

## **Finding aid of the Beowulf Thorne Papers**

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## Finding aid of the Beowulf Thorne Papers

### Collection number: 2003-10

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society  
San Francisco, California

Processed by:

Josué Hurtado

Date Completed:

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Encoded by:

Rebekah Kim

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### Descriptive Summary

**Title:** Beowulf Thorne Papers

**Dates:** 1964-1999

**Collection number:** 2003-10

**Creator:** Thorne, Beowulf

**Collection Size:** 4.0 linear feet2 manuscript boxes, 2 cartons, 1 oversized box

**Repository:** Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society

San Francisco, California 94105

**Abstract:** Beowulf Thorne (Jack Henry Foster) was a political activist on issues affecting PWAs (people with AIDS). He was one of the founders, with Tom Shearer, of the humor magazine, *Diseased Pariah News* (DPN). He used his skills as a writer, editor, and graphic artist on the magazine. The collection documents the operations, both commercial and artistic of DPN, as well as the work of Oakland's Condom Resource Center.

**Physical location:** Stored at the Archives of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society in San Francisco, California.

**Languages:** Languages represented in the collection: English

 <https://calisphere.org/collections/22661/>

### Access

Collection open for research.

### Publication Rights

Copyright to unpublished manuscript materials has been transferred to the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society.

### Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Beowulf Thorne Papers, 2003-10, The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society.

### Acquisition Information

Donated to the Library by Daniel Bao on April 3, 2003.

### Biography

Beowulf Thorne (born Jack Henry Foster) was born in San Diego on November 6, 1964. He attended the University of California, Santa Cruz. A political activist regarding issues affecting PWAs (People with AIDS), he was one of the founders, along with Tom Shearer, of the PWA humor magazine *Diseased Pariah News* (DPN). He used both his skills as a writer-editor and as a graphic artist in creating and publishing DPN. A total of eleven issues of *Diseased Pariah News* were published from 1990 to 1999.

Beowulf Thorne passed away from complications relating to AIDS on May 8, 1999, the second co-founder to pass away from AIDS (Tom Shearer passed away after the second issue of DPN was published). Thorne was memorialized in the final issue of DPN in an irreverently titled piece of which he would have approved: "Dang! Our Founder and Guiding Light Died."

### Scope and Content of Collection

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Few personal papers are included in this collection. It's primarily focus is on Thorne's experience as a person with AIDS (PWA). This collection mostly consists of the textual and graphic records of Diseased Pariah News. An additional series relates to Oakland's Condom Resource Center, headed by director Daniel Bao, who worked closely with DPN.

The series is organized into 5 series:

- Series 1. Personal, 1964-1998
- Series 2. Diseased Pariah News, 1990-1999
- Series 3. Zines, 1990-1997
- Series 4. Condom Resource Center, 1990-1998
- Series 5. Photos/Artwork, 1989-1992
- Series 5. Photos/Artwork, 1989-1992
- Series 6. Objects, undated, 1990

Series 1. Personal, 1964-1998

This series consists of personal documents and other effects of Beowulf Thorne such as his passports, birth certificate, personal notes on his estate, and articles he wrote for POZ Magazine, a magazine for and about people living with HIV. There are also personal photographs in this series.

Series 2. Diseased Pariah News, 1990-1999

This series contains materials relating to the Thorne's magazine Diseased Pariah News. All eleven issues of the magazine are included as well as background materials and other items related to publishing the magazine such as drafts of articles, artwork and photographs. Also found in this series are reviews of the magazine and articles in other publications about DPN. Finally there are correspondence files containing letter to the editors requesting back issues, subscriptions, or expressing opinions about the magazine.

Series 3. Zines, 1990-1997

This series consists of other zines collected by Thorne. These publications had a similar irreverent approach to the AIDS crisis

Series 4. Condom Resource Center, 1990-1998

This series contains materials produced by the Condom Resource Center (CRC) in Oakland. Thorne worked very closely with this organization, helping create artwork and other content for their safe sex campaigns. Included in this series are examples of some of Thorne's artwork as well as photographs. There are also several publications put out by the CRC such as several versions of the Condom Educator's Guide.

