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LG MS 107 Karen Bye Papers

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Recommended Citation

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Karen Bye Papers LG-MS0107

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Description is written in: English.

Rules for Archival Description

Special Collections

314 Forest Ave

PO Box 9301

Portland, ME 04104-9301

Business Number: 207-780-4269

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URL: <https://usm.maine.edu/library/specialcollections>

Table of Contents

Summary Information	3
Biographical / Historical	3
Scope and Contents	4
Arrangement	4
Administrative Information	5
Controlled Access Headings	5
Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements	6
Collection Inventory	6

Summary Information

Repository:	Special Collections
Creator:	Bye, Karen E., 1952-2013
Title:	Karen Bye Papers
ID:	LG-MS0107
Date [inclusive]:	1973-1978
Physical Description:	0.75 Linear Feet (2 Boxes)
Language of the Material:	English.
Abstract:	Karen Bye was a founding member and secretary of the Wilde-Stein Club at University of Maine Orono and lifelong activist in Maine and California. The papers include chiefly newspaper clippings, and some brochures, voting guides, and flier, capturing public perception and reception of the gay community during a time of expanding rights and conflict. Topics include the Wilde-Stein Club, Maine Gay Symposium, Maine Gay Task Force, religion, bisexuality, opposition of gay student clubs, California voting issues around gay teachers, and gay bars in Maine and California.

Preferred Citation

LG-MS0107, Karen Bye Papers, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer + Collection, Jean Byers Sampson Center for Diversity in Maine, Special Collections, University of Southern Maine Library.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical / Historical

Karen Bye was born and raised in Stonington, Maine on Deer Isle in 1952. Karen enrolled at the University of Maine's Orono campus, joining the class of 1975. Karen was a member of the queer community and went on to join Gay Support and Action (GSA), a community organization located in Bangor, Maine. Karen advocated for GSA to start a group at the

university, but was initially denied. Nevertheless Karen persisted and continued to advocate, and eventually formed a group of students that would soon become the Wilde-Stein Club. Karen held the role of secretary, and had been known to say that the secretary is the most powerful person in the room. The Wilde-Stein Club became well known, and was often the subject of public attention and news publications. They eventually held the first Maine Gay Symposium at the Orono. Karen was also involved in the Maine Gay Task Force, and wrote for the monthly newsletter which began publishing in 1974. Karen's activism continued when she moved to Fresno, California, her home for the next forty years. Karen kept clippings of news regarding gay activism and community response both in Maine and California, and helped with the Wilde-Stein Democratic Club's formation in California. Karen passed away in 2013 in Portland, Maine.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Scope and Contents

The papers include chiefly newspaper clippings, and some brochures, voting guides, and flier, from 1973 to 1978. The collection chronologically captures both public perception and reception of the gay community during a time of expanding rights and conflict. The collection contains clippings from news articles about the formation of the Wilde-Stein Club in Maine, as well as reactions to the first ever Maine Gay Symposium. Letters to the editor show both support and dissent for the club and the symposium. The collection also holds clippings relevant to the Maine Gay Task Force, issues of religion, bisexuality, and celebrity involvement in opposition of gay student clubs. California voting issues around gay teachers, and gay advocates are detailed through voting guides, brochures, and articles. There are also several pamphlets on California and Maine gay bars, as well as opinion pieces on the impacts of gay bars on the community.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Arrangement

Chronological

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

Steven G. Bull, gift, 2011

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

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[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Controlled Access Headings

- LGBTQ + activists
- LGBTQ + students' clubs
- Homosexuality -- Press coverage
- Bisexuality -- Press coverage
- Gay rights -- Press coverage
- Gay bars -- Maine
- Gay bars -- California
- Gay teachers -- California
- Wilde-Stein Club (Orono, Me.)
- Maine Gay Symposium -- Press coverage

- Maine Gay Task Force

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements

Access to the physical collection may be restricted due to condition. Digital surrogates are available.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances	
Clippings on Wilde-Steins, Abenaki Catalog, 1/8/1973-1/1/1974	box 1	folder 1
Clippings, 3/1/1973-8/1/1975	box 1	folder 2
Clippings on Wilde-Steins Conference, 1/25/1974-2/7/1974	box 1	folder 3
Clippings on Wilde-Steins, Public Reactions, 2/7/1974-2/15/1974	box 1	folder 4
Clippings on Wilde-Steins, UMO, 2/15/1974-2/26/1974	box 1	folder 5
Clippings, 2/27/1974-3/7/1974	box 1	folder 6
Clippings on UMO, 3/7/1974-3/9/1974	box 1	folder 7
Clippings, Conference Schedule (?), 3/9/1974-3/12/1974	box 1	folder 8
Clippings, 3/12/1974-3/14/1974	box 1	folder 9
Clippings, 3/14/1974-3/18/1974	box 1	folder 10
Clippings, 3/18/1974-3/2/1974	box 1	folder 11
Clippings on Religion, Public Perceptions, 3/21/1974-3/22/1974	box 1	folder 12
Clippings, 3/22/1974-3/25/1974	box 1	folder 13
Clippings on UMO, 4/4/1974-4/8/1974	box 1	folder 14
Clippings, 4/2/1974-4/23/1974	box 1	folder 15
Clippings on Wilde-Stein Conference, 4/26/1974-5/4/1974	box 1	folder 16
Clippings on Wilde-Steins, Bisexuality, and UMO, 5/7/1974-5/17/1974	box 1	folder 17
Clippings on Amnesty, Opprobrium, 5/18/1974-5/29/1974	box 1	folder 18

Clippings, Flier from Wilde-Stein club, 5/3/1974-11/3/1974	box 1	folder 19
Clippings on National Gay Task Force, Wilde-Stein Conference, 11/6/1974-4/8/1975	box 1	folder 20
Clippings on Wilde-Steins Conference, 12/2/1974-1/25/1975	box 1	folder 21
Clippings on Letters to the Editor, 4/8/1975-1/1/1976	box 1	folder 22
Clippings, Lesbian Questionnaire Survey, 1/15/1976-2/15/1977	box 1	folder 23
Clippings, 3/6/1977-3/6/1977	box 1	folder 24
Clippings, Flier from Gay People's Alliance, Counseling Center Maine, Brochure, 4/2/1977-11/1/1977	box 1	folder 25
Clippings on Anita Bryant, Flier form the Mainely Gays, 1/13/1978-3/25/1978	box 2	folder 26
Clippings, Flier from the Mainely Gays, 3/28/1978-5/21/1978	box 2	folder 27
Clippings on Religion, Flier from No on 6 Committee, 5/22/1978-9/24/1978	box 2	folder 28
Clippings, Fliers for Wilde-Stein Democratic Club, Pamphlet, 9/25/1978-1/26/1978	box 2	folder 29
Clippings, CA Voting Guide, 1/3/1978-12/8/1978	box 2	folder 30
Clippings on Prop. 6, 1/26/1978-11/6/1978	box 2	folder 31
Voter Guide, and Clippings on Prop. 6, 11/1/1978-11/7/1978	box 2	folder 32