

LGBT-074 Anthony Silvestre Collection

LGBT Center of Central PA History Project
Archives and Special Collections
Dickinson College, Carlisle, PA
archives@dickinson.edu 717-245-1399

COLLECTION REGISTER

Name:	Silvestre, Anthony	LGBT-074
Material:	Papers (1973-circa 1985)	
Volume:	0.25 linear feet (1 document box, 1 oversized folder)	
Donation:	Donated by Anthony Silvestre, 2016	
Usage:	These materials have been donated without restrictions on usage.	
Processor:	Sarah Wakefield, December 2020	
Support:	Funding to process this collection was provided by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.	

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Anthony Silvestre was born in 1946 in the Bronx in New York. He grew up in a working-class, Italian neighborhood and began identifying as gay in the sixth grade. After high school, he entered a Catholic religious group in the Boston area called the Holy Cross Brothers. He left after three years due to his disillusionment with the church, not his sexual orientation. He finished his final year of college at King's College in Wilkes-Barre, PA, and then attended Pennsylvania State University (Penn State) as a graduate student.

Silvestre was introduced to gay rights while at Penn State, where he remained as a student for five or six years. While there, he became active in an organization called the Homophiles of Penn State (HOPS). He became president of HOPS and subsequently met many of Pennsylvania's leading activists. He was appointed Chair of the Pennsylvania Council for Sexual Minorities and became a leader in the Pennsylvania Rural Gay Caucus, which provided a forum for collaboration among numerous groups outside of the cities of Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. The Caucus played an important role in sponsoring regular Gay Lobby/Education Days in Harrisburg, PA and annual Pride conferences hosted at various sites.

Silvestre is married and currently lives in the Pittsburgh area. He works at the University of Pittsburgh's Mens' Study Program on non-discrimination policy and education for HIV individuals in nursing homes and home health care.

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

This collection is organized into five categories: Activism, Correspondence, Newspaper Clippings, Photographs, and Miscellaneous.

The Activism category includes documents related to Silvestre's participation in groups such as the PA Rural Gay Caucus and the Gay Lobby Day Committee. The Correspondence series includes letters related to Silvestre's involvement in the PA Governor's Council for Sexual Minorities and the PA Rural Gay Caucus. Two of his primary correspondents were Albert W. Johnson, a Representative in the PA House, and Barry Lace, another member of the PA Rural Gay Caucus. The Newspaper Clippings series focuses on legislative issues related to sexual identity, while the Photographs category contains a photo of Silvestre at the 1975 Pennsylvania Gay Pride Conference and two group photos of members of the PA Governor's Council for Sexual Minorities. The Miscellaneous category is comprised of photocopied journal articles.

COLLECTION INVENTORY

Series 1 Activism

- 1.01 Letter Urging Repeal of Legal Code 3124 – after Jun. 6, 1973
- 1.02 Gay Political Union Champagne Reception program – Dec. 2, 1975 [?]
- 1.03 Gay Lobby Day Committee Update – Apr. 11, 1976
“Gays Lobby for Equal Rights,” *The Daily Item* [Sunbury, PA] – Mar. 24, 1976
Letter from the Gay Lobby Day Committee – Mar. 15, 1976
- 1.04 Legislative Committee of the PA Rural Gay Caucus Letter to Members – Jun. 8, 1976
- 1.05 Libertarians for Gay Rights newsletters – May 1976 & Aug. 1976
- 1.06 “Gay Rights: A Libertarian Approach” booklet – 1976
- 1.07 “Demonstrate Against Senate Bill 83” flyer – Feb. 26, 1977
- 1.08 “Here's How” newsletter – Jul. 1977
- 1.09 “What is a Sexual Minority Anyway?” PA Department of Education booklet – 1977
- 1.10 “Consultation on Homosexuality, Society, and the Church,” registration information –
Apr. 26, 1978
- 1.11 Rescheduled Pride '78 brochure schedule, registration, and map – 1978
- 1.12 Senate Bill No. 6 – Jan. 16, 1979
- 1.13 The Pennsylvania Lesbian/Gay Support Network's Legislative Guide – 1981-1982
- 1.14 *ZAP!* newsletter – undated
- 1.15 Lace, Barry to PA Rural Gay Caucus Legislative Committee – undated

Series 2 Correspondence

- 2.01 Johnson, Albert W. to Anthony Silvestre – Sep. 30, 1974
- 2.02 Johnson, Albert W. to Anthony Silvestre – Oct. 15, 1974

LGBT-074 Anthony Silvestre (cont.)

