



Guide to the Bill Schafer Papers

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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Schafer, Bill
Title:	Bill Schafer Papers
ID:	MS-00874
Date [inclusive]:	1980 to 2018
Physical Description:	0.62 Cubic Feet (1 box, 1 oversized box)
Physical Description:	1.42 Linear Feet
Physical Description:	23,679 Digital Files (34.077 GB)
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Bill Schafer Papers (1980-2018) contain personal and professional papers of Las Vegas, Nevada journalist and publisher, Bill Schafer, and photographs from various LGBTQIA+ related events in Las Vegas. The materials include files related to Schafer's work managing the <i>Las Vegas Night Beat</i> and <i>Las Vegas Bugle</i> publications. The collection contains copies of various LGBTQIA+ directories and photographs from events such as the Las Vegas Pride parade and the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Southern Nevada's annual Honorarium. Also included are photographs and papers from Schafer's involvement with the Imperial Royal Sovereign Court of the Desert Empire, Inc.

Preferred Citation

Bill Schafer Papers, 1980-2018. MS-00874. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Biographical Note

William "Bill" Schafer was born on January 1, 1949 in Buffalo, New York. He attended college at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas where he was editor of the school paper, the *Rebel Yell*.

Schafer worked at the Castaways Hotel and Silver Slipper Casino prior to his career in publishing. In the 1980s and 1990s, Schafer was the managing editor of the *Las Vegas Bugle*, a newspaper focused on LGBTQIA+ issues. The publication later became incorporated into the *Las Vegas Night Beat* and Schafer took over as publisher of the magazine. He retired in 2018 after publishing his last issue of the *Las Vegas Night Beat* in December 2018.

Schafer was an active supporter of local organizations in Las Vegas like Saint Therese HIV Outreach and the Sin City Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, Inc. He was also a member of the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association (NLGJA) and was a founding member of the Imperial Royal Sovereign Court of the Desert Empire, Inc. (IRSCDE), which prior to 1998, was known as the Royal Barony of the Desert Empire. Schafer was ordained as a minister by the Universal Life Church under his given name and also under his female impersonator identity, Wilhelmina Parsons.

Schafer passed away on July 27, 2020 in Las Vegas.

Sources:

McBride, Dennis. "The Bugle Celebrates 25 Years," May 26, 2008. <https://www.edgemedianetwork.com/entertainment/culture//74738>.

"Mission Statement." *Desert Empire*. 2017. <http://desertempire.org/IRSCDE/who-we-are/>.

Schlegel, Rob. "Remembering Bill Schafer, former publisher and editor of Las Vegas LGBTQ magazines," *Las Vegas Spectrum*, August 12, 2020. <https://lasvegasspectrum.com/2020/08/12/remembering-bill-schafer-former-publisher-and-editor-of-las-vegas-lgbtq-magazines/>.

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Scope and Contents Note

The Bill Schafer Papers (1980-2018) contain personal and professional papers of Las Vegas, Nevada journalist and publisher, Bill Schafer, and photographs from various LGBTQIA+ related events in Las Vegas. The materials include files related to Schafer's work managing the *Las Vegas Night Beat* and *Las Vegas Bugle* publications. The collection contains copies of various LGBTQIA+ directories and publications, including drafts and notes for *Fairy Tales: A Chronology of the Las Vegas Gay Community 1861-2001* by Dennis McBride. The majority of this collection consists of digital photographs from events such as the Las Vegas Pride parade, Golden Rainbow Home's Annual Ribbon of Life, the Nevada Gay Rodeo Association, and the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Southern Nevada's annual Honorarium. Also included are photographs and papers from Schafer's involvement with the Imperial Royal Sovereign Court of the Desert Empire, Inc.

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Arrangement

Materials are roughly organized by topic.

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Administrative Information

Access Note

Collection is open for research. Where use copies do not exist, production of use copies is required before access will be granted; this may delay research requests. Advanced notice is required.

Publication Rights

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Acquisition Note

Materials were donated in 2017 and 2021 by the Nevada State Museum; accession numbers 2017-160, 2021-006.

Appraisal Note

Tammi Kim appraised digital files transferred from optical discs. The majority of digital files contained redundant images used for issues of the *Las Vegas Night Beat*. Digital files were subsequently reviewed and deaccessioned.

Processing Note

In 2019, Mary Anilao, Chrziel Childrens, and Landon Palujaj accessioned the collection and created the finding aid in ArchivesSpace. In 2021, Tammi Kim processed the 2021 addition and updated the finding aid. Tammi Kim minimally processed the born-digital materials and subsequently entered descriptive information into ArchivesSpace. Files were transferred off of floppy disks, optical discs, and zip disks. No access files were created for any files at this time.

