

# COLLECTION OF RARE YOUNG LORDS PARTY MATERIAL



# Collection of Material Documenting the Young Lords Party

[Latino/a / Radicalism / Puerto Rico]. New York: Young Lords Organization / Party, 1969-1992. Includes: eight broadsides, three flyers, 16 photographs and press/wire photos, seven publications, and one pinback. Condition for all items is Very Good or better unless otherwise specified.

A collection of rare material documenting the Young Lords Party, a radical Puerto Rican nationalist group based in New York from 1969-1972 that had a significant impact on Puerto Rican, Latino, Asian, and African American communities in the city, despite it's short-lived existence there.

The Young Lords Organization was originally formed in Chicago in 1968 by Jose "Cha Cha" Jimenez, who reorganized his Puerto Rican street gang into a political and civil rights group. Jimenez drew inspiration from the Black Panther Party, and modeled the Young Lords after it. The YLO sought self-determination for Puerto Ricans, created a 13-point program, and fought to alleviate the effects of poverty and unequal treatment by the police through direct action campaigns and education. They also worked to gain members in barrios across the United States, and on July 26, 1969, the New York branch of the YLO was established. The New York YLO broke from the national organization the next year, becoming the Young Lords Party. In 1972, they would again change their name to the Puerto Rican Revolutionary Workers' Organization, at which point they ceased operations in New York. By 1976, after continued opposition by COINTELPRO, the PRRWO formally disbanded.

In New York, the Young Lords played a major role in drawing attention to and seeking remedies for inadequate health care, sanitation, access to legal services, and more, in East Harlem and the South Bronx, areas whose residents were primarily Puerto Rican, African American, and other people of color. Their first campaign, the "garbage offensive," began on July 27, 1969, protesting the substandard collection of garbage in East Harlem and announcing the opening of the New York office. Other health initiatives included going door to door to test for tuberculosis and lead paint poisoning, establishing free breakfast programs for children, commandeering a mobile X-ray van to confirm tuberculosis results,

and, in July 1970, taking over Lincoln Hospital in the Bronx.

One of the YLP's early major campaigns was a takeover on December 28, 1969, of First Spanish Methodist Church, in East Harlem, an event documented here by two incredibly scarce posters from the campaign, Come to the Church. The Doors Are Open to the Peoples Church. 111 st. and Lex. Ave. and Vengan ala Iglesa. Las Puertas de la Iglesia de la Gente Estan Abierta. 111st. y Lexington. The YLP occupied the church for eleven days, renaming it People's Church, serving free breakfast there, and gaining national attention. They would reoccupy the church in October 1970 following YLP member Julio Roldan's death by hanging in Manhattan's "Tombs" prison, which sparked prison riots and ultimately led to the closure of the tombs and the establishment by the YLP of a legal center and new prison reform initiatives, as demonstrated in two flyers included here.

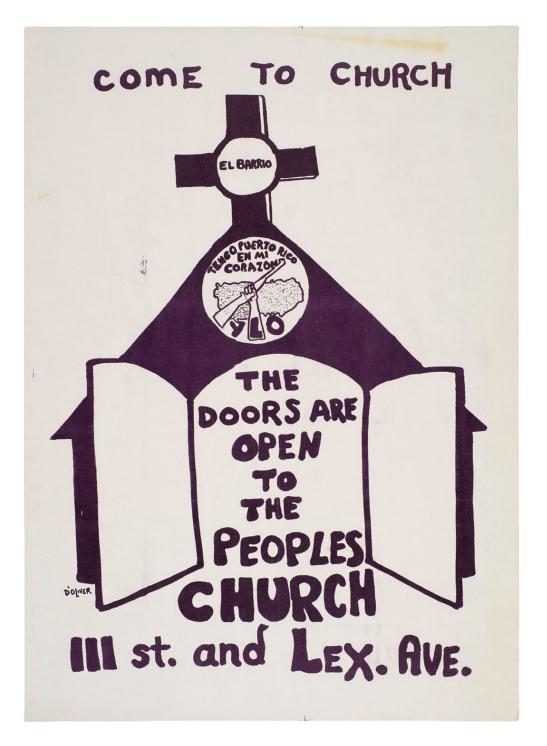
The heart of this collection is the posters, many of which simply don't exist anywhere else, or are held by only one or two institutions. Graphic, often illustrated with art by YLP member and Black Panther member Denise Oliver, these reveal not only information about specific YLP campaigns, they speak to the vibrancy of the movement, which was made up of poets and artists as well as political activists (many, of course, were all three). The posters are supplemented by press and wire photos documenting the impact of the YLP on the national consciousness, as well as flyers for specific campaigns, a booklet laying out the ideology of the YLP, and other material. A full description of each item is below.

