

INVENTORY

Descriptions by Joe Blitman

Box 1

Material from September 1967 to June 1968

Folder 1:

Contains material on the surrounding of a U.S. Navy recruiter's car on October 26, 1967, the sit-in at Peters Hall the next day, the ensuing all-day campus "think-in," President Robert Carr's letters on the issues involved, and Carr's letter on the Selective Service's attempt to draft John Dove, an Oberlin protester.

Folder 2:

Contains the report of a joint committee of 5 students and 5 faculty members on the question of protest at Oberlin, as well as two flyers on the subsequent referendum for students on the report's recommendations.

Folder 3:

Contains 6 different copies of a short-lived Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) newsletter, *The Cocktail Hour*. It was named so for two reasons: it was delivered to the dining halls just before dinner, and its name was a pun on the Molotov cocktail bomb. The red SDS button was a popular adornment of the times.

Folder 4:

Is the second part of a two-part history of student protest at Oberlin from 1960-1966. Among its editors was Jon Eisen, who later edited and anthologized the popular Vintage Books series titled *The Age of Rock*.

Folder 5:

Is a copy of the short-lived national magazine called *Cheetah* (after the then-popular discotheque in New York City), which has an article naming Oberlin one of the United States' hippest colleges.

Folder 6:

Is an *Oberlin Review* supplement compiling student senate candidate platforms. It was already as rare as hen's teeth a week after publication.

Folder 7:

Is a leaflet distributed on campus in the wake of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination,

Box 1 (cont.)

Material from September 1967 to June 1968 (cont.)

Folder 8:

Is a leaflet announcing transportation to Washington, D.C. for a demonstration later made famous by Norman Mailer in his book, *The Armies of the Night*. At the bottom, there is a note made about the imminent Navy recruiter visit which resulted in the demonstration covered in Folder 1.

Folder 9:

Is a leaflet about working for the Southern Christian Leadership Council's Poor People Campaign that was distributed on campus in May 1968.

Folder 10:

Is an unsigned leaflet promoting the Black Power issue at Oberlin.

Material from September 1968 to May 1969

Folder 11:

Contains two copies of *Omega*, a newspaper published frequently by the Oberlin Resistance, a student organization whose membership topped out at 400 in the middle of the 1968-69 year.

Folder 12:

Contains reprints of articles distributed by the Resistance including "Recruiters and Red Herrings," written by Steve Norris, a popular philosophy professor during his brief stay at Oberlin.

Folder 13:

Contains announcements of Resistance-sponsored activities, including the regular Wednesday noon silent vigil at Tappan Square, which was well-attended, even in the cold winter months.

Folder 14:

Is a leaflet distributed on campus by the Oberlin Draft Information Center in April 1969.

Folder 15:

Is an SDS leaflet probably distributed in early 1969.

Box 1 (cont.)

Material from September 1968 to May 1969 (cont.)

Folder 16:

Is an interview with Bill Hedges, prominent campus radical. He led the hunger strike of 1968, turned in his draft card at the same time, led the sit-in of February, 1969, refused to leave the Administration Building during a student takeover in April 1969, left Oberlin to start a commune and radical newspaper in Lorain a few weeks later, was arrested on charges of draft evasion in April 1970, and left the country for Toronto soon afterwards. He is still in Canada.

Folder 17:

Contains a button reprinted by the Resistance promoting then Oberlin College President Robert Carr's firing or resignation. The original button had been created by the SDS in 1966.

Folder 18:

Contains material on a hunger strike of 5-6 days duration in November 1968. The tag "Hunger for Peace" or something similar was worn by all strikers, who numbered in total 125-150, but not all at one time. The list of names included is a particular accounting of who was a striker. Someone gave the people at the Health Clinic a complete list of hunger strikers and a notation was made in each person's health file. President Carr's letter refers to a march led by hunger strikers and their supporters to Carr's house. The Art Buchwald column refers to an Oberlin sophomore, Nancy Pittman, who offered to call her stepfather, Ben Bradlee, editor of the *Washington Post*, to give our objective publicity. We did not know at the time how little she understood about the objective; hence the satire by Buchwald.

Folder 19:

Is a copy of *The College and the War* report, its sponsoring committee's introductory letter, and an announcement of a symposium of its recommendations. It was talked about a lot at the time, but did not make much impact on student protest.

Folder 20:

Is a collection of newspaper clippings on the anti-recruiter sit-in at Peters Hall in February 1969.

Folder 21:

Contains a statement released to newspapers and wire services about student discovery of bias in the Admissions Office, and their subsequent expulsion from the faculty committee, as well as a letter sent to all Oberlin students by Student Senate explaining the situation.

Box 1 (cont.)

Material from September 1968 to May 1969 (cont.)

Folder 22:

Contains material on the Student Senate election campaign of March 1969. Virtually all published platforms are included, as well as campaign regulations, an *Oberlin Review* supplement on the candidates, a sample ballot, and other campaign memorabilia.

Folder 23:

Contains some of the agendas and papers coming out of Student Senate meetings in the spring of 1969, including the budget for the student activity fee.

