

MORE CONTENTS THAN EVER !

NO. 6

AND ONCE AGAIN... MORE THAN 150 REVIEWS !!!

From The Darkside

**BOLT THROWER
MONSTROSITY
GELTIC FROST
DISMEMBER
IMMORTAL
REVENANT
EMPEROR
AUTOPSY
SORGERY
MARDUK
DEATH**

SPECIALS:

**REPULSO
RECORDS**

- **FANZINES**
- **AUSTRIAN BLACK METAL
SYNDICATE**

**PRIME EVIL, VITAL REMAINS, VOMITING CORPSES, BEHEMOTH, GRAVELAND, ANCIENT,
ABYSS, ENTRAFIS, ILBRED, THE WHORES OF BABYLON, DESCENDENT, EFFUSION OF
BLOOD, SIGH, IN FLAMES, PUNISHMENT, MASS PSYCHOSIS, NUM SKULL, DESECRATION,
ABSCESS, VIOLENT DIRGE, KATATONIA**

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EDITORIAL

Publisher:
Markus Hoppe

Editor/Contact:
VOICES FROM THE DARKSIDE
Frank Stöver
P.O. Box 210 212
28222 Bremen
Germany

Contributors:
Leif Jensen
Mary Ciullo
Max Michiels
Thomas Garcia
Pawel Panak
Werner "Nyer" Linke
Ula Gehret

Photos:
Martin Wickler
Frank Stöver
Bands

Layout & Typing:
Frank Stöver

Coverartwork by:
Sean C. Carr
courtesy of
FRESHBLOOD STUDIOS,
TEXAS/USA
used with permission

Artworkcredits:
Dennis Gulbey
Pete Abrams
Mark Rindick
Benjamin Heins
Todd Gukelberger (Prime Evil)
plus lots of stolen artwork
by unknown artists, sorry!
You rule!

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Marco Gemmet of
DARKEN ART PROD.
Switzerland

LETTERS

I really like black metal, although I can't identify w/ alot of the activities and the upcoming fascism within this scene and I was pretty much surprised to read the DARKTHRONE press statement, a band I admire alot musically, cause in an interview in BURNING GROUND MAG. that was answered by FENRIZ & COUNT GRISHNACKH, their fascist image is stronger than ever... Quote: "You will never find ANTI-racism on our albums!" and "I, Fenriz, wish to thank you eternally for supporting our defeat in that racist battle! I am truly sorry we failed..." It also seems to me that Fenriz smells the money right now as he has 5 projects by now, so maybe he was hoping to find more people through this press-statement... M.N./Germany

Sorry, but their excuse sounds quite strange to me. Even if the word "jewish" has another meaning in Norway, namely something like "stupid" (which I can't believe by the way) DARK THRONE should be aware that this diction may sound different to foreign people. A "professional" band like DARK THRONE, that releases albums almost worldwide, should know what to say or write when giving statements to the international press. I think they knew exactly what they were saying, but due to the massive boycott, got "cold feet" afterwards. Nevertheless, would be cool if I'm wrong, cause their music isn't bad...
Martin Wickler/Germany

I'M PISSED !!!

Yes I am! I don't know where we are going to, but at least it is NOT a direction we like to support in any way! The current black metal "scene" is infected by a massive neo-nazi movement and fascism in general and we are here to support MUSIC, not politics! So, the result of this is quite simple: As soon as we'll find out, that a band (no matter what style they have decided on) has more interest to support their fascist ideologies than the music they play, we won't give them ANY space in VOICES! As we are not perfect we will probably need YOUR help to discover all those bands, cause it can always happen that we are not aware of them, if they just send us a tape without any infos and stuff. There's so many great bands who need support and they are worth our time and work (especially in black metal these days), that we also won't continue to feature every stupid tape, ep, cd or whatever in upcoming issues anymore! WE will decide which band has the potential, the attitude and the feeling, worth to get featured in our zine! NO FUCKIN' OBJECTIVITY ANYMORE! Just pure SUBJECTIVITY! If you can't stand it - we don't care! Only real brutal death and black metal will have a chance from now on! It's time to select the true ones and deny the trendies! So if you will continue to send us your stuff, make sure to remember one thing before wasting your money: The next issue WON'T have more than 150 reviews anymore! It's silly! No one needs all these bands, so... We hope to bring you the best bands ONLY by doing so and stick to the original roots with it! I mean, c'mon who really wants a hip-hop-hardcore-industrial-black-death-grind-jazzy-folk band ??? FUCK THAT!! As always... ONLY DEATH IS REAL! You have been warned so spread the word and FUCK FASCISM!!

Some of you might remember the DARK THRONE press statement in our last issue where they asseverated that the use of the word "jews" in their language is pretty natural for something negative and not to be connected to fascism or anything... We wanted to hear your opinions about it and here are a few of them. Unfortunately no norwegian musician, reader or whatever had the balls to comment on that, so it might be a little bit one-sided but that's not our fault...

Hail Satan!

You jewish pig, if you continue to write crap like that about BURZUM & DARK THRONE, you'll get a letter - bomb in your mail sometime. It's pretty natural that every black metal fan and satanist wants to destroy the jewish and christians. That doesn't mean you're a Nazi, cause they've been jewish in one way or another as well, cause they believed in Jesus and God. TRANSILVANIAN HUNGER is the meanest and best black metal record of all time! Support the war!

Infernal Holocaust Storm/Salzgitter(Germany)

My personal opinion regarding the so-called TRUE BLACK METAL: It makes me really off if some kids like FUNERAL WINDS say "You could see kids with an IMMORTAL shirt and CANNIBAL CORPSE cap..." Now it's IMMORTAL, but what will he say if in the near future these fans will show up with a FUNERAL WINDS shirt and NAPALM DEATH jogging as well? It's a typical reaction that I read all the time and I can promise that this band will die shortly, with an ideology like that! And speaking of the swastika in the HOLOCAUST feature. We found out in books about the origin of that symbol and it just is the symbol for the concentration of people in a freedom way. Terrific when you know, that these children wear it. The most disgusting thing they have in

their brains is to wear a Nazi-symbol! That's fun actually, it was fun before these world wars probably but not after! Regarding the statement DARKTHRONE has done, it's right that "Jews" is used in the current french language as well...

Herve Herbaut(OSMOSE PROD.)

I don't really care what these guys are saying or what they do, it's not my business and it seems to be childish bullshit what they say. They are lacking in experience, that is quite obvious. But it was rather "funny" with this jew-thing, that it's a norwegian word and that they have been misunderstood... Sounds like a joke to me, cause otherwise it would be a slap-in-the-face for every intelligent human being or are they really THAT dumb? On the other hand they have printed TRUE ARYAN BLACK METAL in the innersleeve of their cd... pretty "genius"... cause with a poor cover and even worse production they can't really be that ARYAN! It's an incapacity! Something else... I was planning a few shows with DARK THRONE 2 years ago and talked to Ted Skjellum over the phone about it... he said they are not interested, cause he lives with his girlfriend in a little house somewhere in the snow and he added it would be really nice there, plus he has his job and so on and so on... Not EVIL at all!

Michael Piesch/Austria
(LETHAL RECORDS)

SPECIAL
THANK

A big "thank you" goes out to all the labels, distributors, contributors, zines, bands & readers that have supported us so far & especially Stefan Ritter (hard working man!), Doug Grandon (you finally made it!), Andy Siry, Anthony v/d Berg, Dave & REPULSE REC. and Dave Rudat of FRINGE PROD.!

EMPEROR



EMPEROR's first full-length album IN THE NIGHTSIDE ECLIPSE is probably the most delayed, but also the best selling black metal release, judging it by it's pre-sales (12.000 units !!) And by the time this issue is out, it should be in the stores finally, so an interview with SAMOTH was more than necessary... Some of the questions might sound a little bit dated, but that's just because this interview was actually made in three parts, and the oldest was long time before it was released, so... Samoth the first EMPEROR album is out now, so could you give us a couple of backing info about it?

"IN THE NIGHTSIDE ECLIPSE was recorded at Grieghallen studios during the seventh fullmoon Anno 1993. It includes 8 compositions of monumental and symphonic black metal art... of these are 3 old compositions: I AM THE BLACK WIZARDS and COSMIC KEYS which also appeared on the mighty mini-album and BEYOND THE GREAT VAST FOREST which appeared under the name of MY EMPIRES DOOM on the mighty WRATH OF THE TYRANT demo. The 5 new songs are INTO THE INFINITY OF THOUGHTS, BURNING SHADOW OF SILENCE, TOWARDS THE PANTHEON, THE MAJESTY OF THE NIGHTSKY and INNO A SATANA. It will be released by CANDLELIGHT REC. Since FAUST is in jail now, was it difficult to find a replacement in your area so quick? Who's in the band now?

