

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

1968-1975

6 boxes (4.5 linear feet)

Call no.: MS 1007

Read collection overview [Collection overview](#)

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 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.

Collection inventory

| | | |
|-----------------|----------|--------------|
| 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 |

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|-----------------|----------|--------------|
| 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- |

| | | |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| 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 |

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.

Processing Information

Processed by Blake Spitz, February 2018.

Language:

English

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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.

Cite as: Liberation News Service (New York, N.Y.) Records (MS 1007). Special Collections and University Archives, University of Massachusetts Amherst Libraries.

Search terms

Subjects

- Activists
- Civil rights movements
- Journalists--United States
- News agencies--United States

- Underground press--United States.
- Vietnam War, 1961-1975--Protest movements--United States

Names

- Liberation News Service (New York, N.Y.)

Peace movements

- Political activists
- Social justice
- Underground press publications--United States

Genre terms

- Photographs
- Serials (publications)

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