

The logo for Simon Fraser University (SFU), consisting of the letters "SFU" in white, bold, sans-serif font, centered within a solid red rectangular background.

Simon Fraser University Archives and Records Management Department

Finding Aid - Rick McGrath fonds (F-295)

Generated by Simon Fraser University Archives and Records Management Department on May 16, 2024
Language of description: English

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Rick McGrath fonds

Table of contents

Summary information	3
Administrative history / Biographical sketch	3
Scope and content	4
Notes	4
Access points	5
Series descriptions	5
F-295-1, SFU-related records, [after 1965]	5
F-295-1-1, Campus politics	6
F-295-1-2, Correspondence	7
F-295-1-3, University student records	7
F-295-1-4, Ephemera	8
F-295-1-5, Photographs	10
F-295-1-6, Publications	11

Summary information

Repository:	Simon Fraser University Archives and Records Management Department
Title:	Rick McGrath fonds
Reference code:	F-295
Date:	1965-2015 (date of creation)
Physical description:	12 cm of textual records 146 photographs: prints ca. 224 photographs: negatives 6 contact sheets 48 pin buttons
Language:	English
Dates of creation, revision and deletion:	April 2024: Arrangement and description of Series 1 (analog SFU-related materials from the first two accruals) (Coco Chen).

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

Rick McGrath is a Canadian writer, editor, designer, and publisher. He was born in New Westminster, BC on July 4, 1946. McGrath was a charter student of Simon Fraser University, graduating with an Honours Bachelor of English, first class, in 1970. He stayed another two years at SFU working towards a Master's degree, which he ultimately did not complete. During his time at SFU, he was editor of *The S.F. View* in 1965, was the sports editor of *The Peak* from 1965-1966, and from 1968-1969 he edited Canadian University Press news releases, was an editorial page columnist, and music/book reviewer. He was elected both undergraduate (1969) and graduate (1970) student representative in the English Department. As an alumnus, he was the editor of *Afterthoughts* alumni magazine from 1975-1979.

McGrath's reporting career continued well past SFU. Concurrent to his academic career, McGrath was the entertainment editor and rock critic at *The Georgia Straight* from 1969-1972 and the *Terminal City Express* from 1972-1974. In September 1972, he became a reporter for the *Richmond Review*, then Canada's largest twice weekly suburban newspaper, becoming assistant editor in 1974. From 1975-1977 he was the west coast correspondent for the Ottawa-based magazine, *Science Forum*. From 1977-1978 he wrote and hosted a bi-weekly satirical television show for Richmond community television (Cable 10). From 1975-1978 he contributed and performed short stories for *DNA Magazine*, an audio publication produced by Lawrence Russell of the University of Victoria.

In 1976 he met his life partner — and a fellow alumnus — Catherine Johnston, who was working as Assistant Curator of the SFU Art Gallery.

He left the *Richmond Review* in 1978 to begin his advertising career by co-founding McGrath Dunn Advertising, and over the next nine years became co-owner and/or partner in three Vancouver ad agencies, finally as the Creative Director for the western office of Grey Canada. In 1987 he left Grey and

became the in-house creative resource for Pemberton Securities in Vancouver, which was purchased by RBC Dominion Securities in 1989. After the merger he moved to their head office in Toronto and was named VP, Creative Services. He retired on December 31, 1999.

McGrath continued his writing and publishing after his retirement, contributing to SFU's AQ Magazine as a columnist from 2000-2004. From 2000-2009 he contributed over 100 reviews to the Culture Court website, and from 2008-2012 he wrote 60 movie reviews for the subscription website Quiet Earth as their Toronto correspondent.

In 1976 he discovered the writings of the late British author, J.G. Ballard, and began acquiring his works, now generally regarded as the world's largest private collection.

In 2013 he started his own publishing company, The Terminal Press, and has produced 17 books as of May 2024. Books McGrath authored include *Straight Man: Rock Star Interviews, Reviews and Photos* from Vancouver's Underground Press, and *The Disenchanted Forest*. He has published 10 annual anthologies dedicated to the works of J.G. Ballard — the Deep Ends series — and one Ballard critical study — *Grave New World*. In 2023 he co-edited a collection of Ballardian stories for Titan Books of London called *Reports From The Deep End*, and in 2024 he published *Unauthorised Departures*, an anthology of short stories from writers around the world.

