

*Voices from the Underground* was welcomed into the world of historical and literary nonfiction by those who understood its significance and also loved good literature. Following are

**What the scholars and activists said about the first edition:**

“We live in a country that is free, but with an ideological system of astonishingly narrow scope and rigidity, a fact that has led to many efforts to find alternative modes of expression. The publication of *Voices from the Underground* is a welcome contribution to the process of seeking ways to democratize and invest formal freedom with real meaning.”

Noam Chomsky, institute professor of linguistics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

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“*Voices from the Underground* allows ‘the people who were there’ to document the role of the underground and countercultural press in the development of political consciousness in the 1960s and 1970s. In their own words and styles, editors and writers offer insights that scholars and students will find indispensable to the next wave of analytical writing on this important period. This is the volume for scholars who want to teach their students about the sixties and the underground press.”

Barbara L. Tischler, assistant dean of student affairs, Columbia University School of General Studies, and editor of *Perspectives on the Sixties*

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“*Voices from the Underground* is an important guide and an inspiration for young journalism students and others who recognize the need for a media of integrity, commitment, depth, and truth; a media committed to the propagation of universal human value.”

David G. Du Bois, president, W.E.B. Du Bois Foundation, and visiting professor of journalism/Afro American studies, University of Massachusetts

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“*Voices from the Underground* captures the passion and the promises of one of the most creative organs of the Vietnam Era. In the pages of the alternative papers, activists analyzed everything, argued over strategies, and created visions of how society might be.... [It is] a vital resource for women’s studies by presenting vividly the context in which ‘60s feminism emerged in the U.S. culture and politics.”

Charlotte Bunch, author of *Passionate Politics: Feminist Theory in Action*, co-founder of D.C. Women’s Liberation Movement and director of the Center for Women’s Global Leadership at Douglass College, Rutgers University

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“That crucial period in American social history called the ‘60s already is in danger of being distorted and trivialized in scholarship and journalism based on establishment media. *Voices from the Underground* rescues for us the primary sources and living texture of the publications that emerged from the protest movement of the Vietnam War Era. “

Ben Bagdikian, former dean of the Graduate School of Journalism, University of California at Berkeley

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“The true brief shining moment in American press history was the 1960s’ voices of liberation as reflected in the grassroots press of the day. Ken Wachsberger has brought together a collection of outstanding memoirs of that age in *Voices from the Underground*: all the more important today when the shining has tarnished and the word ‘liberation’ is lost in the wind.”

Barbara Grier, author of *The Lesbian in Literature*, CEO of Naiad Press, and former editor/publisher of *The Ladder*

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“... skillful editing and a welcome range of voices in the chorus. *Voices from the Underground* includes writers not just from big-city papers on either coast, but from small towns, military bases, even the prisons. Especially prominent are some of the feminist and gay writers who created a revolution within a revolution.”

Abe Peck, author of *Uncovering the Sixties: The Life and Times of the Underground Press* and professor of journalism at Northwestern University, from foreword to *Insider Histories of the Vietnam Era Underground Press*

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“It is a privilege to be asked to write a foreword to *Voices from the Underground*.... It is my hope that these fascinating and uniformly well-written pieces enjoy a wide currency, particularly among those who believe that the First Amendment means more than reprinting or broadcasting the words of Marlin Fitzwater or Norman Schwarzkopf.”

William M. Kunstler, founder, vice president, and volunteer staff attorney, the Center for Constitutional Rights, New York, from foreword to *Insider Histories of the Vietnam Era Underground Press*

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“The period of the late sixties and early seventies was a high water mark for American journalism. For the first time in American history, the vision of Justices Holmes and Brandeis

blossomed and bore fruit. A multitude of voices, the essence of democracy, resounded through the land providing a compelling alternative against the stifling banality of the establishment press. What this nation had during the Vietnam War was exactly what the founding fathers understood the press to be all about when they wrote the First Amendment. You are to be congratulated on making a significant contribution to American journalism. I recommend that anyone who truly cares about the nation's press buy a copy and explore with your writers what journalism was really like when the alternative press flourished."

Art Levin, chair, department of journalism, Butler University

### **What editors said as they rejected *Voices* for publication:**

"This is indeed an important collection of underground press histories, and it does come with the right forewords and advance endorsements."

