San Jose State University
SJSU ScholarWorks

Special Collections and Archives | University Library

1-1-2010

Guide to the San José State University Civil Rights and Campus Protest Collection

Follow this and additional works at: http://scholarworks.sjsu.edu/speccoll_archives

Recommended Citation
Civil Rights and Campus Protest Collection, MSS-2010-07-07, San José State University Library Special Collections & Archives.

This Finding Aid is brought to you for free and open access by the University Library at SJSU ScholarWorks. It has been accepted for inclusion in Special Collections and Archives by an authorized administrator of SJSU ScholarWorks. For more information, please contact scholarworks@sjsu.edu.

http://oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/kt8199s37q
No online items

Guide to the San José State University Civil Rights and Campus Protest Collection

SJSU Library Special Collections & Archives
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library
San José State University
One Washington Square
San José, CA 95192-0028
Phone: (408) 808-2062
Fax: (408) 808-2063
Email: special.collections@sjsu.edu
URL: http://www.sjlibrary.org/research/special/special_coll/
© 2010
Trustees of the California State University. All rights reserved.

Guide to the San José State University Civil Rights and Campus Protest Collection

Collection number: MSS-2010-07-07

SJSU Special Collections & Archives
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library
San José State University
One Washington Square
San José, CA 95192-0028
Phone: (408) 808-2062
Fax: (408) 808-2063
Email: special.collections@sjsu.edu
URL: http://www.sjlibrary.org/research/special/special_coll/

Finding aid funded by the generous support of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC).

Processed by:
R. Schuyler Selden
Date Completed:
2010
Encoded by:
R. Schuyler Selden

© 2010 Trustees of the California State University. All rights reserved.

Descriptive Summary

Title: San José State University Civil Rights and Campus Protest Collection

Dates: 1967-1990

Bulk Dates: 1968-1970

Collection number: MSS-2010-07-07

Creator: San José State University

Collection Size: 3 boxes,3.42 linear feet

Repository: San José State University. Library.

San José, California 95192-0028

Abstract: The San José University Civil Rights and Campus Protest Collection, 1967-1990 (bulk 1968-1970), documents the civil unrest that occurred during the civil rights and anti-Vietnam movements at San José State during the 1960s and the 1970s. Between 1968-1972, college campuses became the center point for a variety of protests and demonstrations, and as the Vietnam War escalated, students across the U.S. protested the presence of Dow Chemical and ROTC recruiters on college campuses. San José State students were very active in the anti-war protests of the era. This collection documents local student response to Dow Chemical and ROTC recruitment, the unequal treatment of African-American and Hispanics students, and athletes. The most notable protest took place during the 1968 Olympic Games when track stars Tommie Smith and John Carlos accepted their medals with the black power salute. This event sparked a series of protests on campus led by faculty member Harry Edwards. This collection is arranged into two series: Series I. The Civil Rights and Campus Protest, 1967-1972 (bulk 1968-1970) and Series II. Campus Protest and Student Publications 1967-1990 (bulk 1968-1970).

Physical location: For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library's online catalog.

Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English

Access

The collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

Copyright has been assigned to the San José State University Library Special Collections & Archives. All requests for permission to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted in writing to the Director of Special Collections. Permission for publication is given on behalf of the Special Collections & Archives as the owner of the physical items and is not intended to include or imply permission of the copyright holder, which must also be obtained by the reader. Copyright restrictions also apply to digital reproductions of the original materials. Use of digital files is restricted to research and educational purposes.

Preferred Citation

Civil Rights and Campus Protest Collection, MSS-2010-07-07, San José State University Library Special Collections & Archives.

Processing Information

Collection processed and finding aid EAD encoded by R. Schuyler Selden.

Organazational History

In 1857 the San Francisco Board of Education established Minns' Evening Normal School for current and prospective teachers in the city. Named after its principal, George W. Minns, the institution was formally established as the first California State Normal School by the State Legislature in 1862. A decade later, the Legislature voted to move the Normal School to San José, and the school relocated to its new home on Washington Square prior to the fall term of 1872. After a fire destroyed the Normal School building in 1880, the Legislature authorized $200,000 to construct a new building on the same site. Completed in 1881, the building was commonly referred to as the Second State Normal School. After several names and curriculum changes, Minns' Normal School is now San José State University, offering more than 134 bachelor's and master's degrees with 110 concentrations, and is recognized as one of the top public universities granting such degrees in the West.

The 1960s political environment ushered in a new era social reform and high hopes for social progress. The election of John F. Kennedy offered the promise of a "New Frontier," which inspired a variety of social movements that promoted civil rights, women's liberation, identity politics, and anti-war. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 reaffirmed the struggles of the civil rights movement. Despite these gains a growing disillusionment followed with assassinations of political leaders that included Martin Luther King Jr., Robert Kennedy, and Malcolm X, the escalation of the Vietnam War, violent police repression, and political corruption.

