

8 April 73

Dear Bill,

I meant to congratulate you earlier for your prowess & recognition by your law firm of your talent by making you a partner. I wanted to do that in CIAD, but my "keepers" found it very difficult & against "tradition" to recognize an "EM" as a partner. He compromised this trauma by calling you "Mr. Bowe." - By God, Bill, this is real partnership in the Green Machine!

Bill Mann retired & is working as a consultant to an organization in Fairfax & bringing order into their operations. Col Downie is retiring in June. He is presently in the hospital. You are probably in touch with Messer & you know where he is. Joe McNery is with Justice Dept & rising! I go into training next month to become Defense Attache in Romania. If I make it big, I could bring home some gypsy violinists that could solidify your legal lionization in the Ambassador East!

I thought the inclosed article would be of interest to you since you predicted the fall of 1970 when you analyzed the "cooling impulses."

have many other contrived problems

that we are working on today. Unfortunately, we don't have any "Mr. Bowles" to whom we can turn.

C'est la bloody guerre, Bill!

Wm

ZAP! No More Underground Press

NOTICE: Army, Linda Baby, Big Wally and other Brothers and Sisters looking for Rat, Tribe and similar wonders of alternative journalism, cease thy search: They have mostly gone to the Great Hereafter, victims of all the damn lowered voices and that favorite capitalist tool—money. And, for heaven's sake, stop corresponding with me—I've got a wife, two kids and a job at the local supermarket now.

erships both nationally and locally, the strains of the sectarianism afflicting the left. The hope that the underground press would persist as an alternative system of journalism gave to frustration and failure.

LACK OF MONEY, not surprisingly, is high on the list of problems that have decimated the underground papers. Although distribution costs are minimal due to the common practice of paying sellers a percentage of the price, it is difficult to find people to sell them. Even shoestring operations must confront printing costs and other expenses. Also, sales tend to be unstable, with people constantly coming and going.

But financial problems and low turnover are probably less important than changing times and conditions. The vitality of the alternative press was directly proportional to the health of the radical movement in general. The underground press arose from the ferment of the times and the as yet untested strength of the movement. As opposition to the Vietnam war sustained the movement, the movement sustained the press. Well before the war began to wane, the issue against which the radical movement could mobilize, differences within the movement took their toll in the underground press.

Bonds of friendship rather than corporate ties held the staffs together. Personal or political disputes translated into organizational crises.

Many of the advertisers were marginal as the papers themselves were often unreliable in their statements. Official harassment, largely based upon allegedly pornographic content, forced the papers into battles to survive. Many municipalities banned street sales of the papers.

rape and mayhem. Lenore and her Girl Commandos, an all-female flying squad of aggressive women, sallied forth to crush male domination. Sweetstuff, the pubescent girl, and her friends, the

community, but also at consumers of pornographic movies, group sex, and bizarre sexual accessories. This undoubtedly helped the Barb to reach a weekly circulation of almost 100,000.

launched Come Out!, Advocate, and Fag Rag. Hastily edited underground papers appeared on military bases and in high schools, and even in prisons a kind of samizdat press arose. A Weather

Most members felt that the paper should be radical in an ecumenical sense, representing a broad range of dissenting opinion, literary criticism, music, and other cultural features. But