"The unfortunate case of FAUST's imprisonment was a terrible loss. To find a replacement in our dominion was not easy as the spirit of EMPEROR (which is SAMOTH and IHSAHN) lies far into the deserted wilderness of Telemark. Nevertheless, HELLHAMMER (MAYHEM) was an obvious choice for the replacement. The EMPEROR HORDE now consists of SAMOTH, IHSAHN, TCHORT, HELLHAMMER and SVERD." (Editor-note: A couple of letters later, SAMOTH informed me that

HELLHAMMER is already out of the band again!) As alot of people of the norwegian scene have been arrested or put in jail - do you think the whole movement has lost alot of it's original power now?

"After all the arrests and the death of EURONYMOUS, the time of changes was obvious. So you could say there is a new epoch in the norwegian black metal scene now. Though the power is certainly lost in any way, it will only grow stronger... we will always reign under the northern glory... the next thousand years are ours! Black metal is a never-ending plague.. Hail and kill!"

Do you think that because of all the extreme activities within the black metal scene, the media doesn't concentrate on the musical aspects anymore and alot of shitty bands, who can't play are coming out? Is there a chance to stop that?

"You have got it all wrong. The media has not only focused on the extreme activities, but also good aspects on the musical sides. (I'm not talking about fanzines, but really big magazines and they just concentrated on the non-musical aspects to cash in on the black metal boom! That's a FACT! -Ed.) This talk about shitty bands gaining promotion out of this is also wrong as all the norwegian bands involved in these extreme activities are of 100% pure quality! (Probably the norwegians, but I was talking about shitty black metal bands from AROUND THE GLOBE! -Ed.) Have you heard about the BLACK METAL MAFIA GERMANIA and their activities? Do you agree with them?"

"We totally support all anti-christian terror and more or less terror in general! Hail the germanian warriors! I can imagine that you totally agree with the church burnings that took place in your country, but do you also agree with murder and fascist tendencies like those of Count Grishnack?"

"We have no comments concerning Grishnack or facism!" (this might have changed by now as well, cause SAMOTH always ends his letters with the slogan BURZUM IST KINE LÜGE (BURZUM is a lie!) and I think that speaks for itself! -Ed.)

Do you think everything will calm down now after the sentence of Grishnack and that the music will take over again instead of all those activities?

"First of all, music has always been priority... There's been more church burnings in Norway this year ('94-Ed.) than any other year, so those activities have not calmed down, the war is eternal!"

What do you think of people who are mad about the norwegians now, telling that you ruined the whole black metal scene with those activities?

"We think they can fuck off! Okay, enough of that now. Time to talk about more interesting subjects, the release of an EMPEROR 7 for example... What made you do so? Isn't a 7 release a pretty trendy thing these days?"

"We had some unreleased material, so why shouldn't we release it? (nothing wrong with that! -Ed.) The EP is only pressed in a thousand copies which will make it a collectors item. We would not say it is trendy to release a 7" EP after recording one demo and two albums."

Quite a few black metal bands drop their corpsepaint or don't call themselves black metal anymore nowadays.. leaving all that behind. Could you imagine that EMPEROR will do that also someday? Or is it just another sign of trendiness in your opinion... getting bored of it...

"We don't know of many bands who have dropped their corpsepaint. Anyway, EMPEROR might more or less turn away from the standard type of corpsepaint as it is in our interest to do a further development towards a more specified emperor concept."

And what about the music, could you imagine to develop into something like BATHORY on upcoming albums maybe?

"The progression of EMPEROR will always bear evidence of development towards an even more powerful and mighty expression on a personal level with basis in the black metal spirit."

When MORBID ANGEL toured Germany the last time, there's been talk that EMPEROR might support them, but it never happened... Could you tell more about it?

"It was not only in Germany but a full european tour! Anyway, we turned it down for several reasons."

But you've also got the chance to support DEICIDE while they toured England... How did that all happen? It's quite unusual for such a small label like CANDLELIGHT to have the money for it...

"Well, first of all, CANDLELIGHT is not that small. They wanted us to do a UK tour to promote the mini-album. We did four gigs as headliners, with CRADLE OF FILTH as support. The DEICIDE shows were cancelled for unknown reasons."

Glenn Benton told me once that it is a sign for weakness for him to paint the faces... Your comments?

"As you probably understand, we never meet up with DEICIDE in England, though Faust had a conversation with Mr. Benton when DEICIDE was raising hell in Norway... Anyway concerning Mr. Benton's statement... we do NOT agree!"

As you've gotten really good reviews everywhere, have you had interest from bigger labels already and what's your opinion about signing to a bigger company in general?

"As we said, CANDLELIGHT is not that small...they do our shirts/longsleeves, pay our studio costs and they can organize tours, videos etc. (videos ??????-Ed.) They also have worldwide distribution. By the way, our albums will be now licensed in Australia by MODERN INVASION & in the U.S. by CENTURY MEDIA Concerning bigger labels..we set no limits, anyway, we're now signed to CANDLELIGHT for 2 full-length albums."

To get back to your 7" EP ...

It was released on your own label NOCTURNAL ART PRODUCTIONS, so when did you get the idea to form your own label and will there be more releases in the future?

"The idea to form a label has been there for several years. The 2nd NOCTURNAL ART release is now out, a 7" EP with the Norse metallers IL-DJARN-NIDHOGG (see review in this issue! -Ed.). NOCTURNAL ART is so far on a very underground basis, but I hope to progress the label in the future. There's no concrete plans for the next release maybe a THOU SHALT SUPPER 7" EP (Yeass! -Ed.) Anyway, I think it can be quite some time before I can do another release as I am soon facing a jail sentence of 16 months.. time will tell!"

(aaaaa another update: The next NOCTURNAL ART release is gonna be a MCD of ARCTURUS !!! So, beware! -Ed.)

How did you get the money to start NOCTURNAL ART PRODUCTIONS and will you earn enough to continue? Does the money you'll get in return cover all the investments, like printing the cover, recording the songs, postage, mastering, pressing etc.?

"I took up a small loan. The income of the EP's will cov-



er all the expenses, but I think I must invest some more money for the next release."

Why have you RE-recorded the 3 tracks for the 7" and not just taken the original versions which would've been much cheaper to start with?

"We recorded those 3 tracks at the same time as the mini album. Those tracks were then supposed to be released on another label, but we weren't

100% satisfied with the recordings, so we cancelled the release. But I later decided to release it on my own as it would be a good start for NOCTURNAL ART and there were also alot of people asking for this unreleased 7" EP."

Unfortunately the deadline of this issue made it impossible to include some more in-depth questions about the new EMPEROR album due to the

big delay of it's release. But don't worry - this won't be the last feature on Norway's black metal heroes, so keep reading Voices and write to the band directly for further infos. The address:

EMPEROR
Box 53
3812 Akkerhaugen
Telemark
Norway

Frank Stöver



Pretenders to the throne

Listenable Records from France once again discovered a really promising new band! After 7" releases from IMMORTAL and MY DYING BRIDE or the mcd of swedish hopefuls DECOLLATION, there's another norwegian black metal band on it's way: ANCIENT!

After the release of a three track demo, entitled EERILY HOWLING WINDS, which had sold 700 copies within the first 6 months, the band put out a 7" EP ("DET GLEMTE RIKET") and by now the debut album SVARTALAVHEIM should be out for quite a while. We hooked up with ANCIENT's main character APHAZEL for a more in-depth conversation about the band's career so far....

What was the reason for you to start ANCIENT as a solo project in 1992 and was it already under the same monicker back then?

"After having quit a boring death metal band I played in I wanted to start something different and more melodic. I felt I needed some time on my own to decide what I wanted to do. Originally I planned to have my band as a

solo project, but I found out it's easier and better to work with a second person so that's why I asked GRIMM to join. He played drums in that death metal band I mentioned as well. GRIMM came up with the name ANCIENT early '93."

You did a couple of demos back then with the help of a drum machine... Was it just because you weren't able to find a "real" drummer or did you have in your mind to work with it on a permanent base?

"The reason I worked with a drum machine was because it was easier to make songs in a way. It also meant that I could sit in my room "rehearsing" instead of going to an expensive rehearsal place that would cost much money to hire. I knew many drummers even back then, so that was not the problem."

How do you feel about it today? Do you think a real black metal atmosphere can be created with a machine?

"Well, the way that I see it, it's mostly the guitar and keyboards (and vocals in a way) that make the dark atmo-

sphere in the music. And hey, aren't keyboards a machine just as much as a drum machine? (eeeh, well... -Ed.) It is indeed! If you have a very good drum machine and if you know how to program it, you can get a quite good result. But it never sounds exactly like a real drum set. I guess you get surprised if I tell you that METALLICA used a drum machine on some of their albums. (No, not really, cause I think Lars Ul -

rich isn't one of the best drummers around... -Ed.) I don't think most people can hear that when listening to the albums." (yeah - especially AND JUSTICE FOR ALL! -Ed.)

Have you ever sent those tapes to any people, like zines labels or other bands?

"No, absolutely noone. There's no point in trying to find them, haha!"

In your infosheet is written that you know GRIMM since '85 already... So, why did it take you so long to work together then?

"Well, I didn't start playing the guitar before '88 or so and GRIMM started playing drums in '89. In 1990-1991 we played with 3 other guys in that death metal band I have mentioned. We also played a few times together in '89."

