T-Shirts:
   RUGBi (Rutgers Union for Gay/Bisexual Men).
   “Top Ten Reasons to Join LABIA.”

6. Broadsides:
   Queer Convocation and Reception Announcement.
   LABIA (Lesbian and Bisexual Womyn in Action) Meeting.
   “The Black and Gay Aesthetic in Film.” Film screening and presentation by Michelle
   Parker, film maker and performance artist.
   LLEGO (Latina/o and People of Color Lesbian - Gay - Bisexual - Transgender Union of
   Rutgers) Meeting.
   “First Meeting.” Rutgers University Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Alliance.
   Appearance by Betty DeGeneres. First non-gay spokesperson for the Human Rights
   Campaign’s National Coming Out Project, Oct. 6, 1999. Sponsored by Lambda
   Alliance, at Camden Campus.
   “The Relationship Between Sexuality and Spirituality.” A lecture by Chris Glaser,
   March 9, 1989, Bishop House, CAC. Part of the Gay and Lesbian Cultural
   Lecture Series, sponsored by Rutgers University Lesbian/Gay Alliance.
   “Generation Q” radio show on WRSU 88.7 FM.
   “Global Lesbian Leadership.” A community dialogue featuring Charlotte Bunch and
   Urvashi Vaid, Rutgers Student Center. Part of the Lionel Cuffie Lesbian and Gay
   Culture Series.
In the Spring of 1987, Dr. Susan Cavin conducted a survey on the quality of life for lesbian, gay and bisexual members of the Rutgers community. Cavin developed the survey after a student in her course, “Homosexuality and Society” brought a gun into class and several students had complained to her about harassment. The results of her work, The Rutgers Sexual Orientation Survey, documented a pervasive homophobia at Rutgers, ranging from verbal abuse to physical violence. In February of 1988, President Edward Blaustein responded to both Dr. Cavin’s study and emphatic petitions of the Rutgers University Lesbian and Gay Alliance (RULGA) by creating the President’s Select Committee for Lesbian and Gay Concerns. Chaired by Dean James D. Anderson, the Select Committee consisted of twenty-nine members, including faculty, students, administrators, and alumni. In preparation for the formal report, the committee began collecting information by surveying students, faculty, and staff, investigating curricula, programs and policies at other universities, and engaging in extensive educational and outreach efforts. The report, In Every Classroom, was released in 1989 and offered 133 recommendations for institutional change. As a national model for universities working towards similar ends, the report led to the establishment of the Office of Diverse Community Affairs and Lesbian Gay Affairs in 1992.

1. Rutgers Sexual Orientation Survey.


3. Letter from RULGA co-Presidents Susan Beillmaier and Dan Kaufman to Edward Bloustein
   This memorandum lambasted the university for its neglect of its lesbian and gay constituents, and urged University President Edward Bloustein to address the rampant homophobia and discrimination of lesbians and gays on campus. It was part of a campus-wide appeal to the administration.

   The President’s Select Committee for Gay and Lesbian Concerns was reported in the nation’s newspaper of record. Significantly, RULGA was featured prominently and credited as the driving spirit which created the committee. Includes photo of RULGA president Dan Kaufman.

5. In Every Classroom, Report and Poster.
CASE 20: JAMES DALE, "THE GAY BOY SCOUT"

James Dale, who grew up in New Jersey, became a boy scout at the age of eight and rose through the ranks, earning over thirty merit badges, and reaching the position of Assistant Scout Master at the age of nineteen. A few years earlier, he had enrolled as an undergraduate at Rutgers University, where he “came out” and became quite active in many gay groups on campus, including the Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Alliance. He was also a prominent member of Student Council as well as the first openly gay member of the prestigious Cap and Skull Club.

In 1990, after speaking about social issues and gay youth, the Star-Ledger, New Jersey’s largest newspaper, ran the story alongside James’ photo. Less than a week later, James received notification from Mr. James W. Kay, Boy Scouts of America Monmouth Council Executive, revoking his membership. James decided to fight, and with the help of his mentor James Anderson, then Associate Dean of the School of Communication, Information, and Library Studies, he sought assistance from the American Civil Liberties Union and the Lambda Legal Defense Fund.

