CRASS RECORDS have recently released the 4 track ep 'BAD NEWS' by local band HIT PARADE. The four tracks are Here's what you'll find in any prison, More Faces (then the Albert Clock) & Block, and bad news.

They all serve to comment on those quaint little colloquialisms with which we are all familiar, but don't get to hear so much about on Downtown Radio or Top of the Pops. For example, political censorship, repression, state duplicity, prisons etc. Cleverly interwoven with the rhythms and lyrics are the sounds of helicopters, chants from demonstrations, Orange songs, familiar voices and other delicate tonings that create a flavour that should be familiar to us all.

In an effort to find out more, we tracked down Hit Parade's P-Check (which, we must presume is not his real name).

O.C. Why did you bring out this record?

P.C. Well, we felt that rock music was a really powerful force with which to get ideas across. Groups from Ulster (sic) have consistently evaded the notion of recording political songs.

We discussed the merits of Soft Little Fingers (SLF), more aspiring towards an English outlook, never attempting to tackle any of the real issues in the North, whilst being heralded as the representatives of N.I. youth. Indeed their highly ambiguous lyrics argues for a 'normality' under which they could progress as a rock band, that the only rotten thing in the North was the fact that they hadn't anywhere to play. The Northern Ireland Office went as far as to include SLF in the syllabus 'Everyday's all right in the colonies, chaps' propaganda brochure 'N-Ireland - Observed', as an illustration of their belief that everything is normal and the kids live the same lives as anywhere, provided they immigrate to London-like SLF.

P.C. The more they moved away from the North, the less political they became, they began to sing about travelling back and foward from London and what it's like in the rock scene - shit like that which is only relevant to them.

O.C. And are you any different?

P.C. What the group want to do is to encourage young people to say 'look there are things here', especially the young kids who have more to say than us in terms of their experiences in N.I. They DO have a lot to say, but are frightened by groups like SLF, who exploited the situation, and don't want to do the same themselves. I recalled an article which had appeared in Republican News not so long ago which referred to Anarchism and Punk as imported products of an English culture. With this in mind, did P. Check feel that Hit Parade could contribute anything towards a local culture through this medium?

P.C. I think that in European countries there is basically only one culture, that is the capitalist/consumer culture and the only culture I would see as relevant would be what I would define as Resistence culture - One that recognises or explains the situation, or which puts forward ideas within the situation and challenges it in any mode, form or content. That's the only culture I recognise. The ideas within the records are Anarchist critiques of the situation here. What they tend to be at present are definitive statements. On the role of the police, the media, or prisons and hopefully there will be a few more records that have these definitive statements and I think that once these are cleared out of the way there can be more exploitation of ideas and music which would get away from the old ideas of form. The H Block song wasn't conceived as a melody line, but was an attempt to generate the experience within the prisons, and the uniform type military existence within these regimes. The words were actually written at the time of the first hunger strike, and it was done as a chant on some of the marches then. O.G. A lot of people will see your record as Republican in content, and not necessarily Anarchist.

P.C. Are only Republicans supposed to take up the issue of prisons? There has always been a lot of contention within the Anarchist movement as to how they define prisons. At the time I felt that you could really see the state machinery operating on this issue, manipulation of the media, bending their own rules, they were even prepared to kill kids, and through this you could really see what way things were going to go in N.I. And I decided to support the prisons.

The record will no doubt sell strongly on the English market, and in addition to the music, the sleeve is covered with arts of information (taken from 'Outta Control') on Plastic Bullets, the media, the hunger strike, prisons, and a lot of general information. However, local outlets are hard to find, with the current closure of 'Good Vibrations', the only spot in Belfast where any music other than the slick top 40 crap could be found. It is, however, available from Just Books at a cost of 80p (plus 20p for postage). All proceeds will go towards the Prisoners' Scheme.

Let's hope it's a hit.

BEATING ROUND THE BUSH!

It is no secret anymore that the southern state and Britain would come to an agreement on a united Ireland, if the south were prepared to incorporate itself into NATO.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation is the West's military alliance against the Warsaw Pact, and increasingly lately, against the 'West's' internal opposition, which ranges form social revolutionary movements to national liberation struggles.

Recent developments show that the coalition government is very keen on negotiations about such a settlement. The Minister of Defence, Paddy Cooney said two weeks ago in the Dail that Irish neutrality is a matter of expediency rather than principle. Future expediency might demand a different position.

