Biographical Note

John A. Pecoul, Jr., born in New Orleans, Louisiana September 7, 1939, attended local public schools and graduated as valedictorian at Alcee Fortier High School in 1957. He received his undergraduate degree, a B.A., from Elmhurst College in Illinois, in 1961. His advanced degrees include a Master of Divinity, magna cum laude, from the Union Theological Seminary in New York and the International Fellows certificate from Columbia University, both in 1964, and a M.A. in Political Science from Temple University in 1967. He also completed requirements for doctoral candidacy in political science at Tulane University in New Orleans.

Upon completing his education Mr. Pecoul was research staff member of the Southern Regional Council in Atlanta. He returned to New Orleans to become Director of Housing and Community Services for the Urban League of Greater New Orleans. From there he became Director of the Human Relations Committee of the City of New Orleans under Mayor Victor Schiro and Mayor Moon Landrieu.

Mr. Pecoul joined Mayor Ernest N. “Dutch” Morial’s administration in June 1978 as Administrative Assistant for Community Services in the Human Resource Division of the Mayor’s Office. His responsibilities included supervision of the creation of the Women’s Office, the City-School Board Anti-Truancy program, and the Citizen Action Center. He also supervised the City’s volunteer office, VIGOR, the mayor’s Committee on Handicapped Concerns, International Year of the Child, and the U. S. Census of 1980.

In 1982 Pecoul was named Special Assistant to the Mayor and became the principal staff person for the Mayor’s work with national urban organizations such as the U. S. Conference of Mayors, the National League of Cities, and the National Center for Municipal Development. He supervised programs such as the Mayor’s Clean City Committee and the Arts Council’s contract for city arts activity and policy coordination. In addition, he was liaison with such projects as Jazzfest, the Citizen’s Committee Against Crime, and the Louisiana World Exposition, 1984.

As a citizen, Mr. Pecoul has been active in many efforts to improve education, housing, and the quality of life in this and other communities as a board member or officer of concerned groups such as the New Orleans Coalition, the University Area School Development Association, Neron-Sycamore Neighborhood Association, and other community, school, and church organizations.
Pecoul, John A., 1939-

Collection, 1954-1994


Scope Note

This collection consists of the papers and collected items of John A. Pecoul, Jr., Associate Vice-President for Development at Xavier University of Louisiana and former Special Assistant to Mayor Ernest N. “Dutch” Morial. The collection is organized by series: Series 1 relates to Xavier University, Series 2, politics, is divided into subseries, the Morial Administration (divided by Louisiana World Exposition 1984, Arts Council of New Orleans, the New Orleans Human Relations Committee, and other Morial Administration records), the New Orleans Coalition, materials about David Duke, and press clippings regarding Bill Clinton’s first presidential campaign, Series 3, food, includes New Orleans restaurant reviews and sample menus supplied by Tom Fitzmorris, Series 4, visitor information, Series 5, Pecoul’s trip to Washington D. C. for President Dwight Eisenhower’s Second Inauguration in 1957, and Series 6, other topics. A Separation List accompanies the finding aid.
Pecoul, John A., Jr., 1939-

Collection 1954-1994


Shelf List:

Box 1

Series 1 Xavier University of Louisiana

Correspondence
Richard Tucker, Manager, Public Information, to CASE Awards panel nominating Dr. JW Carmichael, Jr., Professor, Chemistry, as Xavier University of Louisiana’s nominee for Professor of the year. May 30, 1990. With attachments. 3 items.
John A. Pecoul to Clarence J. Jupiter regarding potential problems with Liberty Grant Funding. November 9, 1990. With attachments. 3 items.
John A. Pecoul, Associate Director of Development, to Dr. James A. Flightner, Chair, Library Dean Search Committee, University of Montana. December 12, 1990.

Other Topics
Flyer, “Art for Xavier’s Sake,” prints of John Scott and Samuel Gilliam donated to Xavier University for sale, proceeds going to Xavier Forward Fund Campaign. n.d.
John A. Pecoul, Jr., Associate Director of Development, business cards.
Dr. Francis and friends at Xavier University. n.d.

Series 2 Politics
Subseries Morial Administration

Louisiana World Exposition

Correspondence, Louisiana World Exposition
Personal Card, Michael G. Delhaise, Trade Commission, Consulate General of Belgium in Atlanta.

*Louisiana World Exposition, May 12-November 11, 1984.* n.d.
*Farewell Ceremonies.* November 11, 1984.
*So There, Orwell.* “‘1984, A Video Review.”
*The Louisiana World Exposition: The Schedule.* n.d.

*China: A Brief Survey*, China Council for the Promotion of International Trade, Beijing, China.
*Pavilion of Mexico Set to Welcome Visitors to Louisiana World Exposition.
*Australia: Water Down Under.*
Announcements of participation in the Louisiana World Exposition by Australia, The European Community, Egypt, Mexico, and Peru.

News Clippings, Louisiana World Exposition
*St. Louis Post Dispatch,* “Louisiana World’s Fair Shaping Up to be Mega

Other, Louisiana World Exposition
Pecoul’s Invitations to World’s Fair Functions. 6 items.
World’s Fair handouts, brochures, and postcards. 9 items.
French Quarter Festival Events Schedule, April 6-8, 1984. Published by the Louisiana World’s Fair, 1984.
Map of Fair Site. 2 copies.
Map of Louisiana.
Two tickets, Mississippi Aerial River Transit (M.A.R.T.)
Coupon book, Amusement Rides, Louisiana World Exhibition.
One ticket, New Orleans Museum of Art.