First his case was rebuked by Superior Court Judge Patrick McGann in Monmouth County, but in 1998 an Appeals Court in New Jersey overturned the previous decision. On August 4, 1999, the Superior Court of New Jersey unanimously upheld that decision. The case has been accepted to be heard by the U.S. Supreme Court, ordered 1/14/00, Docket # 99-699.

James Dale graduated from Rutgers University in 1993 and currently works for POZ Magazine in New York City.

Articles:


Currently, Cheryl Clarke is the Director of Diverse Community Affairs and Lesbian-Gay Concerns at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, New Brunswick Campus. In addition to her work on behalf of queer students, Clarke also confronts diversity and disability issues. She has directed this office since 1992, though she has been at Rutgers since she arrived as a graduate student in 1969. She served as a member of the editorial collective of *Conditions* magazine from 1981-1990; as a member of the Board of Directors of New York Women Against Rape, 1985-1988; was a founding member and fundraiser for the New Jersey Women and AIDS network from 1987-1990; and served as co-chairperson of the Board of the Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies at the CUNY Graduate School from 1990-1992, as well as serving on the Board of Directors of the Aestrea Foundation.


3. **Award**: Human Dignity Award, from Rutgers University President Francis L. Lawrence and the Committee to Advance our Common Purposes, presented August 8, 1999.

4. **Broadsheet**: “Absolutely Queer.”

5. **Advertisement**: Cheryl Clarke endorses the vote to support *The Daily Targum*. 
6. Photographs:

Clarke speaking at Queer Awareness event.
Clarke speaking at Queer Reception.

2nd Row, left to right, standing and sitting: Jewelle L. Gomez, Audre Lorde, Michele Cliff, Cheryl Clarke, Barbara Smith, Shirley Steele, Gloria (Akasha) Hull. 1st Row, left to right, kneeling: Raymina Mays, Donna Allegra, Linda C. Powell.

Pat Parker (1944-1989), left, and Cheryl Clarke, right, at the UCLA Bookstore, before their joint reading at UCLA March 30, 1989.
Jim Anderson came to Rutgers in 1977 as an Assistant Professor in the School of Communication, Information and Library Studies (SCILS). Recently, Pat Reeling (SCILS faculty member and current President of the Rutgers AAUP chapter) reminded Anderson of his interview with the search committee, which she chaired. Anderson told the committee that Rafael was his life partner, and asked if they had any problems with that! SCILS did not, but Rutgers did, and still does: although Anderson and his life partner have been married since 1972, Rutgers continues to refuse to acknowledge this relationship, despite the University's 1981 nondiscrimination policy.

Highlights of Anderson's distinguished career include leadership positions in the Presbyterians for Lesbian and Gay Concerns (including editorship of its journal, More Light Update), being named one of 400 leading activists in the gay and lesbian movement in the U.S. by The Advocate, a national gay magazine, and serving as the first Chairperson of the President's Select Committee for Lesbian and Gay Concerns. Throughout the 1990s Anderson served as faculty advisor for RULGA/RULGABA/BIGLARU and the Bisexual-Gay-Lesbian outreach hotline. In 1991 Rutgers President Francis L. Lawrence presented Anderson with a University public service award in recognition of his work with the Gay and Lesbian community. In spite of these and other noteworthy gains, however, Anderson's petitions for equal health benefits continue to be denied. In 1997 he resigned as Associate Dean of SCILS (a post he held for 14 years) and, in 1999, Anderson resigned from all faculty governance as a "Second-Class Apartheid Professor."

1. **Certificate:** RULGA faculty advisor, 1987-8.
3. **Award:** New Jersey Lesbian and Gay Coalition Achievement Award, 1989.
4. **Award:** Rutgers Public Service Award (Class of 1962 award), 1991.
5. **Award:** Inclusive Church Award from Presbyterians for Lesbian & Gay Concerns, 1996.
7. **Placard:** Triangular placard worn at 1997 Commencement (while carrying the SCILS Gonfalon), and in other processions, such as the LGBT Appreciation Week parade.
8. **Letter:** Letter of resignation from faculty governance as 2d class apartheid professor.


10. **Photographs:** Recent pictures from More Light Presbyterians.