2023

MF070 UMaine During the Vietnam War Era / Laura Finkel Collection

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UMaine during the Vietnam War era/Laura Finkel Collection

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English.
Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Northeast Archives of Folklore and Oral History

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University of Maine
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# Table of Contents

Summary Information .................................................................................................................. 3
Scope and Contents ...................................................................................................................... 3
Administrative Information .......................................................................................................... 4
Controlled Access Headings ......................................................................................................... 4
Collection Inventory ..................................................................................................................... 5
   MF 070, Collection Summary .................................................................................................... 5
   Michael Alpert, interviewed by Laura Finkel ................................................................. 5
   Walter "Bud" Schoenberger and Maralyn Schoenberger, interviewed by Laura Finkel .......... 6
   Charlie Jacobs, interviewed by Laura Finkel ...................................................................... 7
   John McGrail, interviewed by Laura Finkel ...................................................................... 7
   Dick Davies, interviewed by Laura Finkel ........................................................................ 8
   Debi Young Zeno, interviewed by Laura Finkel ............................................................... 9
   Geoffrey Sullivan, interviewed by Laura Finkel ............................................................... 9
   Larry Moskowitz, interviewed by Laura Finkel .............................................................. 10
   Frank Hample, interviewed by Laura Finkel ..................................................................... 11
   Ruth Nadelhaft, interviewed by Laura Finkel ..................................................................... 11
   Eugene Mawhinney, interviewed by Laura Finkel ............................................................ 12
   James Tierney, interviewed by Laura Finkel ....................................................................... 12
   Mary Snell, interviewed by Laura Finkel .......................................................................... 13
   Bill Donahue, interviewed by Laura Finkel ....................................................................... 14
   Chris Hastedt, interviewed by Laura Finkel ....................................................................... 14
   Susan Dunn Nichols interviewed by Laura Finkel ............................................................ 15
   Sharon Barker, interviewed by Laura Finkel ................................................................. 16
"This is Maine, Baby, Not Berkeley: Vietnam Era Protest at the University of Maine, 1964-1973,"
by Laura Finkel ........................................................................................................................ 16
Summary Information

Repository: Northeast Archives of Folklore and Oral History
Creator - ivr: Finkel, Laura
Title: UMaine During the Vietnam War Era / Laura Finkel Collection
ID: MF070
Date [inclusive]: 1994-1998
Physical Description: 17 items
Language of the Material: English
Material Specific Details: Audio files are the primary source material. Transcriptions are the transcriber’s best effort to convert audio to text, but should be considered secondary to the audio.

Preferred Citation

Interviewee last name, interviewee first name. Year. NA[unique series identification number], MF070, NAFOH. Raymond H. Fogler Library Special Collections Department, University of Maine, Orono, Maine.

Scope and Contents

A series of fifteen interviews recorded between 1994 - 1997 by Laura Finkel concerning anti-war movement, protests, and activities on the campus at the University of Maine during the Vietnam War era (1964 - 1973).
Administrative Information

Publication Statement
Northeast Archives of Folklore and Oral History
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University of Maine
Orono, ME 04469-5729
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Conditions Governing Access
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Conditions Governing Use
Rights assessment remains the responsibility of the researcher. Known restrictions on material NA2557.

Existence and Location of Originals

Return to Table of Contents

Controlled Access Headings
- Folklore
- Oral histories
- Vietnam War, 1961-1975 -- Maine -- Protest movements
Collection Inventory

MF 070, Collection Summary

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-- Return to Table of Contents --

Michael Alpert, interviewed by Laura Finkel

Abstract: 2377 Michael Alpert, interviewed by Laura Finkel, November 2 and December 8, 1994, Bangor, Maine. Alpert talks about Vietnam-era protests and activism at the University of Maine; threatening atmosphere of a protest in 1965; UMaine's Students for a Democratic Society (SDS); involvement with the Bangor NAACP; meaninglessness of the Vietnam War; causing trouble at draft examinations; social atmosphere of the sixties; administrative paranoia about protest; limited role of faculty members; perception of the Vietnam War; what Vietnam did to soldiers; the Chicken Crisis of 1968; firing of sociology professors; comparison of the Vietnam War to the Gulf War; President Clinton and American involvement in Haiti; Native Americans in the Bangor-Orono area; growing role of women in SDS; supporting the Bangor Public Library; antiwar activism as a training ground; and gender roles. Also includes discussion of present-day policies. Text: 103 pp. transcript plus interviewer's journal. Recording: C 1396 – C 1398 3.5 hours.