Provenance: compiled by archivist and collector Lisbet Tellefsen, after she was hired in 2012 by the Oregon Shakespeare festival to do an archival project on the Young Lords and the Black Panthers.

\$30,000

# **Broadsides**

- D'Oliver [Denise Oliver] (artist). Come to the Church. The Doors Are Open to the Peoples Church. 111 st. and Lex. Ave. [New York]: Young Lords Organization [Party], [1969]. 21-1/4 x 15-1/4 inches. White stock printed in dark purple. Some ink smudges; small stain to left edge; strip of toning to top edge. Rare poster from the Young Lords' takeover of First Spanish Methodist Church in East Harlem, presumably from the first action, in December 1969, given that no mention is made here of Julio Roldan, whose death in prison spurred the Young Lords' October 1970 re-takeover of the church. Not lo-

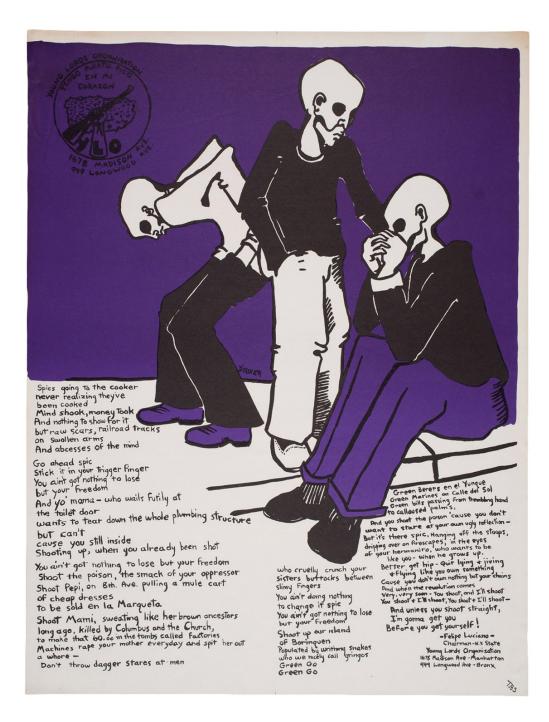


cated in OCLC.

- D'Oliver [Denise Oliver] (artist). Vengan ala Iglesa. Las Puertas de la Iglesia de la Gente Estan Abierta. 111st. y Lexington. [New York]: Young Lords Organization [Party], [1969]. 21-3/4 x 15 inches. White stock printed in pink. Hint of edgewear, else fine. Spanish-language version of the above poster, also not located in OCLC.



- D'Oliver, [Denise Oliver] (artist). Luciano, Felipe. "Spies going to the cooker / never realizing they've / been cooked..." New York: Young Lords Organization [Party], (n. d.), circa 1969. 23 x 17-1/2 inches. White stock printed in purple and black. Light wear to corners; light toning to top edge. Poster of a poem by Felipe Luciano, chairman of the Young Lords and co-founder of the The Last Poets. Not located in OCLC.



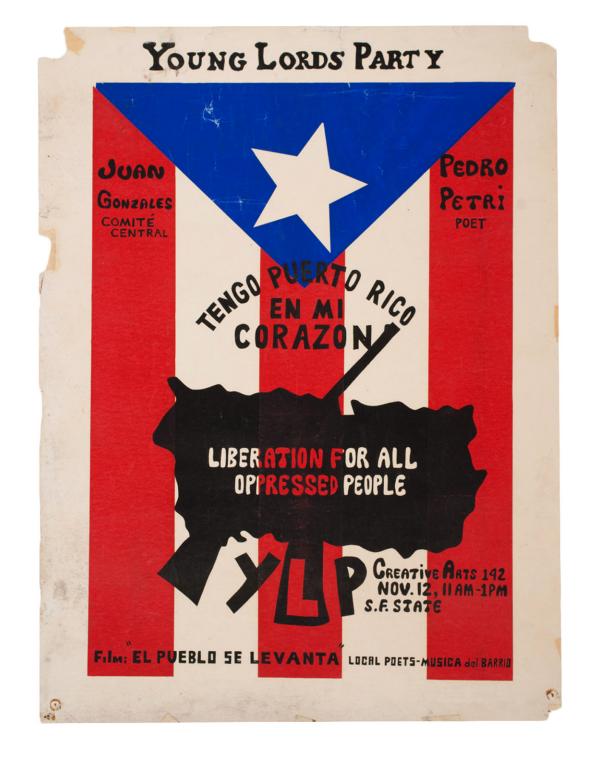
- D'Oliver [Denise Oliver] (artist). Free Rafael Viera. Young Lords Organization Member. Citizen of the Republic of New Africa. Political Prisoner. New York: [Rafael Viera Legal Defense Fund], [1969 or early 1970]. 22 x 15-3/4 inches. Hint of wear, else fine. Poster supporting Rafael Viera, who was tried for first degree murder in the killing of a police officer in Detroit during a national meeting of the Republic of New Africa, a Black nationalist organization in which Viera was also involved. Viera was acquitted and released in July 1970. Not located in OCLC.