Scope and content

Fonds consists of records created, collected, or received by Rick McGrath over the course of his work as an SFU student, writer, editor, and advertiser. Series 1 consists of SFU-related materials, including McGrath's own student records, ephemera, photographs, and publications.

Notes

Title notes

Restrictions on access

Some files may contain personal or confidential information. Files marked "pending review" must be reviewed by an archivist prior to release and, as a result of the review, access restrictions may apply. Please see the file lists and consult the reference archivist for more details.

Conditions governing use

Copyright applies to the records in the fonds and copyright ownership is mixed. McGrath retains copyright in works he himself authored, and he agreed to make these available under a Creative Commons Attribution-Non-Commercial license ([CC BY-NC](<https://atom.archives.sfu.ca/cc-by-nc>)). The fonds also includes copyright-protected works created by third parties, especially in the [publications](f-295-1-6) McGrath collected. For these materials, the Archives may make copies available for private study or research purposes under the fair dealing provisions of Canada's Copyright Act. Use for any other purpose may require the permission of the copyright owner. SFU Archives can

assist researchers in attempting to identify copyright owners, but it is the user's responsibility to contact owners and secure any required permissions or assume all risks arising from not so doing.

Accruals

Additional material has been accessioned but not yet processed.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** published

Access points

- Peak Publications Society
- Textual records (documentary form)
- Graphic materials (documentary form)
- Photographic materials (documentary form)
- Artefacts (documentary form)

Series descriptions

Series F-295-1: SFU-related records

Date: [after 1965] (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of records relating to Simon Fraser University and Rick McGrath's activities while there, both in McGrath's time as a student and an alumnus. Includes McGrath's own student records, pin buttons, photographs and SFU publications that McGrath contributed to as a writer and/or editor such as *The Peak* and *Afterthoughts* alumni magazine.

Physical description: 12 cm of textual records

146 photographs: prints

ca. 224 photographs: negatives

6 contact sheets

48 pin buttons

Language of the material:

English

Access points:

- Textual records (documentary form)
- Photographic materials (documentary form)
- Graphic materials (documentary form)

- Artefacts (documentary form)

Restrictions on access:

Some files may contain personal or confidential information. Files marked "pending review" must be reviewed by an archivist prior to release and, as a result of the review, access restrictions may apply. Please see the file lists and consult the reference archivist for more details.

Publication status:

published

Subseries F-295-1-1: Campus politics

Date: 1968-1969 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Sub-series includes records reflecting McGrath's involvement in politics at SFU at the time, such as SFU Komix, a political commentary cartoon, and the Strand notice, which ended the student occupation of the administrations building in 1968, an event that McGrath took part in.

Physical description: 1 cm of textual records

Language of the material:

English

Access points:

- Textual records (documentary form)

Restrictions on access:

Some files may contain personal or confidential information. Files marked "pending review" must be reviewed by an archivist prior to release and, as a result of the review, access restrictions may apply. Please see the file lists and consult the reference archivist for more details.

Publication status:

published

File / item list

Reference code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
F-295-1-1-0-1	File - Strand notice	1968	Pending review	295-1
F-295-1-1-0-2	File - P. McTaggart-Cowan resignation records	1968	Pending review	295-1
F-295-1-1-0-3	File - *Horse Sheet*, volume 1, issue 3	1969	Open, no restrictions	295-1
F-295-1-1-0-4	File - *SFU Komix*, volume 1, issue 1	1969	Open, no restrictions	295-1

Subseries F-295-1-2: Correspondence

Date: [after 1970] (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Sub-series includes correspondence that McGrath wrote or received, primarily regarding SFU. Many records are sent from SFU or members of the SFU faculty and community.