Controlled Access Headings:
- Vietnam War, 1961-1975 -- Maine -- Protest movements
- Education, Higher -- Political aspects -- United States
- Political participation
- Political paranoia
- University of Maine
- Students for a Democratic Society (U.S.)
- National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

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Walter "Bud" Schoenberger and Maralyn Schoenberger, interviewed by Laura Finkel


Controlled Access Headings:
• Vietnam War, 1961-1975 -- Maine -- Protest movements
• Political participation
• University of Maine

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Charlie Jacobs, interviewed by Laura Finkel

Abstract: 2551 Charlie Jacobs, interviewed by Laura Finkel, November 12, 1996, in his office in the State Building of Augusta. Jacobs talks about the political atmosphere on The University of Maine Campus (Orono) during the Vietnam era; assisting Stan Cowan, president of the student senate; working with Win Libby; other people he knew at the time including Larry Moskowitz, Steve Hughes, Mel Leary and professors Stew Doty, Rob Thompson and Walter "Bud" Schoenberger; the immediate aftermath of The Great Chicken Crisis on Maine's campus; being informed of the tragedy at Kent State and going to the president's house afterward; helping to organize a two-day moratorium on campus following the Soc. crisis and his reasons for doing so; that the overall climate of the campus was moderate; certain incidences of distrust among fellow students; his life currently; how he's fared in politics since Vietnam. Text: 42 pp. transcript (transcript missing 1/29/2010). Recording: C 1654 1.5 hours.

Controlled Access Headings:

- Vietnam War, 1961-1975 -- Maine -- Protest movements
- Education, Higher -- Political aspects -- United States
- Political activists -- Maine
- University of Maine

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Digital Object: NA 2551, audio, part 1: November 12, 1996

NA 2551, audio, part 2, November 12, 1996

Digital Object: NA 2551, audio, part 2: November 12, 1996

^ Return to Table of Contents

John McGrail, interviewed by Laura Finkel

Abstract: 2552 John McGrail, interviewed by Laura Finkel, November 12, 1996, by telephone. McGrail discusses Vietnam-era protests and activism at the University of Maine; the process of turning to the progressive/antiwar movement; composition of Students for a Democratic Society [SDS]; links between national and local SDS; SDS nationally growing more radical; difference between engineering and liberal arts students; relationship with Student Government; significance of the antiwar movement; difference between UMaine and other, larger schools; perception of UMaine President Win Libby; response to Kent State killings; blood drive; being attacked while marching; talking to fraternities about the war; restrictions of in loco parentis policies; impact of antiwar involvement on his life; his role as the "everyman;" the Communist Party on campus; the backwardness of northern Maine in the 1960s; and individuals involved in the antiwar movement. Text: 72 pp. transcript. Recording: C 1655 1.5 hours.

Controlled Access Headings:

- Vietnam War, 1961-1975 -- Maine -- Protest movements
- Education, Higher -- Political aspects -- United States
- Education, Higher -- Intellectual life
- Political paranoia
- Blood -- Collection and preservation

- Page 7-
Dick Davies, interviewed by Laura Finkel

Abstract: 2553 Dick Davies, interviewed by Laura Finkel, November 13, 1996, in Augusta, Maine. Davies talks about Vietnam-era protests and activism at the University of Maine; first demonstrations in 1965; reactions of other students and faculty; growing awareness of the war; role of Larry Moskowitz; small number of Students for a Democratic Society [SDS] members; SDS involvement with labor; the Ounegan mill strike; UMaine Presidents Young and Libby; the Chicken Crisis and the change it led to in administration; reorganization of student government; role of the Maine Campus in activism; teach-ins; changed attitudes by 1970; end of SDS and move to coalition-building; UMaine as a generally conservative campus; separation of student government and the university administration; impact of activism on his life; and the limited influence of the Communist Party. Text: 48 pp. transcript. Recording: C 1656 1.5 hours.

Controlled Access Headings:
- Vietnam War, 1961-1975 -- Maine -- Protest movements
- Education, Higher -- Political aspects -- United States
- Political paranoia
- Communism -- History
- University of Maine
- Students for a Democratic Society (U.S.)
Debi Young Zeno, interviewed by Laura Finkel

Abstract: 2554 Debi Young Zeno, interviewed by Laura Finkel, November 14, 1996, over the telephone. Zeno discusses Vietnam-era protests and activism at the University of Maine; feeling that students were too serious; difference between engineering and social sciences students; organizing a blood drive in protest over the Kent State incident; ideology behind donating blood to save soldiers in Vietnam; and what she learned from organizing the blood drive. Text: 19 pp. transcript. Recording: C 1657 45 minutes.