Arts Council of New Orleans
Board members of Council organizations, 1985:
Alliance for Community Theaters, Inc., Board of Directors, 1 p.
Audubon Arts Center, Board of Directors, 1 p.
The Concert Choir of New Orleans, Inc., Officers, 1 p.
Contemporary Arts Center, Board of Directors, 1985-1986, 6 pp.
Crescent City Chapter, The Links, Inc., Executive Board & Officers. 1 p.
Dashiki Theater, Board of Directors, 1 p.
Delta Festival Ballet, Board of Directors, June, 1985, 1 p.
Dryades YMCA. Officers, 1985, 3 pp.
Ethiopian Theater, Inc., Board Members, 1 p.
Junebug Productions, Board of Directors, 1 p.
Komenka Ethnic Dance Ensemble, Board of Directors, 1 p.
Kumbuka African Drum and Dance Collection, Board of Directors, 1 p.
Le Petit Theatre du Vieux Carre, Board of Govenors, 1 p.
Louisiana Children’s Museum, Board of Directors, 2 pp.
Louisiana Composers Guild, Board of Directors, 1 p.
Louisiana Jazz Federation, Board of Directors, 1 p.
Louisiana Museum Foundation, Board of Director, 1 p.
Louisiana State Museum, Board of Directors, 1 p.
Mensage, Board of Directors, 1 p.
Musicians for Music, Board of Directors, 1 p.
New Orleans Arts Review, Board, 1 p.
Friends of the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts, Board of Directors, 2 pp.
New Orleans City Ballet, Board of Directors, 6 pp.
New Orleans Contemporary Dance Co., Inc., Board of Directors, 1 p.
New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Foundation, Inc., Board of Directors, 1 p.
New Orleans Institute for the Performing Arts, Board of Directors, 1 p.
New Orleans Public Schools, Board Members
New Orleans Repertory Dance Theater, Board of Directors
New Orleans Opera Association, Board of Directors, 4 pp.
New Orleans Symphony Orchestra Society, Board of Directors, 5 pp.
New Orleans Women’s Caucus of Art, Officers
St. Luke’s Community Center, Board Members
Administrators of the Tulane Educational Fund, Board of Administrators
LSU and Agricultural and Mechanical College, Board of Supervisors, 2 pp.
Olympia Brass Band, Officers
A. B. Freeman School of Business, Tulane University, Business School Council,
8 pp.
WWOZ, Board of Directors
Young Audience Board, 3 pp.
The Youth Inspirational Choir, Board of Directors

Arts Council of New Orleans Directory, ’84
Arts Council of New Orleans Directory, ’85

“The Arts and City Government-A Unique Opportunity: Report and
Recommendations of the Mayor’s Task Force on Arts Policy for the
Correspondence, Mayor Morial to Pecoul thanking him for his work on the
“Beautification and Public Arts: Facts and Concepts,” Office of the Mayor,
“Municipal Endowment Grants For the Arts: Guidelines,” Arts Council of

Correspondence, Edwin Lupberger, President, Board of Directors, New Orleans Symphony, asking for support of the Symphony. May 28, 1991.
Correspondence, Kenneth T. Hertz, Executive Director, New Orleans Symphony, notifying ticket holders that the Symphony’s 1991-1992 season has been canceled. September 17, 1991.

Human Relation Committee
Monthly Reports:
vol. 2, no.7, October 1969
vol. 3, no.3, April 1970
vol. 3, no.4, May 1970
Progress, vol. iv, issue 4, July-August 1971
Pecoul’s notes welcoming convention to New Orleans and working with the HRC. 5 pp. n.d.
Mayor’s Staff, with home addresses, n.d.
Membership List, ca. 1969
Mailing List, ca. 1969
Black City Council Mailing List, May 8, 1969 (not associated with official City Council)
List of Black Youth Oriented Organizations. n.d.
Ordinance, City of New Orleans, calendar no. 4596, “The Public Accommodations
Ordinance.” December 16, 1969
“HRC Functions and Organization,” draft, April 21, 1969
The U. S. Commission on Civil Rights Clearinghouse, Urban Series no. 1, “Racism in America and How to Combat It.” 3 pp. n.d.
Other Morial Administration

Inter-office memo, from Corinne Barnwell to Pecoul regarding reimbursement for use of her private automobile. August 12, 1980.

Inter-office memo, all unclassified city workers are to report for work three straight Saturdays; October 18, 1980, October 25, 1980, and November 1, 1980. October 15, 1980.

Inter-office memo, Pecoul to Ron Gardner regarding Saturday work, with Gardner’s hand-written reply. October 17, 1980 and October 24, 1980.

Correspondence, Pecoul to Marc Morial, regarding a dedication ceremony. February 21, 1981.

Inter-office memo, Pecoul to Mayor, Upcoming schedule conflicts. March 24, 1981

Inter-office memo, Pecoul’s request for annual leave. April 8, 1981.

Correspondence, Two letters from Pecoul, one to Mrs. Sidney Besthoff and the other to Mrs. Thomas Robert Fiddler regarding McMain Magnet High School. April 8, 1981.

Inter-office memo, Pecoul to Mayor, status report and arrangements for follow-up during annual leave. June 11, 1981.


Inter-office memo, Pecoul’s personal request regarding family business. August 4, 1981.

Inter-office memo, Morial to Pecoul regarding a replacement for his secretary, Patricia Ann Williams. August 21, 1981.

Correspondence, Patricia Ann Williams to Pecoul, letter of resignation. August 26, 1981.

Correspondence, Morial to Pecoul, thanking him for contributing to campaign, April 1, 1982.

Memo regarding mission to Brazil, June 29-July 15, 1985.

Various correspondence, November 1980-November 1985. 7 items.


News clippings regarding election for Mayor of New Orleans. 1982.


“Managing for Productivity in Cities,” Mayors Executive Staff Assistants Meeting.