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## **LG MS 009 ACT UP/Portland Archives Finding Aid**

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**ACT UP/PORTLAND ARCHIVES  
LG MS 9**

**Total Boxes: 5  
Linear Feet: 3.75**

**By  
Eileen Rowland  
Revised by Lynne Chabot**

**Portland, Maine  
December 2002  
rev. February 2008**

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## **Administrative Information**

Provenance: The ACT UP/Portland Archives was donated in December 1998 by OUTRIGHT, an organization providing a safe and supportive environment with and for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender & questioning people 22 and under.

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Cite as: ACT UP/Portland Archives, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer+ Collection, Jean Byers Sampson Center for Diversity in Maine, University of Southern Maine Libraries.

Restrictions on access: Box 5

Microform/Digital Versions: none

## **Historical Note**

ACT UP (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power) first appeared in New York in 1987. Within a very short time chapters were established in communities across the United States as well as in other countries. From the beginning, the organizing literature stressed direct action in the community and a rather extraordinary level of democratic openness within the organization.

This collection of the records of the Portland chapter, covering the early years of the 1990's, reflects the above orientation: there are no minutes of meetings, no budgets, no lists of officers etc. There is however abundant evidence of reaching out to the community through the sponsorship of local youth organizations\*, cooperative ventures with Public Health agencies, and vigorous leafleting and media campaigns.

The materials in this collection were deposited in USM's Special Collections in 1997 by OUTRIGHT, an organization committed to creating a safe environment for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender youth.

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\*ACT UP/PORTLAND affiliates: FATE (Fight Aids Transform Education); SAFE (South Portland Against False Education or Students Against False Education); TRAP (Teen Risk Awareness Portland); KISS (Kennebec Individuals For Safer Sex or Kennebec Individuals for Safer Sexuality); SLAM (Scarborough for Latex and Maturity)

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## **Description of the Papers**

The ACT UP/Portland Archives spans the years 1991-1996 but many of the documents are undatable. As received from OUTRIGHT, the fifty-two file folders in the collection rather clearly arrange themselves into three series:

Administrative and working files  
Programs and activities  
Resource materials

### **Series 1. Administrative and Working Files**

The files in this section run the gamut from self-evident documents such as papers regarding letterhead design (which are probably the first formal declaration of the organization's existence) and a phone log, to a rather more complex bundling of materials dealing with the parent organization and one or more of its affiliates. Only a very small portion of the Correspondence file (#2) emanates from ACT UP/ Portland; the bulk of the material consists of faxed reports or notices related to Maine based activities and information circulated by regional or national networks. Probably the clearest presentation of the organization's goals and outlooks is evidenced in its Press Releases (#5) despite the fact that they number fewer than a dozen.

### **Series 2. Activities and Programs: ACT UP/Portland and affiliates**

This series deals largely with the preparation and distribution of hand-outs and display posters reflecting the organization's commitment to direct action and engagement with the community. In some instances the materials relate to specific programs; at other times the purpose is simply informative.

The files are divided into sub-groups for "Graphics and Newsletters" (2a), "School Related" (2b) and "Non-School Related" (2c).

### **Series 3. Resource Materials**

The files in this series contain a selection of brochures and reports from a variety of public and private agencies whose aims and orientations intersected with those of ACT UP. They are grouped into Maine (3a) and non-Maine (3b) materials.

### **Series 5. Restricted**

The lone file in this series consists of a phone log labeled "Confidential". It contains phone messages to the ACT UP/Portland offices as well as numerous names, phone numbers, and addresses.