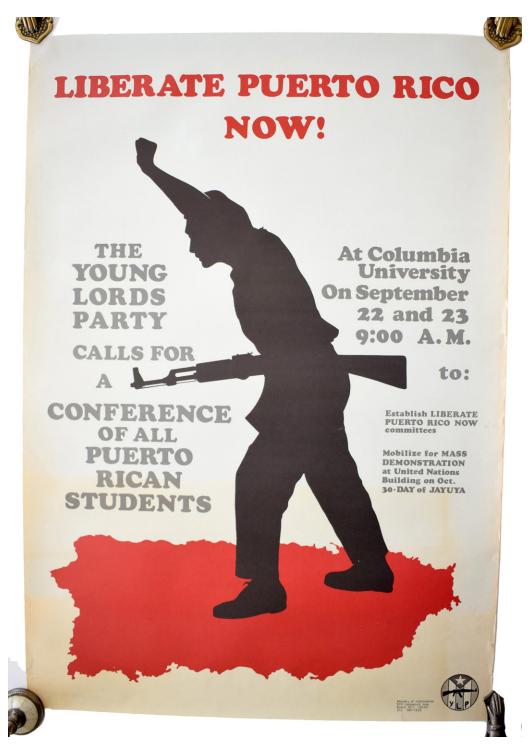
- Partido de los Young Lords. Manifestacion para la Liberacion de Puerto Rico en las Naciones Unidas. Oct. 30. Bronx, New York: [Young Lords Party] Ministry of Information, (n. d.), circa 1970. 24 x 18 inches. Tan stock printed in purple. Toned and fragile, with shallow chips/loss to left edge and lower corner; small stain to upper margin. Good. Poster for an event held to promote Puerto Rican nationalism. Not located in OCLC.



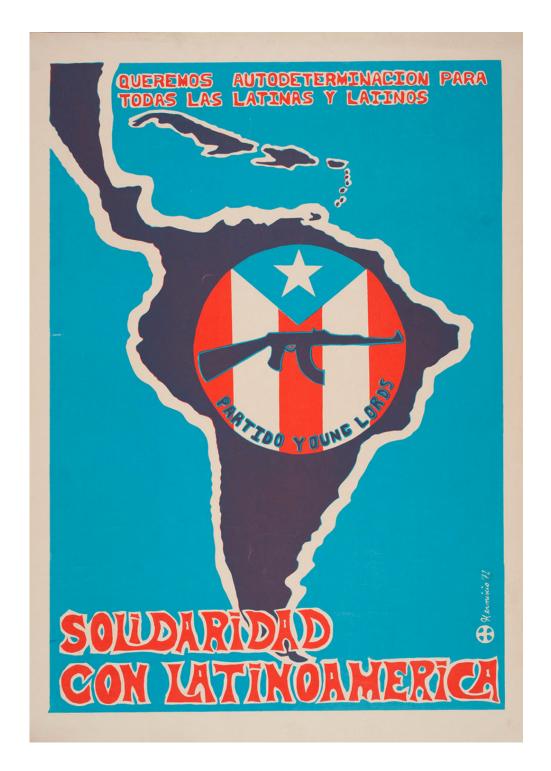
- [Fuentes, Juan R. - artist]. Young Lords Party. Liberation for All Oppressed People. Juan Gonzales, Comité Central. Pedro Petri, Poet. Creative Arts 142. Nov. 12, 11AM - 1PM. S.F. State. Film: "El Pueblo se Levanta". Local Poets - Musica del Barrio. [San Francisco]: Young Lords Party, [1971]. 23-3/4 x 17-7/8 inches. White stock silkscreen printed in red, blue and black. Loss to upper corners, left edge, and slightly to lower corner; tape shadows to edges, plus bits of tape to bottom edge; pin holes; soiling. Good only. Poster from an event held at San Francisco State, featuring a talk by Juan Gonzales and poetry by Pedro Petri, as well as a viewing of the Young Lords documentary, El Pueblo se Levanta. The event appears to have been in conjunction with a meeting by Gonzales with Los Siete, with whom the Young Lords had a good relationship; Gonzalez continued his West Coast swing with a visit to Hawaii on November 16. Not located in OCLC, although we find one holding in the Guide to the Rupert Garcia and Sammi Madison Garcia Collection at UC Santa Barbara.