In fact one week ago the Sunday Press published a letter from the Minister of Defence to the Minister of Posts and Telegraphs in a previous coalition government.

It concerned the revamping of the south's aged telecommunications system by a US multinational firm. The letter suggested that the Defence Department in the USA "be contacted with a view to ensuring that the proposed system is compatible with their standards". When else would such a compatibility be necessary, than in the event of the south joining NATO.

USA vice-President Bush is to visit the south at the beginning of July, where he will talk with Fitzgerald. He will later meet Thatcher as part of his European tour. In a radio interview at the end of June, he said that if Britain and the south were to agree, the USA would like to play more of a meaningful role in attempting to 'solve the northern problem'.

Fitzgerald himself has pushed for more meetings with Thatcher. They have had two meetings this year at European 'heads of state' venues - in Brussels in March, and Stuttgart in June. As a consequence an Anglo-Irish summit is planned for the end of this year. It is well over a year since such a summit, which were to be held twice yearly, until a row broke out because of the Fianna Fail government's 'neutrality' over the Falklands/Malvinas war.

After the Stuttgart meeting Fitzgerald said, 'We discussed future meetings at different levels between the two governments. It was very cordial'.

What these different levels are, he did not explain, but as he implied, they are a continual process, and as Cooney implied, they involve 'the expediency of neutrality'.

HERES MORE BAD NEWS

Large selection of Records on the CRASS/CORPS CHRISTI Independant label available from Just Books
Ten people, mostly very young, were killed by plastic bullets during the hunger-strike campaign. None of them has been proven, at subsequent inquests to have taken part in rioting.

It is obvious that even if this were the case, the ability of the 'security forces' to kill, should be resisted. Given the findings of the inquests, pressure is mounting to ban the plastic bullets.

The most recent inquest was into the death of 11 year old Stephen McCann from Derry. It provided evidence that there was murder, and that there is a cover-up.

JURY’S CONCLUSIONS

At Belfast’s Coroners Court, the jury found that the plastic bullet was fired at a range of 17 feet. They also concluded that the plastic bullets were in serious danger at the time, again in contravention of recommendations; and that Stephen was not involved in rioting at the time.

CIRCUMSTANCES

The RUC claimed that a tricolour had been attached to an army saron, near Rossiville flats, and one of their land-rovers ‘went to its aid’.

Sean Tomely, who was part paralyzed by a plastic bullet in 1981, has been a peace activist and changed his mind as he has independently reviewed the available evidence and has previously given details of his victimisation, over those two years, by the RUC and Brits.

He was shot at point blank range, after being dragged up an entry by the Brits in Ditis data. He was on a support system for several weeks, and had a major operation to insert a plate in his skull. The injury resulted in him being paralysed down the left side of his body. He walks with great difficulty and has no movement in his left arm.

The RUC first charged him with riotous behaviour. It was an obvious attempt to deprive him of the substantial compensation he was entitled to. At the trial he was acquitted.

Their second charge rested on the word of then-Inspector Goodman. But this fell through when Goodman retracted his statement. The RUC’s barrister and regular arrests continued.

Then on the 25th June, he was rearrested and charged with INLA membership and possession of a bomb, on the word of the latest informer, Harry Kirkpatrick.

Sean’s mother explained the manner of his arrest.

“Sean was over in his sister’s house, on the Saturday night, celebrating both her birthday, the 22nd and 22nd of June. They were having a wee drink. They didn’t hear the RUC come in through the kitchen, and up into the bedrooms. They were half-way down the stairs, when they heard them. There were about ten RUC inside the house, and I don’t know how many outside, in September. The women were screaming at them through the windows, and a couple of neighbours came out. They told me the RUC gave him a really hard time of it. One old woman was crying as she was telling me this.”

COVER UP

Because of the overwhelming evidence that Stephen was not involved in rioting the ‘security forces’ claimed a mistake was made. The Brit said he had aimed for the ‘ring leader’, but missed.

To back this up a police forensic scientist - Polish - told the inquest that tests had shown the gun to be faulty. It apparently was inaccurate by 11 to 15 degrees, and in 8 tests out of 10, the trigger had to be pulled twice.

NOT ACCURATE ENOUGH!

Despite pleas from London-SED for the banning of the bullet, and from the NCC, for prosecution by the DPP it is obvious the ‘faulty gun’ argument will militate against either demand.

In fact Coroner Elliott has asked the Crown Solicitor to ensure that in future all guns are made accurate!

