



Barry D. Amis Papers UA.10.3.500

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Description is written in: English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

University Archives and Historical Collections

Conrad Hall

943 Conrad Road, Room 101

East Lansing , MI 48824

Business Number: 517-355-2330

archives@msu.edu

URL: <http://archives.msu.edu/>

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Summary Information

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| Repository: | University Archives and Historical Collections |
| Creator: | Amis, Barry DeWayne, 1941- |
| Source - dnr: | Amis, Barry DeWayne, 1941- |
| Title: | Barry D. Amis papers |
| ID: | UA.10.3.500 |
| Date [inclusive]: | 1967-1970, undated |
| Physical Description: | 0.25 Cubic Feet 7 folders |
| Language of the Material: | English . |

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: "Item title, Collection title, Collection Identifier, Michigan State University Archives & Historical Collections, East Lansing, Michigan."

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Biographical / Historical

Before coming to Michigan State University (MSU), Barry D. Amis attended Pennsylvania State University, University of Pennsylvania, and Middlebury College. Amis began studies for his doctorate degree at MSU in 1966. In the basement of Professor Robert L. Green's home in 1967, Amis helped found the Black Student Alliance (BSA) and served as its first president.

The day Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated, Amis and other members of the BSA organized a protest. They wrote a list of grievances with the intent to make the history, culture, and participation of African Americans more integrated on campus. The next day, Amis and Green led a march of almost 2,000 students and delivered the list of grievances to university administration and met with MSU President John Hannah.

After the march, Amis was invited to speak in classes and continued to lead protests with the BSA. He also participated in campus-sponsored forums and wrote several editorials for the

State News newspaper. Due to his experience, Amis became an assistant professor of English and romance languages in 1969. While finishing his doctorate degree in Spanish, Amis taught Spanish and Contemporary African American Literature, a course he developed.

Amis resigned from MSU in 1973 and traveled the world as a Fulbright professor teaching in multiple countries and universities. He returned to the States and taught at Purdue University and worked at other associations.

Today, Amis is retired and writes poetry.

(Sourced from "Alumnus reflects on legacy as student activist and a Black Student Alliance founder" by Kim Popiolek, College of Arts and Letters News, February 1, 2022.)

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Content Description

The collection contains flyers, notes, correspondence, and newspaper clippings related to the creation of the Black Student Alliance and its early history from 1967 to 1969. Included are newspaper clipping editorials that Amis wrote while a student. Also included are blank forms, hate mail, and a factsheet about the Orangeburg Massacre.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Conditions Governing Access

Collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Access

Legal Status: Donor(s) have transferred any applicable copyright to Michigan State University but the collection may contain third-party materials for which copyright was not transferred. Copyright restrictions may apply. Property Rights: Michigan State University.

Conditions Governing Use

Permission to publish material from this collection must be obtained from University Archives & Historical Collections, Michigan State University.

Processing Information

The documents arrived in a binder but were removed for preservation purposes and were kept in the original order. For the larger papers, photocopies were made and included. Please view the photocopy version instead of pulling out the original from the plastic sleeve.

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Controlled Access Headings

- African American college students -- Michigan -- East Lansing
- African American college students -- Societies, etc.
- Student protesters -- Michigan -- East Lansing
- Letters (correspondence)
- Newspaper clippings
- Green, Robert Lee
- Hannah, John A., 1902-1991
- King, Martin Luther, Jr., 1929-1968
- Michigan State University. Black Student Alliance
- Amis, Barry DeWayne, 1941-

Collection Inventory

| Title/Description | Instances | |
|---|-----------|----------|
| MSU stickers from the original binder, undated | Box 6539 | folder 1 |
| Letter to the Editor State News newspaper article - Powell Embodies New Spirit by Barry Amis, undated | Box 6539 | folder 1 |

