

# Liberation News Service (New York, N.Y.) Records

1968-1975

6 boxes (4.5 linear feet)

Call no.: MS 1007



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Founded in 1967, Liberation News Service, an alternative news agency, issued twice-weekly packets aimed at providing inexpensive images, articles, and art reflecting a countercultural outlook. First from its office in Washington, D.C., and then from New York City, LNS provided underground and college papers around the globe with radical and unconventional coverage of the war in Vietnam, global liberation struggles, American politics, and the cultural revolution. Two months after moving to New York City in June 1968, LNS split into two factions, with the sides mirroring common points of dispute within the leftist movement. The more traditional political and Marxist activists remained in New York, while those more aligned with the counterculture and "hippie" movement settled on farms in western Massachusetts and southern Vermont. For a year, each faction put out competing versions of LNS news packets, until the winter conditions and small staff at the farm in Montague caused their production to end in January 1969. LNS-New York continued its production of unique leftist coverage of national and

international issues throughout the 1970s, closing in 1981.

The LNS-NY Records include a relatively complete run of packets 102-701 (1968-1975) sent to the subscribing underground press newspaper the Indianapolis Free Press. Some packets and years are more complete than others, and the collection also includes a small selection of other artwork, articles, and materials kept by the Indianapolis Free Press.

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## Background on Liberation News Service (New York, N.Y.)

Founded in 1967 when Marshall Bloom and Raymond Mungo were fired from the United States Student Press Association (USSPA) for their radical views, Liberation News Service grew into an impressive alternative news agency during a period of political and social upheaval in the United States and abroad. LNS provided images and text via inexpensive mimeographed news packets mailed out to subscribers, with radical coverage of the war in Vietnam, national liberation struggles abroad, American politics, and the cultural revolution. At its height, LNS had hundreds of subscribers, spanning the gamut of college newspapers and the underground and alternative press. Its readership was estimated to be in the millions.

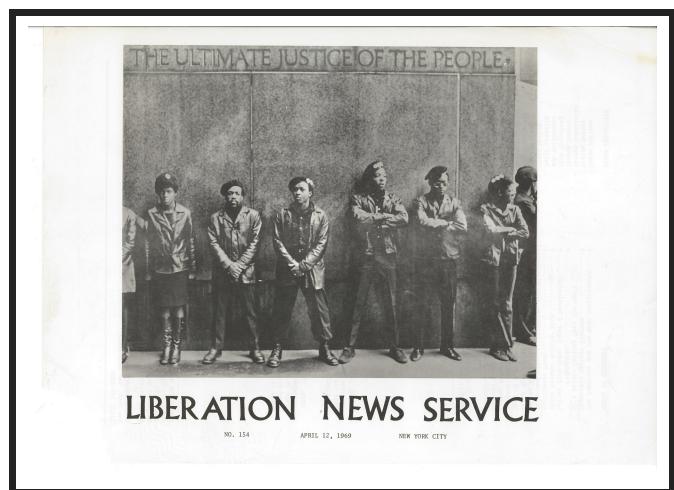
Located in Washington, D.C., LNS gained initial success and momentum with its coverage of the October 1967 protests at the Pentagon. But, in less than a year the group had tired of both its high rent and the conditions in the nation's capital in the wake of the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., and so officially moved its headquarters to New York City in June 1968.

Two months after moving to NYC, LNS split into two factions, with the sides mirroring common points of dispute from within the leftist movement. The more traditional political and Marxist activists remained in New York, while those more aligned with the countercultural and "hippie" movement settled on farms in western Massachusetts and southern Vermont. The story of LNS, up to and including the split, is told from Mungo's perspective in his 1970 classic book *Famous Long Ago*. For a year, each faction put out competing versions of LNS news packets, until the winter conditions and small staff at the farm in Montague caused their production to end in January 1969.

LNS-New York, however, continued throughout the 1970s to produce impressive news packets from the political left on topics often ignored by the mainstream press. Shaping global stories from Vietnam, to South Africa, to Latin America, to the Middle East, and national stories on politics, prison reform, labor movements, and racial, gender, and sexual equality, LNS-NY was a hub of international activists, journalists, and photographers. With the end of the Vietnam War, and the general decline of the New Left, in addition to growing financial instability, LNS-New York ceased its operations in 1981.