Folder 24:

Is the statement of Bruce Ente, the first of the 59 students charged with breaking college rules on student protest, at his trial by a joint faculty-student judicial board. Those of the fifty-nine who were found guilty were given the option of taking a week's suspension from school and campus or signing a statement that they would never involve themselves in a coercive demonstration at Oberlin again. For the record, Mr. Ente chose the week's suspension.

Folder 25:

Contains material on the brief takeover of the Administration Building in April 1969. In March 1969, just before spring vacation, Jeremy Pikser and other SDS members staged a guerilla theater skit in Professor Robert Tufts' class. He was outraged and demanded that Carr do something. Carr suspended Pikser, therefore sidestepping the complex judicial system set up a few months earlier that handled the punishment of those tried for the February 1969 sit-in, including Bruce Ente (see folder 24). A large number of students took over the Administration Building and late one night a compromise was reached with administration officials and Student Senators. Rumor had it later, through a few Board of Trustee members, that Carr would have been fired over his actions, had the students not given in. But we did, and he got to stay another year and a half. The Ken Braiterman article in *Mainstream* is one of the best articles (certainly the longest) written about this incident.

Folder 26:

Contains material on the College Faculty Committee on Student Participation in Faculty Meetings. As a result of the expulsion of the Admissions Committee student members, the faculty charged this committee with creating new ground rules for students on faculty committees. It broke ground for next fall's admission of 11 students to attend and vote at General Faculty meetings.

Box 1 (cont.)

Material from September 1969 to May 1970

Folder 27:

Contains most of the minutes and agendas and papers of the Student Senate in the period from September 1969 to March 1970. There is also a copy of the Student Constitution, as was created by the Student Senate of 1966.

Folder 28:

Contains a smattering of campaign material from the special election of 10 senators in October 1969, following the mass recognition of 10 senators elected in March 1969 that their time would be best spent on town issues. About half followed through on this commitment.

Folder 29:

Contains material on Oberlin's participation in the October and November 1969 moratoriums. The "practice nonviolence" tag and black armband were worn on the silent vigil announced in the *Oberlin News Tribune* advertisement. So many people stood at that vigil that Tappan Square was completely ringed with people. The orange "Ohio Marshall" badge armband was worn by certain people in Washington during the November demonstration to keep order within the ranks of Ohioan protestors. It was at this point that the Oberlin Resistance turned into the Oberlin College Moratorium Committee and unofficially dissolved after the moratorium was over.

Folder 30:

Contains material sent to students who were members of the General Faculty only as voters and speakers beginning in October 1969. Highlights include the December 15 agenda when President Carr announced his resignation and the material from May when the faculty officially opposed the war in Vietnam and injustice in the courts.

Box 2

Material from September 1969 to May 1970 (cont.)

Folder 31:

Contains material on an organization known as Republicans and Democrats United for Peace that sprouted from the October Moratorium and whose membership included faculty, students and town citizens, with no distinctions or exclusions made.

Box 2

Material from September 1969 to May 1970 (cont.)

Folder 32:

Contains a fairly complete collection of campaign material from the Student Senate Election campaign of March 1970. During the course of the campaign, all candidates agreed to take down any posters they had, because of sabotage to the United Black Party's posters.

Folder 33:

Contains material on Oberlin College following the U.S. secret action in Cambodia as explained by Nixon, and the events at Kent State University. It included material from the demonstration in Washington and the events of that night at the Washington Cathedral.

Material from September 1970 to May 1971

Folder 34:

Contains material on the demonstration against trustee Erin Griswold's actions as the U.S. Solicitor General at the Commencement of the class of 1971. It was during the speech by Ms. Forsythe that underclassmen (women) dressed in hooded black robes with white face make-up proceeded up the aisles, as black balloons were released above the commencement grouping of people in Tappan Square.

Folder 35:

Is an anti-library leaflet distributed on campus the week of Commencement.

Material from 1968-1970

Folder 36:

Contains two different copies of *Common Sense*, a newspaper aimed at Oberlin town citizens. It was funded by Student Senate and basically ceased publication when its founder, Bob Shapiro, graduated in May 1970.

Folder 37:

Contains two different copies of the *Lorain County Free Press*, which began to publish with start-up funds from the Oberlin Resistance. It was founded by Bill Hedges and was put together by members and supporters of his commune in Lorain. It ceased publication when Mr. Hedges left for Canada after jumping bail on a draft evasion charge.

Folder 38:

Contains 3 copies of *The Activist*, the Oberlin political journal.

Box 2 (cont.)

Material from 1968-1970 (cont.)

Folder 29:

Contains two copies of the student course evaluation handbook, an innovation created by the Student Educational Plans and Policies Committee under the leadership of Kalman Resnick ('70). They were considered essential by most students.

Folder 40:

Is a copy of a booklet, *Student Perspectives on Oberlin College*, an offshoot of an Experimental College course titled "Institutional Analysis of Oberlin College."

Folder 41:

Is a copy of a booklet, *Oberlin: An Introduction to the Town* which was the product of Paula Silberstein and Tom Ward's January 1969 Winter Term project.

Last folder:

Contains Joe Blitman's articles for, appearances in, and contributions to the *Oberlin Review*, 1969-1971.