No petrol bombs were thrown, only stones. They claimed that though a small fire had been started under the Saron. The Lance Corporal said he thought the petrol bomb was being rekindled when he opened a hatch and fired his gun.

CIVIL ORDER

PICKING UP THE PIECES

— A WOMEN’S RESOURCE PACK. £2

Women’s daily lives are difficult to document because they tend to be so fragmented. The priorities which demand our attention are not of our own choosing — by men, the multi-faceted, caring for children in high rise flats, maintaining a national identity, dignity in hostile surroundings, struggling to improve health and living standards amid environmental sequestration and pollution.

All this and more is documented in ‘Picking Up the Pieces’, but what makes it more than a literary women’s voice is that on each issue it also records how women in the community consult together to tackle these problems.

The resource pack, produced by Belfast Women in Media group, is a folder containing colour illustrated and detailed guide to their cards. It can be read as a whole or dipped into for reference on topics including health, education, childcare, work and history. Each issue is treated as both a principled and practical, level with information about campaigns, contact addresses etc.

If there are omissions they are not glaring ones. The aim of the women who compiled the information was to document the problems, struggles and achievements of women here over the past decade and in doing this they have provided a resource body for women already involved in the women’s movement and increasingly badly for those who may not yet have seen how all women struggles are connected.

Also included are two useful media packs including a guide to the media and an illustrated guide to what to do.

For a copy please write:

PICKING UP THE PIECES

Women’s Resource Pack

Belfast Women in Media

115-117 Shore Road

Belfast BT4 1RA

CHEMICAL WARFARY

Silage explosion has severely polluted rivers in north Antrim. One example is the Streaman River which was recently restocked with 4000 bull trout (a native fish). All the salmon, plus 1000s of trout were dead and in the almost entire insect life were completely destroyed within a matter of hours.

It is thought that some farmers are dumping the effluent from slilage directly into the rivers. The poisonous compound is sulphuric acid which kills river life. However it can safely be piped or sprayed back into the grass land.

PONTIFICATING

Those who believe that the Pope can do anything but harm in the repressive Polish state, are either libelous or enemies of the working classes (what is the difference? Edit.). There can be no collaboration with capitalism or the state if we are to liberate ourselves But J.P. wants ‘the whole Polish nation to live in mutual trust’. He wants people to trust their jailers.

GUTS AND GORE

‘Do you have the guts’... runs the latest UDR recruitment advert. "There is no better way of describing the spec- tacle of people we want... it admits. And if you have ‘the guts’ (ie, you brains in you feet), then you’ll be rewarded... the satisfaction of contrib- uting to your country, good rates of pay, and... lions! How much of a bounty did the killers of Tony Harker get?

MATHE KROLLIWITZ EXHIBITION

‘Her politics emerged from her social life, her gut, her heart, her historical awareness, and merged with the forms of the human bodies that were the vehi- cles for her beliefs. She dealt with tragedy, not pathos, though tragedy was not usually associated with the lives of working-class people.”

From the forward by Lucy Lippard to a collection of her work.

An exhibition of her drawings, sculpture and posters is presently on show at the Ulster Museum on Stranmillis Rd. It continues until August 30th.

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OUTRA CONTROL

This issue of Outra Control is for July and August. We will resume monthly publication in September.

If you wish to send articles, news, or criticism write to:

OUTRA CONTROL

7 Winstanw St.,

Smithfield,

Belfast 1.

Subscription is £4 for 12 issues. Trade orders in Wales, Scotland, and England, can be got from full Time Distribution, Albion Yard, Balle St.

OUTRA CONTROL

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POSTCARD SERIES

The illustration on the front page is one of three postcards, produced by Just Books. Proceeds from their sale will go towards their Prisoners Book Scheme. Books are sold at half price to any prisoner who orders from their stock. They cost 15p each (10p in post shops) from Just Books, 7 Winstanw St.,

Smithfield, Belfast 1. Money with orders please.

IF MEN COULD GET PREGNANT ABORTION WOULD BE SACRAMENT!
PICKING UP THE PIECES — A WOMEN’S RESOURCE PACK. £2

Women’s daily lives are difficult to document because they tend to be so fragmented. The priorities which demand our attention are not of our own choosing — in many cases material, caring for children in high rise flats, maintaining a national identity in hostile surroundings, struggling to improve health and living standards amid environmental seepage and pollution.