Series 5. Photos/Artwork, 1989-1992

This series consists of the photographs and other artwork created by Beowulf Thorne. His skills as a photographer and an artist are illustrated by these items.

Series 6. Objects, undated, 1990

This series contains ephemera from Diseased Pariah News and other organizations.

#### **Indexing Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

AIDS

San Francisco (Calif.)

Persons With AIDS

AIDS Activists

Graphic Artists

#### **Related Material**

Diseased Pariah News(Periodical)

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**Series 1. Personal 1964-1998****Physical Description:** 11 folders**Scope and Content Note**

This series consists of personal documents and other effects of Beowulf Thorne such as his passports, birth certificate, personal notes on his estate, and articles he wrote for POZ Magazine, a magazine for and about people living with HIV. There are also personal photographs in this series.

Box: Folder 1: 1  
 Box: Folder 1: 2  
 Box: Folder 1: 3  
 Box: Folder 1: 4  
 Box: Folder 1: 5  
 Box: Folder 1: 6  
 Box: Folder 1: 7  
 Box: Folder 1: 8

**Birth Certificate, passport, vaccination record 1964-1988****Notes on his estate****Life insurance 1996****Article submitted to POZ on living with Lymphoma 1988****Notes for POZ article on Collateral Damage 1996****Notes for POZ article on Depression 1996****Notes for POZ article on Suicide 1997****Tienanmen week at Stanford 1991**

Box: Folder 1:  
 9-11

**Photos**

Box: Folder 1: 9  
 Box: Folder 1: 10  
 Box: Folder 1: 11

**"Steam"****Personal****"A Certain Undisclosed Location in Long Beach"****Series 2. Diseased Pariah News 1990-1999****Physical Description:** 45 folders**Series Description**

This series contains materials relating to the Thorne's magazine Diseased Pariah News. All eleven issues of the magazine are included as well as background materials and other items related to publishing the magazine such as drafts of articles, artwork and photographs. Also found in this series are reviews of the magazine and articles in other publications about DPN. Finally there are correspondence files containing letter to the editors requesting back issues, subscriptions, or expressing opinions about the magazine.

Box: Folder 1:  
 12-22

**Magazine**

Box: Folder 1: 12  
 Box: Folder 1: 13  
 Box: Folder 1: 14  
 Box: Folder 1: 15  
 Box: Folder 1: 16  
 Box: Folder 1: 17  
 Box: Folder 1: 18  
 Box: Folder 1: 19  
 Box: Folder 1: 20  
 Box: Folder 1: 21  
 Box: Folder 1: 22

**#1 1990****#2 1991****#3 1991****#4 1991****#5 1992****#6 1992****#7 1992****#8 1993****#9 1994****#10 1995****#11 1999**

Box: Folder 1:  
 23-30

**Articles**

Box: Folder 1: 23  
 Box: Folder 1: 24  
 Box: Folder 1: 25  
 Box: Folder 1: 26

**Notes for a story: "A Brief History of Malaysia"****The Art of Ralphing 1998****Submitted by Edward Zold 1997****Annotated draft of articles for issue #11 1989**

## Articles

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Box: Folder 1: 27	<b>"Nutrition and PWAs from AIDS Patient Care" 1988</b>
Box: Folder 1: 28	<b>Nutrition and Recipes 1987-1994</b>
Box: Folder 1: 29	<b>"Pseudo Intellectual Stuff from the Halls of Academe" 1996</b>
Box: Folder 1: 30	<b>"Vague Ideas for DPN" 1992</b>