What was the reason that you decided not to release the 4-track demo/promo from April '93?

"The main reason was probably that we weren't active in the underground at that moment. Also we wanted to spend more time on doing a better demo."

Who got to hear the tape back then?

"Only some close friends of ours and some few people in Norway I was writing with."

What is the reason that you work with session bass players all the time?

"At rehearsals we don't feel we need a bass player. It's easier to work out new material when you don't have to spend time on learning all the riffs etc. to the bass player. On our last gig in Sweden, the bassist/vocalist of ASMDEUS played bass and it worked out very well. I think he will be a permanent bassist at our concerts."

Why have you released your EERILY HOWLING WINDS demo as a 3-track demo only, although you had 5 tracks recorded? What happened to the remain-



JUST PURE DEATH METAL...!



ing 2 tracks ?

"We wanted to hold back the 2 other tracks 'cause we knew that all of them would appear on our debut album. It would have been a bit boring if our album would consist 90% of material that had been released before you know. The 2 tracks were TRUMPS OF AN ARCHANGEL and PAA EVIG VANDRING. Both are on the debut album."

Why has GRIMM changed his name from THORG - is there a concept behind ANCIENT that you follow lyrically and image-wise ?

"GRIMM just found out this name fitted him better. There is not really any particular concept behind ANCIENT and our image."

When you recorded your debut album from Nov. '93 to May '94 did you already have intentions from record labels (or listenable in particular) ?

"Already in late '93 we had interest from labels like HEAD NOT FOUND and NO FASH - ION. Other labels such as UNISOUND, NECROPOLIS, CACOPHONY and ADIPOCERE showed their interest in us during '94. The interest from Listenable came after I sent an EP to them (him) and later the advance of our album. Laurent Merle called me the same day he got the tape and told me that he definitely wanted to sign us. The reason why we accepted was because Listenable is a sub-division of OSMOSE and that means the promotion and distribution is very good. LISTENABLE and OSMOSE are very honest labels also. So far I'm glad we signed with them."

Are the 2 tracks on the 7" from the recording session of the album ?

"Yes, those tracks are actually raw mixes of the songs DET GLEMTE RIKET and HULDRA - DANS. They sound different on the album cause they're mixed better and there is one more guitar and some other parts are also changed on the album."

It seems that you also use the norwegian language for your titles/lyrics quite often - what is the reason for it ?

"GRIMM should have answered this one as he writes all the lyrics. I think he likes to write in norwegian cause he's more familiar with that language (obviously). Do you have any ideas why especially the norwegian black metal bands have such a great feeling for this type of music ?

"Not really. Maybe cause the ancient viking spirit grows in the norwegian people again ?"

Anything else you'd like to mention ?

"Buy our stuff:
*SVARALVHEIM CD.....\$20
*DET GLEMTE RIKET EP.....\$6
*2-SIDED T-SHIRTS.....\$15
*TROLLTAAR MCD(out in March).....\$14

Thank for the inner-view! Sorry for all the short answers !"

Aaaaand as usual I have to add that we have some copies left of the band's EP (in blue vinyl by the way !), so if anyone of our german readers wants a copy, just send 12,-DM to the VOICES office, cause it might become a collectors item pretty soon ! If you would like to get in touch with the band directly, write to:

ANCIENT
Box 6
5082 Eidsvaagneset
Norway

Frank Stöver

Really brutal death metal in the old tradition is quite hard to discover these days. Especially if we have to concentrate on the german part of the world. But luckily there's VOMITING CORPSES, who impressed me with their two demos quite a lot already. By now, they have finished their debut album, entitled COMA (THE SPHERES OF INNOCENCE) and Michael (hs/voc) and Heiner (dr) answered our interview questions, so read on and find out more about 'em! You've had quite a lot of trouble in the studio while you recorded your debut album, haven't you ? Tell us about it !

"The original reason to enter the studio was to produce a cd that should be self-financed and self-distributed. By chance we got the contact to INVASION RECORDS, and they were interested immediately. So, they wanted to release our recordings on cd. By a mistake inside the studio our DAT-tape was damaged and as we wanted to mix the songs again, we found out that an asshole of the studio erased our recording tapes in order to record something for himself. So we had nothing but our greed to kill this guy. Some time passed by until our new recordings and that's why our cd wasn't released 'til today. We all hope that COMA... will come out early 1995." There's 50% of the material of your 2nd demo on the album - do you think those 4 tracks were the best on the COLD BLOOD demo or haven't you got enough new songs for the album ?

"Both. But at least these songs were the ones of COLD BLOOD which were worth it to be recorded with a better quality. We love these songs and there will also be a song of the COLD BLOOD demo on our next cd. It'll be EXHAUSTED WILL TO LIVE, the last song on the tape." You also re-recorded SCREAMING SPIRITS, which was on the debut demo, for your 2nd demo... why ?

"At first, because we arranged it new and we liked the song afterwards so much that we really had to record it again. It's a classic in the history of our band. It's a song that pushed us into the musical direction that we play today. Just pure death metal !"

What made you use 2 covers (1 full colour and 1 b/w) for COLD BLOOD ?

"The logo is just a part of the demo inlay. It is no cover in general. You know, the coloured cover should be painted without any logo, but nevertheless it should be printed anywhere. So we made it like that."

Would you agree that VOMITING CORPSES really started out when the line-up of your 2nd demo came together ?

"With the COLD BLOOD line-up we really worked the first time, cause we had to record and mix it in 3 days. That costed a lot of sweat, but in the end it was worth it, don't you think ? (yep ! - Ed.) It was the first time that we realized that it pays to be more professional. We found out, that there is more inside us than we thought. This thinking continued until today, although we could

create a lot more than we do." (so, what are you waiting for ? Go ahead !!! - Ed.)

How do you judge your first demo nowadays ?

"Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha !!! NO COMMENT !!"

When you had chosen your musical direction and band name you seemed to be influenced by CANNIBAL CORPSE quite a lot. So I was wondering, if you could stand the term "GERMANY'S ANSWER TO CANNIBAL CORPSE" ?

"The name of the band exists since 1988 and it wasn't meant seriously. You know, at that time VOMITING CORPSES played grindcore which was meant as funny as the name. Only Frank is one of the founding members who's in our band today. The style changed after the decision to play the music with which we had grown up with. But at that time it was too late to change the bandname and why should we ? We accustomed to the name and now it is a part of us. It has nothing to do with CANNIBAL CORPSE. I don't even know why people compare us with CANNIBAL CORPSE. We are playing the "old school" death metal that is maybe more fast and pretentious sometimes. Maybe our new songs are more in the C.C. style, but it's not because of the fact that we like (old) C.C., it is more because we don't want to be trendy. So, we become faster without losing the traditional roots. We like to play fast and we will ever be like that. As we said "old school" influences will be part of style at least 70% !"

Frank once mentioned a couple of other bands to me that he really admires, like OLD DEATH, IMMOLATION, INFERNAL MAJESTY and so on... Are they influences on VOMITING CORPSES as a band as well ?

"We adore the traditional death metal and the bands that created this kind of music. We will ever stay faithful towards this style. In any case, we won't betray our roots like several "great" bands did before and do today."

Before INVASION RECORDS picked you up, you wanted to release the album on your own... Tell us about the reasons !

"We didn't have any money to produce a cd, so we wanted to make a demo tape of COMA... We sent it to INVASION RECORDS in order to work together concerning the demo distribution and they told us to produce the cd on their label. That's the deal."

I never really found out what your bandname means... CORPSES that are running around VOMITING everywhere or someone who's VOMITING dead bodies (CORPSES) ?

"Like we said before. It was originally meant as a joke. Maybe you can stick to Michael, Heiner and Thomas after a good gig when they are lying in the corner, very drunk and then... just like VOMITING CORPSES !" (strange, this answer seems to come from Frank, as he's not mentioned above. - Ed.)

Would you like to express some of your lyrical aspects on the album ? Maybe an overall view on the songs... ?

"There's kinda like a red thread" through the songs. We

don't wanna deal with satanism and things like that. We mostly have atheistic tendencies and we want to deal with themes that are interesting to us personally. Things we think about. There are many things we are worried about and there are enough other bands that deal with mystic things, so why should we too ?

On COLD BLOOD Frank and you Michael are sharing the vocal duties, but I'm not really sure if you also did that on the album... Could you give us some info on that and the reasons ?

"The reason to change the vocals is, that it should bring an alternation within the songs, which is continued on COMA... on which Frank is singing 1 and a half song, Thomas sings one, and I'm singing the rest. We think it is better than having a single "grunter" cause there's the danger of becoming boring."

As you prefer the older bands of this genre, I was asking myself if you could also imagine to use industrial influences in your stuff ?

"We are listening to different things and a lot of things influence us. But you know, what sounds cool, we get into songs. But mostly we are influenced by the traditional death metal. In any case, trendy styles will be treated like a plague - fuck it ! That goes for hardcore and maybe industrial too."

