



**CONCERNED AMERICANS FOR INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS (CAIR)
RECORDS**

Coll2008-056

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Descriptive Summary

Title

Concerned Americans for Individual Rights Records

Creator

Bruce B. Decker, 1950-1995

Extent

Number of containers: 1 archive half-carton
Linear feet: 0.25 linear foot

Date

1984-1985

Repository

ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, Los Angeles, California

Abstract

Position papers, correspondence, financial reports, planning papers, press releases and other materials relating to Concerned Americans for Individual Rights (CAIR), an organization of moderate to conservative gay and lesbian members of the Republican party formed by Bruce Decker to work to change the negative image of the GLBT community within the party and to counter the rising influence of the Religious Right. The materials date from the foundation of the organization in the spring of 1984 until the spring of 1985.



Administrative Information

Access

The collection is open to researchers. There are no access restrictions.

Publication Rights

Researchers wishing to publish material must obtain permission in writing from ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives as the physical owner of the material. Note that permission to publish does not constitute copyright clearance. ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives can grant copyright clearance only for those materials for which we hold copyright. It is the responsibility of the researcher to obtain copyright clearance for all other materials from the copyright holder(s).

Preferred Citation

Box #, folder #, Concerned Americans for Individual Rights Records, Coll2008-056,
ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, Los Angeles, California

Indexing Terms

This collection is indexed under the following terms:

Gay Rights—United States—1980-1990
Homosexuality—Political aspects
Republican Party (U.S. : 1854-)

Acquisitions Information

Date and method of acquisition unknown.

Processing Information

Collection processed by Michael P. Palmer, October 21, 2008.



Administrative History

Concerned Americans for Individual Rights (CAIR) was formed in the spring of 1984 by Bruce B. Decker (1950-1995), a gay Republican political consultant who had served as an advance man for President Gerald R. Ford and Vice President Nelson A. Rockefeller. Decker intended CAIR to be a national organization of moderate and conservative gays and lesbians whose goal was to expand Republicans' awareness of GLBT issues and to counter the rising influence of the religious right. The original Board of Directors consisted of Decker, Robert Bauman, Leonard Matlovich and Bonnie McGinley, who succeeded Decker as president in December 1984. Little is known about the activities of the organization: a national convention was announced for April 5-7, in Dallas, at which congressman Bill Green (R-NY) was to speak, but the extant records end before the event was scheduled to be held. In January 1986, the organization honored the two Log Cabin Clubs of Southern California (*Advocate*, February 18, 1986, p. 26). Christopher Hitchens states that the organization was "shipwrecked by the AIDS crisis", although it continued to exist, at least on paper, as late as 1993 (*For the Sake of Argument*, 1993, p. 53).



Scope and Content and Container List

The collection consists of a single loose-leaf notebook containing Bruce Decker's records of CAIR. The materials, which date from June 1984 through March 1985, include position papers, minutes, reports, budgets, correspondence, lists of contributors, press releases, and a small number of newspaper clippings, all but one from the *Washington Blade*, found loose. The annual meeting materials include signed letters of regret from senators William S. Cohen, Charles E. Grassley, Arlen Specter, and Lowell Weicker, and from representatives Silvio Conte and Olympia Snowe.

Box Folder

1	1-6	Notebook. 1984-1985
1	1	1: Minutes. 1984-1985
1	2	2: Contacts. 1984-1985
1	3	3: Press. 1984-1985
1	4	4: Annual Meeting. 1984-1985
1	5	5: Symposium. 1984-1985
1	6	6: Budget. 1984-1985
1	7	Newspaper Clippings. 1984-1985