- Liberate Puerto Rico Now! The Young Lords Party Calls for a Conference of All Puerto Rican Students at Columbia University on September 22 and 23 9:00 A.M. Bronx, New York: [Young Lords Party] Ministry of Information, [1970]. 29 x 20-1/2 inches. Pale green-grey stock printed in red, black and grey. Toning and light wear. OCLC locates one holding at Duke, and we find two others, at the Library of Congress and the National Museum of African American History and Culture.



- Herminio (artist). Solidaridad con Latinoamerica. Queremos Autodeterminacion para Todas las Latinas y Latinos. Partido Young Lords. (n. p.): [Young Lords Party], 1971. 27-3/8 x 19-3/8 inches. White stock printed in blue, navy, and red. Slight soiling to margins. Not located in OCLC, although we find one holding at the Library of Congress.



# <u>Flyers</u>

- Bust Big Pushers! Not Junkies / ¡Arresten los Tiradores Grandes! ¡No los Tecatos!. [New York]: Young Lords Organization, (n. d.), circa early 1970. 14 x 8-1/2 inches. White stock photomechanically printed in black. Text in English on one side and in Spanish on the other side, with an illustration by Denise Oliver (signed in the plate) of an old man with cash in his pocket brandishing a large syringe on both sides. Shallow chip to one edge; light toning. Good. Addresses the inequality of drug enforcement in the Puerto Rican community and efforts by the YLO to combat drug addiction through education: "We do not defend narcotics, or pushers of narcotics. We know, though, that addiction comes because our people are poor and oppressed and have nothing to turn to; while the Mafia, Police and City Government supply the dope, profit from it, and they are never arrested. ... Not only are the Young Lords committed to providing legal aid for police victims, but we are also beginning a guerrilla drug clinic to help brothers and sisters kick." Not located in OCLC.



For as long as Puerto Ricans have been in this country, we remember police running up and down our community inflicting pain on us and violating our constitutional rights, as a matter of practice.

When there is an injury to another Puerto Rican on the street, or a robbery of a home, or a large shipment of narcotics into the area, the police are nowhere.

But when a bank or supermarket is robbed, or a landlord needs to evict us, or a store repossesses our furniture, or another policeman is hurt, or the Young Lords and Black Panthers speak out, they are always there.

When the people of East 111 Street dealt with two policemen, "oppressors" on March 25, their cry of "basta ya" was bound to happen because they began to realize that just like conspiracies and attacks against the Young Lords are ordered by politicians like Lindsay and Garelik, so are petty drug busts, loitering arrests, etc.

The Y.L.O. has taken the necessary decision -- we will defend the legal and human rights of our people when police stop them. We will demand accountability by police for their actions.

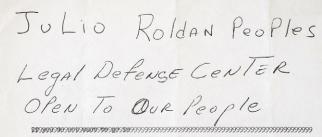
We do not defend narcotics, or pushers of narcotics. We know though, that addiction comes because our people are poor and oppressed and have nothing to turn to; while the Mafia, Police and City Government supply the dope, profit from it, and they are never arrested.

Meanwhile our people die on the streets. Not only are the Young Lords committed to providing legal aid for police victims, but we are also beginning a guerilla drug clinic to help brothers and sisters kick. We will not use methadone or other profit-making technique, we will help people kick cold turkey. Half a dozen junkies have already kicked with our program. Our liberation drug program will educate addicts that drugs are a tool of oppression that keeps our people down.

Arrest the big criminals, Garelik, Gottehrer, Hogan, Badillo, Lindsay, and Rockefeller; not the victim junkies on the street.