Physical description: 2 cm of textual records

Language of the material:

English

Access points:

- Textual records (documentary form)
- Graphic materials (documentary form)

Restrictions on access:

Some files may contain personal or confidential information. Files marked "pending review" must be reviewed by an archivist prior to release and, as a result of the review, access restrictions may apply. Please see the file lists and consult the reference archivist for more details.

Publication status:

published

File / item list

Reference code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
F-295-1-2-0-1	File - Correspondence	[1972]-2015	Pending review	295-1
F-295-1-2-0-2	File - *Afterthoughts* art correspondence	[after 1970]	Pending review	295-1

Subseries F-295-1-3: University student records

Date: [1965-1972] (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Sub-series consists of records relating to McGrath's time as a student at SFU, such as scholarship letters, course materials, and assignments.

Physical description: 3 cm of textual records

Language of the material:

English

Access points:

- Textual records (documentary form)

Restrictions on access:

Some files may contain personal or confidential information. Files marked "pending review" must be reviewed by an archivist prior to release and, as a result of the review, access restrictions may apply. Please see the file lists and consult the reference archivist for more details.

Publication status:

published

File / item list

Reference code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
F-295-1-3-0-1	File - Student records	[1965-1972]	Pending review	295-1
F-295-1-3-0-2	File - Course materials and assignments	[1965-1972]	Pending review	295-1

Subseries F-295-1-4: Ephemera

Date: [1965-1972] (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Sub-series includes pin buttons, art, and ribbons McGrath collected during his time as a student at SFU.

Physical description: 1 cm of textual records
48 pin buttons

Language of the material:

English

Access points:

- Graphic materials (documentary form)
- Objects (documentary form)

Restrictions on access:

Open, no restrictions

Publication status:

published

File / item list

Reference code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
F-295-1-4-0-1	File - Rick McGrath SFU art	[after 1965]	Open, no restrictions	295-1
F-295-1-4-0-2	File - 1960s SFU pin buttons	[1965-1969]	Open, no restrictions	295-2
F-295-1-4-0-2-1	Item - Ask me welcome to SFU button	[1965-1969]	Open, no restrictions	295-2

F-295-1-4-0-2-2	Item - SFU Clan Fan button	[1965-1969]	Open, no restrictions	295-3
F-295-1-4-0-2-3	Item - Louis Riel U button	1968	Open, no restrictions	295-4
F-295-1-4-0-2-4	Item - Keep the cops off campus button	[1965-1969]	Open, no restrictions	295-5
F-295-1-4-0-2-5	Item - Support the 114 button	[1968]	Open, no restrictions	295-6
F-295-1-4-0-2-6	Item - Defend the 114 SFU button	[1968]	Open, no restrictions	295-7
F-295-1-4-0-2-7	Item - Follow the little man support P.S.A. button	1969	Open, no restrictions	295-8
F-295-1-4-0-2-8	Item - Change understanding confrontation button	[1965-1969]	Open, no restrictions	295-9
F-295-1-4-0-2-9	Item - Knowledge for whom? button	[1968]	Open, no restrictions	295-20
F-295-1-4-0-2-10	Item - SFU SASS	[1965-1966]	Open, no restrictions	
F-295-1-4-0-2-11	Item - SFU SASS	[1965-1966]	Open, no restrictions	
F-295-1-4-0-3	File - Political pin buttons	[196-?]-[197-?]	Open, no restrictions	295-2
F-295-1-4-0-3-1	Item - Women's faults black button	[196?]-[197?]	Open, no restrictions	295-10
F-295-1-4-0-3-2	Item - The pill in time saves nine button	[196?]-[197?]	Open, no restrictions	295-11
F-295-1-4-0-3-3	Item - Ban the bra green button	[196?]	Open, no restrictions	295-12
F-295-1-4-0-3-4	Item - Raised fist button	[196?]-[197?]	Open, no restrictions	295-13
F-295-1-4-0-3-5	Item - Socialist movement Conway button	[196?]-[197?]	Open, no restrictions	295-14
F-295-1-4-0-3-6	Item - Had enough? Anti-Ronald Reagan button	[1970?]	Open, no restrictions	295-15
F-295-1-4-0-3-7	Item - What me worry? Anti-Lyndon B. Johnson button	1968	Open, no restrictions	295-16
F-295-1-4-0-3-8	Item - Happy birthday useless button	1982	Open, no restrictions	295-17
F-295-1-4-0-3-9	Item - Clean air smells funny blue button	[196?]-[197?]	Open, no restrictions	295-18
F-295-1-4-0-3-10	Item - Smokey keep the America green plant grass button	[196?]-[197?]	Open, no restrictions	295-19
F-295-1-4-0-3-11	Item - End poverty green button	[196?]-[197?]	Open, no restrictions	295-21
F-295-1-4-0-3-12	Item - Two nations one enemy deux nations un ennemi button	[196?]-[197?]	Open, no restrictions	295-22
F-295-1-4-0-4	File - Vietnam pin buttons	[196-?]-[197-?]	Open, no restrictions	295-2
F-295-1-4-0-4-1	Item - Save lives not face button	[1967]	Open, no restrictions	295-23
F-295-1-4-0-4-2	Item - Take a Viet-Cong to church this Sunday button	[196?]-[197?]	Open, no restrictions	295-24
F-295-1-4-0-4-3	Item - Victory to the N.L.F. button	[196?]-[197?]	Open, no restrictions	295-25

