

On a Move

Event #1

In the last few weeks, I have attended a number of events around our legacy; a couple of book signings and the opening of a Photo exhibit. The first event I attended this month was the book signing for Sean Stewart's book, "On the Ground." Sean used to own Babylon Falling Bookstore in SF. He wanted to do an exhibit in his store on Underground Newspapers. Emory had told him of my huge collection of Underground newspapers. He came to Sacramento and brought a photographer to document the event for an internet magazine, which is now on our website. The exhibit was a big success.

Emory and I spoke at the opening and it was carried in a number of newspapers in the Bay area and on the internet. So after that Sean started working on his book, "On the Ground". It took him a year of interviews with founders of Underground newspapers. He spoke to members of the staff of the Chicago Seed, The Berkeley Barb and Tribe. He went to Austin to talk to the founder of "The Rag" and he interviewed John Wilcox, a founder of the Village Voice and the NY Other

I first met John at Babylon Falling bookstore at the opening of the exhibit. He heard about the exhibit on the internet and he lives in Santa Barbara over 300 miles away. He told me that when he heard about the opening, he jumped in his car and drove to SF, just to make the opening. He said, "This kind of thing doesn't happen everyday and I wanted to be a part of it."

Sean interviewed Emory, Skip Shockley and me for the BPP newspaper section. I noticed a couple of mistakes in the book. I joined the Party in the summer of 1968, not 1969. Sean said he will also make a correction in the next printing of the book about Bitter Dog. I said we used lemon juice, not grapefruit juice, for Bitter Dog (the Panther drink of port and lemon juice).

There are over 100 images in the book, many in color. The book costs less than \$25 and was published by PM press. I spoke at two of the book signings in the Bay area. I shared the stage with Sean in the first signing and Judy" Gumbo" Albert for the second signing. Judy was married to Stew Albert, a close friend of the BPP and me. Stew died about 5 yrs ago. Stew was one of the editors of the Berkeley Barb. He left there and helped start the Berkeley Tribe.

I like the book as it offers information not easily found on the history of the Underground press. Some of the best known surviving former underground newspapers were Rolling Stone magazine and Mother Jones, to name a few.

Note:

Judy was the person in charge of the want ads for the Berkeley Barb and Tribe. She got her "Gumbo" name from Eldridge Cleaver who was a close friend of Stew and Judy. I have heard many great stories of Stew and Eldridge. One of them was

this: Many people don't know that Eldridge took that famous picture of Huey in the wicker chair. Eldridge made the photo into posters. One day he stopped by Stew's pad in Berkeley with the posters. Stew said "what are you going to do with those?" Eldridge said he was going to sell them to raise money for Huey's case. Stew laughed and said, "who is going to buy those?. Then Stew flew off to Washington DC for a big "Stop the War" rally. He came back weeks later. So back in the Bay again, as he came from the airport he saw Huey posters everywhere. He went over to his friends' houses and saw the poster on everyone's wall. So one day Eldridge comes back over Stew and Judy Gumbo's pad. Stew says, "hey, I want one of those posters you have." Eldridge told him that we sold out and he would have to wait. Stew finally got a poster later, but when he told me the story he was mad at himself for not buying 10 of them.



