

Burnett, Allison L. papers

Allison L. Burnett papers
c. 1960s

Title Statement

Burnett, Allison L. papersGuide to the Allison L. Burnett papers MSS 16656

Publication Statement

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

MSS 16656

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Unit Date

c. 1960s

Mixed Materials [X031780970]

1 (box)

Language

English

Creator

Burnett, Allison L.

Extent

.08 Cubic Feet Two legal size folders

Repository

Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Content Description

This collection contains the Civil Rights papers of Dr. Allison L Burnett, a biology professor at the University of Virginia and an active member in social movements, who was an organizer of the efforts and petition drive to integrate the University Theater. The papers include twenty-one long-sheet petitions, fourteen newspaper clippings, and six pieces of correspondence.

The long-sheet petitions, each one or two pages, are signed by students and faculty in support of the integration of the University Theater and the institution of a city-wide boycott towards this furtherance of this goal. Most of the signers indicate whether they are a student or faculty member along with their department.

The newspaper clippings, some with photographs, are from local newspapers with information on segregation, integration efforts, student profiles, and discussions on the boycott with some editorials for and against. One long editorial, "Reflecting Discredit?," reprinted from the Virginia Law Weekly, condemned an editorial in the Cavalier Daily which objected to the boycott and the theater integration goals and efforts.

The six pieces of correspondence are comprised of the following: a memorandum to T. Hoyt Drake and Peter Wiernik from B.F.D. Runk in the Office of the Dean which, while supportive, offers a reminder that the "Committee for Desegregation of the University Theater" is not authorized by the University, and therefore, cannot use "University of Virginia" in their titles; a note on a recital program from A.J. Boulton offering both support towards the petition and financial assistance; a two page handwritten letter to Dr. Burnett from Nancy Clare Holdman, an American Red Cross social worker, lavishing praise on the boycott; a typed and signed letter to Dr. Burnett from J.B. Hamilton, minister of the Mount Zion Baptist Church, expressing appreciation and desire to cooperate with the cause; a copy of Plume & Sword, a student-operated weekly literature review, containing critical commentary on a Cavalier Daily editorial which condemned the boycott, a poem by E.E. Cummings, and an appreciation commentary of Henry Glassie by a young Malcom G. Scully; and an unsigned, typed, one page letter expressing dismay towards desegregation and Dr. Burnett for becoming involved in "the negro situation."

This collection also includes a signed program for Project "Survival," a public teach-out on the environmental problems of man, hosted by the Northwestern Community for a Better Environment. Dr. Burnett helped to organize this first event at Northwestern University.

There is some darkening on some of the papers due to fire damage, and as a result, some of the petitions are brittle. The petitions have been folded with have wear and stains, and are bound with rusty staples. The petition sheets also contain pencil and ink annotations from an unknown organizer as the seller, the son of Dr. Burnett, indicated that these notes are not his father's handwriting.

Keywords

Civil rights -- Virginia

Segregation in education -- Virginia

