



Guide to the Jim Ratigan Collection on Mike Miller

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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Ratigan, Jim
Title:	Jim Ratigan Collection on Mike Miller
ID:	MS-01007
Date [inclusive]:	1982 to 2014
Physical Description:	0.04 Cubic Feet (1 folder (shared box))
Physical Description:	0.04 Linear Feet
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Jim Ratigan Collection on Mike Miller (1982-2014) is primarily comprised of materials representing Mike Miller's involvement with creating Hey Reb! the official mascot for the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) in 1982. Materials include meeting minutes from UNLV's mascot committee, various renditions of Hey Reb! created by Miller, newspaper clippings, as well as printouts of email correspondence from Miller to Jim Ratigan about the story of how he came to create the mascot. The collection also includes a copy of Miller's book, <i>Larry the Last Leaf</i> and a print of his painting, "Drawn to His Light." Also included are copies of programs for Miller's memorial service.

Preferred Citation

Jim Ratigan Collection on Mike Miller, 1982-2014. MS-01007. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Historical Background

UNLV's early mascot, Beauregard, was created as a cartoon wolf dressed in a Confederate soldier's uniform as a direct response to the University of Nevada, Reno's (UNR) wolf-pack mascot. Beauregard, who was created by students at Nevada Southern University in the 1960s, symbolized the university's break away from UNR in northern Nevada. Nevada Southern University evolved into the University of Nevada, Las Vegas in the 1970s and the student body consequently also

decided to change the school's mascot. African-American student-athletes in the early 1970s voiced objections to Beauregard's Confederate imagery. In 1976, the student senate voted to officially abolish Beauregard. The students at UNLV also decided to retain the "Rebel" name associated with the school.

In 1982, Mike Miller was a partner for a local advertising agency that had UNLV as a client. He was inspired by 19th century mountain men who traveled to the West looking for new trails, gold, and agriculture. Miller wanted to create a mascot that was representative of these mountain men who discovered new resources and built communities in uncharted areas like Nevada. This new mascot, called Hey Reb!, was reflective of Western independence. Miller sold the Hey Reb! concept to UNLV for one dollar as a donation. In 1982, Hey Reb! debuted at a basketball game between UNLV and UNR.

Sources:

"Hey Reb! and "Rebels" Nickname," Campus Life. Accessed October 21, 2020. <https://www.unlv.edu/campuslife/mascot-nickname>.

Teach, Byron. "Las Vegas family shares how Hey Reb! mascot was born." Last modified June 18, 2020. https://www.fox5vegas.com/news/las-vegas-family-shares-how-hey-reb-mascot-was-born/article_56c6c254-b1ec-11ea-a865-07bd6d3a0697.html

Wingert, Gregan. "The Story Behind the 'Stache." Last modified October 05, 2014. <https://www.unlv.edu/news/article/story-behind-stache>.

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Scope and Contents Note

The Jim Ratigan Collection on Mike Miller (1982-2014) is primarily comprised of materials representing Mike Miller's involvement with creating Hey Reb! the official mascot for the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) in 1982. Materials include meeting minutes from UNLV's mascot committee, various renditions of Hey Reb! created by Miller, newspaper clippings, as well as printouts of email correspondence from Miller to Jim Ratigan about the story of how he came to create the mascot. The collection also includes a copy of Miller's book, *Larry the Last Leaf* and a print of his painting, "Drawn to His Light." Also included are copies of programs for Miller's memorial service.

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Arrangement

Materials remain as they were received.

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Administrative Information

Access Note

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

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Acquisition Note

Materials were donated by Jim Ratigan in 2019; accession number 2019-159.

Processing Note

In 2020, Tammi Kim minimally processed the collection and wrote the finding aid in ArchivesSpace.

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Related Materials

Related Collections

The following resource may provide additional information related to the materials in this collection:

Mike Miller Papers, 1971-2014. MS-00715. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Names and Subjects

- Mascots

- Miller, Mike

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers
<i>Larry the Last Leaf</i> book, "Drawn to His Light" print, approximately 2000 to 2007	box SH-049
Mike Miller memorial service programs, 2014	box SH-049
Email correspondence printout from Miller to Jim Ratigan on the story of Hey Reb!, newspaper clippings, UNLV's Mascot Committee meeting minutes, approximately 1982 to 2007	box SH-049
Letter of induction into UNLV Athletics Hall of Fame, 2012	box SH-049