

6 S.W. 6th AVE. Portland, Oregon 97204 (503) 224-1727 Member, UPS & LNS

Sheriff Bard Purcell
Room 740
County Courthouse
Portland, OR 97204

Dear Sheriff Purcell,

The following full-time members of the staff of the Willamette Bridge newspaper would like to request press passes from your department:

John Dennis

John G. Wilkinson

Michael O'Brien

Nancy O'Brien

Jon Moscow

Anthony Miksak

Toni Bellinger

Marc G. Peck

Ken Allison

Ron Ashford

David Shapiro

Maurice Isserman

Robert Spindel

Leonard Ackley

Maurice Pillon

Photo

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Thank you for your cooperation.

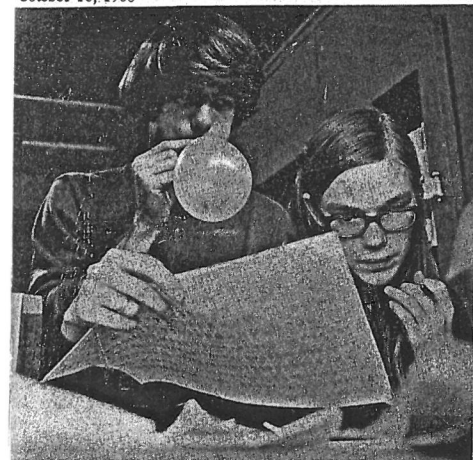
Sincerely,

Anthony Miksak

Anthony Miksak, for the staff

SEC. FILE

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Underground

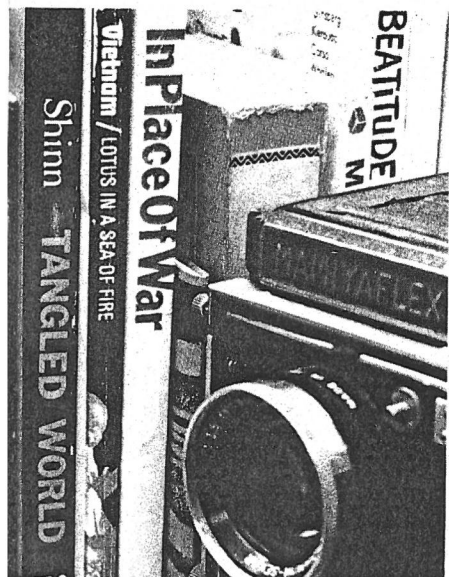
by Jim Hallas

It is late Thursday and the Willamette Bridge, Portland's underground newspaper, comes together slowly.

Throughout the past two weeks stories have been assigned to, and written by, volunteer reporters. Now the material is reprinted on an IBM typewriter and placed on one of twelve pages being composed on the floor (right) by Mary Wells and Nancy Feldman, and on the table (below) by artist, Ken Walton. Cats climb over laps and copy.

John Dennis (left) supplies the "photographs." His camera equipment was a gift from a Canada-bound friend.

The Bridge's editor and publisher, Michael Wells (above left) oversees his expanding enterprise. The paper's staff and paper has grown. And this is the 10th issue. Since the life of many underground papers is brief the Underground Press Syndicate, the subterranean AP, does not acknowledge a publication til it's 10th edition is printed. Underground Portland comes of age.



Underground Press Needs Dedication From Staff, Readers, Editor Says

Publishing an underground newspaper in Portland requires dedicated volunteers and a staff not strongly interested in money.

This, plus the conviction that the existing media were not serving the needs of young activists seeking "to bring the country up to the Kennedy ideal", were the ingredients that prompted and sustained the Willamette Bridge in Portland, its editor Michael Wells, told the Oregon Ad Club Wednesday.

Wells, 26, also confirmed the notice in the latest issue of the Willamette Bridge that he and his wife, Mary, are leaving Portland in May. After a summer in New Hampshire, their

future plans are uncertain.

A California native who came to Portland in 1966 and started a craft store, Wells launched the Willamette Bridge in 1968 on a borrowed \$200.

It was one of more than 200 "underground" newspapers which sprang up around the nation in the 1960s to serve the young people interested in changing the nation, improving it and pointing out mistakes.

"When something happened, the only way we found out was by word of mouth," Wells told the Ad Club. "Then we discovered photo offset."

Now it's possible to start a newspaper on practically no money, Wells noted, "providing an alternative to The Oregonian, New York Times and Newsweek."

Today the Willamette Bridge circulation fluctuates between 10,000 and 20,000, Wells indicated, about 80 per cent distributed through street sales.

The reason for the wide spread from one issue to the

next depends on the weather, he said. The paper's vendors are more enthusiastic to sell the paper on sunny days than when it rains.

The Willamette Bridge's audience falls into two main groups, Wells said, the "hip" youth and the liberal middle class, "the people who voted for McCarthy, who voted for Kennedy or who didn't vote at all."

Discussing the paper's news policy, Wells said "we have a viewpoint. We present the side we're interested in . . . honestly."

The Willamette Bridge, he pointed out, was not concerned with "the myth of objective reporting."

The paper has a staff of 10 and they earn a subsistence wage, about \$30 per week when advertising revenues are high enough to pay salaries.

Wells said that when a staffer's car breaks down, everyone chips in to help repair it.

There are fringe benefits, he added. On nights when the paper is put together, someone brings in dinner.