What is your opinion about the german death metal scene in general ? Do you think we have a pretty bad reputation compared to other countries ?

"What do you mean with "German death metal scene" ? MOR-GOTH ? Ha, ha, ha ! ATROCITY ? Ha, ha, ha ! We can't understand why those bands beca-





me so trendy. Today there are less good death metal bands. It's a pity. But it's unfortunately not different in other countries. There are a few good exceptions and we hope it will be more again soon!"

Frank is also contributing some stuff to a fanzine besides the band, so would you like to promote that in a few words maybe?

"PARALIZER is a great music magazine dealing with all kinds of music. A lot of demo and cd reviews (of course) but also music that is not metal like STING, PETER GABRIEL etc. But mostly harder styles of music. And it becomes bigger with each new issue. Good printing and layout. Recommended!"

Anything else you'd like to add to this questionnaire?

"Many thanks for this interview. It's an honour to be in this magazine. It's great to know that there are still guys who like the "old" kind of death metal."

We would be happy to get some possibilities to play live. Stay faithful and take the hand that offers you friendship! RACISM SUCKS!!!! To all maniacs, for information about VOMITING CORPSES write to:

VOMITING CORPSES
c/o Michael Dormann
Wilhelm-Leuschner Str. 4
26725 Emden
Germany

Frank Stöver



MONSTROSITY! This Florida based four-piece needs no further introduction & their new 3-trk. demo is one of the best demos to come out in 1994! Time to get in contact with Lee once again....
Lee, there's been a line-up change in the band since you played Europe, so tell us at first about the actual line-up situation in the band!
"The line-up is "Corpsegrinder": vocals, Mark Van Erp : bass, Lee Harrison (drums) and Jason Morgan: guitar. Jason replaced Jon Rubin who left the band when we moved to Tampa a couple of years ago. Jon tried commuting from Ft. Lauderdale to Tampa (across the State) but it just didn't work out. We're still friends with Jon and get along fine. We've had a number of different people for the second guitar position. First, Jason Gobel on the recording for the album, then Mark English, when we were on tour with PESTILENCE in Europe. We've also had Rob Barrett of CANNIBAL CORPSE (who is now my roommate) play with us in the early days. However, we're basically a four piece and we have really never had a permanent fifth member."
Why have you decided not to work with NBR any longer?
"Unfortunately, they didn't

honor the contract and pay the money that was due. We've had 2 offers from them over the last summer for a second album with the message that 'for sure' they'd pay next time. So we're not working hard on our music, just to get ripped off and it may take some time to find the right deal but we're not going away. We're working on progressing enough so that if we do the second album, we'll sell way more albums than the first. That's what good labels look for... not just signing useless shit that sell the same amount each album."
Give us all necessary infos about your new 3-track demo!
"The new demo was recorded in February '94 but I think it was really about May/June when we started to release it to labels and the underground. The songs are really a more current sounding MONSTROSITY. In fact, we like the mix better this time (better than IMPERIAL DOOM) even if it's still a bit thin sounding compared to the sound we're seeking. We're getting far better reviews on this demo than we ever got for the HORROR INFINITY demo or the IMPERIAL DOOM album. It's available to anyone who wants a copy for

\$6.00 (postage paid in the US) and \$7.00 in Europe." (Or you can still buy a copy of it from us directly for 12,- DM incl. p&p if you live in Germany! -Ed.)
Any particular offers already from any labels?
"Yes, our attorney has had discussions with several indies but so far we haven't found the right deal. In the meantime we've signed a distribution deal with a distributor who handles merchandise for the labels."
How many songs have been completed since you put out IMPERIAL DOOM?
"Another album's worth. Actually, we feel like some of our better stuff didn't get on the demo. So if people like the new demo then I think they'll really like to hear the material we've worked up for a new album."
You also did a promo video. Some details about that maybe?
"Well, it's really not a promo video like you're probably thinking. It was just a few clips from shows. We sent it out only to labels so they could get an idea of our live show. However, we have a regular video for sale and we've just added some clips from when we were in

the studio recording IMPERIAL DOOM and also our more recent shows in Chicago and New York."

(It goes for \$17.00 in the US and it's approx 90 minutes long! People from outside the US should add \$2 for postage and packing, BUT beware: It's for the American video system ONLY! -Ed.)

Anything else?
"We'd like to thank you Frank for continually helping us out over the last couple of years. Others have come and gone but you've supported us without question. I, personally, think your magazine is exceptional. Your issues are packed with a lot of info and good bands. It's not just thrown together like even some of the major magazines. Plus, I like it because it takes me a week to read it from front to back."

Thanks for the nice comments, Lee. If anyone is interested to support MONSTROSITY, if you want to do interviews, reviews, shows or whatever or if your label is interested in what these guys are up to or if you just would like to drop 'em some lines, use this address:
MONSTROSITY
P.O. Box 1343
Englewood, FL 34295-1343
U.S.A.

Frank Stöver

Whores of Babylon

That's life !We announced an interview with UK's gothic / dark/wave outfit THE WHORES OF BABYLON for our issue # 5 but didn't get it in time... Instead we featured Swedens THE EQUINOX OV THE GODS. Now, a really long time later, we have 2 interviews with THE WHORES...One was done by myself and the other one comes courtesy of Max Michiels, one of the editors of the great french FAITH MAGAZINE ! Due to alot of similarities, I decided to put both together and use the best out of them for this issue - hope you don't mind !Shaun Atkins had answered all the questions.. Shaun you've just released your debut album METROPOLIS, so maybe you can give our readers a couple of backing-infos on that ?!

"We recorded the album at our own studio during a period of about a year, but we didn't take a year obviously we completed little bit at a time here and there whenever we had time. It was released by CANDLELIGHT RECORDS and there's 15 tracks on the album, some are little instrumentals and one re-mix at the end. There are some really good new tracks on the album that I think alot of people will absolutely love" How's been the response on your demos ?Any labels that have shown interest in the band besides CANDLELIGHT ?

"We had one or two majors, who thought we were really good and would keep an eye out for us as we mature etc. but that's already over a year ago, so we'll see what happens next ?!" What gave you the idea of releasing a tekno remix EP ?Was it 2 UNLIMITED ?

"No, not 2 UNLIMITED(why, it sure is a killer dance band! -Max)It's just that we're into techno and hip-hop. It's one of our big influences. We thought we would re-mix our stuff in that style as it would be a bit more unique."

How did you get together as THE WHORES OF BABYLON & have you been in any previous bands/projects before ?

"We got together through merely being friends with the same idea which turned into THE WHORES OF BABYLON. Julian has been involved with lots of dance/techno and hip-hop groups and I've been in lots of metal bands, in fact I still am (but you wouldn't have heard of them)."

Wasn't there a name change scheduled for the EP, CHURCH OF BABYLON or something like that ?Were there any people feeling uneasy using the word WHORES ?

"No, we just got sidetracked by a management company that said we should change our name if we wanted to get anywhere, but after thinking about it and being true to ourselves, we thought FUCK IT we're always going to be known as THE WHORES OF BABYLON. Your music's very much along the lines of bands like FIELDS OF THE NEPHILIM & SISTERS OF MERCY (to name the most popular only !)-Have those kinda bands been the major influence on your sound or did you draw influences from somewhere else also ?

"Frankly if you only knew I'd absolutely hate FIELDS OF THE NEPHILIM, the SISTERS are alright but we don't listen to them much. Our influences are more along the lines of ENIGHMA, N.I.M., DEAD CAN DANCE, CELTIC FROST and also WILL (from Canada) and dance bands in general. Our music's

more of a classical nature, with dance beats and heavy guitars."

Where do the WHORES stand between all those new-and-coming goth bands à la ROSE-LITA STONE, NOSPERATU, THE MERRY THOUGHTS, THE PROPHETESS & the like ?

"I don't know, I've never heard them !? And we're not goth..."

Did you have a concept in mind when choosing the bands name ?Are your lyrics connected to anything ?What are they about in general ?

"The concept was basically to use dark and sensual music and put it to either rock, dance, hip-hop or whatever we feel like combining it with. The name was my idea as I'm into ancient Babylonian mythology etc. The lyrics are mainly about events in history or the present or things

that have personally happened to me."

Was it a problem for you to spread the word about WHORES OF BABYLON in the underground ?Is there really a gothic wave/dark music (whatever you wanna call it) underground scene or did you have to concentrate on the death metal zines ?What kind of connection do you see between WHORES OF BABYLON and death metal ?

"I think it's been really easy to get our name about. The death metal zines like it and so do the gothic zines, so we're quite lucky. I think alot of the death metal fans like our dark stream that lays beneath our music."

Where do you draw all those symphonic/orchestral influences from ?

"I like orchestration, that's

the main backbone of the WHORES OF BABYLON. Real emotion and soulstripping strings are what we're about."

Were you a musician before being a full sound-engineer ?

"Yes, since I was 13-16, maybe even before then !?"

Are you into sounds in general, i.e. the works of many 70's-90's key/synth developers ?