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Related Materials

Related Collections

The following resources may provide additional information related to the materials in this collection:

Dennis McBride Collection on LGBTQ Las Vegas, Nevada, 1990-2017. MS-00802. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Imperial Royal Sovereign Court of the Desert Empire Records, 1997-2003. MS-00556. Special Collections and Archives, UNLV Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Tommy. Interview, 1998 April 28. OH-02056. Oral History Research Center, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Las Vegas Bugle Photograph Collection on Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual History, 1993-2002. PH-00336. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Las Vegas Bugle Collection on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender History, 1984-2002. MS-00476. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Names and Subjects

- Gay community
- photographs
- Special events
- Gay pride celebrations
- Imperial Royal Sovereign Court of the Desert Empire, Inc.
- Las Vegas Bugle

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers
Bill Schafer's personal and professional papers	box 03

	box 04
Simonson calendar images, 2002 to 2003 Physical Description: 54 Digital Files (0.042 GB) DOC, TIF, TXT	digital file 00
Las Vegas, Nevada gay bars and individuals, San Francisco, California film project with Bill Schafer: photographic prints, approximately 1980 to 2010	box 01
Bill Schafer's working files for the <i>Las Vegas Bugle</i> and <i>Las Vegas Night Beat</i> , GayPro.com website files, Bill's saved AOL email, 1998 to 2007 Physical Description: 8,028 Digital Files (1.310 GB) BMP, CDR, CSS, CSV, DAT, DB, DOC, EPS, EXE, GIF, HTM, HTML, INF, JPG, MP3, MPG, PDF, PNG, PSD, RTF, SWF, TIF, TXT, WAV, WPD, ZIP	digital file 00
Poetry, essays, and correspondence of "Tommy" (Noll Thompson), Poet Laureate of the <i>Las Vegas Bugle</i> , 1999 to 2001	box 01
Spotlight Lounge business cards, holiday cards, approximately 2000 to 2010	box 01
Snicks Place business card and miniature calendar, 2015	box 01
<i>Stage One LV</i> advertising rate card, approximately 2002	box 01
Lambda Business and Professional Association flyer, approximately 2002	box 01
Las Vegas Gay and Lesbian Chorus holiday concert program, 2002	box 01
Metropolitan Community Church write up, 2004 Physical Description: 1 Digital Files (0.003 GB) WPD	digital file 00
<i>Las Vegas Night Beat</i> business licenses, advertising rate cards, 2007 to 2018	box 01
<i>Las Vegas Night Beat</i> advertisements and photographs, 2002 to 2007 Physical Description: 620 Digital Files (1.490 GB) AI, JPG, PSD, TIF, XML	digital file 00
Imperial Royal Sovereign Court of the Desert Empire, Inc.	
Meeting minutes, correspondence, certificates, and posters, 1998 to 2002	box 01
Bill Schafer/Wilhelmina Parsons ordination papers from the Universal Life Church, 2000	box 01
Emperor & Empress IV coronation souvenir journal, 2002	box 01
Coronation and Las Vegas Gay Pride event flyers, 2002 to 2003 Physical Description: 3 Digital Files (0.006 GB) PDF	digital file 00
Royal Barony of the Desert Empire, Imperial Royal Sovereign Court of the Desert Empire event: photographic prints, approximately 1980 to 2010	box 01
Proclamation of the Silver Dollar Court of Reno, Nevada, 1998	box 02
Coronation V at Stardust Hotel group photographs, 2002	box 02
LGBTQIA+ event photographs and files	
Various Las Vegas LGBTQIA+ community event photographs, 2001 to 2011	

Physical Description: 5,282 Digital Files (13.100 GB) AVI, DAT, DOC, INFO, JPG, PDF, PSD, TIF, XML	digital file 00
Black Jack Bears event photographs, 2004 to 2005 Physical Description: 373 Digital Files (0.606 GB) JPG	digital file 00
Bear Hunt event photographs, 2002 to 2005 Physical Description: 1,177 Digital Files (1.660 GB) JPG	digital file 00
Gay and Lesbian Community Center Honorarium photographs, 2007 to 2011 Physical Description: 733 Digital Files (1.770 GB) JPG	digital file 00
Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Southern Nevada 9th Annual Honorarium souvenir program, 2003	box 01
Golden Rainbows event photographs, 2007 to 2009 Physical Description: 294 Digital Files (1.110 GB) JPG	digital file 00
Las Vegas Pride parade photographs, 2003 to 2007 Physical Description: 1,655 Digital Files (3.510 GB) EPS, JPG, XML	digital file 00
Neonfest Critic's Brunch tickets and program, 2009	box 01
Neonfest logos, event photographs, event posters, 2004 to 2006 Physical Description: 75 Digital Files (0.444 GB) AI, EPP, EPS, JPG, TIF	digital file 00
Nevada Gay Rodeo Association event flyer and program, 2002	box 01
Nevada Gay Rodeo Association event photographs, 2004 to 2006 Physical Description: 4,339 Digital Files (JPG, XML) 7.430 GB	digital file 00
Saint Therese Center HIV/AIDS fundraiser event flyer, 2005	box 01
Saint Therese Center benefit event photographs, 2004 September 17 Physical Description: 251 Digital Files (0.0877 GB) JPG	digital file 00
LGBTQIA+ related publications	
Directories (Dick's List, Gay Yellow Pages, Lambda), 1997 to 2003 Physical Description: 191 Digital Files (0.521 GB) CDR, DOC, EPS, JPG, LNK, MDB, PDF, PSD, PUB, RTF, TIF	digital file 00
<i>Bohemian Bugle</i> vol. 9, no. 6, 1986 June	box 01
<i>Southern Nevada Gay & Lesbian Historical Society Quarterly Journal</i> premiere issue, 1998 July	box 01
<i>Fairy Tales: A Chronology of the Las Vegas Gay Community 1861-2001</i> drafts and working files, 2000 to 2001 Physical Description: 321 Digital Files (0.100 GB) EPS, JPG, RTF, TIF, WPD	digital file 00