

Campus Unrest Collection; Collection ua950.007

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English

M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives

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Summary Information

Repository:	M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives
Creator:	University at Albany, SUNY
Title:	Campus Unrest Collection
ID:	ua950.007
Date [inclusive]:	1967-1972
Physical Description:	1.53 cubic ft.
Physical Location:	The materials are located onsite in the department.
Language of the Material:	English
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Campus Unrest Collection documents volatile events during the late 1960s and the early 1970s that occurred not only at the State University Of New York at Albany, but at other Universities as well.

Preferred Citation

Preferred citation for this material is as follows:

Identification of specific item, series, Box, Folder, Campus Unrest Collection, 1967-1972. M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University at Albany, State University of New York (hereafter referred to as the Campus Unrest Collection).

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Biographical Sketch

The Campus Unrest Collection focuses on volatile events involving students that occurred at the State University of New York at Albany (now the University at Albany), as well as other campuses around the country. Inspired by national and local influences, these events occurred in the late 1960s and early 1970s and involved student-faculty relations, race relations, the Vietnam War, and the shootings at Kent State University. All served to raise tension among students, faculty and administration, most noticeably during the 1969-1970 academic year.

At colleges and universities around the country, this period witnessed the end of the institution serving "in loco parentis" or in place of parents. Universities, including the State University of New York at Albany, allowed for greater freedom of the student body by removing curfews and dress codes. Students transitioned away from older campus traditions and established new ones. Many students (and faculty) protested the escalation of U.S. troops serving in Vietnam.

While these national trends were in evidence at the State University of New York at Albany, other institution-specific developments also affected campus life. The school became a State University of New York (SUNY) University Center in 1962, opened its expanded Uptown Campus for classes in the Fall of 1966 and the size of the student body grew exponentially and became more diverse. As a result, administrators and faculty no longer shared personal connections with as many students, severely affecting two-way communication. The University also responded to the heterogeneity of the student population. Then President Evan R. Collins created the Afro-American Studies department in January 1969 in direct response to demands by an increasing African-American student population, led by the Black Student Alliance, for entry level courses in Afro-American studies. The new department offered its first courses in Fall 1969. The following year, the Department of Judaic Studies opened.

On October 15, 1969, the State University of New York at Albany participated in events for a national Vietnam Moratorium day. The University held a twenty-four hour vigil during which the names of those killed in the Vietnam War were read on the academic podium. Speeches and workshops also were held.

During March 1970, the State University of New York at Albany did not renew the two-year contract of popular assistant professor Gerard Wagner of the Department of Rhetoric and Public Address. As part of reaction to this news, students protested, some broke windows and others occupied the halls outside of Acting President Allan A. Kuusito's office.

In the early spring of 1970, African-American faculty and students submitted several proposals addressing racism on campus to the administration. Proposals included seeking better representation of black students among Resident Assistants, hiring of black food service workers, and issuance of guidelines to existing staff and faculty about treating all students equally. These groups also documented reports of racial incidents on campus. This communication was one part of an ongoing discussion of race relations on the campus. In April 1970 African-American students became angered at the policy of checking student identification in order to eat in the cafeteria resulting in two incidents in the Colonial Quad dining room. According to students, this policy of strict identification checking was not the norm in Colonial Quad and some believed that African-American students were unfairly singled out. In the more volatile, second incident, approximately 75 students allegedly assaulted a cafeteria supervisor, broke windows, threw food and upturned tables.

Students overall also demanded greater participation in University decision making, especially following the anger over the contract renewal debate about Gerard Wagner. In response, the University suspended classes and held two Dialogue Days in March of 1970 where students attended workshops such as "Legal Procedures - Amnesty for Students," "Racism on Campus," and "50-50 Faculty-Student Control of the University." Departments held meetings with students and the Library invited students to come by at any time to meet, convene or suggest ideas. As part of the dialogue with faculty and administration, students aired grievances about many aspects of University life from the University Senate (more student representation necessary) to the Library (request for one central circulation desk) to advising services (inadequate).

Other sources of tension on campus during 1969-1970 prompted additional student activism. These included a women's group's ultimately unsuccessful attempt to establish an on-campus child care facility, conflict with the academic calendar and religious holidays, drug arrests by police and a People's Park demonstration which delayed construction of two courtyards on the academic podium.