"No, I just like what sounds good, I'm not a fanatic in the sense of reading manuals and getting over-instructed with technology, I just like what feels good and touches my soul."

In which way can some music be considered as atmospheric or not ?

"When music takes you somewhere else, maybe a different dimension in your mind, then that's atmospheric."

Speaking of atmospherishness there's a big deal of once noisy death bands that now incorporate synths, keys, violins and gothic elements (spoken passages, female vocals) into a much more mature sound with still that bellying voice. Are you into these bands ?What do you think of such an evolution ?

"I think it's excellent stuff, but it's not such an evolution as CELTIC FROST were the ones that started it off in the mid-80's, and they were one of the main WHORES-influences."

Give us a few infos about the band's very own studio, STATE OF THE ART !Any other artists that worked w/ you there ?

"Yes, we've got our own studio and recently we've gone privatized, so it's for our use only. Apart from the band we are in the studio at the moment with ETERN. We are engineering and producing their album."

What are the differences between working with the WHORES and ETERN ?Their approach to the gothic/doom genre is quite different from yours, isn't it ?

"I don't know really. We're different groups, so of course it's different, but if you are asking the difference between our music and theirs then it's up to you to decide as an individual, but yes, we do get on very well in the studio."

Are there going to be more bands planned to have an album recorded at STATE OF ART ?

"Yes."

Any final comments ?

"Yeah, thanks for the interview. I hope everybody buys our lp, cause it's gonna be good !"

Yes it is !If you want to get in touch with the WHORES just feel free to use the following address:

STATE OF ART RECORDING STUDIO
Unit 4, Lawnwood Road
Easton, Bristol BS5 0EF
England

Max Michiels & Frank Stöver



ETERNAL Whores



RHODE ISLAND DEATH/BLACK METAL GODS

Some of you might already have asked themselves, what- ever happened to VITAL REMAINS after they released their debut album LET US PRAY in 1992...Well, the answer is quite simple - the band has written material for their follow-up album, had to face a couple of drummer problems and will be re-issuing some of their classic releases... Vocalist Jeff Gruslin told us all necessary details about the future of VITAL REMAINS...

I know that you must have finished the recordings of your new album, THE LAST SUPER, for quite a while now, but the album didn't come out so far...And now it seems that PEACEVILLE REC. is no more. So, maybe you can start this interview by telling about all the problems...

"Well, it's not so much a problem. It gives us some time to go back and finish up on the recording, touch it up a bit. Yes, PEACEVILLE is no longer. But not to worry. MUSIC FOR NATIONS is the ones taken over all the PEACEVILLE activities. So, this is where the delay is coming about within the record label change over."

Is there a possibility to release it through a different label now? Any offers? (well, as you can see, yours truly wasn't aware of the previous answer, so forgive me about this silly question ok? Thank you! -Ed.)

"Yes, it's going through MUSIC FOR NATIONS in Europe & in the U.S.A. It will be through FUTURIST." (never heard of... -Ed.)

Give us some details about the new album... I recognized that you did 2 cover tunes & a re-recording of an old VITAL REMAINS song as well...

"Well, the new lp is much faster and much more to cover older influences (Yess! -Ed.), heavier than our first lp. We do covers, this is correct, of 2 older fave bands of mine. The older VITAL REMAINS song was deleted from the lp. It was not in such

a heavy style as our new stuff, it did not blend good" It was originally planned to re-record NOCTURNAL BLASPHEMY (from the EXCRUCIATING PAIN demo) and to do a cover of SEPULCHRAL VOICE by SODOM... But later on you decided to do COUNTESS BATHORY from VENOM instead (plus DETHRONED EMPEROR of the almighty CELTIC FROST!) So, why did you decide to do a cover of VENOM instead of SODOM? Do you still listen to newer SODOM stuff by the way?

"Well, VENOM is my all time fave band and SODOM as well. Maybe we do a SODOM cover for an ep or something. Yes, of course I still listen to newer SODOM, it's still got that older feel I love to hear. (...and they got those silly sing-along-songs with german lyrics now, that turned them into a kind of joke band to me... bah, can't stand it! -Ed.)

AMULET OF THE CONQUERING was also featured on a collectors item split 7" with MORTA SKULD... Would you like to tell us a little bit about that?

"I don't know much about this. I've got a copy for myself. I guess it's a good vinyl piece for collectors like myself." (it was released through the PEACEVILLE collectors club in case that you're interested... -Ed.)

As you just mentioned, that you are a collector of vinyl! I was wondering if you would like to tell us a bit about your record collection? Any rare items you're proud of maybe?

"I only collect vinyl. I got about 1200 to 1800 pieces w/ the early 80's being my prime choice. I've got alot of lp's I'm proud to have in my collection. A few are SATAN'S HOST, rare lp with THE TYRANT from JAG PANZER singing and my collection of VENOM lp's/picdiscs is fucking large." Your EXCRUCIATING PAIN demo is gonna be re-released on cd through Wild Rags Rec. We-

ren't you afraid to be ripped off by this muthafucker?

"Well Richard C. is no rip-off in my eyes (Ha! -Ed.) I've worked with him since 1989 & he's never ripped on me so I see no problems. He's doing a fantastic job on our re-issue of our demo on cd."

Will it differ from the original demo in any way, like a different cover, remixed or whatever?

"It's all new package. It'll have new cover, lyrics, re-mastered, new pictures etc. A totally new look with all songs, intros etc. from the original demo."

There was also talk of re-issuing the BLACK MASS 7", so what happened to that, and what was the actual reason to put out old stuff of yours for the 2nd time?

"The BLACK MASS 7" will soon be re-issued by Wild Rags as a cd version with 2 extra live tracks, new cover by Chris Moyer, lyrics etc. Then as a 7" by WITCH HAMMER REC. with 2 different live tracks. Our old stuff is asked by many so it's good to re-release it in a new format."

You've had some line-up changes since the LET US PRAY album, so maybe you can introduce the new members to our readers and tell about the problems you've had with the old line-up?!

"Well, the only real problem we had was with the drummers and we have gone through about 5 drummers since LET US PRAY. Now we have secured a drummer and this is the one for us..." (so I guess, this 18 year old dude named Rick isn't in the band anymore by now... -Ed.)

As your band was always in the black metal vein (lyrically) I was wondering what's your view on today's kids, wearing corpsepaint and claiming to be the most evil in the scene... Do you think black metal is able to sellout as well as death metal because of the hype that has mainly been caused by some idiot named Varg Vikernes?



"Well, first off, I don't think Varg is an idiot. I'm not at all influenced by trend of cronies who claim to be evil. To me it's a bunch of people following someone, like a bunch of hearded sheep. I do like a lot of the black metal bands though. Enough said!"

Do you agree that the whole feeling inside the underground has been totally destroyed by now, due to major labels picking up bands and features on MTV and in full-colour mags?

"No, not at all. Because the people into the underground will survive and keep the underworld scene alive. It's been alive since I've been a part of it since 1981. I don't see it dying."

Ok Jeff, anything else you'd like to tell here and now... then feel free to do so...

"Thank you Frank and good luck with your mag. Stay evil and watch for our 2nd LP THE LAST SUPPER really soon!"

And before we end this feature, here are some additional details about VITAL REMAINS new album.

THE LAST SUPPER was recorded at Pat Trax studios in Pawtucket, Rhode Island and has been produced by the guys themselves with engineer Tony Ricci (just like on the debut album). It'll feature the following tracks: DESCENT INTO HELL, ANGELS OF BLASPHEMY, INTO COLD DARKNESS, UNDER THE MOON'S FOG, SCROLLS OF THE MILLENNIUM PAST, CROWN OF THE BLACK HEARTS plus the 2 mentioned cover tunes by VENOM and CELTIC FROST! Get your fingers crossed that it will be in the stores pretty soon and feel free to write to the band at this address:

VITAL REMAINS
c/o Jeff Gruslin
47 Langdon Street
Providence, RI 02904
U.S.A.

Frank Stöver



LUNAR STRAIN was the title of an incredible strong debut album by Sweden's IN FLAMES! Being located in the Gothenberg area, it was quite obvious that this 5-piece is musically more in the vein of bands like DARK TRANQUILITY, EUCARIST or AT THE GATES (just to name a few of them) than being another product out of the Entombed-clone-machinery. We hooked up with Johan Larsson to find out more about these youngsters...

What have you all done before you came together as IN FLAMES? Any previous bands?

"The only one of us who has played in a real band before IN FLAMES is Jesper and he was in CEREMONIAL OATH. Me & Jesper were also playing in a band called HAMMER FALL w/ Mikael and Nicklas from DARK TRANQUILITY and 'the legend' Oscar Dronjak from CRYSTAL AGE. That's all projects and previous bands."

You all seem to have lotsa experiences on your instruments, so could you tell us a little bit about how you got the ability to play the stuff you are doing now?

"Thank you. We don't play the violins and the viola, that's a girl called Ylva (råskinn på violin) and the acoustic-guitar solo in EVERLOST (PART II) was played by a guy called Nils Evert. The rest was played by IN FLAMES."