Series 2 Correspondance (cont.)

- 2.03 Schweiker, Richard S. (Senator) to Anthony Silvestre – Oct. 23, 1974
- 2.04 Johnson, Albert W. to Anthony Silvestre – Apr. 11, 1975
- 2.05 Johnson, Albert W. from Anthony Silvestre – after Oct. 15, 1975
- 2.06 Vernon, John R. to Anthony Silvestre – May 20, 1976
- 2.07 Lace, Barry W. to Ruth Steck and Ray Stuckles – Jun. 8, 1976
- 2.08 Schweiker, Richard S. (Senator) to Joshua Rubinstein – Aug. 10, 1976
- 2.09 Lace, Barry W. to Anthony Silvestre – Aug. 24, 1976
- 2.10 Cooper, Janet to Representative Norman Berson – Sep. 16, 1976
- 2.11 Lace, Barry W. to Representative Norman Berson – Sep. 17, 1976
- 2.12 Berson, Norman (Representative) from Anthony Silvestre (copy) – Sep. 21, 1976
- 2.13 Lace, Barry W. to Ruth Steck and Ray Stuckles – Sep. 28, 1976
- 2.14 Meechan, Mary to Anthony Silvestre – Oct. 7, 1976
- 2.15 Dreibelbis, Galen E. to Anthony Silvestre – Oct. 24, 1976
- 2.16 Edean, Steve to Anthony Silvestre – circa 1976
- 2.17 Irving, Janice to Leo Latchik – circa 1977
- 2.18 Harper, Randy letter to “Dear Sir” – Aug. 12, 1980

Series 3 Newspaper Clippings

- 3.01 “Backward Decision on Privacy,” *Philadelphia Inquirer* – Mar. 31, 1976
- 3.02 “Ban on Homosexual acts is upheld,” *Philadelphia Inquirer* – Mar. 30, 1976
- 3.02 Note and Photocopied News Articles about support for “Gay Pride Week” Proclamation – Jun. 22, 1976
- 3.03 “Nolan’s Contempt for Press Evident,” *Pennsylvania Mirror* (State College, PA) – Mar. 17, 1977
- 3.04 “Noble a non-show speaker at Pa. Gay Conference” – circa April 1978
- 3.05 “Sexual Minorities Unite,” *The Drummer (Philadelphia)* – Aug. 22-29, 1978
(see oversized OBS)
- 3.06 “Phila. Official Issues Directive Banning Bias,” *Gay Community News* (Boston, MA) – [Oct. 11, 1980?]
- 3.07 “Green – A Homophobe” – circa 1980

Series 4 Photographs

- 4.01 Anthony Silvestre at PA Pride Conference – 1975
- 4.02 Meeting of Rural Gay Caucus Members at State College, taken by Bari Weaver, from left to right: Pam Erdly, Sam Deetz, Jonathan Smith-Cousins, Anthony Silvestre – May 1976
- 4.03 Members of Governor's Council for Sexual Minorities, from left to right: back row Frances Hancke, Jeff Britton [?], Janet Cooper, Sam Deetz, Tom Wilson-Weinberg; front row: Barbara Gittings, Dr. Walter Lear. – undated

LGBT-074 Anthony Silvestre (cont.)

Series 5 Miscellaneous

- 5.01 “Gay Jocks Revisited; Masculinity and Homosexuality” *Periodicals Report* – circa 1985
- 5.02 “A Letter from Huey” by Huey Newton – undated