The events of this volatile school year culminated in May 1970 when the Nixon Administration announced U.S. troop movement into Cambodia, touching off unrest at campuses across the country, helping lead to the shootings at Kent State on May 4. State University of New York at Albany students protested and demonstrated their anger by vandalizing the Library on the night of May 4. On May 6, 1500-2000 students gathered en masse and marched to downtown Albany where the group burned an effigy of President Richard Nixon and listened to speeches. Other disruptions of regular campus activities in the days following Kent State included bomb scares, the throwing of fire bombs and Molotov cocktails, destruction of campus property in addition to the Library, fires in residence halls and repeated false fire alarms. The University also canceled several events including Alumni Day, Parents Weekend and a University Community Symphony Orchestra. Many students did not attend classes at the end of the semester. Some elected to strike because of the myriad of immediate events, the many fire alarms disrupted classes and some students cited fear for their personal safety as a reason for leaving campus before the semester officially ended. As a result, President Kuusito issued special guidelines and alternatives to faculty on May 12, 1970 regarding the completion of course work during a crisis.

Compared to other colleges and universities in the SUNY system, the State University of New York at Albany experienced less vandalism and damage on campus than other schools during 1969-1970. According to a report prepared by John J. Mather, assistant to SUNY Chancellor Samuel B. Gould, and issued in July 1970, the total amount of damages at 26 SUNY schools for 1969-1970 was \$518,000. Albany's share was only \$85,000 compared to \$233,000 at SUNY Buffalo. The bulk of damage occurred on and immediately after May 4, 1970.

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Scope and Contents

This is an artificial collection, including correspondence, newspaper clippings, and fliers and printed materials, predominantly from 1969-1970, collected to document unrest on the State University of New York at Albany campus and at other institutions across the country. The majority of the material from the University at Albany details events from the Spring Semester 1970. Alice Hastings, the University Librarian, Fredericks Volkwein, Assistant Dean of Graduate Studies, and Dr. Frederick D. Weinstein of the School of Library Science gathered the collection as background information for a 1971 report on campus unrest at the request of the Acting Vice President for Academic Affairs. The report is found in Series 1.

Of interest to researchers may be shards of glass resulting from the vandalism and unrest on the University at Albany campus following the Kent State shootings on May 4, 1970.

For researchers interested in more materials on campus unrest, please see the following related collections: John J. Mather Papers (APAP-107) Series 2, Subseries 1 and the Vietnam War Collection (UA-950.006). Please see the Department of Africana Studies Records for materials related to the introduction of Afro-American Studies at the university.

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Arrangement of the Collection

The collection is organized into the following series:

Series 1 - Unrest at the University at Albany, 1968-1972, Undated

Series 2 - Unrest at Universities Across the Country, 1967-1971

All series are arranged alphabetically by subject.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives

Revision Description

FBI Investigation and Correspondence intergrated by Erik Stolarski Encoded in EAD by Angela Perez 2016 October 2013

Processing Information

Processed in 2013 by Angela Perez.

Acquisition Information

The collection was gathered as background information for a 1971 report on campus unrest at the request of the Acting Vice President for Academic Affairs by the University Librarian, Alice Hastings, Fredericks Volkwein, Assistant Dean of Graduate Studies, and Dr. Frederick D. Weinstein of the School of Library Science.

Access

Access to this record group is unrestricted.

Copyright

The researcher assumes full responsibility for conforming with the laws of copyright. Whenever possible, the M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives will provide information about copyright owners and other restrictions, but the legal determination ultimately rests with the researcher. Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be discussed with the Head of Special Collections and Archives.

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Related Materials

Related Materials

Related collections in the M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives can be found in the subject guide for Criminal Justice and Prisons.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Military and Armed Conflict
- Campus violence--New York (State)--Albany.
- Student movements--New York (State)--Albany
- College students--Political activity--New York (State)--Albany.
- Albany (N.Y.)
- Clippings
- Correspondence
- Files by subject
- Fliers (printed matter)
- UAlbany Reference Collections
- State University of New York at Albany
- Columbia University
- Syracuse University
- State University of New York at Buffalo

- University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- University of Wisconsin-Madison

Collection Inventory

Unrest at the University at Albany, 1968-1972

Date [inclusive]: 1968-1972

Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically.

Scope and Contents

This series contains reports, newspapers and clippings, correspondence, flyers, meeting minutes and notes documenting tension and unrest at the State University of New York at Albany. The bulk of material is from the 1969-1970 academic year and was created by University students, faculty, staff and administrators.