Your promo-tape was recorded in Fredman Studio - to me a totally unknown studio... How did you find out about it & did you have to face any difficulties while recording the demo or later the album?

"Yes, that's right, it was recorded in Studio Fredman in Gothenburg and we're totally satisfied with the sound and the producer and the whole studio. It's a really good studio and the producer is really good and it was lotsa fun working with him. We knew it was a good studio, but they had only recorded one death metal band before us. I think. But things turned out well and we've got a great production I think. Of course there were some smaller problems while recording the album and the promo but nothing we couldn't handle. I think the most bands got more or less problems while recording."

You've got Mikael from DARK TRANQUILITY for the album as a session vocalist... How did you get together, has he sung on your demo as well and what's the problem with finding a vocalist for your band? Did you have one in the past already?

"Mikael Stanne is a great guy and he already did the vocals on our '93 promo. It turned out so well that we asked him to do it again for the album. He agreed and the vocals have become even better (unbelievable how far he can push his voice). The feeling and strength he puts in his voice scares the hell out of me. We are totally pleased with the vocals on the promo and on the album. Thank again Mikael, you rule! We have tried a number of singers but none of them has been too good, so we're still looking (as always) for a great vocalist!"

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Tell us about WRONG AGAIN - RECORDS and how you got in touch with them! Wasn't it a big risk to sign to a brand-new label?

"We've got the address from Nicke in DARK TRANQUILITY. We sent 'em our promo and they got interested and signed us. It seemed to be a great label, it's pretty new as you said, so the distribution is not too wide yet and that's the biggest problem for us right now. Of course it's a bit risky to sign to a new label but we didn't want any big label to rip us off!" (but you can also be ripped-off by a small label, so... Ed) Give us a couple of your current influences! I suppose you don't listen to much death metal anymore, right?

"First of all, we listen to almost everything, but I have to name a few: BIOHAZARD, RAGE AGAINST THE MACHINE, SEPULTURA and all hardcore there is cause we just love hardcore. NO, I'm just kidding (these bands suck!) Some of the bands we like are: RUNNING WILD, BLIND GUARDIAN, DREAM THEATER and of course a lot of the Swedish folk music. I can not name even a few of the bands we like cause we like most of the stuff that is well-played (vid voten av klacken rules forever). VIVALDI did some great tunes too, of course! No, it's not much straight death metal these days, I'm afraid, but there are still alot of great bands out there."

Anything else you can tell us?

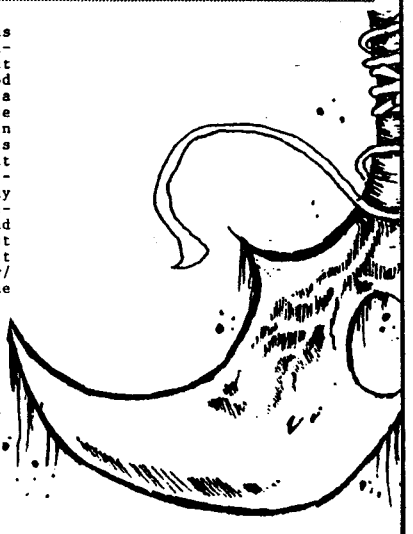
"Thank for this interview, I hope you all are going to buy our debut cd LUNAR STRAIN. We hope to see you all soon in Germany when we are probably going to play there in Autumn. Thank again and goodbye for now! Cheers."



Well, I'm not sure if it was because of my boring questionnaire or due to the fact that Johan isn't that good in english (I had to change a lot of his answers because of massive mistakes), but in my opinion this interview is pretty booooring... But what can you do - the album simply kills and you should buy it anyway! Swedish death metal with shrieky vocals and heavy folk influences! Just great! If you can't find it in the shops, get in touch w/ the band and ask for it. The address is:

IN FLAMES
c/o Johan Larsson
Vallhamngatan 52
421 66 V-Prölunda
Sweden

Frank Stöver





POLAND'S TRUE BLACK METAL HORDES

BEHEMOTH from Poland is next to GRAVELAND the most dedicated black metal outfit and they are the only ones that truly deserve the monicker that is used by so many bands nowadays! After the release of a reh.tape & two demos they built themselves a strong fan base around the world.Time for VOICES to get in touch with NERGAL...

Due to the fact, that I was not able to get ahold of a copy of your rehearsal tape I would like you to give us a few backing infos about it...

"It was a really bad tape & I don't want to talk about it anymore.Anyway,it shows a big progress of my band...At that time I was fascinated by bands like:BLASPHEMY,NECROSCIZMA,BEHERIT,HELLHAMMER etc.(and I still am!) but now my point of view on the music and dark knowledge is much different..."

Was that reh.tape responsible for your collaboration with PAGAN RECORDS shortly after?What offers did you get besides and what made you turn them down?

"No,definitely not!This tape was big crap and I don't think that Tomasz would have been interested in it at that time.The second tape ,THE RETURN OF THE NORTHERN MOON, provided us with a deal with PAGAN RECORDS."

How do you feel about Varg Vikernes and his activities?Would you agree that because of his stupid behaviour and love for publicity the whole black metal feeling got destroyed,because it turned into a trend nowadays?

"Well,maybe you're right.... but I'm not against his activities(I treat it as a kinda interesting piece of news).I'm also not a follower of any of his organizations.Anyway, I appreciate him for his honesty and in consideration in what he does.besides I can't stand that fucking fashionable BURZUM trend!Let the kids stay away from it!"

Do you think there's a possibility to get(at least a little bit of)the great old feeling back into the scene when bands like HELLHAMMER,BATHORY,VENOM,MAYHEM,SODOM and so on started out?

"No,I don't think so.I have some real contacts with people from the 'old' scene and their views on some subjects are totally different... My young soul can feel how the scene looked at that time... When I entered the black metal scene some years ago, I worshipped bands(and I still do)like DESTRUCTION,SODOM

AKRATOR,KAY(polish one), old SLAYER,HELLHAMMER/CELTIC FROST and VENOM,BATHORY.Now I can only laugh at these kids that blindfolded follow the 'norwegian' trend!Generally all these idiots hate the most of old masters, calling them 'thrash' or something like that.It makes me laugh!What do you think is the reason that most bands are lacking this great old feeling?Do you think you have to grow up with it? Could you imagine that someone who wasn't into those bands, is really able to re-produce it in his own way?

"It's a really hard question.Now bands make a new tradition and maybe they don't turn back to the past, they try to make something new.In my art there will be always burning the flame of the old days..."

It seemed a long time, that the real black metal feeling could only be transformed into music by norwegian bands.But that has changed now due to some great releases of ABIGOR,UNGOD,GRAVELAND,NARDUR,THRONE OF AHAZ and many more,so is this not also a PRO for the big popularity of this musical style?

"I don't think so.These bands that you mentioned are not young in the scene.Personally,I really appreciate their releases and activities...About norwegian bands that's true that they are precursors in this style and I think that it's exactly them who carry the old tradition."

Do you think that black metal musicians,who LIVE this type of music,have always to prove how 'evil' they are? Don't you think, that the REAL ones will keep that for themselves,like VORPHALACK of SAMAEI for example?

"I don't know VORPHALACK so I can't talk about him.Personally,I think that it's a personal business of each of them.If someone feels the need of showing what they're like,let him do it! I really don't care what people think about me,and it does not matter what the others do.Hail misanthropy!"

Do you think a black metal gig would be much more enjoyable for the bands,if you only would let fans in to the shows,that are around 20 years(and over),cause they might be really into the music and have grown with it. Kinda like to avoid 'fashion children' that have been 10 years old when BATHORY put out their debut album...

"It's impossible to separate fans who come to the gig. I don't want to show myself on

stage,nobody has to know how the real pagan art look! For example,when I watch the IMMORTAL or EMPEROR video cassette,I can't stand this public before the scene!About 20 kids in OBITUARY t-shirts shout 'Satan,Satan!'... eh..."

Could you imagine to recognize trendy bands just because of their corpsepaint? I mean,there's also a certain feeling in the way you present yourselves on pictures and I don't think that these 'kids' know how to express that...do you agree?

"Yes,I agree with you. It's really funny to watch photos of these kids who try to be so 'evil'! I advice you 'black metallers' to check some old KING DIAMOND,CELTIC FROST photos,to learn how to cover your stupid faces! In my opinion corpsepaint or warpaint has to show my feelings,to express myself by paint art...Lately,I was going to make a photosession without any paints because of this fuckin'trend,but I haven't completed it,yet..."

Do you think that black metal has to be played as simple as possible,avoiding technical parts and other influences from outside? Is feeling the most important aspect?

"No,of course not! I prefer to make more technical black metal!Now I have some ideas to use some interesting unconventional instruments in the newest BEHEMOTH stuff...Anyway,black metal has to be satanic music and the musical style is a different part of evil art.Hell black metal doesn't have to be a copy of the first BATHORY lp!Look at NECROMANTIA, ANCIENT RITES(the great original vocals)or BEHERIT stuff!This is also black metal,by the way,in the great convention.So,generally black metal has some limitations if it comes to the music...Black metal has to be satanic but satanic music doesn't have to be black metal!"