Controlled Access Headings:
- Vietnam War, 1961-1975 -- Maine -- Protest movements
- Women political activists -- Maine
- Education, Higher -- Intellectual life
- Blood -- Collection and preservation
- University of Maine

Geoffrey Sullivan, interviewed by Laura Finkel

Abstract: 2555 Geoffrey Sullivan, interviewed by Laura Finkel, November 21, 1996, in Needham, Massachusetts. Sullivan talks about Vietnam-era protest and activism at the University of Maine; getting involved with Students for a Democratic Society [SDS]; why the movement was different at UMaine than elsewhere; being monitored by the state legislature; SDS's anti-drug policy; the Chicken Crisis; cooperation and overlap between SDS and Student Government; connections with labor and the working class; UMaine's SDS chapter in relation to SDS regionally and nationally; antiwar activities; the end of SDS; and causing change with the Program for the University. Text: 44 pp. transcript. Recording: C 1658 1.5 hours.

Controlled Access Headings:
- Vietnam War, 1961-1975 -- Maine -- Protest movements
- Political paranoia
- Social control -- United States
- University of Maine
- Students for a Democratic Society (U.S.)
**Larry Moskowitz, interviewed by Laura Finkel**

**Abstract:** 2556 Larry Moskowitz, interviewed by Laura Finkel, November 25, 1996, in Manhattan, New York. Moskowitz discusses Vietnam-era protests and activism at the University of Maine; activism straining his family relationships; the beginning of activism on campus; deciding the Vietnam War was wrong; Students for a Democratic Society [SDS] and their gradual acceptance on campus; influences that kept UMaine's SDS chapter more sensible than others; supporting the Ounegan mill strike; discovering Marxism; ROTC Day protests; counter-demonstrations; organization of SDS; the Orono chapter in the regional and national SDS; getting into a fight with fraternity men; background to the Chicken Crisis of 1968; the Chicken Crisis testing students' rights; SDS in student government; activities of the Orono Anti-Draft Union; his own experience being drafted; relationships with faculty members; why he joined the Communist Party; UMaine SDS's connections with the working class; his activism after leaving UMaine; Margaret Chase Smith at Colby College. Text: 82 pp. transcript. Recording: C 1659 – C 1660 3 hours.

**Controlled Access Headings:**
- Vietnam War, 1961-1975 -- Maine -- Protest movements
- Education, Higher -- Political aspects -- United States
- Family life
- Communism -- History
- Draft resisters
- Students for a Democratic Society (U.S.)
- University of Maine

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Frank Hample, interviewed by Laura Finkel

Abstract: 2557 Frank Hample, interviewed by Laura Finkel, November 12, 1996, in Augusta, Maine. Hample discusses Vietnam-era protests and activism at the University of Maine; why he left ROTC; individuals he was associated with; student involvement with the community; attempting change through student government; joining VISTA for draft deferment; women's involvement in Students for a Democratic Society [SDS]; how Maine's SDS was unique; and reevaluating the world in 1968. RESTRICTED. May not be used without permission of Director and Frank Hample. Text: 61 pp. transcript. Recording: C 1661 1.5 hours.

Controlled Access Headings:
- Vietnam War, 1961-1975 -- Maine -- Protest movements
- Education, Higher -- Political aspects -- United States
- Draft resisters
- Women political activists -- Maine
- University of Maine
- United States. Army. Reserve Officers' Training Corps

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NA 2557, audio, part 2, November 12, 1996 | Audio NA 2557

Ruth Nadelhaft, interviewed by Laura Finkel

Abstract: 2558 Ruth Nadelhaft, interviewed by Laura Finkel, March 18, 1997, in Orono, Maine. Nadelhaft discusses Vietnam-era protests and activism at the University of Maine; her previous activism experiences in Geneseo, NY; how easy it was to be "radical" in conservative Maine; not having much of an impact; trying to create a new kind of college at Bangor Community College; being labeled a communist; how the war influenced all of the classes she taught; UMaine President Win Libby and Nadelhaft's unflattering perceptions of him; characteristics of Mainers; how protest and activism alter community ties; Maine's intellectual climate; and why Maine's antiwar movement was distinct. Text: 60 pp. transcript. Recording: C 1662 – C 1663 2 hours.