Title/Description	Instances
Academic Credit for Cancelled Classes <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1970 May-1970 June	Box 1 (1- Unrest at the University at Albany) Folder 1
Administrative Evaluation of Crisis <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1970 June	Box 1 (1- Unrest at the University at Albany) Folder 2
Black Panthers <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : ca. 1970	Box 1 (1- Unrest at the University at Albany) Folder 3
Campus Disorder Study by Professor Brown <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1969-1970	Box 1 (1- Unrest at the University at Albany) Folder 4
Campus Unrest Report by J. Fredericks Volkwein <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1970 December 10 <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1971 January 05	Box 1 (1- Unrest at the University at Albany) Folder 5
Communications/Community Relations <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1970 March-1970 April	Box 1 (1- Unrest at the University at Albany) Folder 6
Communications/Community Relations <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1970 May-1970 June	Box 1 (1- Unrest at the Folder 7

<u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1971	University at Albany)	
<u>Date [inclusive]:</u> Undated		
Curriculum and Grading <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1970 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> Undated	Box 1 (1-Unrest at the University at Albany)	Folder 8
Day Care Center-Women's Liberation Front <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1970	Box 1 (1-Unrest at the University at Albany)	Folder 9
Dialogue Days-Departmental Meetings <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1970 March 19-1970 March 20	Box 1 (1-Unrest at the University at Albany)	Folder 10
Dialogue Days-Memorandum <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1970 March 19-1970 March 20	Box 1 (1-Unrest at the University at Albany)	Folder 11
Dialogue Days-Plenary Session <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1970 May 21	Box 1 (1-Unrest at the University at Albany)	Folder 12
Dialogue Days-Recommendations <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1970	Box 1 (1-Unrest at the University at Albany)	Folder 13
Dialogue Days-Suggestions <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1970	Box 1 (1-Unrest at the University at Albany)	Folder 14
Dialogue Days-Workshops <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1970 March 19-1970 March 20	Box 1 (1-Unrest at the University at Albany)	Folder 15
Faculty Activities <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1968-1970	Box 1 (1-Unrest at the University at Albany)	Folder 16
Faculty Meetings and Resolutions <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1970	Box 1 (1-Unrest at the University at Albany)	Folder 17-18
Faculty Writings and Campus Unrest <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1969-1970	Box 1 (1-Unrest at the University at Albany)	Folder 19
FBI Airmail Correspondence		

<u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1967-1976	Box 2 (1- Unrest at the University at Albany)	Folder 20
FBI Investigation and Correspondence <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1939-1941	Box 1 (1- Unrest at the University at Albany)	Folder 21
FBI Investigation and Correspondence <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1942-1947	Box 1 (1- Unrest at the University at Albany)	Folder 22
FBI Investigation and Correspondence <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1948-1957	Box 1 (1- Unrest at the University at Albany)	Folder 23
FBI Investigation and Correspondence <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1964-1968	Box 1 (1- Unrest at the University at Albany)	Folder 24
FBI Investigation and Correspondence <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1969-1979	Box 1 (1- Unrest at the University at Albany)	Folder 25
Federal Government Correspondence and Reports <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1970 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> Undated	Box 1 (1- Unrest at the University at Albany)	Folder 26
Legislative Correspondence and Reports <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1970	Box 1 (1- Unrest at the University at Albany)	Folder 27
Liberation Classes (Strike School) <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1970	Box 1 (1- Unrest at the University at Albany)	Folder 28
Library Vandalism <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1970	Box 1 (1- Unrest at the University at Albany)	Folder 29
Logs of Campus Unrest (Schedules) <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1970 Spring	Box 1 (1- Unrest at the University at Albany)	Folder 30
Newspapers - <i>Albany Student Press</i> <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1970 March-1970 October	Oversized 1	Folder 31
Newspaper Clippings		