Could you imagine a black metal band with a totally different type of vocalist, sound and look that is also totally true?

"Yes,I can imagine that situation,but yet I don't know what you mean with 'different vocals,look and sound'? Some of the answer is contained in the previous one." (I thought about a band that doesn't fit in the genre typical clichées,with shrieky vocals,painted faces and the usual outfit but still feels connected to black metal scene-Ed.)

What is your view on satanic or occult death metal bands like ACHERON,DISSECTION and so on?Do you enjoy true death metal in the vein of old MORBID ANGEL,IMMOLATION,CENOTAPH(Mex.),SHUD NIGGURATH,AUTOPSY,POSSESSED and so on? Usually,the true death metal is connected with occultism,death...and I prefer only this death metal!Yes,I really like bands like ACHERON,DISSECTION,CHRIST AGONY (the polish one!),DAMNATION MORBID ANGEL,DEICIDE,old POSSESSED,SLAYER,IMMOLATION... I've noticed somewhere that there's a cd-version available of FROM THE PAGAN WASTELANDS...Is that official?Is it the tape on cd? "It is the cd-version of the tape.Yes,it's official stuff and you can order it from NAZGUL's BYRIE PROD. in Germany(european edition) and Wild Rage Prod.!"

Do you and GRAVELAND support each other? "Yes,I've known Rob Fudali for 3 years and I still believe in our great cooperation!Hail GRAVELAND!"

What can we expect from BEHEMOTH in the near future? Anything else you'd like to mention?

"The mighty debut-cd SVENSTVITR STORMING NEAR THE BALITIC is coming soon... Await this pagan,supreme art!Thank you for the interview & real serious questions with sense!"



If you are into really good and honest black metal,write to BEHEMOTH and support them as good as you can! I'm not sure if they are selling the demos still,just write and ask,but don't forget to include IRC's,ok?Here's the address:

BEHEMOTH
c/o Nergal
Pomorska 14 G/9
80-333 Gdańsk
Poland

or you can also write to PAGAN RECORDS directly.Their address goes like this:
PAGAN RECORDS
c/o Tomasz Krajewski
P.O.Box 12
86-105 Swiecie 5
Poland

Frank Stöver

PRIME EVIL



In Memorium

Ha, this is rather funny! In our last issue I had the pleasure to do an interview w/ a guy named Leif Jensen (who might be familiar to the VOICES readers in one way or another) because of his band DEW-SCENTED. This time, I decided to remind all of you on one of the finest unsigned thrash metal bands, that unfortunately split-up some time ago. The funny aspect of it is that Mary Ciullo, the band's bass player, is also writing for VOICES by now... But don't worry about it, you will still have lots of pleasure reading the great answers of her... so don't waste your time...

Maybe we can start this little journey in the past with a description of each member in the band PRIME EVIL... How would you categorize yourself and the other 4 members of the band?

"I hardly think I could categorize any of the people who played in PRIME EVIL, myself especially!! I'd rather try to describe everyone, starting with Mike Usifer. Of any of us who ended up in the band, Mike was the first one with the idea he wanted to form the band that became PRIME EVIL. For that reason, he always was the one that pretty much had the final say in matters. It was just kind of an unspoken thing, you know? Mike wrote a good amount of the music, more than half and did almost all the arranging. He took a little music theory in school but you'd never guess that with all the atonal shit he used to come up with! Gary Day was our other guitarist, a couple years younger than Mike - actually the youngest of everyone. Mike and Gary were from the same town and had known each other since they were small children, it was only natural that they end up in the same band. Gary had taken some guitar lessons before and it showed. He wrote music that had to be

"hammered" into proper meter but once we did - the results really spoke for themselves! A couple of Gary's songs are VENOMOUS MOLECULES and GLOBAL DEGRADATION. Gary has more talent in his pinky than I do in my whole body. Our vocalist was Andy Eichhorn - he had the perfect personality and lifestyle to be a frontman: drank a lot, never got enough sleep, got all the chicks etc. (can't really see the need of those subjects for a frontman, but what do I know about front men anyway... -Ed.) Andy was pretty intense, restless and impatient. At times he really got under the other member's skin. He was high strung - he meant well, but by nature he was sometimes pushing everyone too hard (I think that's what made Gary quit). Andy pushed himself, too - his lyrics always outdid his previous efforts. I always had confidence that whatever Andy wrote was relevant, thought-out and most times, heartfelt. Plus he was a DAMN GOOD frontman - never chattered too much, played off the audience and he was always active on stage. He made the absolute most out of the very short set times we used to get. Todd Gukelberger who played drums for us is a little tough to describe. Todd was a man of many faces - well, HATS, I should say. Todd had extremely (!) broad tastes in music and was an art history student at college most of the time he was in PRIME EVIL. Todd was an "artist" in true tradition: an EXCELLENT illustrator, had good diction, loud taste in clothes & always wore a watch - but never bothered to look at it ONCE! We all tore our hair out over that - Todd kept FABULOUS time on the drums, but horrible time in real life!! He must have been fired from at least a half dozen jobs because of that glaring flaw... Todd was so relaxed and at ease with himself, you wonder how he didn't fall asleep standing up

Todd was a terror on the drums, though - for a tall skinny guy, I don't know where he got the strength to break all the cymbals he did. And then of course, he never had money for new ones! Well, that leaves me - I'm Mary & I was the bassist for PRIME EVIL. I was also the self-appointed secretary and treasurer, too. It's stupid for me to try and describe myself, so I won't (oooooooooooooh, c'mon! -Ed.) If you read the rest of this 'retro-view', you'll probably know a little about me. (we'll see! -Ed.)

How did you all meet then, I mean before you formed PRIME EVIL, did you already know each other or how did it all happen?

"Some of us knew each other before the band started. Mike, Gary & Andy all knew each other. PRIME EVIL had several line ups for a year before I joined (January of '87) both with and without Gary. PRIME EVIL had been a band about 10-11 months when they played a live show that was not up to all member's satisfaction. Following the show, the then-bassist and drummer were asked to leave. At the same time, I had met Andy through a mutual friend at a SLAYER show in NYC. He asked me to try out right on the spot and I was like, "okay". So he called and told me PRIME EVIL did half originals, half covers. (SLAYER covers! Every single cover was a SLAYER tune!!) He told me which songs to learn, so I did. He also gave me a live tape with their originals included. I'll be honest - it was so sloppy, I couldn't even figure out the riffs!! I had to sit Mike down one day and ask him EXACTLY what he was playing. Andy asked me if I knew of any drummers that were good. I said "yeah, but I couldn't get him to jam with me last summer". So I gave Andy the number of Tad Leger and he called him. Tad agreed



to jam a few times, and he was good! He joined PRIME EVIL and recorded our first demo with us. Tad did 2 shows with us, but that was it. After 5 months he quit to join TOXIK. That REALLY set us back. It was like being all dressed up but with no place to go! We searched for another 5 months for a replacement with no luck. Andy started a semester at College & got a demo from a local hardcore band given to him by a friend. Turned out the drummer from that band already knew of PRIME EVIL, cause they were this heavy band from his area that covered SLAYER and this guy's name was Todd Gukelberger, and he offered his services to Andy cause Todd's hardcore band had just broken up. All of us were a little hesitant to try out a 'hardcore' drummer, because we figured he probably couldn't play 4/4 time real fast and that was a major part of PRIME EVIL. We played kind of fast at times. Lots of double bass drumming, too. We needed someone accomplished. Well, Todd finally talked Andy into a try-out at Todd's house. What a pleasant BRUTAL

surprise!! He played every song on the demo perfectly & knew all the stupid SLAYER covers we were doing, too!! Gary and Mike asked him to join as soon as we took a break!! Todd was great and it was great to have him as our drummer because of his caliber of playing. He raised all of us up, we needed that and I'm grateful for it."

PRIME EVIL was obviously a thrash metal band in the big death metal "ocean"... Would you agree that this fact was one of your biggest problems maybe?

"I can tell you what one of our "biggest problems" was. We were all so different from each other, that we didn't always all get along - see eye to eye. We used to bicker among each other a lot. We didn't all live near each other, so we didn't hang out together very much and we weren't as "close" as we could have been. But we had a common thread between us, well it was more like a ROPE we all loved to play heavy, fast and aggressive. When it was time to play a show or even just practice, everyone dug in 100% - nothing was half-assed when it was time to play. We were seriously trying to do something of worth with the band, it was not just an excuse for something to do. Everyone was serious about PRIME EVIL, we took great pride in the band. About being a thrash band in an ocean of death metal bands, that may well be, but because of the vocals and the fact that we were dubbed as "brutal thrash", we actually fit right in with the death metal bands. We played loads of shows with death metal bands - with devastating results!! We used to get booked with more conventional thrash bands (clean, high pitched vocals and mid-paced music) and get stared at cause we were too raw! Our best gigs were with death metal bands."

