



GERRY HANNAH, IN PRE-DIRECT ACTION PHOTO

GERRY HANNAH SONGS FROM UNDERGROUND

EVERY TRULY CREATIVE ACT is a triumph over the prisons that surround us; those of convention, society's 'laws', indoctrination, and pressure. Women are trapped in their husband's homes; young people in schools. For many of us, our experience of prison is just that—the weight of those chains clapped on us at birth because of the fundamental skew in social values that hands power to the pathological and oppresses everyone within its reach. Prisons come in a lot of different characters and parameters, but the worst are physical: the concrete walls, the electronic monitoring, the terrible isolation. Given the nature of the prisons outside and inside, any authentic political voice is welcome; to teach, to share, and to reaffirm.

Gerry Hannah is serving a 10 year sentence in conjunction, as the notes on the cassette carefully explain, with the activities of a clandestine organization active in the anti-nuclear and ecological movement. Before that, he was bassist with the Subhumans, one of the original punk bands in Vancouver and the most politically articulate. This tape is mostly acoustic folk (with occasional synthesizer) and though the musical style may have shifted, his political ideals haven't. Still bringing insight and expression to various struggles, the songs work as the best of political music; they make you think and they make you feel.

Anarchist Newspaper Confiscated

MUNICH—The state prosecutor here confiscated the autonomous anarchist paper *Freiraum* No. 11. It was the fourth time that *Freiraum* has been seized by the state. On this occasion the paper was confiscated because it reported the violent police action in smashing the street festival or-

Recorded on a four-track in Matsqui Prison, the tape was mixed and produced by Gerry; he also plays the majority of the instruments (notable exception is Ron Wiggins on mouth harp).

The bravery of this tape is most evident on the songs the reveal Gerry at his most vulnerable; it takes a lot of strength to remain capable of the open expression of pain and doubt in the context of prison. The songs move from the deeply personal to well-observed political statements; "Living with the Lies" and "Holy American Empire" are clear-eyed appraisals of the unchanging mechanisms of power. The most painful to listen to is "The Madness", dealing with the barriers imposed on relationships and the resulting anger and helplessness, but I prefer to see the spiritual heart of the tape as "Rejuvenation". In this song Gerry comes to terms with his depression and stands stronger than ever, affirming his commitment to life and hope, and incidentally reminding us that we must also struggle on. "It's here in our souls that we're free". An uncompromising group of songs, with the courage to be honest about the subjects that are the most painful, and the strength to remain free in spite of the prisons we all inhabit.

Songs from Underground is available from: P.O.B. 34332, Station D, Vancouver, B.C. V6J 4P3.

ganized by anti-nuclear protesters in Haidhausen. Police also searched six private apartments, one printer and the Munich info-centre, where police seized another paper, *Radt-Aktiv*, the newspaper of the Bavarian anti-nuclear groups.

(Echomedia Berlin)

LOOMPANICS CATALOGUE!?

Thrill and impress your friends with the Loompanics catalogue, bound to be a hit at any party. Death and mayhem abound in this right-wing wetdream of a distribution service, and it makes for some pretty ugly reading. An appalling assemblage of unintentional black humour ('Disruptive Terrorism' reads one ad, How to cause panic and much, much more'), a few genuinely interesting books that somehow have been appropriated into the Loompanics fold ('The Revolution of Everyday Life') and the straight ahead despicable 'Physical Interrogation Techniques—how to torture Infor-

mation out of an unwilling suspect'.

More frightening than the reading of the catalogue is the prospect that it will be used, giving rise to visions of hundreds of paranoid survivalists in their caves and bomb shelters (one of the things that you learn from Loompanics is that you too can survive the coming holocaust and live to rule over the debris), hunched over the catalogue, drooling mindlessly and absorbing every word with what passes for rapt attention when you're brain damaged—or lacking any fundamental moral principles—or both.

There is a certain grim humour in the thought that those who do order something in the catalogue are probably leaving themselves open for what looks like an FBI sting operation—it's hard to believe that it could be anything else. All in all, a demented mixture of fantasy, madness and the worst tendencies of American libertarianism. What is worthwhile is better purchased elsewhere, and the rest can only appeal to an immature and selfish mentality. For anyone else, it's nothing more than a cheap thrill.

Loompanics Catalogue. Published by Loompanics Unlimited, P.O.B. 1197, Port Townsend, WA 98368 U.S.A.

Harlequin Romance of the Underground

The Good Terrorist—by Doris Lessing. Pub. by A. Knopf.

I'm already suspect of a title containing such a naivete of contradiction, but my curiosity got the better of my sensibilities. Don't bother reading this book! It is a waste of time unless, of course, you want to keep abreast with what is perhaps the prevailing way that radicals are perceived. It'd be destructive if it weren't so laughable. Lessing will not leave you impressed with her 'deep' understanding of an activist's history and motivation, but rather will knock you dead with the usual reactionary fantasy of what goes on behind the doors of our hearts and minds. It reads like it was penned by a police psychopathologist for the Harlequin Romance series...Special Edition 'The Loves of Guerrillas'.

