

Atwood, Bonnie, papers

Bonnie Atwood papers
1968-2005

Title Statement

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

M 520

Unit ID

/repositories/5/resources/582

Unit Date

1968-2005

Language

English .

source

Atwood, Bonnie

Creator

Atwood, Bonnie

Extent

5.43 Linear Feet

Repository

VCU James Branch Cabell Library

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

The collection is open for research.

Use Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Acquisition Information

Donated by Bonnie Atwood in 2014.

Preferred Citation

Bonnie Atwood papers, 1965-2005, Collection # M 520, Special Collections and Archives, James Branch Cabell Library, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA.

Biographical / Historical Information

Bonnie Atwood is a feminist lobbyist, author, and activist from Virginia, primarily active from the 1970s to the present. Her efforts include advocating for the rights of women as homemakers and protesting the Catholic annulment system. Atwood was born in Arlington, Virginia in 1947. She attended George Mason College (now George Mason University) in Fairfax, Virginia in the 1960s where she studied psychology. During her time at George Mason College, Atwood joined classes at the Institute for Policy Studies (IPS) in Washington, DC. While there, she became involved in various activist causes such as the women's movement, the Vietnam peace movement, and the Civil Rights movement by collaborating in think tanks and alternative newspapers.

After the classes at IPS ended, Atwood and her classmates continued to meet, calling themselves the Washington Women's Liberation group. Some members spun off into other groups such as Off Our Backs, The Furies, and The Witches. These groups created alternative news publications focusing on their core beliefs. Atwood wrote articles and pamphlets for consciousness-raising efforts to contribute to several of these publications.

In 1980, Atwood moved to Richmond, Virginia where she worked as a freelance writer for the Richmond Times-Dispatch while raising her child. During that period, Atwood became involved in advocacy groups for the support of women's rights in the marriage annulment process practiced by the Catholic Church. In 1993, she attended law school at the University of Richmond, focusing on disability law. While attending the university, Atwood wrote for the school newspaper's etiquette column. She graduated with a Juris Doctor degree in 1996. Rather than pursue a legal practice, Atwood became a professional lobbyist for various clients, including the Virginia Federation of Food Banks, Virginia Girl Scout Legislative Coalition, American Red Cross, Speech-Language-Hearing Association and Virginia Association for Marriage and Family Therapy. In 2003, Atwood published her book, *In the Field of Honor: Stories of Virginia Veterans*, a compilation of interviews with veterans from multiple branches of the United States military. Today, she continues to act as a lobbyist for the Virginia Retired Teachers Association and the Virginia Association for Marriage and Family Therapy. Sources:

Bonnie Atwood - Early Women's Liberationis, Lawyer, Writer. Veteran Feminists of America. ([Weblink](#))

"Bonnie Atwood named 2016 Communicator of Achievement." Virginia Professional Communicators . 2016. ([Article Link](#))

Scope and Contents

The Bonnie Atwood papers, 1965-2005, is a collection of research and reference materials used by Virginia feminist Bonnie Atwood. The papers provide insight into the beliefs and methodologies of grassroots second-wave feminist activists during the 1960s and 1970s.

Series 1: Subject Files, 1965-2001: The bulk of the collection is comprised of subject files collected by Atwood, which reflect her interests and areas of advocacy. The primary focuses of the materials are feminism, civil rights, and anti-war movements.

The majority of the subject files relate to Atwood's involvement in feminist causes. The files pertain to women's health, women's history, women in the news, and general feminist theory and are primarily in the form of pamphlets, essays, newsletters, and flyers. Files related to specific feminist groups and goals Atwood supported include the International Institute for Women's Studies in Northern Virginia, the Virginia Foundation for Women, and the Washington Women's Liberation Bulletin which all operated to educate women on the core concepts of second-wave feminism in the 1960s and 1970s.

An additional theme represented in Atwood's subject files is anti-war material. Included are studies and informational pamphlets exploring the effects of the Vietnam War and the draft on society, as well as material promoting protests and legislative action against the war. Correspondence included in the series is primarily with Virginia congressmen requesting action regarding the Vietnam War.

The flyers within the collection represent a wide range of topics and events which Atwood supported. Most of them promote local protests and demonstrations in the Northern Virginia and Richmond areas, while others

are informational in nature to raise awareness of feminist or anti-war causes.

Series 2: Alternative News Publications and Magazines, 1969-2005: Atwood's collection also contains various issues of alternative press publications. Many of the publications focus primarily on the promotion of non-traditional radical activism. Topics include women's liberation, anti-war, and anti-government columns. While the collection does not include full runs of the publications, the issues kept by Atwood reflect her opinions on these topics.

The series includes sporadic consecutive issues for the years 1969-1970 for the alternative newspapers Alice, Broadside, Guardian, and Quicksilver Times. Additionally, the series contains one-off issues of other alternative publications such as the first issue of Off Our Backs, a feminist and lesbian focused news publication which includes subjects that today would be described as LGBTQ+. Also found in this series are activist magazines, such as The Ragged Edge and Mouth Magazine, written to raise awareness about living with physical and mental disabilities.

Separated Materials

A first printing copy of the one-shot underground comic It Ain't Me, Babe has been removed from the collection and cataloged separately.

A copy of the LP record Message to the Grass Roots from Malcom X has been removed from the collection and cataloged separately.

Keywords

Feminists

Sexual minorities

Women's rights

Underground press publications

Women's rights -- History -- 20th century -- United States

Atwood, Bonnie

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into two series: Series 1: Subject Files, 1966-2001 and Series 2: Alternative News Publications and Magazines, 1971-2005.

