

movements, Punks view abortion as a freedom or right not to be taken away.

This following quote and final information could have been included in the environmental section but I have chosen to include it here as the ideas are closely related to those of Ecofeminism. Many ideas such as anthropocentrism (a huge word defined as interpreting or regarding the world's value in terms of usefulness for its human inhabitants) and the intrinsic value of nature are covered later.

“Change isn't conducted by ‘professional’ organizers or experts; it's made by ordinary people showing compassion and cooperation, and standing against racism, sexism, ecological destruction and the terror waged against the earth” (David Spanner, Canadian band **D.O.A.**, Right to Be Wild EP, 1983).

Gerry Hannah (or Gerry Useless) was a founding member of the Vancouver Punk scene in the late seventies and his band the **Subhumans** released several records of inspired, aggressive music with intelligent socio-political lyrics. They played at “several anti-nuclear benefits, a fund-raiser for El Salvadoran guerrillas, a Rock against Reagan show on Ronnie's inauguration, a Rock against Racism benefit for the Pontiac brothers (Michigan prisoners on trial for allegedly killing KKK guards) and an anarchist smash-the-state concert” (ibid). Gerry is a strong believer that actions speak louder than words. In 1983, he and four others (known as the Vancouver Five) were arrested for “bombing a controversial new hydro-electric development opposed by environmentalists: dynamiting the plant that's producing guidance systems for the first strike Cruise missile; and fire bombing three pornography outlets distributing videos containing torture, mutilation, and sexual violence against women” (ibid). While these may seem to be the actions of terrorists to some, heroes to others, knowing why they did them is important. If the ends can justify the means, then what they did may be just or even obligatory.

Gerry had a letter printed in a benefit single put out

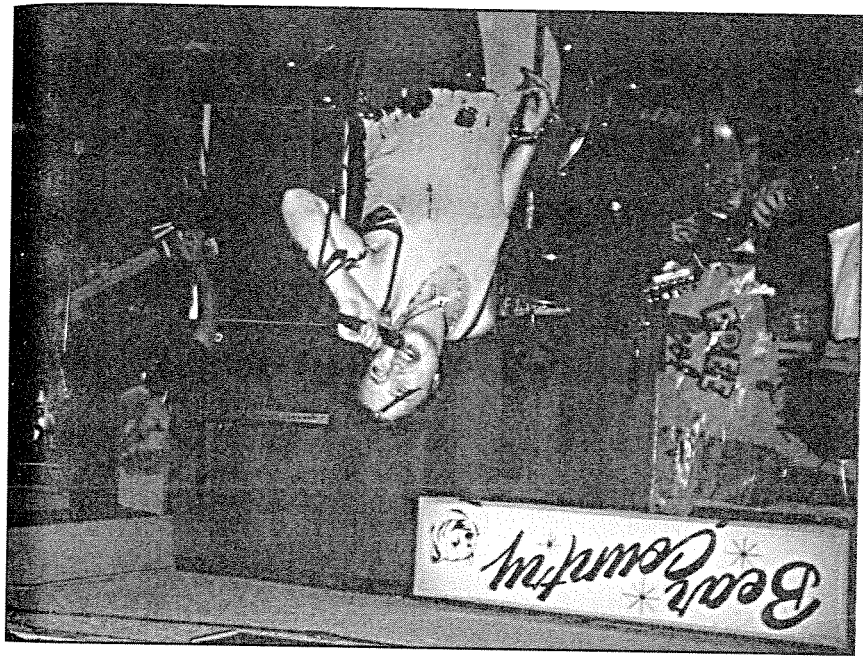


Kamala, Cringer, NYC, '91

by the very popular and rockin' Punk band **D.O.A.** in which he shared his views. He justified direct action as the best and perhaps only means available for change. Gerry criticizes those who are politically aware but adopt the attitude that “given time civilization will eventually evolve by itself into some wonderful utopia. Given time by itself, however, civilization will almost certainly develop into an unconquerable police state or will wipe itself out entirely by atomic war or by poisoning the environment” (Gerry Hannah, ibid). He gives a criticism of the anthropocentric view and ties it into sexism.

“Those of us who are men must realize that despite what we may think of ourselves, we continue to be highly oppressive and dominating... we refuse to acknowledge and embrace the so-called feminine aspects of personality such as compassion, sensitivity and tenderness. Instead we deliberately emphasize the negative so-called male tendencies of aggression, competitiveness and arrogance. There appears to be a direct relation between those tendencies

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and the most serious problems we face today" (ibid).
Gerry sees a direct link between stereotypical male
tendencies to dominate nature and the oppression of
women. This similarity in treatment and the oppressive
results is the essential idea behind Ecofeminism. Until sex-
ism is recognized as a fundamental issue, "all of our efforts
toward positive change are hypocritical and sadly lacking"
(ibid). There is no justification for favoring or agreeing
with just one fight against oppression. They are all funda-
mentally interconnected. "Only through a complete under-
standing of our dangerous and dismal situation and the
causes behind it, and by adopting a radical outlook
towards changing it—including the essential concepts of
anarchism, feminism and environmentalism—can we hope
to break the chains of oppression that bind us and this
planet so completely" (ibid).
While sexism is acknowledged as a rampant and
prevalent problem in society, a similar problem often goes
unacknowledged. This is the problem of heterosexism, or