All this and more is documented in “Picking up the Pieces” but what makes it more than a litany of women’s woes is that on each issue it also records how women in numbers are working together to tackle these problems.

The resource pack, produced by Belfast Women in Media group, is a folder containing the colourful and well illustrated resource cards. It can be read as a whole or dipped into for reference on topics including health, education, childcare, work and history. Each issue is also a folder with a substantial and practical level, with information about campaigns, contact addresses etc.

If there are omissions they are not glaring ones. The aim of the women who compiled the information was to document the problems, struggles and achievements of women here over the past decade and in doing so they have provided a resource both for women already involved in the women’s movement and more importantly for those who may not yet have seen how all women struggles are connected.

COVER UP

Because of the overwhelming evidence that Stephen was not involved in rioting the ‘security forces’ claimed a mistake was made. The British had aimed for the ‘ring-leader’, but missed.

Rich barristers in Belfast were seen to be grinning a lot recently, even more happy with their lot in life. It would seem that they are happy with the Black Tuesday sub-prime mess, tightening their grip on their lucrative trade.

Their professional organisation - the Inn of Court - had a meeting in June this year, where they’ve met since the Inn of Court was set up in 1926! Another meeting is planned for November. Why such fervent activity from a bunch more noted for amusing fortunes than discussing tactics?

Up to now barristers were under the control of the ‘Benchers’, mainly composed of judges. But the meetings in June and November are aimed at a transfer of power from the Benchers to the Inn of Court. It will now be the barristers themselves who will regulate entry into the profession.

The leading light behind the power transfer is Q.C. McSparron, THE Catholic solicitor, part owner of the Irish News, property lord, and about £50,000 the richer when the Black Tuesday sub-prime mess took hold. He wants to control the ‘standards’ of the profession, and stem the flow of young barristers trying to get into the trade; in particular, to block those whose political sympathies/generality outlook are less conservative than his.

To gain support, he is flowering the myth that barristers should tighten up, pull up the ladder of entry and stay rich. It is seen as exclusive as possible.

At the moment, Queen's Law Faculty graduates about 80 or 90 students a year. A revolution is suggested, with there are unemployed solicitors. Too many in terms of money-making legal work, while there are interested in the legal area of housing, or social issues.

That's where the money comes from. So McSparron mob wants to control entry and ‘standards’ to ensure a continuation of making huge sums of money. Too many barristers, particularly of the wrong sort, might kick the bucket. For the record, too judges (like Lowry), earn about £30,000 a year, Q.C.’s like McSparron, McCart—

FOOTNOTE

Some time ago, Lord Hailsham came over from London to try and work out what was going on. He found it was mainly because of the huge DROP in salary most of them would get, with an increased security risk; Hailsham failed to persuade the judges to agree to his terms. So he created 4 new Q.C.’s, flooded the courts a bit and forced solicitors to drop a bit. Within 2 months, there were 2 new county court judges — Donaldson and Gibson.

..."They came in here"...

The British Government plans to dump 4,000 tons of radioactive waste in the North Atlantic this summer have faced a set-back. The biggest obstacle for the Atomic Energy Authority is the dock workers’ opposition. The authorities have refused to load the ships which is due to be sold in July.

The waste that is to be dumped is supposedly ‘safe’, in fact the waste is that is being disposed of into the environment. It is vital that the authorities are the various forms of filters in nuclear power plants. These filters remove most of the radioactive substances from the water and gases being released into the environment. It is typical of those filters, which there are to prevent radioactive polution, are then thrown into the sea. The Royal Society, from the nuclear weapons programme, the Royal Academy of Sciences, and from America International (which produces radioactive chemicals for industry and research).

The waste is planned to be loaded on the Nuclear Industries Waste Executive’s ship off the Atlantic coast for about £42,000 on July 4th. The ship which has a removable bottom, can carry out its sea dumping unobserved, and more importantly, prevent Greenpeace using the tactic of positioning themselves beneath the dumping platforms that have been used previously.

Greenpeace, who are organising opposition at sea if the Atlantic’s Fisher’ ever sets sail, paid a visit to Dublin in mid-June to speak to the ship, ‘Codfather’. During their two day stay, they publicised the activities being carried out at Windscale on the Cumbrian coast, as described in the Political Ecology Research Group report as “the single most polluting of all nuclear establishments’.