## Scope of collection

The Liberation News Service, both its original manifestation and its later separated New York office, operated during a period of exceptionally heightened activity in American political, social, and cultural history. As a whole, the LNS-New York Records



Cover of Liberation News Service issue 154, April 12, 1969.

document in their news packets and photographs numerous trends stemming from the counterculture, liberation, political, and activist movements in the United States and abroad during from 1968 to 1975.

The LNS-NY Records include a relatively complete run of packets 102-701 (1968-1975) sent to the subscribing underground press newspaper the Indianapolis Free Press. Some packets and years are more complete than others, and there is a gap after June 1972 until August 1973. These New York packets are especially dense with photographs compared to earlier LNS packets from before the split in 1968. The collection also includes a small selection of other artwork, articles, and materials kept by the Indianapolis Free Press.

## Inventory

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Packets 102-107

1968 Sep

Box 1: 1-2

Packets 108-114

1968 Oct

Box 1: 3-4

Packets 115-122

1968 Nov

Box 1: 5-7

Packets 123-128

1968 Dec

Box 1: 8-9

Packets 129-135

1969 Jan

Box 1: 10-12

Packets 136-143

1969 Feb

Box 1: 13-15

Packets 144-151

1969 Mar

Box 1: 16-19

Packets 152-158

1969 Apr

Box 1: 20-22

Packets 159-168

1969 May

Box 1: 23-25

Packets 169-174

1969 Jun

Box 1: 26-29

Packets 175-182

1969 Jul

Box 1: 30-34

Packets 183-190

1969 Aug

Box 1: 35-38

Packets 191-198

1969 Sep

Box 1: 39-41

Packets 199-207

1969 Oct

Box 1: 42-45

Packets 208-212

1969 Nov

Box 1: 46-49

Packets 213-214

1969 Nov

Box 1: 50

Packets 215-221

1969 Dec  
Box 1: 51-55  
Packets 222-230  
1970 Jan  
Box 1: 56-60  
Packets 231-237  
1970 Feb  
Box 1: 61-65  
Packets 238-244  
1970 Mar  
Box 1: 66-72  
Packets 245-250  
1970 Apr  
Box 1: 73-75  
Packets 256-260  
1970 May  
Box 1: 76-79  
Packets 261-267  
1970 Jun  
Box 1: 80-83  
Packets 268-276  
1970 Jul  
Box 1: 84-89  
Packets 277-284  
1970 Aug  
Box 1: 90-93  
Packets 285-289  
1970 Sep  
Box 1: 94-96  
Packets 290-294  
1970 Oct  
Box 1: 97-100  
Packets 295-298  
1970 Nov  
Box 1: 101-104  
Packets 299-306  
1970 Dec  
Box 1: 105-111  
Packets 307-313  
1971 Jan  
Box 1: 112-118  
Packets 315-321  
1971 Feb  
Box 1: 119-123  
Packets 322-326  
1971 Mar  
Box 1: 124-128  
Packets 327-330  
1971 Mar  
Box 2: 1-4  
Packets 331-338  
1971 Apr  
Box 2: 5-16  
Packets 339-345  
1971 May  
Box 2: 17-24  
Packets 346-354  
1971 Jun  
Box 2: 25-33