College campuses became the center point for a variety of militant protests and demonstrations opposing the Vietnam War, the military draft, and recruitment by Dow Chemical and the ROTC. It has been estimated that two million men and women engaged in campus protests. By the 1970s student protest escalated with the killings at Kent State and Jackson State followed by mass protests at over 760 college campuses including a protest at San José University.

Events at state colleges mirrored other college campuses. Demonstrations occurred relating to the 1967 Dow Chemical campus recruitment, ROTC recruitment on campus, the 1968-1969 faculty strike regarding labor organization, and response to use of excessive force against demonstrators by local police. Other social protests at SJSU focused on racial discrimination on campus, housing discrimination, and fair treatment of African American and Hispanic students. San Jose State became internationally known as result of the 1968 Olympic Games, where track stars Tommy Smith and John Carlos raised their fists in solidarity with black power militants and the Black Panther Party. Prior to this event, the black student population had experienced extreme discrimination on campus and in housing. Faculty member Harry Edwards and the United Black Students for Action organized protests against institutional racism. President Clark worked to eliminate racial discrimination on campus by creating an ombudsman to address all discrimination concerns. He was one of the few college presidents at the time willing to work with the student population and to enforce new policies that prohibited racial discrimination in athletics, student clubs and Greek societies, and in housing.

Scope and Content

The San José University Civil Rights and Campus Protest Collection, 1967-1990 (bulk 1968-1970), documents the civil unrest that occurred during the civil rights and anti-Vietnam movements at San Jose State during the 1960s and the 1970s. Between 1968-1972, college campuses became the center point for a variety of protests and demonstrations, and as the Vietnam War escalated, students across the U.S. protested the presence of Dow Chemical and ROTC recruiters on college campuses. San Jose State students were very active in the anti-war protests of the era. This collection documents local student response to Dow Chemical and ROTC recruitment, the unequal treatment of African-American and Hispanics students, and athletes. The most notable protest took place during the 1968 Olympic Games when track stars Tommie Smith and John Carlos accepted their medals with the black power salute. This event sparked a series of protests on campus led by faculty member Harry Edwards. This collection is arranged into two series: Series I. The Civil Rights and Campus Protest, 1967-1972 (bulk 1968-1970) and Series II. Campus Protest and Student Publications 1967-1990 (bulk 1968-1970).

Bibliography

Allen, Roger. *Harry Edwards: We Get What's Ours or We Burn it Down.* Spartan Live (Winter 1968): pp. 7-9/

Gilbert, Benjamin F., and Burdick, Charles. *Washington Square, 1857-1979: The History of San José State University.* San José, California: San José State University, 1980.

Jones, J., Wood, P.H., et al. *Created Equal: A Social and Political History of the United States, Volume II (from 1865) (2nd Edition).* San Francisco, California: Pearson Education Inc., 2009.

San José State University. About SJSU. http://www.sjsu.edu/about_sjsu/

Walsh, James P. San José *State University: An Interpretive History, 1950-2000.* San José, California: San José State University, 2003.

http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/twodays/peopleevents/e_antiwar.html. Retreived August 17, 2010.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged chronologically by topic

Indexing Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

San José State University -- History

California State University, San José -- History

Civil Rights -- California -- San Francisco Bay Area

Olympic Games (19th : 1968 : Mexico City, Mexico)

Social movements -- United States -- History -- 20th century

Series I **The Civil Rights and Campus Protest 1967-1972 (bulk 1968-1970)**

Series Scope and Content Summary

This series documents the campus protests at San José State during the 1960s and 1970s. The collection includes local media's coverage of campus unrest, including the following: student demonstrations against Dow Chemical recruitment, the ROTC campus presence and recruitment, protest against housing discrimination, athletic discrimination, protest at the 1968 Olympic Games, presence of Black Panther members on campus and the role of faculty member Harry Edwards. Formats include newspaper clippings, magazines and flyers.

Arrangement

This series is arranged chronologically by topic.

Box 1 **Media coverage of SJSU, campus protests, coverage of the 1968 Olympic Scandal and news releases for campus speakers 1967-1972**

Series II **Campus Protest and Student Publications 1967-1990 (bulk 1968-1970)**

Series Scope and Content Summary

The material in this series document local student response to the national and international events in the late 1960s early 1970s such as the change in U.S. Selective Service draft policy, police violence, Black pride, the Vietnam War, invasion of Cambodia and America's involvement in violence in the Middle East. Student action included protest marches, fund raising events, political rallies, calls for action for specific causes, informational pamphlets covering international events, local police harassment and information on civil rights. Items include protest information flyers, case studies of several South Asian countries, instructions for activism, teacher's strike information. Formats represented in this series include newspaper clippings, posters, flyers, photographs, negatives and realia.

Arrangement

This series is arranged chronologically by topic.

Box 2 **Student publications, flyers and Independent newspapers 1967-1990**

Box 3 **Event posters, event buttons, Photographic negatives of protests 1970- 1989**