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| Handwritten Notes - Black Student Alliance roster, undated | Box 6539 | folder 1 |
| Black Fact Sheet about Black Student Alliance meeting, undated | Box 6539 | folder 1 |
| Black Fact Sheet No. 2, meeting announcement, November 30, 1967 | Box 6539 | folder 1 |
| Letter from Robert L. Green to Barry Amis, January 4, 1968 | Box 6539 | folder 1 |
| Letter to the Editor State News newspaper article - Educational tokenism at MSU by Barry Amis, January 9, 1968 | Box 6539 | folder 1 |
| Letter from John Hannah to Barry Amis in response to the tokenism article, January 12, 1968 | Box 6539 | folder 1 |
| Black Fact Sheet No. 8, Cultural Orientation, Bill Parker on Black Music, January 23, 1968 | Box 6539 | folder 1 |
| Black Fact Sheet, Black Students Alliance presents Dr. Robert L. Green on Black Consciousness and Where Do We Go From Here, February 7, 1968 | Box 6539 | folder 1 |
| Black Student Alliance Soul Dance flyer, circa 1968 | Box 6539 | folder 1 |
| Black Students Alliance presents a Memorial Service for Malcolm X, February 21, 1968 | Box 6539 | folder 1 |
| Dick Gregory meeting with Black Students Alliance flyer, March 8, 1968 | Box 6539 | folder 1 |
| Radical Identification Form warning flyer from Black Students Alliance, circa 1968 | Box 6539 | folder 1 |
| Compliance Report of Institutions of Higher Education form - Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Fall 1967 | Box 6539 | folder 1 |
| Handwritten notes about the Compliance Form, circa 1968 | Box 6539 | folder 2 |
| State News newspaper article - Negro students unite to combat 'bias' at 'U' - report on creation of Black Student Alliance, January 18, 1968 | Box 6539 | folder 2 |
| Black Expo-I flyer, sponsored by the Black Student Alliance, April 6, 1968 | Box 6539 | folder 2 |
| An Open Letter to Black Students of Michigan State University, Black Students Alliance, April 11, 1968 | Box 6539 | folder 2 |
| State News newspaper articles - Part of the article entitled "Alliance delivers grievances to University administration" (April 8, 1968) and BSA meeting notice (undated), April 8, 1968, undated | Box 6539 | folder 2 |
| State News newspaper article - Students stunned as news of King's death circulates by Linda Gortmaker, April 8, 1968 | Box 6539 | folder 2 |
| State News newspaper article - An Editorial, regarding death of Martin Luther King, Jr., April 8, 1968 | Box 6539 | folder 2 |

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| State News newspaper article - Alliance delivers grievances to University administration, April 8, 1968 | Box 6539 | folder 2 |
| State News newspaper article - 1,500 in memorial march for King by Trinkia Cline, April 8, 1968 | Box 6539 | folder 2 |
| State News newspaper articles - Hannah confronted (photo and caption) and Black Students' List, April 8, 1968 | Box 6539 | folder 2 |
| State News newspaper articles - Cartoon of the Black Student Alliance giving President Hannah their list (April 9, 1968) and Solemn march (photo and caption) of Black Student Alliance members and other students march to the Administration building (April 8, 1968), April 8 - 9, 1968 | Box 6539 | folder 3 |
| Letter and list of issues to the Administration of Michigan State University, circa April 8, 1968 | Box 6539 | folder 3 |
| Letter to the Administration of Michigan State University - Request to cancel classroom activities on April 9, 1968 and send Dr. and Mrs. Robert L. Green and four black student leaders to the funeral service of Dr. King, circa April 8, 1968 | Box 6539 | folder 3 |
| Letter from John Hannah to Robert L. Green regarding sending Dr. Green and four black students to Dr. King funeral, April 8, 1968 | Box 6539 | folder 3 |
| Letter from John Hannah to Barry Amis regarding scheduling of Hannah to meet with the Black Students Alliance, May 9, 1968 | Box 6539 | folder 3 |
| State News newspaper article - Editorials - In Facing This Most Urgent Task, April 12, 1968 | Box 6539 | folder 3 |
| State News newspaper article - Hannah gives priority to blacks' grievances by Leo Zainea, April 10, 1968 | Box 6539 | folder 3 |
| Handwritten Notes, undated | Box 6539 | folder 3 |
| We March for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Justice and Equality through Creative Non-Violence flyer, April 8, 1968 | Box 6539 | folder 3 |
| Letter to the Editor State News newspaper article - Fate of a Nation in Black and White by Barry Amis, April 24, 1968 | Box 6539 | folder 3 |
| State News newspaper article - Cartoon of the Black Student Alliance giving President Hannah their list, April 9, 1968 | Box 6539 | folder 4 |
| Lansing State Journal newspaper photo - Dr. Robert L. Green leads campus mourners in tribute to Dr. King, April 6, 1968 | Box 6539 | folder 4 |
| Letter to the Editor State News newspaper article - We cannot forget by Barry Amis (May 13, 1968) and State News newspaper photo of marchers from April 5, 1968 (April 9, 1968), April 9, 1968 and May 13, 1968 | Box 6539 | folder 4 |
| Lansing State Journal newspaper articles - Negro Athletes' Boycott Ends at Michigan State by Bob Hoerner and In Support of Players - MSU Students Stage Rally, April 27, 1968 | Box 6539 | folder 4 |