Editor, Carol Publishing Group

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"... an impressive piece of scholarship...."

Editor, Little, Brown and Company Publishers

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"Thank you for submitting Ken Wachsberger's impressive *Voices from the Underground*. I've hesitated to return it to you because I was busy reading it—it's a wonderful, authoritative, and much needed collection.... I'm genuinely sorry that we will have to decline it. I am sure the book will do very well.... Good luck!"

Editor, Thunder's Mouth Press

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"... couldn't put it down ... extraordinary book ... rave rejection...."

Editor, Pantheon Books

### **What the media said:**

"...comes closer than anything I've yet read to putting the sights, sounds, and texture of the '60s on paper."

*Los Angeles Times*

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“...the most important book on American journalism published in my lifetime.”

*In These Times*

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“*Voices* is an important contribution to the history of contemporary dissent in America. Librarians should promote wide use of this insightful and unique publication.”

Bill Katz, editor, *Magazines for Libraries*

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“[F]rom the moment I began reading the introduction [to *Voices from the Underground*], I was enthralled.... I recommend *Voices*. I think the reader will find it inspiring, maybe even a little guilt-producing. But mainly he or she will find it fun. It was fun to read all the old arguments between the traditional reformers and the revolutionaries, between the anarcho-syndicalists and the Maoists, between the feminists and the macho types. It was also fun to remember how all those arguments melted together with Eastern consciousness and psychedelic drugs and Black power and uninhibited sex to produce an outpouring of ideas that seemed endless.”

Ed Bishop, editor, *St. Louis Journalism Review*

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one of the top five books in the field of communication for 1993

*Choice* magazine

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“... preserves the little-known and almost forgotten history of the many gutsy and controversial underground newspapers of the Vietnam era.... [U]nique in its examination of publications representing the voices and outlooks of a counterculture that embraced gays and lesbians, radical feminists, socialists, prisoners, students, New Agers, and various minority and ethnic groups.”

Donna Seaman, *American Libraries*

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“The often ragtag underground press voiced rising objections against the war in Vietnam; chronicled a resurgent civil rights movement, the apocalyptic counter culture, a vast youth

rebellion against establishment morals, politics, economics and styles; and supported anybody, anything, that was different, revolutionary, 'freaky.' It provided the matrix that helped bring our small, polite, homophile, confrontational, gay liberation phase. This important, challenging book is a lengthy, exciting collection of personal histories of that diverse experience, ranging from writers who publicly came out later, like Bob Hippler, who worked with Detroit's *Fifth Estate*, to those who worked on radical gay and feminist papers: Marilyn Webb of *our backs*, Charles Shively of *Fag Rag*, Ginny Berson of *The Furies*—of papers like the San Francisco *Oracle*, which burst with not yet labeled-as-such gay spirit. A few of the selections in *Voices from the Underground*, never mention gays, but nevertheless relate heavily to some of our concerns. The accounts of the anti-war servicemen's publications and the Black Muslim and Black Panther papers have a lot to teach us even today.”

Jim Kepner, *Bay Area Reporter*

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“An invaluable collection of the alternative civilian and military press of the stormy sixties, published by a classy small press whose logo is a white rose, commemorating two German students, Hans Scholl and his sister Sophie, who printed an anti-Nazi underground news-paper in 1943 and were then beheaded. Editor Wachsberger has selected insightful essays on the American antiwar media in Volume I, while Volume II is an indispensable guide for scholars and writers. Ask your library to order these volumes. And thanks to Wachsberger, the voices of these principled dissidents will never disappear.”

Murray Polner, *Fellowship Magazine*

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*Voices from the Underground*, is an important book for historians and those interested in learning of a major component in the development of the current Gay and Lesbian movement in this country.... Upon first seeing this 640 page book, I expected to find only passing mention of gays and lesbians. I was pleasantly surprised to discover that over half the articles in this book are stories about the lives of lesbians and gays involved in 'the movement' of that time. The efforts of *Voices* editor Ken Wachsberger are of importance to lesbians and gays wishing to learn more about our movement's origins. Wachsberger makes sure that gay people's involvement in the development and operation of many underground papers is not ignored or diminished, as often happens in histories of that time.

John O'Brien, *Turning the Tide*, “A Gay Man's Perspective”

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“... and it's fun.”

Erwin Knoll, editor, *The Progressive*