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Box: Folder 1: 31 - 2: 15	<b>DPN Artwork</b>
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Box: Folder 1: 31	<b>DPN # 1 1990</b>
Box: Folder 1: 32	<b>DPN # 2 1991</b>
Box: Folder 1: 33	<b>DPN # 3 1991</b>
Box: Folder 1: 34	<b>DPN # 4 1991</b>
Box: Folder 1: 35	<b>DPN # 10 1995</b>
Box: Folder 2: 1	<b>Artwork by Kira</b>
Box: Folder 2: 2	<b>"Jesus Came to My House"</b>
Box: Folder 2: 3	<b>"History of Malaysia"</b>
Box: Folder 2: 4	<b>Paper Merit Badges for DPN Buttons</b>

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Box: Folder 2: 5-14	<b>DPN Photographs</b>
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Box: Folder 2: 5	<b>DPN # 1 1990</b>
Box: Folder 2: 6	<b>DPN # 2 1991</b>
Box: Folder 2: 7	<b>DPN # 3 1991</b>
Box: Folder 2: 8	<b>DPN # 4 1991</b>
Box: Folder 2: 9	<b>DPN # 5 1992</b>
Box: Folder 2: 10	<b>DPN # 6 1992</b>
Box: Folder 2: 11	<b>DPN # 7 1992</b>
Box: Folder 2: 12	<b>DPN # 8 1993</b>
Box: Folder 2: 13	<b>DPN # 9 1994</b>
Box: Folder 2: 14	<b>DPN # 10 1995</b>

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Box: Folder 2: 15-19	<b>Press</b>
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Box: Folder 2: 15	<b>Promotional Material</b>
Box: Folder 2: 16	<b>Press Kit 1991</b>
Box: Folder 2: 17	<b>Articles 1991-1994</b>
Box: Folder 2: 18	<b>Reviews 1991-1995</b>
Box: Folder 2: 19	<b>Bay Guardian's Best of the Bay Award to DPN 1996</b>

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Box: Folder 2: 20-24	<b>Correspondence</b>
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Box: Folder 2: 20	<b>Forms</b>
Box: Folder 2: 21	<b>Postcards and Christmas Card Printed by DPN 1991</b>
Box: Folder 2: 22	<b>Letters from Fans 1991-1999</b>
Box: Folder 2: 23	<b>Letters from Prisoners Requesting Free Subscriptions 1997-1998</b>
Box: Folder 2: 24	<b>Letters Requesting Back Issues 1997-1999</b>

**Series 3. Zines 1990-1997**

Physical Description: 4 folders

**Scope and Content Note**

This series consists of other zines collected by Thorne. These publications had a similar irreverent approach to the AIDS crisis.

Box: Folder 2: 26	<b>The Daily Plague #6</b>
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Box: Folder 2: 27  
 Box: Folder 2: 28  
 Box: Folder 3: 1

**Factsheet Five: Zine Reader 1997**  
**GAWK Newsletter (Gay Artists and Writers Collective), #4-6 1990**  
**HardWear: The Art of Prevention, Hugh Rigby and Susan Leibtag 1994**  
**Series 4. Condom Resource Center 1990-1998**

**Physical Description:** 14 folders

**Scope and Content Note**

This series contains materials produced by the Condom Resource Center (CRC) in Oakland. Thorne worked very closely with this organization, helping create artwork and other content for their safe sex campaigns. Included in this series are examples of some of Thorne's artwork as well as photographs. There are also several publications put out by the CRC such as several versions of the Condom Educator's Guide.

Box: Folder 3: 2  
 Box: Folder 3: 3  
 Box: Folder 3: 4  
 Box: Folder 3: 5  
 Box: Folder 3: 6  
 Box: Folder 3: 7  
 Box: Folder 3: 8  
 Box: Folder 3: 9  
 Box: Folder 3: 10  
 Box: Folder 3: 11  
 Box: Folder 3: 12  
 Box: Folder 3: 13  
 Box: Folder 3: 14  
 Box: Folder 3: 15

