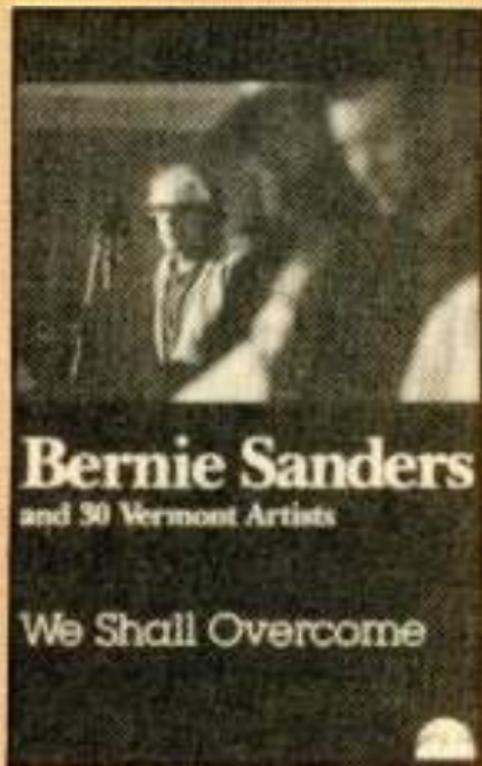


# Sanders' cassette hits the airwaves

By John Johnston  
Free Press Staff Writer

Move over, Madonna. Step aside, Springsteen. Mayor Bernard Sanders' first release is scheduled to hit record stores Saturday.

The cassette, called "We Shall Overcome,"



features the title song and four other folk and gospel tunes recorded last month by Sanders and 30 Vermont artists at White Crow Audio in Burlington. It is being released on White Crow's Burlington label.

"I haven't found a person in Burlington who isn't planning to buy it. It's incredible," said White Crow owner Todd Lockwood. Reprinted inside the cassette cover is the letter Lockwood sent the mayor in April proposing the idea of a "close-up portrait of Bernie Sanders."

That portrait doesn't include any singing by the mayor, although his voice is unmistakable in the segments where he recites lyrics. Sanders also includes some lyrics of his own. During a rendition of the 1960s anti-war song "Where Have All the Flowers Gone?" Sanders says: "Iran and Iraq...The Soviet Union and Afghanistan...The United States and Nicaragua...When will we ever learn?"

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"The thing is," Lockwood said, "after (people) listen to this they're going to realize this is more than a joke. There are parts of it that are humorous, but it has a very serious message."

Lockwood and co-producer Douglas Jaffe were busy Thursday making an initial 2,000 copies of the cassette, which will list for \$9.98. "We will just follow the demand after that point," Lockwood said.

In addition to "Flowers," two other songs were released to Burlington radio stations Tuesday: "The Banks Are Made of Marble" and "This Land is Your Land." The title tune and "Oh Freedom" complete the first side.

"I'm very impressed with the music," said Tom Van Sant, music director and evening disc jockey at WIZN-FM. "I really enjoyed it. It very well could be the hot stocking stuffer of 1987."

Sanders' recording sessions have gained national attention. National Public Radio has taped an interview with the mayor. And Lockwood has begun sending the cassette to radio stations in Albany, N.Y., Boston, New York City and Montreal.

Sanders said he is excited about the project because the music deals with a range of social issues which are important to him. "I am especially delighted and proud that we have been able to bring together 30 of the best musicians in Vermont." They include soloists Nancy Beaven, Jon Gailmor, Danny Coane, Pete R. Smith, Dick McCormack and Robert Sterzinger.

The cassette's flip side is a wide-ranging conversation with the mayor. The topics include what it means to be a socialist, Sanders' early years growing up in Brooklyn and his entry into Vermont politics.

This project may be only the beginning. Lockwood said that while putting finishing touches on the cassette's spoken side Wednesday night, Sanders asked him, "So, have you got another project in mind yet?" Sanders was noncommittal Thursday. "We'll see how this one goes," he said.