Description of Subordinate Components

Series 1: Subject Files

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60747

Unit Date 1965-2001

Language English.

Atwood Arrest

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60749

Unit Date 1970-1972

Mixed Materials [A11423642840] 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Language English.

Black Panther Party

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60750

Unit Date 1966-1969

Mixed Materials [A11423642840] 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Language English.

Child Development

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60751

Unit Date 1969

Mixed Materials [A11423642840] 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Language English.

Communism

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60752

Unit Date 1967-1969

Mixed Materials [A11423642840] 1 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Language English.

Correspondence - General

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60753

Unit Date 1965-1970

Mixed Materials [A11423642840] 1 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Language English.

Essays - Feminism

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60754

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [A11423642840] 1 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Language English.

Farmers Strikes

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60755

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [A11423642840] 1 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Language English.

Fashion Self-Study

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60756

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [A11423642840] 1 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Language English.

Film Studies

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60757

Unit Date 1968-1970

Mixed Materials [A11423642840] 1 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Language English.

Flyers - General Activism

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60758

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [A11423642840] 1 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Language English.

George Mason College

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60759

Unit Date 1969-1972

Mixed Materials [A11423642840] 1 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

Language English.

International Institute of Women Studies

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60760

Unit Date 1969-1971

Mixed Materials [A11423642858] 2 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Language English.

LGBTQ+ Rights

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60761

Unit Date 1970-1972

Mixed Materials [A11423642858] 2 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Language English.

"Medicine for the People" Handbooks

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60762

Unit Date 1972

Mixed Materials [A11423642858] 2 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Language English.

McSurely, Alan and Margaret Court Case

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60763

Unit Date 1971

Mixed Materials [A11423642858] 2 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Language English.

Newsletters and Mailings - Feminism

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60764

Unit Date 1968-1973

Mixed Materials [A11423642858] 2 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Language English.

Newsletters and Mailings - General

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60765

Unit Date 1968-1973

Mixed Materials [A11423642858] 2 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Language English.

Newspaper Clippings - Feminism

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60766

Unit Date 1968-1973

Mixed Materials [A11423642858] 2 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Language English.

Newspaper Clippings - Miscellaneous

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60767

Unit Date 1968-1973

Mixed Materials [A11423642858] 2 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Language English.

Northern Virginia Politics

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60768

Unit Date 1966-1970

Mixed Materials [A11423642858] 2 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Language English.

Pamphlets and Bulletins - General Activism

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60769

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [A11423642866] 3 (box)

Container 1-1 (folder)

Language English.

Pamphlets and Bulletins - General Activism

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60770

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [A11423642866] 3 (box)

Container 1-2 (folder)

Language English.

Peace Advocacy

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60771

Unit Date 1969-1970

Mixed Materials [A11423642866] 3 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Language English.

Students for Democratic Society

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60772

Unit Date 1969

Mixed Materials [A11423642866] 3 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Language English.

Vietnam War and Draft

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60773

Unit Date 1967-1971

Mixed Materials [A11423642866] 3 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Language English.

Virginia Foundation for Women

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60774

Unit Date 1997-2001

Mixed Materials [A11423642866] 3 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Language English.

Vista Volunteering

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60775

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [A11423642866] 3 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Language English.

Washington Area Free University

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60776

Unit Date 1968-1970

Mixed Materials [A11423642874] 4 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Language English.

Washington Women's Liberation Bulletin

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60777

Unit Date 1969-1972

Mixed Materials [A11423642874] 4 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Language English.

Youth Culture

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60778

Unit Date 1973

Mixed Materials [A11423642874] 4 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Language English.

Series 2: Alternative News Publications and Magazines

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60748

Unit Date 1969-2005

Language English.

Magazines - Motive

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60779

Unit Date 1969

Mixed Materials [A11423642874] 4 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Language English.

Magazines - Mouth Magazine

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60780

Unit Date 2001-2005

Mixed Materials [A11423642874] 4 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Language English.

Magazines - Ms.

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60781

Unit Date 1973

Mixed Materials [A11423642874] 4 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Language English.

Magazines - Notes from the Second Year: Radical Feminism

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60782

Unit Date 1970

Mixed Materials [A11423642874] 4 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Language English.

Magazines - Ragged Edge

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60783

Unit Date 1997-2002

Mixed Materials [A11423642874] 4 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Language English.

Magazines - Ramparts

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60784

Unit Date 1969-1970

Mixed Materials [A11423642874] 4 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Language English.

Magazines - The Second Wave

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60785

Unit Date 1973

Mixed Materials [A11423642874] 4 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Language English.

Magazines - Virginia Cardinal

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60786

Unit Date 1974

Mixed Materials [A11423642874] 4 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

Language English.

Magazines - Win Magazine

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60787

Unit Date 1970

Mixed Materials [A11423642874] 4 (box)

Container 12 (folder)

Language English.

Alternative News Publications - Alice - Blacksburg Free Press

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60788

Unit Date 1969

Mixed Materials [A11424377692] 5 (box)

Language English.

Alternative News Publications - Broadside

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60789

Unit Date 1969-1970

Mixed Materials [A11424377692] 5 (box)

Language English.

Alternative News Publications - Guardian - Independent Radical Newsweekly

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60790

Unit Date 1969

Mixed Materials [A11424377692] 5 (box)

Language English.

Alternative News Publications - Quicksilver Times

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60791

Unit Date 1969-1971

Mixed Materials [A11424377692] 5 (box)

Language English.

Alternative News Publications - Assorted

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60792

Unit Date 1969-1974

Mixed Materials [A11424377684] 6 (box)

Language English.