It is reckoned in the same report to be between 6000 and 12,000 times as dangerous and the only other commercial reprocessing plant in the world, at Cap Le Hagne in France. Yet, like their counterparts, the Irish Sea is now the most radioactive place on earth. 1/4 tonne of plutonium has been discharged, one million tons of a grain of which is the amount to produce cancer if taken into the lungs.

According to the latest issue of "Resist- ance", the Irish Sea branch of Greenpeace has been chosen to site an industrial park for hazardous chemical factories. This site would be next to the deep waters of the EEC countries would find unacceptable. In the past and the Irish don’t object to Windscale and its discharges, they’ll hardly mind a toxic park and it’s inevitable discharges into the sea.

"Resistance" also points out that, only recently has the effects of a fire in 1957 at Windscale been revealed. It caused 13 thyroid cancer deaths and several Brits, including a few Held, was spared such consequences by the wind direction at the time. "What a fine Irish monster then?"

A housing protest march, with a difference, took place over a month ago. Not surprisingly, very little coverage in the national media. But one of the interesting aspects is from 'Resource' which is published by the Upper South Bank Resource Centre.

Eleven housing groups from West Belfast have joined forces to convince the Houses of Parliament of their commitments they have renegoted on.

At the end of May 200 people, mainly young to mid adult aged, came to the Housing Centre behind the City Hall to plan the march; they sent a letter outlining their demands, and stage a street protest. But the RUC, ever alert to the threat of 'terrorism', sprang into action. They were only too happy to keep the end of the march, the marchers of the marchers, in Adelaide St, and prevented any photograph or TV crews from getting through.

One of the protesters described what happened next.

We wouldn’t have been heard in theirfaces. As soon as the protest started, we formed up in line with Steering of the march. As soon as we were clear off the ground, four of them had one their backs against the wall, one kicked him hard off the wall, and the other three kicking him into the ground. The same kind of brutality was experienced around the entire rally. It is a new campaign. It is clear that the 'hate in their faces' slogan is not just some come out of anti-communist areas to protest against priests or houses, the RUC is just saying to keep them off if they keep up their protests against croppies. The problem is, the croppies refuse to lie down.

..."You should have seen the hatred in their faces."

The one Rule for all of children worked a treat.

The Parliaments came along the flaming and put some sort of smoke to get their very successful, 'Take your hands, etc.' or something else. Nothing happened but a couple of men.

On 18th and 19th June a conference aiming to discuss the changing experiences of women and men in the workplace was held in the University of Reading. The conference was very well organised with work on women and men and his work to chart. It is not the money, I'm sure, knowing the costs of printing and publishing. Lees have a bit of principled leadership and not navete.

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In the British Government plans to dump 4,000 tons of radioactive waste in the North Atlantic this summer have faced a setback. The biggest obstacle for the Atomic Energy Authority is the dock workers, who have refused to allow the waste to be unloaded. They say the dock workers are worried about the handling of the waste and its potential impact on the environment.

FOOTNOTE
Note so long, Lord Hailsham came over form London to try and work out what we were up to, but we had no specific agenda. He found it mainly because of the huge DROP in salary most of us would get, and that we were interested in the legal and property situation.

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“Resistance” also points out, that only recently has this press given rise to the idea of a fire in 1957 at Windscale been revealed. It caused 13 thyroid cancer deaths and ever since the plant in Ireland was spared such consequences by the wind direction at the time.

What’s for the Irish then?

A housing protest march, with a difference, took place over a month ago. Not surprisingly, little coverage in the media at the time of the action from “Resource” which is published by the Upper Springhead Research Centre. Eleven housing groups from West Belfast had joined forces to confront the Housing Executive at the “No-deposit” protest, at the Housing Centre behind the City Hall. The action was beout, letter outlining their demands, and stage

a street protest. But the RUC, ever alert to the threat of ‘terrorism’, sprang into action. They had two vans up against the wall, one on the head of the wall, and the other three kicking her.

The same kind of brutality was experienced by the other anti-group, the Campaign. It is clear that the ‘hate in their hearts’ is not going to stop. The RUC have not come out of anti-unionist areas to protest against priests or houses, the RUC have come from the place where you are against the croppers. The problem is, the croppers refuse to lie down.

Changing Responsibilities

On 18th and 19th June a conference aiming to discuss the changing experiences of women and men in this area took place at the University of Sussex. The conference was very well organized with work on the topics of work and family, women in science and technology. What does this mean for women? Women are having their experiences of work altered. This policy is likely to change more than in the past ten years. The middle class has a still alive in the women.