The main character, Alice, is our 'good terrorist' presumably. Lessing speaks through this character, supposedly revealing a humanistic insight but which very thinly veils the actual moralistic judgementalism rampant in the portrayal of every individual we meet in this novel. Alice is the noble and mature one but a sharper eye can see that she is basically the neurotic, prone to tantrums, black-outs, and severe sexual repressions. There is no attempt at subtlety with the rest of the cast. They are boldly painted as emotional invalids...repressive personalities creating a world of unhealthy personal and political relationships.

Guerrillas, feminists, anarchists, queers, Russians, socialists, workers, Irish etc...not one group escapes being represented by a 'dolt'. Accounts of demonstrations, movement meetings and theorizings, development of support for the underground, politics of anti-

sexism/racism/classism are given only the most superficial of treatment at best and worse, are inaccurate and off-the-wall fictions. Who is Doris Lessing anyway, really, and where did she find the nerve to tackle this? It's even worse than Marge Piercy's milquetoast effort *Vida*. We don't need novellas and fictional romancings of our lives. Considering the real-life struggles that all progressive people are involved in on personal

and political levels, both as individuals and part of a movement, it is nothing but insult to see us caricatured as immature, egotistical, manipulative, adventurist, cruel and on and on...It's not the reality I have encountered of strength of creativity amongst the warriors from all these struggles.

But most dangerous of all is the book's culmination in a guerrilla action which is definitely a mindless, terroristic act. Lessing stereotypes those involved in the resistance underground as spontaneist thrillseekers willing to destroy and murder at whim, for their pleasure, using the most juvenile of political justifications. This book is negativist propaganda. It creates myths. It warps the truth of our history and knowledge.

MATRAX TAPE

A highly uneven tape of a number of woman's bands from Canada, England and the states. Ranging from straight thrash to a more almost jazz sound, it's a diverse and often rewarding compilation. Production ranges from the good to the abysmal, but the energy and humour of these bands always comes through. Even allowing for personal bias, the Vancouver bands are a highlight, especially the Moral Lepers (sadly no longer with us) and Industrial Waste Banned (very much in

existence). Cracked Maris's wonderful contribution suffers from production that renders it inarticulate, but enough of the sound remains to show what might have been. Other great songs are by the Ruggedy Anne's, Unwarranted Trust, Topless Answer and the Frilly Questions. Worthwhile for it's documentation of the living underground of women's music, and very much recommended.

The Matrax Tape is available from: P.O.B. 34332, Station D, Vancouver, B.C., Canada, V6J 4P3.

Revolutionary Fantasy

Sandanista—by Marie Jakober. Pub. 1985 by New Star Books, 2504 York Av., Vancouver, B.C., Canada V6K 1 E6.

A white North American fantasy of what participating in a revolution might be like, but not as bad as that might make it sound. Though written a mannered and occasionally irritating style, Jakober's genuine concern comes through at every turn, revealing more about her personal discovery of the conditions in pre-Sandanista Nicaragua than it does about the Nicaraguan people themselves.

Her shock is obvious (as indeed any sane person feels) at the terrible crimes committed by the despotic and American supported Somoza regime. Lots of solid factual material here. If you don't know about the extent of corporate investment in Central America, or how the Nicaraguan people were forced into literally selling their lifeblood to the States, you should. From here, however, the author draws a series of romantic characters that are meant to illustrate the various aspects of the revolution, and they remain just that, flat representations who never really live in their own right. She then makes the momentous discovery that revolutionaries have feelings, suffer, and have mothers just like the rest of us—or are mothers themselves. Dazzled by this idea, she seems overwhelmed by it throughout the book, with the result that her characters lack the real sympathy and sincerity she could have felt for them. Not a great novel, but propaganda of the best kind, and stands as a good introduction to the actuality of oppression and resistance under tyranny.

BOOKS RECEIVED:

SABRA AND SHATILA - A New Auschwitz - by A. Weisfeld. First hand accounts and documentation of the massacres. Pub by **Jerusalem International Publishing House, Inc., Main P.O. Box 9420, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, K1G 3V1**

SOLIDARITY FOREVER - An oral history of the I.W.W. - by Stewart Bird, Dan Georgakas and Deborah Shaffer. A first hand account of the

of the early years of the Industrial Workers of the World. All but one of these interviews were filmed and recorded for the feature film **The Wobblies**. Pub. by **Lake View Press, P.O. Box 578279, Chicago, Ill. 60657 U.S.A.**

SOVVERSIVI IN TOSCANA [1900 - 1910] - by Georgio Saccetti - pub. by **Altre Edizioni - C.P. 90 - 06059 Todi [PG], Italy**