

Free These Five!

GERRY HANNAH is described as a "real gentle guy," devoted to environmental issues. He played bass with the Subhumans, a Vancouver punk band that was very political but had a strong sense of humour. The Subhumans played benefits for native struggles support, Rock Against Radiation, and Rock Against Prisons.

JULIE BELMAS is a spirited bass player and artist from the Vancouver high school punk scene. She worked for two years as a health care worker with mentally handicapped children. She was also involved with a magazine calling for radical activism, and with El Salvador solidarity groups.

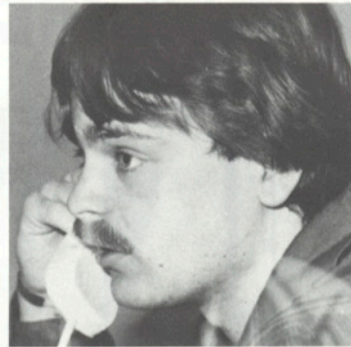
BRENT TAYLOR — is an activist with a lively sense of humor. With Doug, he helped organize the first Vancouver anti-nuke march four years ago. His work on environmental and prison issues has led him into a strong stand on behalf of native sovereignty, including participation in the Leonard Peltier defense campaign.

ANN HANSEN studied history and political science at university in Ontario and wrote for the *Toronto Clarion* and for *Bulldozer* (a prisoners' mag). She was a member of Women Against Prisons, but was denied prison-visiting rights after her belief that prisons should be abolished became known to authorities. Thoughtful and optimistic, people say it is impossible to be depressed around her.

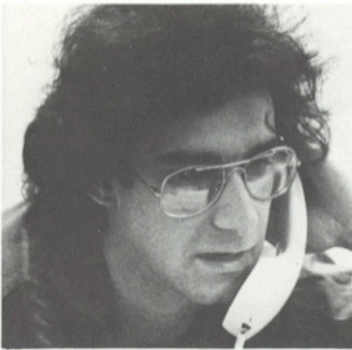
DOUG STEWART worked with Pacific Life Community, a small pacifist group that began a campaign against the Trident nuclear submarine system. He was part of a co-operative which runs a progressive bookstore in Vancouver. "It's important for me to know that even if the state succeeds in fucking us over, that events will have a positive and strengthening effect on people" — Doug.



Ann Hansen



Doug Stewart



Brent Taylor



Gerry Hannah



Julie Belmas

Taking Liberties

Shades of the McCarthy era ... when Toronto cops raided the home of a group of activists involved in the Free the Five support campaign on June 13, they brought with them a dusted-off copy of a law that was last used in Canada in 1950, at the height of the so-called Red Scare. It's called seditious libel, and it means advocating governmental change by force.

The cops never explained what they thought was seditious, but their search warrant specified a number of items, including the anti-prison journal *Bulldozer* (available for a donation from Box 5052, Stn. A, Toronto, Ont.), the *Trial By Media* videotape about the railroading of the Five and any correspondence from the Five.

The public uproar over the ridiculousness of the allegation may have scared the police off from actually charging anyone with seditious libel for the mo-

ment, but that didn't stop them from arresting a woman occupant of the house on a charge of illegally procuring an abortion (possible sentence: life in prison) and then offering to drop the charge if she fingered any of the Litton bombers. Four other occupants were also charged with the old reliable possession of a couple of joints.

The blatant political use of police powers is becoming the norm in the case of the Five. Earlier in the year, Toronto police, under the guise of investigating the Litton bombing, staged a series of fishing expeditions in the files of pacifist anti-war groups. Police in Vancouver raided the homes of personal friends of the Five with no obvious goal except intimidation.

Despite the police harassment, supporters of the Five have succeeded in maintaining a high level of solidarity:

- Demonstrations in Vancouver, Toronto, Montreal and San Francisco (at the

Canadian consulate);

- Benefit gigs by D.O.A., Moral Lepers, Dead Kennedys and many other bands in most Canadian cities;

- Support groups in Vancouver, Calgary, Winnipeg, Toronto, Montreal, Hamilton, Ottawa, Seattle, San Francisco and London, England

- Public forums, using *Trial by Media* videotape, in major Canadian cities and in New York and Seattle.

- Statements of support and protests of police and media behavior from the B.C. Federation of Women, the Vancouver and District Labour Council, the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, the Cheeky-Dunsmuir Alliance and many others.

- Countless posters, spoofs, leaflets, buttons, postcards, T-shirts and graffiti from anti-authoritarian groups across the country.

Media Guide

- **Free The Five Newsletter:** available for a donation, from Box 48296, Bentall Station, Vancouver, B.C. V7X 1A1 Canada.

- **Open Road:** Direct Action issue (#15) and 1984 — Big Brother issue (#16, in preparation for Fall, 1983); \$1 from Box 6135, Station G, Vancouver, B.C., Canada.

- **Resistance:** Issues 4 & 5 (Direct Action and Wimmin's Fire Brigade communi-ques) and Issue 6 (update on the Five); for a donation, from Box 790, Station A, Vancouver, B.C., Canada.

- **D.O.A.** benefit single, Fuck You (by Gerry Hannah) b/w Burn It Down!; \$3 plus 75 cents handling, from D.O.A., Box 65896, Station F, Vancouver, B.C. (Ask for info on bulk orders).

- **Trial By Media:** one hour videotape, suitable for showing at public forums on the Five; available from B.C. Journalists for Accuracy In Media, 1868 Franklin, Vancouver, B.C.

- **Civil Liberties Action Security Project:** info package on surveillance, police dirty tricks and other 1984 nightmares; for a donation from CLASP, Box 65369, Station F, Vancouver, B.C., Canada.

- **Indirect Action:** analysis of issues related to the case and the implications for the peace movement; for a donation from Box 6326, Station A, Toronto, Ontario M5W 1P7.

- **The Five:** write to them directly at Oakalla Prison, Drawer "O", Burnaby, B.C. V5H 3N4.

- **Bulldozer:** the prisoners' magazine that was seized in a recent raid (see Police story); for a donation from Box 5052, Station A, Toronto, Ontario M5W 1W4.

On the Road

The next issue of *Open Road* is in preparation. The theme is 1984; the national security state, and ways to resist Big Brother. We need your ideas, your articles and your money ... before it's too late.

Open Road, Box 6135, Station G, Vancouver, B.C., Canada, V6R 4G5.