Controlled Access Headings:
- Vietnam War, 1961-1975 -- Maine -- Protest movements
- Education, Higher -- Political aspects -- United States
- Education, Higher -- Intellectual life
- Communism -- History
- Women political activists -- Maine
- Political paranoia
### Eugene Mawhinney, interviewed by Laura Finkel

**Abstract**: 2559 Eugene Mawhinney, interviewed by Laura Finkel, March 21, 1997, Orono, Maine. Mawhinney talks about Vietnam-era protests and activism at the University of Maine; UMaine President Win Libby's response to student activism; firing of three sociology professors; his concerns over the protests in 1970; reflections on UMaine President Young; how professors dealt with antiwar concerns; and the evolution of his personal feelings about the Vietnam War. Text: 29 pp. transcript. Recording: C 1664 1 hour.

**Controlled Access Headings**:
- Universities and colleges -- Administration
- Vietnam War, 1961-1975 -- Maine -- Protest movements
- Education, Higher -- Political aspects -- United States
- Political paranoia
- Political activists -- Maine
- University of Maine

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Digital Object: [NA 2559, audio, part 1: March 21, 1997](#)
NA 2559, audio, part 2, March 21, 1997 | Audio NA 2559
Digital Object: [NA 2559, audio, part 2: March 21, 1997](#)

^ Return to Table of Contents

### James Tierney, interviewed by Laura Finkel

**Abstract**: 2560 James Tierney, interviewed by Laura Finkel, March 24, 1997, Lisbon Falls, Maine. Tierney discusses Vietnam-era protests and activism at the University of Maine; Student Action Corps; difference between Student Action Corps and Students for a Democratic Society; antagonistic reactions to antiwar opinions in 1966; why he was against the war in Vietnam; attitudes of the administration and faculty; importance of academics as well as activism; the Chicken Crisis and how it led to reform and less arbitrary administration; ROTC protest in the spring of 1996; reorganization of Student Senate and student dues; drug use that came after his time, c. 1970; feeling that world events in the late 60s could not be ignored; student
involvement with the community; Mainers as being against the war; his perceptions of UMaine President Win Libby; feeling that students could affect change; and results of the Vietnam War. Text: 55 pp. transcript. Recording: C 1665 1.5 hours.

Controlled Access Headings:

- Vietnam War, 1961-1975 -- Maine -- Protest movements
- Political activists -- Maine
- Universities and colleges -- Administration
- Education, Higher -- Political aspects -- United States
- University of Maine
- Students for a Democratic Society (U.S.)
- United States. Army. Reserve Officers' Training Corps

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| NA 2560, audio, part 2, March 24, 1997 | Audio NA 2560                   |

Mary Snell, interviewed by Laura Finkel

Abstract: 2561 Mary Snell, interviewed by Laura Finkel, March 24, 1997, Gorham, Maine. Snell talks about the Vietnam-era protests and activism at the University of Maine; her awakening regarding the war; expressing her opposition to the war through creative writing; socializing with other activists; level of involvement of general student population; intersection of academics and discussions about the Vietnam War; Snell's struggle because her brother was fighting in Vietnam; concern for the psychological welfare of soldiers; demographic shift in the state of Maine due to migration and higher college enrollment; shift in values and perceptions; community Snell found at UMaine; Stephen King's speech; perception that the faculty was not the enemy; and discussion of Snell's yearbook. Text: 45 pp. transcript. Recording: C 1666 1.5 hours.

Controlled Access Headings:

- Vietnam War, 1961-1975 -- Maine -- Protest movements
- Women political activists -- Maine
- Education, Higher -- Intellectual life
- Education, Higher -- Political aspects -- United States
- College students -- Maine -- Orono
- Political paranoia
- University of Maine

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- Page 13-
Bill Donahue, interviewed by Laura Finkel

Abstract: 2562 Bill Donahue, interviewed by Laura Finkel, March 31, 1997, Bangor, Maine. Donahue discusses Vietnam-era protests and activism at the University of Maine; protesting Dow Chemical recruitment; the university administration's response to protest events; Old Town shoe strike; Students for a Democratic Society [SDS] and its close ties to the Communist Party; speakers SDS brought to campus; SDS nationally becoming extremist; involvement with educational reform; a meat cutters strike; key individuals in the UMaine activist movement; anti-draft counseling; methods for avoiding the draft, particularly the use of amphetamines; and UMaine President Libby's role in preventing violent confrontations. Text: 36 pp. transcript. Recording: C 1667 1.5 hours.

Controlled Access Headings:
- Vietnam War, 1961-1975 -- Maine -- Protest movements
- Universities and colleges -- Administration
- Communism -- History
- Draft resisters
- Social control -- United States
- University of Maine
- Students for a Democratic Society (U.S.)