Is this article is help to guide the conference’s host. Not everything, however, all the areas of children worked a treat. The Centre for the Arts Theatre came along the conference. They offered some ideas on this very successful. "Lazy up your ends, seek, or cooperation, and maybe just not work. We were called on Saturday night. The conference provided a forum for women to talk about what they were facing in the workplace, gender and women’s issues are increasingly of interest to women, women are describing their own experiences of work and family. We will provide a support to improve these conditions. There are opportunities and that is an important part of the framework. Women are changed more than in the past ten years. The middle class is a still alive in the "women's movement".

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A CRUISE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

Have you heard of COMSO? It's in Sicily, and you've heard of that. In most people's minds, Sicily is the birthplace of many mafia families. A few months ago, a small group of people experienced much mafia activity. It is one of the most important events of our time.

However, that might soon change, if NATO can help it, and local people don't want it. For years, the Mafia has been the dominant power in Sicily, but this time, the situation is different.

The bookshop at the airport has long been closed, and it is likely to remain closed for a long time. The new leader of the Mafia is a retired police officer who has managed to keep the other Mafia families in check. He is determined to bring peace to the island.

The Mafia has been taking over more and more of the local government, and it is feared that they will soon control the entire island. The local people are afraid, but they don't know what to do.

The Mafia has been using its power to get what it wants, and it has been successful. The local people are fighting back, but they are not winning.

The Mafia is a threat to our way of life, and it must be stopped. We must stand together to fight against this evil organization.

The other side of the story that the Mafia wants us to believe is that they are protecting us from the dangers of the world. They say that they are the only ones who can keep the peace.

But we must not be fooled by their lies. The Mafia is only interested in its own power, and it will do anything to keep it.

We must stand together and fight against this evil organization. We must not let the Mafia take control of our lives.

The Mafia is a threat to our way of life, and it must be stopped. We must stand together to fight against this evil organization.
A CRUISE IN THE MIDDLE

Have you heard of COMOS? It's in Sicily, and you've heard of it. In most people's minds, Sicily is the birthplace of the mafia, and it is certainly a site with a rich history of mafia activities. A few months ago, I visited Sicily and experienced much mafia activity. It is not just about the mafia's criminal activities and corruption.

However, that might soon change, if NATO can help it, and local people in the area don't use in it. For NATO has been planning to make Comiso is to become the site for the first and largest cruise nuclear missile base in Europe. As you can guess, the mafia will be only a part of the local peoples problems.

The area will be subjected to an occupation force of 20,000 American soldiers spread throughout the island. This is due to the necessity of having several ferrying points for the Cruise missiles. The soldiers families are expected to bring this number up to 100,000 people.

The mafia itself will move in, because of these numbers and the ensuing money supply, with their drug, prostitution and protection rackets. It is no coincidence that the mafia and the Mafia have the contracts for building the base of the base.

Jean Weir, who has lived in Sicily for many years, recently visited Belfast where she spoke at a meeting with the Comiso opposition to cruise missiles, which will culminate in a mass occupation of the site on the weekend of July 22nd.

The resistance takes two forms. There has been a small but consistent women's peace camp, akin to the one at Greenham Common in England. Periodically a mass blockade is organised where women from all over Europe attend.

But unlike Greenham there is also a strong local movement against the proposal. As well as mass demonstrations and petitions, mainly organised by the Communist Party, a recent development has been the formation of self-managed leagues. These have their roots in the local land leagues which exist in this century were the basis for occupying large farms and resisting evictions. These groups, reacting to these organisaional forms, by touring the island and holding meetings in the village and town squares. The response was brilliant and there are now thousands involved in the leagues. One of their strongest bases is amongst school students. Marches on town squares, mass leafleting and school strikes against arrests have shown the effectiveness of the leagues.

However the period of counter-inform-ation that has led talk to be more concrete action. How can the movement be stopped? It is clear that there was enough support for a mass occupation of the site.

Unlike Greenham or Bishopscourt, there was not only a 6 foot fence with no barbed wire. In fact some local farmers have broken down parts of the fence to grow vegetables, as the site of the some of the best soil in the area.

When Jean was asked about the inevitability of confrontation, she explained how they hoped to deal with it. The structure of the leagues, which are autonomous form each other and which coordinate rather than are dictated to means there will be several tactics employed, so a confrontation at one spot will create for others an opportunity.

