

## FEATURES

## Knox Book Beat

BY WYNDY KNOX CARR

## Handbooks for and by activists

Intersectionality of issues glows throughout *The Activist's Media Handbook: Lessons from Fifty Years as a Progressive Agitator* by David Fenton and *Yippie Girl: Exploits in Protest and Defeating the FBI* by Judy Gumbo.

David Fenton started "hanging out with the radical kids... marijuana and rock and roll...demonstrating against the (Vietnam) war" in his late 1960s' "75 per cent Black and Puerto Rican" high school; "arousing my senses, sexuality, and creativity in new ways." He and his fellow students in the Bronx banished their "dress code" "by word of mouth" by all "showing up in blue jeans" one day; the first of many civil disobedience actions "questioning authority."

He also "subscribed to...intellectual new left magazines," and "hundreds of hippie, countercultural, antiwar underground newspapers" that had sprung up "across the country." Underground Liberation News Service and formal adult magazines began picking up his "photographs of riots and demonstrations around New York."

He latched up with Abbie Hoffman and the Youth International Party Yippies, impressed with how "creatively the defendants" of the Chicago Seven on television and talk show news proved that "image" about "yourself or your organization, is as important to communicating your message as what you actually do." What he's learned on the way to International Climate Action and confronting "The Conservative Media's Alternative Reality" is stunning.

"For decades, I have watched crazy dogmatism hurt the Left," "People learn from engaging characters and moral stories," "Public relations also affects the legal system and the courts" and "To change policy, you have to change public opinion." Available at Eastwind and other independent bookstores by November 1st. Buy this book, study it and USE his PR principles organizing your next endeavor.

Judy Gumbo of *Yippie Girl*, in "From Communist Party to Hippie Pad," attends the American Sociological Association conference in

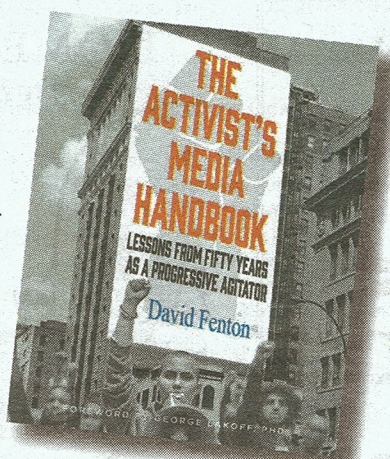
San Francisco, gets a job as a Teaching Associate at Cal, but "had no idea that moving to Berkeley in late 1967 meant I'd be adopting as my hometown an epicenter of hippie counter-culture, free love, and anti-war protest" as well as an "artistic...community that defined Bay Area life and politics." Surprise!

Here she found "tables crammed with leaflets" inside the Student Union where "women... argued intensely with each other - about politics!" because President Lyndon Johnson was using up plenty of young white, black and brown lives, and bodies in Vietnam.

"We will have our freedom. We will not be ignored" entered side-by-side with "Hell, No, We Won't Go" (fight and die in imperialist wars), Black Power and "the beginning of the Revolutionary Ecology Movement." Women were enjoying the Sexual Revolution, music scene and soft drug culture, but also starting to get angry about being ignored at meetings, handling the phones and typewriters, but never getting the spotlight, front page or bylines we deserved. Gumbo was one of us.

At the fountain by Sather Gate, "cool" "golden eagle" Stew Albert would not only become a "forty-year relationship," but also introduce her to his two best friends, Jerry Rubin, Yippie co-founder; and Eldridge Cleaver, Minister of Information for the Black Panther Party, who later gave her the name "Gumbo" when she courageously shouted "I am not Mrs. Stew! I am not Mrs. Anybody! I'm me. I'm Judy...I am a person in my own right!" This woman's got guts. And she tells it like it is. What it was. What we went through.

"The Movement" was met by Mayor Daley's police riot in Chicago during the 1968 Democratic Convention, "And I was there." A deep desire for radical change moved Gumbo/them/us all to both strategically and spontaneously reframe cultural norms through media, demonstrations and "expose establishment hypocrisy using theater of ridicule," bringing "ultra-democratic" spirit and "Power to the People." She and Stew endured their



friends'

"Great Chicago 8 Conspiracy Trial," witnessed the downfall of Nixon while being spied upon night and day, she made antiwar missions to Hanoi, Moscow, and Havana, both stood up for women's empowerment, autonomy, and rights; and many other brilliant, erotic, deadly and harrowing adventures and situations.

Yeah, it was like that. Yes, it WAS like that! Gumbo gives us all the dialogues, scenarios, and pivotal events she witnessed in one of the best *Bildungsromane* of "narrative non-fiction" I've ever read. *Yippie Girl* is a REALLY GOOD thought-provoking pleasure. Buy this book, savor it, loan it to your book club, social action, food shelf, men's group, voting rights and Indivisible co-members!

Wyndy Knox Carr resides just south of the Cal campus and reposts her reviews on LinkedIn and [aanin-fomaven.blogspot.org](http://aanin-fomaven.blogspot.org). She can be contacted at [nohkauz88nohgunz@gmail.com](mailto:nohkauz88nohgunz@gmail.com)



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