- Julio Roldan Peoples Legal Defense Center Open to Our People / Centro de Defensa Legal Julio Roldan en la iglesia de la Gente. [New York]: Young Lords Party, [1970]. 10-3/8 x 8-1/2 inches. White stock photomechanically printed in black on both sides. Text in English on one side and in Spanish on the other side. Light creasing and toning. A flyer advertising the Legal Defense Center, which was established in October 1970 in honor of Julio Roldan, a 34-year-old member of the YLP who was found hanged in his holding cell in Manhattan's "Tombs" prison on October 17, 1970. Roldan's death was ruled a suicide by a special committee appointed by Mayor Lindsay, although the pathologist hired by Roldan's family found evidence of Roldan having been beaten, and the YLP and their supporters claimed he was murdered by prison guards. A riot broke out in the prison shortly after Roldan's death, and the YLP reoccupied First Spanish Methodist Church to demand changes to the prison system. These events ultimately caused the closure of the "Tombs," which a judge later ruled had been operating under conditions that were unconstitutional. This flyer lays out the three main goals of the legal center: to solicit information about the condition of incarcerated people from their relatives; to operate an "ex-inmate program"; and to provide education about community defense, particularly in regards to the draft and Puerto Rican political prisoners. Not located in OCLC.



A Legal Defence Center has been instituted in memoryb of Julio Roldan. The center will deal with:

1. Inmate's Family Aid

We ask that the families of people

in prison's or detention centers come in to give us information about the condition of their relative in prison, so that we can document their cases in order to bring pressure against the prisons system and get information from the outside to them.

- 2. Ex .- Inmate Program For all brothers and sisters who have been in prison, and have experienced police brutality.
- 3. Community Defense-

A. If you do not want to go into the army, come to get draft councelling. In Puerto Rico, brothers do not have to serve in the army because a strong case has been made in the courts. We are trying to do the same thing here.

B. Defense Committee For P;R; Political Prisoners.

We Fill be giving out information about Pherto Ricans who have been jailed here in Asserthlas for fighting in the liberation struggle, like Carles Feliciano, Oscar Collago, Partin Sostre, Lolita Lebron, and setting up a committee of people from the communith to educate people about their cames, and to raise money for their defense.

C. Estublishment of a community bail fund, because most of our people cannot afford to bail their relatives out of jail.



YOUNG LORDS

- Support Our Brothers in the Prisons of Babylon. 11 x 8-1/2 inches. Photomechanically printed in black on white stock, to one side only. Text overlays an illustration by Emory Douglas, signed in the plate. Light toning, foxing and soiling. Flyer for a rally in Queens on November 10, 1970, protesting the treatment of incarcerees after the prison riots that followed Julio Roldan's hanging. "One month ago brothers took direct action in the Brooklyn and Queens Houses of Detention to dramatize the inhuman conditions in the prisons. A promise of no reprisals was made by Mayor Lindsay. The brothers were betrayed: beatings and indictments followed. SUPPORT THE 24 INMATES NOW." Readers are invited to contact the YLP Inmates Liberation Front, another branch of the party's efforts to reform the prison system. Not located in OCLC.

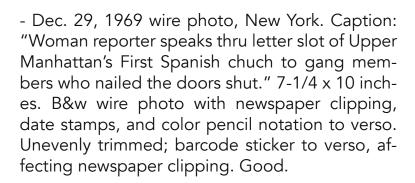
# SUPPORT OUR BROTHERS in the PRISONS of BABYLON Tuesday: November 10, 1970 RALLY at 12 noon Kew Gardens, Queens supreme court Speakers: JENNIFER DOHRN VICTOR MARTINEZ One month ago brothers took direct action in the Brooklyn and Queens Houses of Detention to dramatize the inhuman conditions in the prisons. A promise of no reprisals was made by Mayor Lindsay. The brothers were betrayed: beatings and indictments followed. SUPPORT THE 24 INMATES NOW! For further information, contact Inmates Liberation Front, Young Lords Party, at 427-7754

# Original Photograph, Plus Press and Wire Photos

-  $10 \times 6$ -7/8 original b&w photograph, with the stamp of photographer Eva Essenthler (New York) to verso. A rare original photograph of the now iconic image of Denise Oliver, most likely taken at a November 21, 1970 Young Lords Party rally. We find a photograph by Jesse Steve Rose of Oliver in the same attire, but taken from a different angle, at the National Museum of African American History & Culture. Not located in OCLC.