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| State News newspaper article - Grad School seeks Negro Information, May 23, 1968 | Box 6539 | folder 4 |
| State News newspaper article - Forum spokesmen stress action to mitigate racism, May 27, 1968 | Box 6539 | folder 4 |
| Letter to the Editor State News newspaper article - MSU, the do nothing 'U' by Barry Amis, June 26, 1968 | Box 6539 | folder 4 |
| Letter to the Editor State News newspaper article - Racism in the social structure by Barry Amis, July 2, 1968 | Box 6539 | folder 4 |
| Letter to the Editor State News newspaper article - MSU's first mini-step forward by Barry Amis, July 18, 1968 | Box 6539 | folder 4 |
| State News newspaper article - Courses on Negro culture urged by ASMSU board, undated | Box 6539 | folder 4 |
| State News newspaper article - BSA, officials propose new 'U' committee by Pat Anstett, undated | Box 6539 | folder 4 |
| State News newspaper article - Black Students' Alliance statement in response to the suspension of two black athletes at the Olympic Games, October 23, 1968 | Box 6539 | folder 5 |
| Draft of letter to John Fuzak from Barry Amis and While You Were Out Slip, circa October 23, 1968 | Box 6539 | folder 5 |
| Letter from Barry Amis to John Fuzka regarding black student athletes, October 24, 1968 | Box 6539 | folder 5 |
| Lansing State Journal newspaper article - MSU Black Student Group View Told, Few Demands Seen Met by Helen Clegg, November 4, 1968 | Box 6539 | folder 5 |
| Letter to Barry Amis from Bette Collom thanking him for speaking at the Communication 200 class (April 28, 1969) and State News newspaper photo entitled Study on Racism - James McKee speaking on racism (undated), April 28, 1969, undated | Box 6539 | folder 5 |
| Detroit Free Press newspaper article - MSU Black Students Sit-In by Julie Morris, April 30, 1969 | Box 6539 | folder 5 |
| Telegram to Barry Amis from state representative Jackie Vaughn supporting BSA efforts to support the Wilson hall cafeteria staff, April 29, 1969 | Box 6539 | folder 5 |
| Detroit Free Press newspaper article - MSU Black Students Sit-In by Julie Morris, April 30, 1969 | Box 6539 | folder 5 |
| Hate mail to Barry Amis, May 3, 1969 | Box 6539 | folder 6 |
| Hate mail, undated | Box 6539 | folder 6 |
| The Detroit News newspaper article - Negro is MSU president, October 17, 1969 | Box 6539 | folder 6 |

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| MSU Faculty News newspaper articles - Former head of Black Student's Alliance now teaches course he helped create and Thirteen urban courses set, March 3, 1970 | Box 6539 | folder 6 |
| Handwritten draft of The Black Student and the Revolution, undated | Box 6539 | folder 6 |
| Black Action Conference notes, undated | Box 6539 | folder 7 |
| Housing Questionnaire from the East Lansing Human Relations Commission, undated | Box 6539 | folder 7 |
| Wheeling & Dealing at MSU flyer about racist real estate deal, undated | Box 6539 | folder 7 |
| Academic Days of Conscience program, circa April 16-17, 1968 | Box 6539 | folder 7 |
| The National Council of Negro Women, Inc. - Orangeburg Massacre Fact Sheet, circa 1968 | Box 6539 | folder 7 |
| Flyer with place for signature encouraging Charles Chamberlain to support the open housing bill, April 9, 1968 | Box 6539 | folder 7 |
