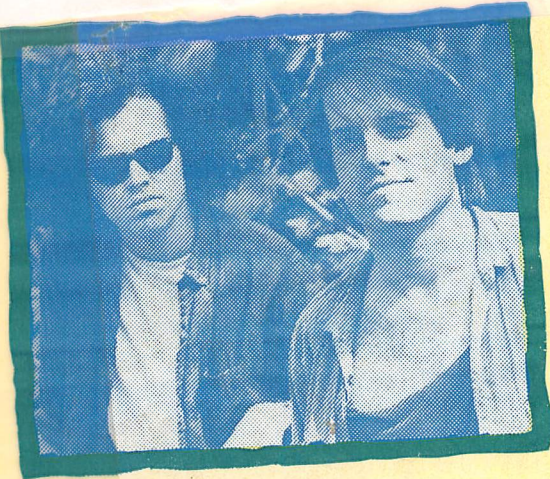


91.3 KCPR

FM STEREO

CAL POLY RADIO



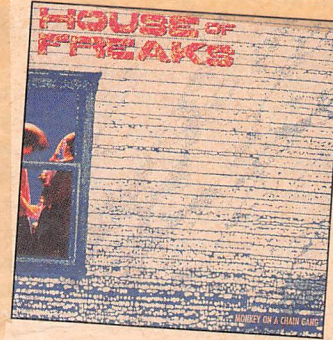
HOUSE of FREAKS

"Two sweaty, hard working, high-energized dudes who really know how to crank out bitchen, hard-rockin' tunes in a unique and totally supreme fashion."
—L.A. Weekly



Their first album
"MONKEY ON A CHAIN GANG"
(RNLP 70838)
available soon.

PRO
70838



★★★ 1/2

MONKEY ON A CHAIN GANG House of Freaks

RHINO

CONSISTING OF JUST ELECTRIC GUITARIST Bryan Harvey and drummer Johnny Hott, House of Freaks may look like half a band, but on the duo's debut album this half is better than most wholes. Between Harvey's dexterous, aggressive guitar playing and Hott's furious yet precise and complex polyrhythms, there's enough racket for *two* full bands. But all the noise wouldn't be worth oatmeal if it weren't made in the service of great songs, and the good news about *Monkey on a Chain Gang* is that there are plenty of great songs to go around.

Transplanted last year from Richmond, Virginia, to Los Angeles, Harvey and Hott celebrate both the pioneering spirit and the Southern mysticism they carry with them in songs that match pure rock grit, rooted in blues-based garage traditions, with a sophisticated sense of melody and structure. The peak is reached on Harvey's "40 Years," a Lennon-like song of survival in the post-Hiroshima age that serves as the album's thematic centerpiece.

The album's collection of characters is plagued by disorientation and futility (the hopeless search for gold in "Cactusland" and the search for "the gospel on MTV" in "My Own Backyard"), and yet the performances and lyrics carry a sense of optimism that wins out over any feelings of loss and longing. Only Harvey can sing a line like "Lightning only struck me once, and then it struck me blind," in the album's resigned conclusion, "You Can Never Go Home," and still convey a sense of hope. With their talent, these two have plenty of reasons to be hopeful. This is certain to be one of 1988's top debuts.

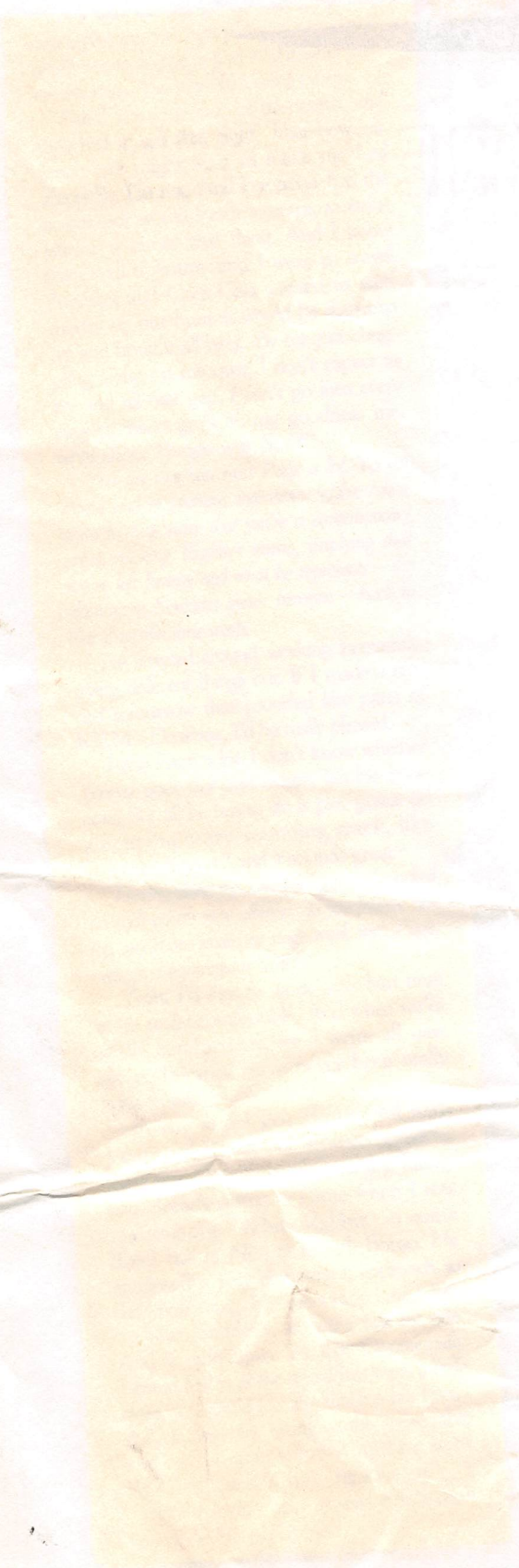
— Steve Hochman

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Handwritten text in red ink, possibly a signature or name, located at the top of the page.

A horizontal line or scribble in grey ink, located below the red text.



Faint, mirrored text at the bottom of the page, likely bleed-through from the reverse side. The text is difficult to decipher but appears to contain some numbers and possibly a name.