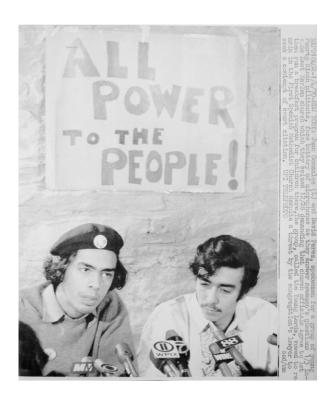


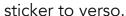






- January 3, 1970 United Press International wire photo, New York. Caption: "Juan Gonzales (left, outside church), educational & health director for militant Puerto Rican 'Young Lords,' affirmed his group's determination to retain possession of Spanish United Methodist Church 1/3 despite efforts by authorities to remove them. Exterior of the East Harlem church is shown at right." 8 x 10 inches. B&w image. Credit and usage stamps to verso. Yellowing and barcode





- January 4, 1970 United Press International wire photo, New York. Caption: "Juan Gonzales (L) and David Perez, spokesmen for a group of young Puerto Rican militants, face battery of microphones as they answer newsmen's questions 1/3 inside East Harlem church which they seized 12/28 demanding that church officials agree to let them run a breakfast program for children there. The group, called the Young Lords, vowed to remain in the First Spanish Methodist Church despite a threat by the congregation's lawyer to seek a contempt of court citation." 8-1/2 x 10 inches. B&w image. Colored pencil notation and date stamp to verso. Barcode sticker to verso.



- January 7, 1970 Associated Press wire photo, New York. Caption: "Authorities end Young Lords' church sit-in -- A policeman carries out a church door which police broke off its hinges at an East Harlem church Wednesday. As more than 100 policemen sealed off the area around the church, members of the sheriff's office entered the church and arrested more than 50 Puerto Rican activists, ending a sit-in that began Dec. 28. The Young Lords, a group modeled after the Black Panther party, had seized the church and offered breakfasts and health services to neighborhood children." 10 x 7-1/2 inches. B&w image. Date stamp and colored pencil notation to verso. Slight bump/crease to





- January 7, 1970 United Press International wire photo, New York. Caption: "Members of the Young Lords, a Puerto Rican activist group, leave First Spanish Methodist Church under police supervision early 1/7, after police broke down church door to allow sheriff's representative inside to read charges and announce that those inside were under arrest. The youths seized the church 11 days ago with the demand that the church set up a free breakfast program for poor neighborhood youngsters." 8-3/8 x 9-3/4 inches. B&w image. Date stamp and colored pencil notation to verso. Barcode to verso.



- June 7, 1970 United Press International press photo, New York. Caption: "Burns American Flag I A member of the Young Lords, a Puerto Rican group medeled [sic] after the Black Panthers, burns a small American flag as he marches down New York's Fifth Avenue June 7. Approximately 200 members and supports of the Young Lords interrupted the annual Puerto Rican Day Parade in front of the Metropolitan Museum of Art." 10 x 8 inches. B&w photo. Credit stamp and snipe to verso. Light creasing to





- June 7, 1970 AP wire photo, New York. Caption: "Young Lords Call for Puerto Rican Freedom -- Members of the militant 'Young Lords' drag an effigy of American Imperialism, foreground, and burn an American flag, background, as they pass reviewing stand before New York City's Metropolitan Museum of Art Sunday during a Puerto Rican Day parade. Members of the group also chanted and carried signs and banners calling for independence of the island commonwealth." 7-1/2 x 10 inches. B&w image. Date stamps and colored pencil notation to verso. Unevenly trimmed; paste

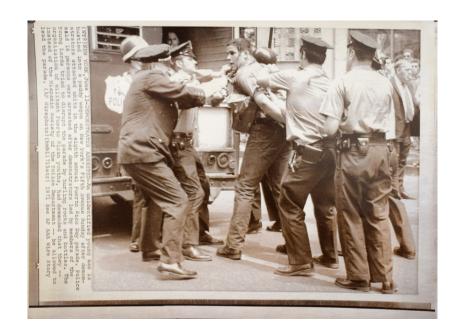


stain and barcode sticker to verso.

- June 15, 1970 AP wire photo, New York. Caption: "Arrested during East Harlem Rampage -- New York City Police arrest a young demonstrator Sunday during disorders in the East Harlem section of New York City. Militant Puerto Ricans rampaged through the streets of the area protesting the previous arrest of one of their members." 7-1/2 x 10 inches. B&w image. Date stamp and colored pencil notation to verso. Barcode sticker to verso.



- October 20, 1970 AP press photo, New York. Caption: "East Harlem vigil for victim of hanging -- A member of the Young Lords, a Puerto Rican militant group, stood guard with a shotgun near the casket of Julio Roldan at an East Harlem church in New York yesterday. Roldan was found hanged in his cell in the 'Tombs' prison in Manhattan Friday. The police said his death was a suicide. The Young Lords said he was murdered, seized his body and barricaded themselves in the church. Today they called for an investigation into conditions in city jails, promising to leave the church if the city agrees." 8 x 9 inches. B&w photo. Snipe,



ink notations and date stamp to verso.

