



Zines, which are underground self-published magazines, proliferated in the 1990s with the advent of desktop publishing and all-night copy shops. "Zines are about do-it-yourself culture, about adding your voice to the cacophony, and, especially, about defining and creating space within the dominant corporate media culture," wrote Julie Bartel, a zine librarian in Salt Lake City.

Now a new collection at the University at Buffalo offers insight into how local writers exploited this unique format. Established by local zine creators or "zinesters," The Western New York Zine Archive will be housed

permanently within The Poetry Collection at UB, which hosts an opening reception on Wednesday, March 30 from 6 to 8 pm at 420 Capen Hall.

The idea for the archive started last fall when local zinesters Marc Moscato, Christie Gorman and Dave Gracon went bowling. "Most of us were leaving the area and trying to downsize the things we'd have to move—that was our prime motivation for starting the collection," says Moscato. "We had all this stuff in our parents' houses and we thought it would be nice to have a place for this to exist—where it would be accessible to other people."

## A new exhibit on Buffalo zines opens at UB

BY COLLEEN HUBBARD

Best known for his zines *Go Guerrilla!* and *Generation Latex*, Moscato posted a description of the proposed project to an online message board. His posting caught the eye of Natalie Basinski, daughter of Michael Basinski, curator of The Poetry Collection, which already boasts significant holdings of underground and local publications. Basinski contacted me, a graduate student who had recently completed a paper comparing library zine collections. Basinski offered to house the collection, I would catalog the zines under the supervision of Diane Ward from the University Libraries, and Marc provided contacts willing to contribute zines they had created or collected. The Western New York Zine Archive was officially established in October 2004, with the donation of Christie Gorman's *Nearsighted Revolution*.

According to Basinski, the Western New York Zine Archive fits well within UB's existing special collections. "Underground publications are the heartbeat of our art and poetry culture. This is where cutting-edge ideas first find print," he explains. Moscato adds, "A lot of the time, only the mainstream things are collected by libraries, like *Time* magazine—but zines are equally as important if not more important. In a democracy, they serve a need."

A number of academic and public libraries already collect zines, most notably Salt Lake City Public Library and Bowling Green

State University. In Albany, the New York State Library holds ten thousand zines donated by former Factsheet Five publisher Mike Gunderloy.

Already UB's collection comprises over sixty titles, including *Riverside Art Zine*, *Avenue Player*, *The Umbrella Stand*, *Creepy Mike's Omnibus of Fun*, and *Highest Population of Rock Stars*. A benefit earlier this month at Soundlab raised money for establishment expenses and outreach efforts. As part of a special collection, the zines do not circulate and must be used within The Poetry Collection reading room. Basinski agreed to collect two copies of each issue in the hope that some copies could travel to high school and college classrooms where they could be incorporated into lessons on design, activism or media studies. By the end of the summer, a collection Web site will offer access to out-of-towners interested in Western New York's underground publishing heritage.

The Western New York Zine Collection, part of The Poetry Collection on UB's North Campus, is open to the public Monday through Friday from 9 am to 5 pm. Zine donations are still being accepted. For more information about the archive, e-mail [bfozines@hotmail.com](mailto:bfozines@hotmail.com).

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