

Virginia Student Civil Rights Committee Oral History collection

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20 June 2015

Title Statement

Virginia Student Civil Rights Committee Oral History collectionA Guide to the Virginia Student Civil Rights Committee Oral History collection M 559

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Profile Description

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Language Usage: English

Descriptive Rules: Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

M 559

Unit ID

/repositories/5/resources/568

Unit Date

20 June 2015

Unit Date

09 April 2016

Language

English .

Creator

Daughterity, Brian J.

Extent

21.2 Gigabytes

Repository

VCU James Branch Cabell Library

Administrative Information

Biographical / Historical

The Virginia Student Civil Rights Committee (VSCRC) grew out of the December 1964 conference The Movement- The Student- Upper South, organized by Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). Although the committee evolved from a SNCC sponsored event, the VSCRC was not formally or officially affiliated with any other organizations. The purpose of the VSCRC was to increase communications among black and white college students involved in the civil rights movement in Virginia by holding monthly meetings of the elected representatives from participating colleges and universities. The original members realized that they did not have to go into the Deep South to encounter the major civil rights violations as there were many problems in the Commonwealth, particularly in the more rural counties of Southside Virginia. The committee planned for a conference in the spring of 1965 and assigned people to research and plan for a summer project in Virginia. The committee ultimately focused on empowering local people and groups in Southside to make changes in their own communities themselves.

The leadership of the VSCRC felt there was not enough focus on local, people-oriented, and self-led organizing. They decided to focus on Virginia's 4th Congressional District, working in six Southside counties to empower local Black residents to agitate for change. They were encouraged to demand better services from their city and local government, to advocate for the desegregation of businesses and community groups, and to register Southside residents to vote. White supremacists and the local Klan noticed the VSCRC's work and attempted to intimidate or threatened the civil rights activists. Despite this, the VSCRC prevailed, successfully forging ties with the Southside community. Their success was short-lived. Differences of opinions among the membership and ideological disagreements about the escalating war in Vietnam and the emergence of black-power groups like the Black Panthers divided the VSCRC. The changing membership further damaged group cohesiveness and the VSCRC disbanded in 1966.

Further Reading Hall, Simon. *Peace and Freedom: The Civil Rights Antiwar Movement in the 1960s*. University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia 2005

Hall, Simon "Civil Rights Activism in 1960s Virginia," *The Journal of Black Studies* vol. 38, no 2 (Nov 2007), pp. 251-267

Virginia Students Civil Rights Committee, "A Brief History of the Virginia Students Civil Rights Committee," *The Movement in the Archive*, accessed October 30, 2018, [Article link](#).

Content Description

Oral histories taken for the VSCRC 50th Reunion Oral History Project in Blackstone, VA. Professors Brian Daugherty and Ryan Smith interview former members of the VSCRC to obtain information about their work with the organization in the 1960s, in addition to their work with Civil Rights in general.

Keywords

Oral histories

Civil rights movements -- History -- 20th century -- Virginia

Virginia Student Civil Rights Committee

Transcript Information

If you need assistance with access through a transcript, please contact Special Collections at libsca@vcu.edu.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements

The materials are .mp4 files, with each interviewee having their own interview file. The materials must be accessed using a computer or tablet, and can be accessed online through this finding aid under "Collection Organization."

Arrangement

Collection arranged alphabetically by interviewee first name.

Description of Subordinate Components

Bill Monnie

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/57966

Unit Date 6/20/2015

Extent 2.22 Gigabytes

Bruce Smith, 4/9/2016

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/59366

David Nolan

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/57967

Unit Date 6/20/2015

Extent 3.45 Gigabytes

Dottie Edwards 4/23/2016

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/59364

Lucious Edwards 4/23/2016

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/59365

Nan Grogan Orrock

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/57968

Unit Date 6/20/2015

Extent 3.14 Gigabytes

Roger Hickey

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/57969

Unit Date 6/20/2015

Extent 2.96 Gigabytes

Steve Wise

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/57970

Unit Date 6/20/2015

Extent 3.75 Gigabytes

Tom Gardner

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/57971

Unit Date 6/20/2015

Extent 3.62 Gigabytes