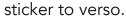
- June 13, 1971 AP wire photo, New York. Caption: "Demonstrator Arrested -- An unidentified young man is hustled into a paddy wagon on New York's Fifth Avenue Sunday after demonstrators attacked units in the eigth annual Puerto Rico Day parade. Police said 16 persons were arrested after demonstrators led by members of the Young Lords tried to disrupt the parade by hurling rocks and bottles. The organization of militant Puerto Rican youths, had demanded that they -- instead of the Hispanic Society of the Police Department -- be allowed to lead the parade." 8 x 11 inches. B&w image printed on brown-backed paper. Date stamp and pencil notation to verso. Former seller label to verso.





- September 29, 1971 press photo, [New York]. Caption: "Young Lords -- Inside street level office, Richie Perez talks to members about strategy for future protests. Young Lords lately gave up idea of having one leader, now are run by a committee of leaders, which is believed to include Perez." 8 x 10 inches. B&w photo. Snipe and date stamp to verso. Light rippling; paste stain and barcode sticker to verso.
- September 29, 1971 press photo, [New York]. Caption: "Young Lords -- Richie Perez, Young Lord spokesman and information chief, is often referred to as 'teach' because he was formerly a public school teacher, is one of few college-educated members. Richie believes his group has a great mission and will succeed." 10 x 8 inches. B&w photo. Snipe and date stamp to verso. Light rippling; slight paste stain and barcode





- August 19, 1972 AP wire photo, New York. Caption: "Rally 'Round the Flag -- Demonstrators stand around a large Puerto Rican flag Friday near the United Nations in New York. They had just marched by the UN headquarters calling for the independence of Puerto Rico." 7-1/4 x 9-1/2. B&w image. Date stamp and colored pencil notation to verso. Barcode sticker to verso.



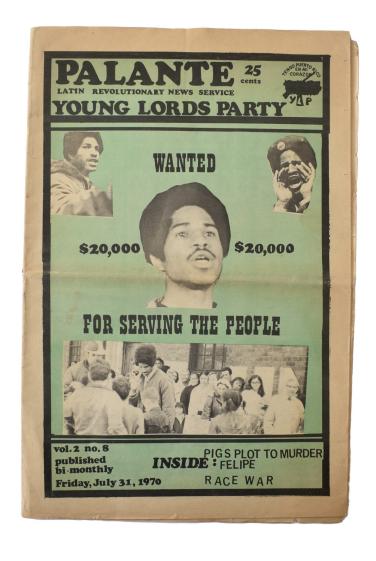
- Undated press photo of Denise Oliver speaking into a microphone, [New York].  $8 \times 10$  inches. Lacking snipe. Paste action to verso; slight toning; slight creasing/bumping to corner.



- August 7, 1992 press photo of a movie still from the reissue of the 1970 documentary *Right On*, about the Original Last Poets; photo is of Felipe Luciano, Gylan Kein and David Nelson. 5 x 7 inches. Date stamp, ink and pencil notations and newspaper clippings to verso.

## **Publications**

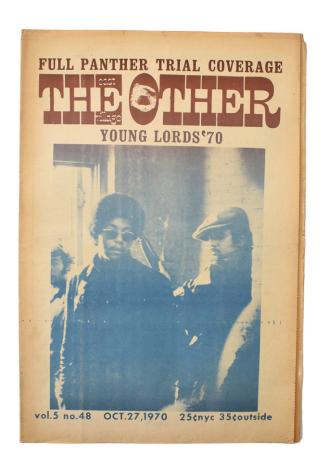
- *Palante*. Vol. 2, No. 8. July 31, 1970. [New York]: Young Lords Party, 1970. Tabloid format newspaper, 17 x 11-1/2 inches. 24 pp. Text in English and Spanish. Feature article: "Pigs Plot to Murder Felipe".







- *Palante*. Vol. 3, No. 15. September 11 23. [New York]: Young Lords Party, [1971]. Tabloid format newspaper, 17 x 11-1/2 inches. 24 pp, of which 11pp are in English, 11pp are in Spanish, and the centerfold is in both languages. English-language side features an illustration of Carlos Feliciano and George Jackson, with the phrase "Freedom will come... Struggling together."
- The East Village Other. Vol. 5, No. 6. January 14, 1970. New York: East Village Other Inc., 1970. Tabloid format newspaper, 16-1/2 x 11-1/2 inches. 24pp. Cover article is about the Young Lords' takeover of First Spanish Methodist Church and their incipient eviction.