**Condom Updates 1990-1994**  
**Corrected Draft and Layout of Condom Educator's Guide ca. 1991**  
**Condom Educator's Guide ca. 1991**  
**Condom Educator's Guide, Version Two ca. 1994**  
**Artwork Related to Condom Educator's Guide, Version Two ca. 1994**  
**Photos for Condom Educator's Guide, Version 2**  
**Official Condom Tester Catalog 1990**  
**National Condom Week Booklet 1997-1998**  
**Condom Primer. # 1 and 2 1988-1990**  
**Party Packs 1988-1991**  
**Captain Condom's Original Party Pack Booklet 1991**  
**Ephemera 1990**  
**Artwork Related to CRC Poster and Handbook 1997-1998**  
**Artwork Related to CRC Organizer 1991**

**Series 5. Photos/Artwork 1989-1992**

**Physical Description:** 24 folders

**Scope and Content Note**

This series consists of the photographs and other artwork created by Beowulf Thorne. His skills as a photographer and an artist are illustrated by these items.

Box: Folder 3:  
 16-30

**Photos**

Box: Folder 3: 16  
 Box: Folder 3: 17  
 Box: Folder 3: 18  
 Box: Folder 3: 19  
 Box: Folder 3: 20  
 Box: Folder 3: 21  
 Box: Folder 3: 22  
 Box: Folder 3: 23  
 Box: Folder 3: 24  
 Box: Folder 3: 25  
 Box: Folder 3: 26  
 Box: Folder 3: 27  
 Box: Folder 3: 28  
 Box: Folder 3: 29  
 Box: Folder 3: 30

**My Vapid Youth**  
**Nerd Pictures**  
**Use Your Head**  
**Socks for Cocks**  
**Biffy with Lube Bottles 1991**  
**Cranky and Dusty Fellating Unseen Spirits 1989**  
**Voyage of Dysfunctionality; Tommy Jo's Last Trip Home 1990**  
**Biffy Doing Rain Dance with Proper Prophylaxis**  
**Biffy's Publicity Pix: Nezz, Fezz, and Lezz 1990**  
**Greetings from Greater Slobovia (for GAWK #5) 1989**  
**Cranky, Humpy and Sleazy for DPN Xmas Card 1991**  
**Use Your Head**  
**Strange but True; Odd Bits of Tom Shearer**  
**What's Wrong with This Picture? (unsolicited snapshots from fans)**  
**Model Releases 1992**

Box: Folder 4: 1-9

**Artwork (oversized box, 20" x 16" x 3.5")**

Box: Folder 4: 1  
 Box: Folder 4: 2

**Drawings of People**  
**Drawings of Dinosaurs / Monsters**

Box: Folder 4: 3  
Box: Folder 4: 4  
Box: Folder 4: 5  
Box: Folder 4: 6  
Box: Folder 4: 7  
Box: Folder 4: 8  
Box: Folder 4: 9

**Drawings of Various Subjects**

**Typeset Pages**

**Source Artwork Related to Conceptual Ideas**

**Un-mounted Posters, Covers, Photo, and Miscellaneous**

**Mounted DPN Covers (#4, 6, 7, 8,9)**

**Mounted Drawings: Panels of Captain Condom, Other Mounted Art**

**Mounted Drawings: Modes of Transportation**

Series 6 **Objects undated, 1990**

**Physical Description:** 1 box

**Series Description**

This series contains ephemera from Diseased Pariah News and other organizations.

Box: Folder 6  
Box: Folder 6  
Box: Folder 6  
Box: Folder 6  
Box: Folder 6

**9 "T Cell 100 (One Hundred) or Less" buttons, undated**

**6 "Kiss Me! I'm a Diseased Pariah" buttons, undated**

**2 "Porn Potato likes that!" buttons designed by Beowulf Thorne, 1990**

**21 miscellaneous buttons, undated**

**1 Stanford AIDS Education Project's Fourth Annual Great Condom Rating Contest pamphlet with condoms, 1990**

Box: Folder 6  
Box: Folder 6  
Box: Folder 6

**1 "Kiss Me! I'm a Diseased Pariah" t-shirt, undated**

**1 Diseased Pariah News t-shirt, 1990**

**1 Captain Condom Fan Club t-shirt, undated**