packets 355-363

1971 Jul

Box 2: 34-41

packets 364

1971 Aug

Box 2: 42

packets 365-371

1971 Aug

Box 3: 1-7

packets 372-379

1971 Sep

Box 3: 8-14

packets 380-387

1971 Oct

Box 3: 15-20

packets 388-394

1971 Nov

Box 3: 21-27

packets 395-402

1971 Dec

Box 3: 28-35

packets 405-410

1972 Jan

Box 3: 36-41

packets 411-413

1972 Feb

Box 3: 42-44

packets 414-415

1972 Feb

Box 4: 1-2

packets 416-421

1972 Mar

Box 4: 3-7

packets 424-430

1972 Apr

Box 4: 8-14

packets 431-438

1972 May

Box 4: 15-22

packets 439-443

1972 Jun

Box 4: 23-27

packets 543-548

1973 Aug

Box 4: 28-30

packets 551-552

1973 Sep

Box 4: 31-32

packets 553-556

1973 Sep

Box 5: 1-4

packets 557-564

1973 Oct

Box 5: 5-12

packets 565-571

1973 Nov

Box 5: 13-19

packets 572-578

1973 Dec

Box 5: 20-25

  Packets 579-585

  1974 Jan

  Box 5: 26-32

  Packets 586-592

  1974 Feb

  Box 5: 33-36

  Packets 594-600

  1974 Mar

  Box 5: 37-42

  Packets 601-608

  1974 Apr

  Box 5: 43-48

  Packets 609-615

  1974 May

  Box 5: 49-53

  Packets 616-623

  1974 Jun

  Box 5: 54-61

  Packets 624-630

  1974 Jul

  Box 5: 62-68

  Packets 632-633

  1974 Aug

  Box 5: 69-70

  Packets 635-637

  1974 Aug

  Box 6: 1-3

  Packets 639-644

  1974 Sep

  Box 6: 4-9

  Packets 645-651

  1974 Oct

  Box 6: 10-14

  Packets 653-660

  1974 Nov

  Box 6: 15-21

  Packets 662-666

  1974 Dec

  Box 6: 22-26

  Packets 667-673

  1975 Jan

  Box 6: 27-32

  Packets 675-680

  1975 Feb

  Box 6: 33-36

  Packets 681-688

  1975 Mar

  Box 6: 37-44

  Packets 689-696

  1975 Apr

  Box 6: 45-52

  Packets 697-701

  1975 May

  Box 6: 53-56

  The 1968 Campaign

  1968

  Box 6: 57

Radical Publications and Organizations List

1971 Mar  
Box 6: 58  
Indianapolis Free Press

Capitol Records - New Pop Albums, Country Roundup

1970 Mar  
Box 6: 59  
Clipped graphics  
ca.1968-1975  
Box 6: 60  
Clipped graphics - Liberation News Service  
ca.1968-1975  
Box 6: 61-62  
Envelopes  
ca.1971 Apr  
Box 6: 63  
Letterhead, other organization2  
ca.1970  
Box 6: 64  
Miscellaneous articles, press releases  
ca.1968-1972  
Box 6: 65  
Miscellaneous newsletters  
1969-1974  
Box 6: 66  
Prensa Latina Press Service - Direct from Cuba No. 34  
1971 Apr  
Box 6: 67  
Radio Free Press  
1971  
Box 6: 68

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## Administrative information

### Access

The collection is open for research.

### Provenance

Gift from the Ron Haldeman Collection, Indianapolis, Indiana, courtesy of Thomas P. Healy, January 2018.

### Related Material

For materials related to the Liberation News Service (New York, N.Y.)Records in Special Collections and University Archives see the various collections, including those of Liberation News Service, Ray Mungo, and Steve Diamond, in the **Famous Long Ago** Archive.

Additional materials include:

Diamond, S. (1971). *What the Trees Said: Life on a New Age Farm*. New York, NY: Delacorte Press.

Mungo, R. (1970). *Famous Long Ago: My Life and Hard Times with Liberation News Service*. Boston, MA: Beacon Press.

The Liberation News Service Photographs collection at Tamiment Library.

The Liberation News Service Records at the Contemporary Culture Collection of Temple University Libraries.

The Marshall Bloom Papers and the Bloom Alternative Press Collection in the Amherst College Archives and Special Collections.

### Processing Information

Processed by Blake Spitz, February 2018.

### Language:

English

### Copyright and Use (More information )

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## Search terms

### Subjects

Activists  
Civil rights movements  
Journalists--United States  
News agencies--United States  
Peace movements  
Political activists  
Social justice  
Underground press publications--United States  
Underground press--United States.  
Vietnam War, 1961-1975--Protest movements--United States

### Contributors

Liberation News Service (New York, N.Y.) [main entry]

### Genres and formats

Photographs  
Serials (publications)

### Link to similar SCUA collections

Arts and literature

Civil rights

Counterculture

Journalism

LGBT

Media

Peace

Photojournalism

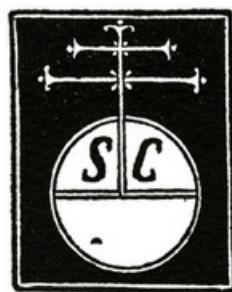
Political activism

Prison reform

Social change

Social justice

Vietnam War



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