F-295-1-4-0-4-4	Item - That's the ugliest thing I ever saw Anti-Lyndon B. Johnson button	[196?]-[197?]	Open, no restrictions	295-26
F-295-1-4-0-4-5	Item - Would Christ carry a draft card? button	[196?]-[197?]	Open, no restrictions	295-27
F-295-1-4-0-4-6	Item - Support our boys in Vietnam button	[196?]-[197?]	Open, no restrictions	295-28
F-295-1-4-0-4-7	Item - Student association to end the war in Vietnam button	[196?]-[197?]	Open, no restrictions	295-29
F-295-1-4-0-4-8	Item - Draft beer not boys button	[196?]-[197?]	Open, no restrictions	295-30
F-295-1-4-0-4-9	Item - Napalm makes millionaires button	[196?]-[197?]	Open, no restrictions	295-31
F-295-1-4-0-4-10	Item - Molotov cocktail button	[196?]-[197?]	Open, no restrictions	295-32
F-295-1-4-0-4-11	Item - Molotov cocktail button	[196?]-[197?]	Open, no restrictions	295-33
F-295-1-4-0-4-12	Item - Vietnam: \$80 million a day button	[196?]-[197?]	Open, no restrictions	295-34
F-295-1-4-0-5	File - General pin buttons	[196-?]-[197-?]	Open, no restrictions	295-2
F-295-1-4-0-5-1	Item - Peace button	[196?]-[197?]	Open, no restrictions	295-35
F-295-1-4-0-5-2	Item - Love button	[196?]-[197?]	Open, no restrictions	295-36
F-295-1-4-0-5-3	Item - Change understanding confrontation button	[1965-1969]	Open, no restrictions	295-37
F-295-1-4-0-5-4	Item - Snoopy sniffs aeroplane glue button	[196?]-[197?]	Open, no restrictions	295-38
F-295-1-4-0-5-5	Item - We love you Charlie Brown button	[196?]-[197?]	Open, no restrictions	295-39
F-295-1-4-0-5-6	Item - The Action Committee of Unemployed Students button	[196?]-[197?]	Open, no restrictions	295-40
F-295-1-4-0-5-7	Item - All you need is love button	[196?]-[197?]	Open, no restrictions	295-41
F-295-1-4-0-5-8	Item - We're biased yellow button	[196?]-[197?]	Open, no restrictions	295-42
F-295-1-4-0-5-9	Item - Even I like sex orange button	[196?]-[197?]	Open, no restrictions	295-43
F-295-1-4-0-5-10	Item - Look what Mr. Charlie has done to your mind button	[196?]-[197?]	Open, no restrictions	295-44
F-295-1-4-0-5-11	Item - I'm number 3 I don't try at all button	[196?]-[197?]	Open, no restrictions	295-45
F-295-1-4-0-5-12	Item - I am a human being button	[196?]-[197?]	Open, no restrictions	295-46
F-295-1-4-0-5-13	Item - I am a cynical saboteur button	[196?]-[197?]	Open, no restrictions	295-47
F-295-1-4-0-6	File - Swim meet ribbons	1965-1966	Open, no restrictions	295-1
F-295-1-4-0-7	File - S.F. Mime Troupe poster	[1966 or 1967]	Pending review	295-1