Also if the army is used, the conscripts will be unlikely to see much violence against a large crowd of local people who will bring tractor drivers, sheep.

For the weekend they expect a lot of young people to come down from northern Italy, where there exists strong support. Punk groups are preparing to form two weeks for survival building up to the occupation.

Jean appealed for support, either to come along, or to stage a protest in your own area, or send some much needed money via Justa. But some one pointed out that we had enough to do here. Her reply was that there is already a reality. Women face a foreign occupation, and Sicily is threatened with one. And to quote from a leaflet, "The end of Women in Comiso will affect the whole of Europe and the world, because of NATO's plan to miniize Europe with deadly atomic missiles. It is also a method of militarising whole Europe and the population of Europe. It is vital that Comiso does not remain isolated.

UNMAGNIFIABLE REVOLUTIONARIES

Margaret Ward, Pluto Press, £5.95

I was really pleased to see Margaret Ward's first book on the shelves and I began reading it at once. The introduction of Inghinidhe na hEireann, women's political organisation to the worthwhile, interesting book.

Cumann na mBan was the largest and best organised of these groups. In the early 1990s, it had over 12,000 members. Many of these women were committed to the liberation of Ireland and to the liberation of women. Some of these women went on to become leaders of the movement.

The book opens with a chapter on the Ladies Day protest in Greenham Common in 1981 after the virtual collapse of the Land League with many of its leading men. It is argued that this was the finest political organisation of Irish women and proved itself to be more revolutionary in its goals and more organised in how to achieve these goals than its male counterparts. The sisters of Charles Stewart Parnell, Anna and Fanny, and his mother, Delta, in America were heavily committed to the Land League revolution as were the many women Parnell had never forgotten. Women organised the country and within two years there were 8 branches of the Ladies Land League.

I had not really considered what an achievement it was for this group to gather on holiday one summer I tried to grasp how a group of women could try to just the landlord power and power of the British state, as ugly and repressive a state as we face today. But against them, but also the traditional visions within society on women and theatre to always remain subordinate and loyal to secure over 500 branches in two years (over 6 branches a month) as well as organising relief, attending eviction scenes and arranging for the building of the ladies. No faction was ever divided. No one who organised the Land League is forgotten. Women organised the country and travelled across the world. It is vital that Comiso does not remain isolated.

The other sister that the value of this piece of paper was about as valuable as the weekly dole rate.

Although we are still a small group we do not intend to sit down and do nothing. We are going to keep on fighting and we hope in time more people will realise that the majority and we will win in the end.

If any person is interested to find out more about the group we hold weekly meetings in 7, Winnefont St. every Monday night at 7:30pm. Also any body with any information, gossip or a listen ear can call in at any time. The system is run, please send it along to Margaret Ward 13, Dunn Cottage, Peking Road, Silent Valley, County Down.

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D.A.R.T.H.A.N.

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D.A.R.T.H.A.N.
CRASS RECORDS have recently released the 4 track ep 'BAD NEWS' by local band HIT PARADE. The four tracks are 'Here's what you'll find in any prison, More Faces (after the Albert Clock) & Block, and bad news. They all serve to comment on those quaint little colloquialisms with which we are all familiar, but don't get to hear so much about on Downtown Radio or Top of the Pops. For example, political censorship, repression, state duplicity, prisons etc. Cleverly interwoven with the rhythms and lyrics are the sounds of helicopters, chants from demonstrations, Orange songs, familiar voices and other delicate tonings that create a flavour that should be familiar to us all.

In an effort to find out more, we tracked down Hit Parade P-Check (which, we must presume is not a real name). O.C. Why did you bring out this record? P.C. Well, we felt that rock music was a really powerful force with which to get ideas across. Groups from Ulster (sic) have consistently evaded the notion of recording political songs.

We discussed the merits of Stiff Little Fingers (SLF), more aspiring towards an English outlook, never attempting to tackle any of the real issues in the North, whilst being heralded as the representatives of N.I. youth. Indeed, their highly ambiguous lyrics argue for a 'normality' under which they could progress as a rock band, that the only rotten thing in the North was the fact that they hadn't anywhere to play. The Northern Ireland Office went as far as to include SLF in their glossy 'Everything's all right in the colonies, chaps' propaganda brochure 'N-Ireland - Observed', as an illustration of their belief that everything is normal and the kids live the same lives as anywhere, provided they immigrate to London - like SLF. P.C. The more they moved away from the North, the less political they became, they began to sing about travelling back and forward from London and what it's like in the rock scene - shit like that which is only relevant to them. O.C. And are you any different? P.C. What the group want to do is to encourage young people to say 'look there are things here', especially the young kids who have more to say than us in terms of their experiences in N.I. They DO have a lot to say, but are frightened by groups like SLF, who exploited the situation, and don't want to do the same themselves.