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Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)
<b>Series 1. Administrative and Working Files</b>			
1	1	ACT UP/Portland letterhead	undated
1	2	Correspondence Phone Log Labeled "Confidential" RESTRICTED	early 1990's 1992-1994
1	3	Resources: National ACT UP directory and several Maine lists	undated
1	4	ACT UP/Portland New Member Information: annotated working draft of a local document and a packet of New York materials, presumably used as a model	1992-1993
1	5	Press releases	1992-1993
1	6	Handwritten notes: mixed and not very revealing notations Notes made by John Holverson et al: at first TAP book interview, Gay St., Portland      Stored in Oversize	undated 1995
1	7	Photographs: Demonstrations	undated
1	8	Photographs: ACT UP T-Shirts	undated
1	9	Clippings: ACT UP/Portland plus one article from ACT UP - New York	1992-1995
1	10	Maine related articles "Press Book" - articles from Portland Press Herald/Maine Sunday Telegram      Stored in Oversize	1991-1995 1993 Oct, Nov
1	11	Clippings: non-regional	1991-1995
<b>Series 2a. Activities and Programs : Graphics and Newsletters</b>			
1	12	Layout materials for posters/flyers: General Poster (and Prototypes): "We Need You: Your Silence is Killing Us" from PRVTC (Portland Regional Vocational Technical Center)      Stored in Oversize	1992-1995 1995 Mar 1
1	13	Layout materials for posters/flyers: Safe Sex	undated
2	14	FATE originals (includes TRAP, KISS, SAFE, and SLAM)	1994-1995
2	15	Patch Campaign: ACT UP and Queer Nation	undated
2	16	ACT UP Newsletter: LEO (Latex Everywhere Or Else)	undated
2	17	Various Flyers	1992-1995
2	18	Various Placards	undated
2	19	"Protect Our Youth Rally" flyers	undated

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2	20	"Equal Protection Lewiston" flyers	undated
<b>Series 2b. Activities and Programs : School Related</b>			
2	21	Student Surveys: drafts	1993
2	22	Portland: School Board Meetings	1994-1995
2	23	Portland: Curriculum Sub-Committee	1994-1995
2	24	Safe Schools Project: Massachusetts; Lewiston, ME	1993-1994
2	25	SLAM: Scarborough High School	1994-1995
Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)
<b>Series 2b. Activities and Programs : School Related (cont.)</b>			
2	26	Condom Crusades	undated
2	27	Traip Academy (Kittery) Controversy	1994
2	28	Mt. Desert Island High School	1993
2	29	Kennebunk High School	undated
<b>Series 2c. Activities and Programs : Non-School Related</b>			
2	30	ACT UP survey of people living with HIV	1993
2	31	Maine HIV Advisory Committee	1994
2	32	AIDS Advisory TV Commercial	1992
2	33	Chants: Anti-Linda Bean	undated
2	34	Equal Protection Maine	1994
2	35	Anti-Gay political activity materials	1992-1994
<b>Series 3a. Resource Materials : Maine Documents</b>			
2	36	Ingraham Training and Education Materials	undated
2	37	Youth Risk Behavior Survey	1993
3	38	Report on HIV/AIDS needs	1994
3	39	Citizen's Guide to the Maine Legislature	1995-1996
3	40	Breckenridge Planning Conference	1992-1993?
3	41	A Reaffirmation of Faith in Maine Schools	undated
3	42	Leading the Way on Controversial Issues	undated
3	43	Maine Department of Education: Principals Questionnaire Results	1994
<b>Series 3b. Resource Materials : Non-Maine Documents</b>			
3	44	Grant Information	1994-1995
3	45	Surgeon General's Report to the American Public on HIV Infection and AIDS	1993
3	46	Morbidity and Mortality Reports	1993
3	47	CDC Surveillance Reports	1994
3	48	VIII International Conference on AIDS	1992

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3	49	"Fight the Right" Action Kit	1993
3	50	Articles and Brochures: Safe Sex	1990-1992
3	51	Various Articles and Brochures	1984-1992
<b>Series 4. Oversize</b>			
		Notes made at first TAP book interview (Series 1)	1995
		"Press Book" (Series 1)	1993 Oct, Nov
		Poster (and Prototypes): "We Need You" (Series 2a)	1995 Mar 1
<b>Series 5. Restricted</b>			
5	52	Phone Log Labeled "Confidential"	1992-1994