

Bulldog and Panther: The 1970 May Day Rally and Yale, opening Monday, February 10th

Monday, February 10, 2014 - Friday, May 16, 2014

Sterling Memorial Library (SML), Memorabilia Room, 120 High St., New Haven, CT 06511

1969 and 1970 were politically tumultuous years in the United States and indeed around the world. Unrest in U.S. urban areas and on college and university campuses focused on racial and gender inequalities, the ongoing U.S. war in Vietnam, and demands by students for more responsive and inclusive campus decision making. On 19 May 1969 Black Panther Party (BPP) member Alex Rackley was kidnapped and killed in New Haven by other BPP members who believed he was an FBI informant. In a time of intense FBI counter-intelligence focus on neutralizing the BPP's influence in U.S. cities, the broad swath of indictments for the murder seemed an overreach to many. The defendants were referred to as the New Haven Nine, an allusion to the famous Chicago Seven, and included Bobby Seale, national BPP Chairman, who had spoken at Yale the day of the murder. Seale was extradited to Connecticut on the approval of California Governor Ronald Reagan, and the trial was set to begin in May 1970. A large protest rally was organized on the New Haven Green, scheduled for 1-3 May 1970. This exhibit explores the events leading up to the New Haven May Day rally, and its impact on Yale, the New Haven community, and beyond.

The exhibit is curated by Sarah Schmidt, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, and Bill Landis, Manuscripts and Archives. For more information contact mssa.reference@yale.edu [1] or (203) 432-1744.

The exhibit is free and open to the public Monday-Friday, 8:30am-4:45pm.

External link: http://www.library.yale.edu/librarynews/2014/02/bulldog_and_panther_the_1970_m.h... [2]

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[2] http://www.library.yale.edu/librarynews/2014/02/bulldog_and_panther_the_1970_m.html