Subseries F-295-1-5: Photographs

Date: [after 1965] (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Sub-series consists of photographs McGrath took or collected of SFU and members of the SFU community. Many photographs have annotations on the back that suggest they were made to be published in *The Peak* or *Afterthoughts*.

Physical description: 146 photographs: prints
ca. 224 photographs: negatives
6 contact sheets

Language of the material:

English

Access points:

- Photographic materials (documentary form)

Restrictions on access:

Some files may contain personal or confidential information. Files marked "pending review" must be reviewed by an archivist prior to release and, as a result of the review, access restrictions may apply. Please see the file lists and consult the reference archivist for more details.

Publication status:

published

File / item list

Reference code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
F-295-1-5-0-1	File - Architecture photographs	[after 1965]	Open, no restrictions	295-3
F-295-1-5-0-2	File - Polaroids	1965	Open, no restrictions	295-3
F-295-1-5-0-3	File - Portraits	[after 1965]	Pending review	295-3
F-295-1-5-0-4	File - McFog	[after 1965]	Open, no restrictions	295-3
F-295-1-5-0-5	File - Alumni	[after 1965]	Pending review	295-3
F-295-1-5-0-6	File - Beer test	[after 1965]	Pending review	295-3
F-295-1-5-0-7	File - Fall 1978 alumni BBQ featuring Bowser Moon	1978	Open, no restrictions	295-3
F-295-1-5-0-8	File - Sports photographs	[after 1965]	Pending review	295-3
F-295-1-5-0-9	File - SFU	[after 1965]	Pending review	295-3
F-295-1-5-0-10	File - Event photographs	[after 1965]	Pending review	
F-295-1-5-0-11	File - General photographs	[after 1965]	Pending review	295-3

Subseries F-295-1-6: Publications

Date: 1965-1995 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Sub-series consists of SFU-related publications that McGrath worked on or collected. Includes issues of *The Peak*, *Afterthoughts*, and *Alumni Journal*.

Physical description: 5 cm of textual records

Language of the material:

English

Access points:

- Textual records (documentary form)

Restrictions on access:

Open, no restrictions

Conditions governing use:

The series includes copyright-protected works created by third parties. For these materials, the Archives may make copies available for private study or research purposes under the fair dealing provisions of Canada's Copyright Act. Use for any other purpose may require the permission of the copyright owner. SFU Archives can assist researchers in attempting to identify copyright owners, but it is the user's responsibility to contact owners and secure any required permissions or assume all risks arising from not so doing.

Publication status:

published

File / item list

Reference code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
F-295-1-6-0-1	File - How *The Peak* Began	[1990]	Open, no restrictions	295-1
F-295-1-6-0-2	File - *The Peak*	1965-[1969]	Open, no restrictions	295-1
F-295-1-6-0-3	File - *The Tartan*, volume 2, issue 4	1965	Open, no restrictions	295-1
F-295-1-6-0-4	File - *The S.F. View*, volume 1, issue 1	1965	Open, no restrictions	295-1
F-295-1-6-0-5	File - *Literary Magazine*, issue 1	1966	Open, no restrictions	295-1
F-295-1-6-0-6	File - *Iron*, volume 6	1969	Open, no restrictions	295-1
F-295-1-6-0-7	File - *Afterthoughts*	1974-1978	Open, no restrictions	295-1
F-295-1-6-0-8	File - *Afterthoughts*	1979-1980	Open, no restrictions	295-1
F-295-1-6-0-9	File - *Alumni Journal*, volume 13, issue 3	1995	Open, no restrictions	295-1