<u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1969-1971	Box 1 (1- Unrest at the University at Albany)	Folder 32
Newspapers - Panther 21/New York 21 Trial News <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1970 October-1971 February	Box 1 (1- Unrest at the University at Albany)	Folder 33
Newspapers - Protests/Small Press Newspapers <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1969-1970 <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : Undated	Oversized 1	Folder 34
Newspapers - <i>Tower Tribune</i> <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1970 April-1970 July	Oversized 1	Folder 35
Peoples Park (Protest of Construction on Campus) <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1970	Box 1 (1- Unrest at the University at Albany)	Folder 36
Presidential and Administrative Memos to the Campus Community <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1970 March-1970 June	Box 1 (1- Unrest at the University at Albany)	Folder 37
Racial Incidents <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1969-1970	Box 1 (1- Unrest at the University at Albany)	Folder 38
Referendum <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1969-1970	Box 1 (1- Unrest at the University at Albany)	Folder 39
Rules for the Maintenance of Public Order (SUNY Regulations) <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1969-1970	Box 1 (1- Unrest at the University at Albany)	Folder 40
Security <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1969-1970	Box 1 (1- Unrest at the University at Albany)	Folder 41
State Education Department Memorandum and Statements <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1970	Box 1 (1- Unrest at the University at Albany)	Folder 42
Student and Protest Writings <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1969-1972 <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : Undated	Box 1 (1- Unrest at the University at Albany)	Folder 43
Student Disciplinary Proceedings		

<u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1968-1970	Box 1 (1- Unrest at the University at Albany)	Folder 44
Student Flyers and Notices <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1969-1971	Box 1 (1- Unrest at the University at Albany)	Folder 45
Student Flyers and Notices <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> Undated	Box 1 (1- Unrest at the University at Albany)	Folder 46
Student Housing <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1970	Box 1 (1- Unrest at the University at Albany)	Folder 47
Student Petitions <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1969-1970 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> Undated	Box 1 (1- Unrest at the University at Albany)	Folder 48
Temporary State Commission to Study Causes of Campus Unrest <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1969-1970	Box 1 (1- Unrest at the University at Albany)	Folder 49
Tenure Disputes <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1969-1970 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> Undated	Box 1 (1- Unrest at the University at Albany)	Folder 50
Vietnam Moratorium Day <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1969 October 15	Box 1 (1- Unrest at the University at Albany)	Folder 51
Vietnam War - Writings and Pamphlets <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> Undated	Box 1 (1- Unrest at the University at Albany)	Folder 52

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Unrest at Universities Across the Country, 1967-1971

Date [inclusive]: 1967-1971

Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically.

Scope and Contents

In the summer of 1970, Alice Hasting sent inquiries to other universities asking for background materials documenting the "student unrest movement" on their respective campuses. This series contains the results she received including general information about unrest at colleges and universities across the United States. There also are folders devoted to the University at Buffalo, Columbia University, Yale University, the University of Chicago, the University of Michigan and the University of Wisconsin. The series contains correspondence, reports, newspapers and clippings.

Title/Description	Instances	
Columbia University <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1968	Box 2 (2- Unrest at Universities Across the Country)	Folder 1
Correspondence Requesting Materials <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1970	Box 2 (2- Unrest at Universities Across the Country)	Folder 2
<i>Illinois Alumni News</i> <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1970	Oversized 1	Folder 4
National Association of State University and Land Grant Colleges (NASULGC) <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1969-1970	Box 2 (2- Unrest at Universities Across the Country)	Folder 3
Pamphlet: Control of Student Disorders by Raymond Momboisse <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1968	Box 2 (2- Unrest at Universities Across the Country)	Folder 4
Publications <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1968	Box 2 (2- Unrest at Universities Across the Country)	Folder 5
Stanford University <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1970	Box 2 (2- Unrest at Universities Across the Country)	Folder 6
<i>State University of New York News</i> <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1970	Oversized 1	Folder 5
Syracuse University <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1970	Box 2 (2- Unrest at Universities	Folder 7

	Across the Country)	
University at Buffalo <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1970	Box 2 (2- Unrest at Universities Across the Country)	Folder 8-9
University of Chicago <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1970	Box 3 (2- Unrest at Universities Across the Country)	Folder 1
University of Illinois <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1969-1970	Box 3 (2- Unrest at Universities Across the Country)	Folder 2
University of Michigan <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1970	Box 3 (2- Unrest at Universities Across the Country)	Folder 3
University of Wisconsin at Madison <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1970-1971	Box 3 (2- Unrest at Universities Across the Country)	Folder 4
Writings (General) <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1967-1970	Box 3 (2- Unrest at Universities Across the Country)	Folder 5
Yale University <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1970	Box 3 (2- Unrest at Universities Across the Country)	Folder 6

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