

**JAMES R. VITELLI RESISTANCE PAPERS,  
1965-1975**

**SKILLMAN LIBRARY  
LAFAYETTE COLLEGE**

### **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

Born in Trenton, New Jersey on November 15, 1920, James R. Vitelli was a member of the Lafayette College faculty from 1950 until his retirement in 1987. Upon graduation from the College of Wooster in 1942, Vitelli served as a Lieutenant in the U.S. Navy aboard warships in the Pacific and Mediterranean. After returning to civilian life at the end of WWII, Vitelli attended the University of Pennsylvania's new interdisciplinary graduate program in American Civilization and brought his passion for American Studies to Lafayette College. Vitelli received his M.A. from Penn in 1948 and his Ph.D. in 1955. He is credited with introducing courses in American Civilization to the curriculum at Lafayette and served as the Chair of American Civilization through 1977. He relinquished that role to serve as the Head of the English Department from 1977 to 1983.

James Vitelli's contributions to the College community were numerous, including his leadership of the Stephen Crane Society and the establishment of the Crane collection in Skillman Library. Vitelli and his wife, Tinker, were active participants in the biannual faculty play. Vitelli was also an exemplary teacher and scholar. He was awarded the Jones Faculty Lectureship and was the recipient of a Jones Superior Teaching Award. Twice the Fulbright Commission called upon him to serve as a visiting scholar, in Trieste, Italy from 1956-58 and in India in 1969. He was also commissioned by the University of Pennsylvania to create a program in American literature in Bombay, India.

Upon his retirement in 1987, Vitelli moved to Bowdoinham, Maine and remained there until his death on December 3, 2006. For further information on the life and career of Professor James R. Vitelli, see the *Memorial Resolution for James R. Vitelli*, presented to the Lafayette College Faculty, April 3, 2007 (see Box 1, Folder 3).

### **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

These papers were collected by James R. Vitelli and include publications, newspaper clippings, correspondences, and documents dating from 1965-1975. The collection is stored in 2 boxes (1 record center box and 1 oversize box; 15 linear inches). The papers document Vitelli's anti-Vietnam war sentiments and his family's participation in Easton area anti-war protests. In addition, collected newsletters and journals focus on issues relating to labor, socialism, feminism, black activism, race relations, US foreign policy, and a variety of college and university alternative student groups and publications.

The papers are organized into two series. Series I, Subject Files, is arranged alphabetically by topic and includes correspondence, flyers, documents, and clippings. Significant topics include anti-draft efforts, the National Vietnam Moratorium protest in October of 1969, and the Student Strike at Lafayette College in May of 1970. Series II, Publications, includes anti-war and activist journals and newsletters arranged alphabetically by title. Noteworthy titles of Series II include *The Black Panther* (issued by the Black Panther Party as a

black community news service), *The Militant* (a socialist appeal created by the Workers Party of the U.S.), and *Win* (a magazine advocating peace and freedom through nonviolent action). While none of the titles in Series II represent complete runs of the publication, they do provide a valuable snapshot of American activist organizations from 1968-75.

## INVENTORY

### Series I: Subject Files

#### Box 1

#### Folder

- 1 Anti-draft flyers, ca. 1968-70
- 2 Anti-war correspondence, 1969-70
- 3 Biographical (James R. Vitelli)
- 4 FBI wanted flyers, April – November, 1970
- 5 Feminism
- 6 Marxism
- 7 Miscellaneous, 1965-
- 8 Miscellaneous clippings
- 9 National Moratorium, October, 1969
- 10 National Moratorium – Clippings, October, 1969
- 11 Southern Conference Educational Fund (SCEF), 1969
- 12 Strike at Lafayette College, May 1970
- 13 Students for a Democratic Society (SDS), 1968-

### Series II: Publications

- 1 *The Black Panther*, 1970 [3 issues] – see Box 2 (Oversize)  
Catalog record: <http://libcat.lafayette.edu/record=b2552551>
- 2 *CCCO News Notes*, 1970-71 [2 issues]
- 3 *Chama Gazeti*, 1968 [1 issue]
- 4 *Changes*, 1971 [1 issue]
- 5 *Columbia Spectator*, 1968 [2 issues]
- 6 *Combat*, 1970 [1 issue]
- 7 *The Fellowship of Reconciliation*, 1970 [1 issue]
- 8 *Guardian Independent Radical Newsweekly*, 1969 [1 issue]
- 9 *Knick-N.A.C. – The Voice of the Poor*, 1968 [1 issue]
- 10 *LEPOCO Report* (Lehigh-Pocono Committee on Concern), 1970 [1 issue]
- 11 *A Maine Manifest*, 1972 [1 issue]
- 12 *The Militant*, 1968-70 [7 issues] – see Box 2 (Oversize)  
Catalog record: <http://libcat.lafayette.edu/record=b2552550>

- 13 *Newsletter on Military Law and Counseling*, 1970 [1 issue] – see CCCO News Notes
- 14 *Open Valley*
- 15 *The Peace Newsletter* (New Hampshire), n.d. [1 issue]
- 16 *The Peacemaker*, 1969-71 [9 issues]
- 17 *The Pitt News*, 1969 [1 issue]
- 18 *Pittsburgh Peace and Freedom News*, 1970 [1 issue]
- 19 *The Post-American*, 1973 [1 issue]
- 20 *A Quaker Action Group*, 1969-70 [2 issues]
- 21 *The Relative Truth*, 1970 [1 issue]
- 22 *The Resister*, 1970 [2 issues]
- 23 *The Rolling Stone*, 1969 [1 issue]
- 24 *Solidarity* (N.Y. SDC), 1969 [1 issue]
- 25 *Temple Free Press*, 1969-70 [2 issues]
- 26 *University Times* (Pittsburgh), 1969 [1 issue]
- 27 *The U.S. China Friendship Newsletter*, 1971 [1 issue]
- 28 *The Village Voice*, 1970 [1 issue]
- 29 *Win*, 1968 [2 issues]
- 30 *Win*, 1968 [10 issues]
- 31 *Win*, 1970 [13 issues]
- 32 *Win*, 1971 [4 issues]
- 33 *Win*, 1974 [8 issues]
- 34 *Win*, 1975 [2 issues]

Catalog record for *Win* issues: <http://libcat.lafayette.edu/record=b2552549>

## **Box 2 Oversize**

### **PROVENANCE**

James R. Vitelli donated this collection of resistance papers to Special Collections & College Archives in the summer of 1987.