Young Lords Party Position Paper on Women

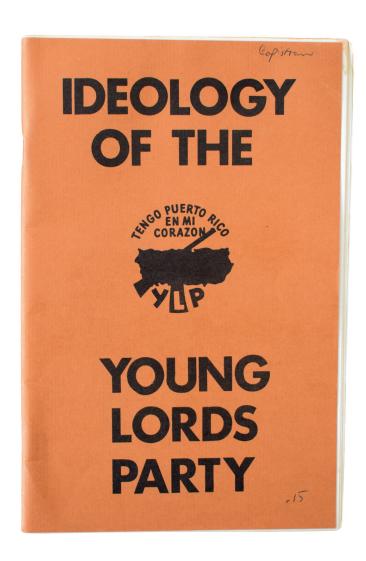
Furn files, Blok, and other Trief sperid operation of coperation in the past and today. They are suffering three different types of operation under capitalin. First, they are operated in Partie Risan or Block, and other three different types of operation under capitalin. First, they are operated in Partie Risan or Block operation of the capital of the control operated parties in the control operated parties of the control operated parties in the control operated parties of the control operated

- The East Village Other. Vol. 5, No. 48. October 27, 1970. New York: East Village Other Inc., 1970. Tabloid format newspaper, 16-1/2 x 11-1/2 inches. 24pp. Special Young Lords issue.

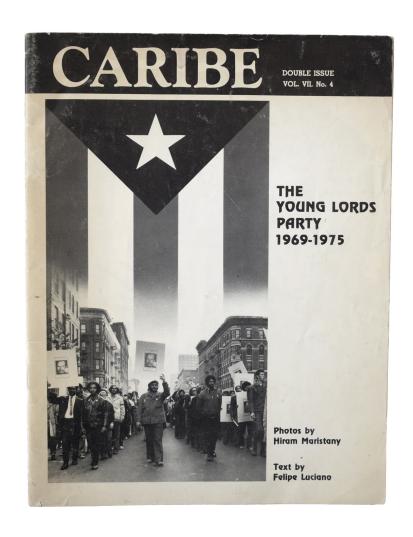
- *NACLA Newsletter.* Vol. IV, No. 6. October 1970. New York: North American Congress on Latin America, Inc., 1970. 11 x 8-1/4 inches. 24pp including wrappers. White wrappers printed in black. B&w illustrations. Light soiling and wear; spine a bit tender. Good. Includes a reprinted article from *Palante*, "Young Lords Party Position Paper on

### Women".

- Gonzalez, Juan, Juan "Fi" Ortiz, Gloria Gonzalez, David Perez, Denise Oliver, and Pablo "Yoruba" Guzman. *The Ideology of the Young Lords Party.* Bronx, New York: Young Lords Party, 1972. First edition. **Signed** by Denise Oliver on the Contents page. 8-1/2 x 5-1/2 inches. [2],1-41,[1]pp, including wrappers. Stapled brown wrappers printed in black. Small damp-stain to upper corner of several leaves; ownership signature and price in ink to front cover. Informational pamphlet issued not long before the YLP ceased operations in New York and became the Puerto Rican Revolutionary Workers' Organization. Includes a glossary of terms, as well as sections on history and dialectics, the war in Puerto Rico, economic and military struggle, the colonized mentality and non-conscious ideology, the party and the state, the party and the individual, and an analysis of Puerto Rican Society. OCLC locates seven holdings.



- Jones, Duane L. (ed); Luciano, Felipe. *Caribe*. Vol. VII., No. 4. "The Young Lords Party, 1969-1975". [New York?]: Marta Moreno, [1984]. 11 x 8-1/2 inches. 32pp. Stapled white wrappers printed in black. B&w illustrations. Rubbing and light soiling; light stain to fore-edge of front cover and margin of many leaves, not affecting readability. A double-issue devoted entirely to a retrospective of the Young Lords Party, including a brief history, the 13-Point Program, and sections on the actions and achievements of the YLP, illustrated from photographs by Hiram Maristany. Not located in OCLC, although we find one holding of a digital ver-



sion of this issue at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. <u>Pinbacks</u>

Tengo Puerto Rico en mi Corazon. YLP. Round pin, 1-1/2 inches in diameter. Minor soiling/discoloration to edges.

Young Lords Party. Round pin, 1-1/2 inches in diameter. Image of the YLP logo overlaid on top of the Puerto Rican flag.