I recalled an article which had appeared in Republican News not so long ago which referred to Anarchism and Punk as imported products of an English culture. With this in mind, did P-Check feel that Hit Parade could contribute anything towards a local culture through this medium? P.C. I think that in European countries there is basically only one culture, that is the capitalist/consumer culture and the only culture I would see as relevant would be what I would define as Resistance culture - One that denaturalises or explains the situation, or which puts forward ideas within the situation and challenges it in any mode, form or content. That's the only culture I recognise. The ideas within the records are Anarchist critiques of the situation here. What they tend to be at present are definitive statements. On the role of the police, the media, on prisons and hopefully there will be a few more records that have these definitive statements and I think that once these are cleared out of the way there can be more exploration of ideas and music which would get away from the old ideas of format. The H Block song wasn't conceived as a melody line, but was an attempt to generate the atmosphere within the prisons, and the uniform type military existence within these regimes. The words were actually written at the time of the first hunger strike, and it was done as a chant on some of the marches then. O.C. A lot of people will see your record as Republican in content, and not necessarily Anarchist.

P.C. Are only Republicans supposed to take up the issue of prisons? There has always been a lot of contention within the Anarchist movement as to how they define prisons. At the time I felt that you could really see the state machinery operating on this issue, manipulation of the media, bending their own rules, they were even prepared to kill kids, and through this you could really see what way things were going to go in N.I. And I decided to support the prisoners.

The record will no doubt sell strongly on the English market, and in addition to the music, the sleeve is covered with all sorts of information (taken from 'Outta Control') on Plastic Bullets, the media, the hunger strike, prisons, and a lot of general information. However, local outlets are hard to find, with the current closure of 'Good Vibrations', the only spot in Belfast where any music other than the slick top 40 crap could be found. It is, however, available from Just Books at a cost of 80p (plus 20p for postage). All proceeds will go towards the Prisoner's Scheme.

Let's hope it's a hit.

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BEATING ROUND THE BUSH!

It is no secret anymore that the southern state and Britain would come to an agreement on a united Ireland, if the south were prepared to incorporate itself into NATO.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation is the 'West's' military alliance against the Warsaw Pact, and increasingly lately, against the 'West's' internal opposition, which ranges form social revolutionary movements to national liberation struggles.

Recent developments show that the coalition government is very keen on negotiations about such a settlement.

The Minister of Defence, Paddy Cooney said two weeks ago in the Dail that Irish neutrality is a matter of expediency rather than principle. Future expediency might demand a different position.

In fact one week ago the Sunday Press published a letter from the Minister of Defence to the Minister of Posts and Telegraphs in a previous coalition government.

It concerned the revamping of the south's aged telecommunications system by a US multinational firm. The letter suggested that the Defence Department in the USA 'be contacted with a view to enquiring if the proposed system is compatible with their standards'. When else would such a commercial necessity, than in the event of the south joining NATO.

USA vice-President Bush is to visit the south at the beginning of July, where he will talk with Fitzgerald. He will later meet Thatcher as part of his European tour. In a radio interview at the end of June, he said that if Britain and the south were to agree, the USA would like to play more of a meaningful role in attempting to 'solve the northern problem'.

Fitzgerald himself has pushed for more meetings with Thatcher. They have had two meetings this year at European 'heads of state' venues - in Brussels in March, and Stuttgart in June. As a consequence an Andes-Irish summit is planned for the end of this year. It is well over a year since such a summit, which were to be held twice yearly, until a row broke out because of the Fianna Fail government's 'neutrality' over the Falklands/Malvinas war.

After the Stuttgart meeting Fitzgerald said, 'We discussed future meetings at different levels between the two governments. It was very cordial'. What these different levels are, he did not explain, but as he implied, they are a continual process, and as Cooney implied, they involve the 'expediency of neutrality'.

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GREETINGS FROM NORTHERN IRELAND! With you weren't here!

Large selection of Records on the CRASS/CORPORUS CHRISTI Independant label available from Just Books

Images from a series of postcards; see p.3.

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HERE'S MORE BAD NEWS

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