Title/Description | Instances
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Chris Hastedt, interviewed by Laura Finkel

Abstract: 2563 Chris Hastedt, interviewed by Laura Finkel, April 2, 1997, Augusta, Maine. Hastedt discusses the Vietnam-era protests and activism at the University of Maine; elitism as a difficulty in spreading antiwar messages; why the University of Maine was different than other colleges; schism between antiwar activists and class officers; early lack of understanding as to why Hastedt was involved in activism; hostile responses to protest demonstrations; administrative responses to antiwar activists; evolution of Hastedt's thoughts on the Vietnam War; the 'chicken crisis' demonstration; how campus activism impacted her life; sense of community; and avoiding heavy involvement with drugs to keep focus on the politics. Text: 35 pp. transcript. Recording: C 1668 1 hour.

Controlled Access Headings:
Susan Dunn Nichols interviewed by Laura Finkel

Abstract: 2564 Susan Dunn Nichols interviewed by Laura Finkel, April 13, 1997, on Brewer Lake, Maine. Nichols talks about Vietnam-Era protests and activism at the University of Maine; her awareness of war and activism in high school; getting involved with Students for a Democratic Society [SDS]; the Great Chicken Crisis; name changes following dissolution of SDS; UMaine SDS's closer than average association with organized labor; reactions to SDS activities; trying to interrupt the draft; how her husband avoided the draft; a women's liberation beauty pageant; discussion groups; organizational structure of SDS; key individuals in UMaine's SDS; shift in activism by 1970; how her involvement with student activism impacted her life; and SDS's stance against drugs. Text: 54 pp. transcript. Recording: C 1669 1.5 hours.

Controlled Access Headings:
- Vietnam War, 1961-1975 -- Maine -- Protest movements
- Education, Higher -- Political aspects -- United States
- Women political activists -- Maine
- College students -- Maine -- Orono
- Universities and colleges -- Administration
- University of Maine

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NA 2564, audio, part 2, April 13, 1997 | Audio NA 2564
Digital Object: NA 2564, audio, part 2: April 13, 1997 | Audio NA 2564
Sharon Barker, interviewed by Laura Finkel

Abstract: 4412 Sharon Barker, interviewed by Laura Finkel, July 19, 1996, in the Women in Curriculum/Women's Resource Center conference room on the University of Maine campus. Barker brought several things with her to the interview including yearbooks, a photo album, an essay she wrote, and some personal items from the late 1960s, early 1970s. Barker speaks of being a migrant from Canada and feeling out of touch as a teenager but recalling the patriotic mindset of people in Fort Fairfield and five boys from her high school class enlisting with the Marine Corps before graduation; starting at UMaine in fall 1967; taking a college course, "Current World Problems" with instructor Bud Schoenberger that helped her develop critical thinking skills; the death of Mike Ketch, a childhood friend, after being in-country for only four days; recognizing the Vietnam War's impact on her personal life through the death and injuries of male friends and classmates killed in the war; feelings of guilt "through our whole generation" about those who had to serve and those who did not or could not serve; feeling protective of soldiers and protesting the war; not knowing many people in the protest movement; going to Peace Marches in Washington, D.C.; carrying John Goddaire's name in the March Against Death and later meeting his brother. Recording: 2 cassettes, c2462_01 and 02, c2463_01 and 02, not digitized, approx. 180 minutes. Text: Transcript, 112 p.

Controlled Access Headings:
- Emigration and immigration -- Maine
- Vietnam War, 1961-1975 -- Maine -- Protest movements
- Education, Higher -- Political aspects -- United States
- Education, Higher -- Intellectual life
- POW/MIA bracelets
- University of Maine
- Voices in Vital America. (VIVA)

"This is Maine, Baby, Not Berkeley: Vietnam Era Protest at the University of Maine, 1964-1973," by Laura Finkel

Abstract: 2575 By Laura Finkel, May 1998, Orono, Maine. Copy of Laura Finkel's 186 pp. typed M. A. thesis for the Department of History at the University of Maine, 1998. "This is Maine, Baby, Not Berkeley: Vietnam Era Protest at the University of Maine, 1964-1973." From the introductory paragraphs: "This work looks at at the University of Maine, a relatively small, working-class school in a rural state to show similarities to and differences from the story of dissent portrayed in the extant literature. It is a community study which shows the significance of geography, culture, and community in the dissemination of a national movement." Thesis is supported by numerous recorded interviews also on deposit at the Maine Folklife Center. Text: 186 pp. M.A. thesis.

Controlled Access Headings:
- Vietnam War, 1961-1975 -- Maine -- Protest movements
- Students -- Maine -- Orono -- Political activity
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^ Return to Table of Contents