Do you think you would have gotten signed if your demos would have been released at a time when thrash metal was really big? Was it just a matter of bad timing?

"Looking back, yes and yes! Hate to say it, but that's basically the truth."

I would like you to remember all your recordings and tell us your impressions if you listen to them today - anything you would like to change?

"Well, we did a total of 3 demos, all with 4 songs each. We had a lot more material, but we only formally recorded 12 songs. The first demo was done in May of '87 on 16-track equipment and Tad Leger played drums on it. We did it in one afternoon/evening, with only the guitar - solos and vocals added in later that night. On another day Andy and Tad went back to the studio to mix it. Looking back, I'd rather not record the whole thing in one session again - cause by the end you get tired and irritable (that's exactly what was happening. You would make a mistake, fight and then have to start from the beginning of the song again). I listen to the first demo now and it sounds sloppy to me. The guitar sound is kind of thin and the solos sound like we listened to too much SLAYER. Well... we did! Small wonder, huh? But that's what we sounded like at the time, it really made us shape up & not play messy anymore. The second demo (THE MANIFESTATION) was recorded in September of '88 on 24 tracks with Todd Gukelberger on drums. What a difference from our first tape! This one really put on the map, so to speak. I can still listen to that tape now, except that I'm kind of tired of the songs themselves. We had been playing those songs for more than a year (some of them), so we were well-prepared when we got

to the studio. I think I drank like a whole 2 liter bottle of RC Cola before I played, so I was pretty wired!! That turned out to be a pretty fast tape, too. We did all the music in one afternoon (5 hours) - we were hummin'! Andy went back one night w/ Todd to do his vocals, then we all returned another day to mix it. THE MANIFESTATION demo was so RIGHT, I don't know why we didn't do our next tape like that? Oh wait yes I do. It was pretty expensive using 24 tracks in an excellent studio like North Lake Sound, that's why. When we did our third demo, the INDUSTRY DEMO, we were trying to save money. Mega, MEGA mistake!! This engineer has us record our parts separately, only Todd and I recorded together. That's the method you would use if you were doing a full album with a proper budget!! We should have just stopped after the first day, but we carried on. That guy took all our money, the sonic thief. We mixed the tape with him, when we all got our cassettes home, we HATED it!! The music had no bottom end and Andy's vocals weren't raw enough. Then we got smart and took the reel back to North Lake Sound. Andy re-did his vocals there with me and the engineer one night, then we all went another day and remixed it. The results were better than the other versions from the first studio, but it definitely could have been better period. We knew it and we also knew we had made a mistake that would be hard to correct. I thought the Industry demo actually had very good sound quality, but at the same time it was a little sterile and lacked the urgency of THE MANIFESTATION. Probably because the instruments were done on separate days... We sent both versions of the Industry demo to lots of labels, but almost everyone rejected us. Wild Rags wanted to release it, so did Maze/Krize Records because Maze was closer to home and seemingly more reputable, we decided not to do the tape EP with Wild Rags. We were sent a contract by Maze Records - when we returned it to them, they avoided us like the plague! The company was going bankrupt FAST they just didn't have the nuts to tell us. Serves them right...

PRIME EVIL have played so many shows while the band existed and you're mentioned in tons of greetings/thank lists, so I was wondering if you are still in touch with all of those musicians/bands?

"Just cause my band ended, I never stopped corresponding with anyone! A lot of people stopped writing to me when they learned we had disbanded, but I did, do and always will answer my mail and phone calls. Sometimes I still get letters from people that want interviews or band information and I answer those too. If someone can take the time and trouble to pick up a pen to write me, or pick up the phone to call me, then so can I! That's probably how we got the following that we had. I was simple religious about attending to the mail. Some bands that said hi to us on their records are doing REALLY well now, like CANNIBAL CORPSE for example. Whenever they play around here, I always go see the show and say hello. Those guys are the coolest, they've always been so nice to me. I'm proud they've become successful, they deserve it! There's one band that I ALWAYS wanted to play a show with but was always denied the opportunity - DARK ANGEL! I admired them so much..."

I remember that you told me a long time ago that you weren't too happy about the lyrical content of one PRIME EVIL song... Would you like

to tell about it?!

"Yeah, and I'm still not! That's SIN OF INNOCENCE you are talking about. Andy wrote the lyrics to that before I was in the band, he had that song written before it had music! One night right after I joined PRIME EVIL, before we had a drummer, Andy and I were over Mike's house talking and practicing. Andy takes out this folder and says 'you want to read some of my lyrics?' So I said 'sure!' Well, I got to that - my eyes almost popped out and dropped on the floor! 'I'll fuck you without mercy and you will be my whore', 'Putrid bitch, I'll stab your womb and desecrate your cunt'... I'm thinking to myself, 'what kind of shit is this?!' Andy and I argued over that pretty loudly when that song was being written 2 1/2 years later, but he FLATLY refused to change it. I thought it was unnecessary and tasteless, Andy thought it was cool. I had a choice - I could either be a baby and quit or be a 'man' and live with it.



I did the latter. To this day I feel the same way about those lines as I did the very first time I saw them: I HATE THEM!"

I never had the chance to see one of your liveshows (unfortunately), so what do you think was the strength of PRIME EVIL while you played live?

"Aggression I guess. From the time we began a show to the end, we use to move around, headbang pretty hard and try to involve whatever audience was watching. It was physically taxing, but we liked getting into it. Except for Todd (who was sitting) we never really stood still. We used to bump into each other, get the chords all tangled up, stagedivers would knock us out of tune, but it didn't matter. Our logic was, if people had to pay money to see us play - then we were DEFINITELY going to give them something to look at!! We used to get on stage and be so intense that we would FLY through the songs. Sometimes 8 or 9 in a half hour set! The only time we slowed the pace is if something stopped working or if a string broke. We had some bad habits, too - like tuning up at full volume between songs and the vocals being out of time w/ the music sometimes. But I guess we prided ourselves on the fact that we were in a frenzy when we played live. We liked it and the fans seemed to like it, too."

I never really thought about it, but did you get the idea for the bandname from the VENOM song? Or was it a movie?

"NO and NO respectively. Andy thought up our name, a play on the word 'primeval' from a painting (I think, I'm not sure) he saw called 'The Forest primeval'. He saw it as a kid and it always stayed with him, I guess. It was certainly an idea from within & not to honor a namesake. If we HAD named ourselves in someone else's honor, we would

ld have been known as HELL AWAITS or REIGN IN BLOOD ... Original, right?"

What kind of feeling was it as you've been offered to release a 7" and later on to contribute to the A HISTORY OF THINGS TO COME compilation, although the band was already broken?

"The people who offered us a 7" release were Ed and Joe from RAGE RECORDS. They had been dedicated fans of PRIME EVIL almost since the beginning, so to speak. After we had recorded and submitted the INDUSTRY DEMO to what seemed like every appropriate label in the universe & got turned down by them all, RAGE wanted to do something to help us. Because it had been a few years since we released THE MANIFESTATION demo, people were starting to ask us if we were still together. Of course we were, but we hadn't released new stuff in 3 years and Todd had just quit to attend graduate school. So we weren't exactly in the public eye as much as we had been. We had gotten a new drummer named Matt Mayfield, and we figured we'd better release something or allow ourselves to disappear altogether. That's where RAGE really bailed us out. They put out a 7" single on red vinyl that had the first and second song from the INDUSTRY DEMO on it. They had no trouble selling all of the 1000 copies they made, so we were truly appreciative of their efforts! It helped, we started getting mail and phone calls again. Plus it kind of helped to 'legitimize' our existence as well, by appearing on a more professional format (vinyl) as opposed to the demos that were all dubbed by me at home!! Being asked to contribute to the comp. CD by Eric and Jon from GROWING DEAF was more of a surprise to me than anything else. PRIME EVIL had already been disbanded more than a year, when I get this polite and humble letter from Eric saying: 'You don't know me, but...' I had to call around and find my ex-bandmates to explain what Eric wanted, then ask their permission as well. I wrote none of PRIME EVIL's material, so it wasn't up to me to give GROWING DEAF permission to release the songs. Everyone agreed, if you can believe that, so we placed the third and fourth song from the INDUSTRY DEMO on HISTORY OF THINGS TO COME comp. CD. It was particularly gratifying for me the day the finished product came in the mail, I put it in the CD player, pushed 'play' and it was ME that came out of the speakers..."

Have you never thought about a re-union?

"I have casually, but I can't see it happening. We don't all get along with each other. Gary has a family & Mike has a wife and children, too. Mike has strict community obligations he must adhere



to, it leaves him with next to no free time. Besides, even though I miss the band and have some GREAT memories of it - I think it's better to let a sleeping dog lie, you know?"

Tell us about this other 'JOKE BAND' that calls them - self PRIME EVIL nowadays!

"Sure, those jokers are a bunch of kids from Staten Island, NY that obviously haven't been into the metal scene very long. I went to one of their gigs, introduced myself also, told them we have the name PRIME EVIL copyrighted. I advised them it was probably a good idea to change their name or risk legal action. 3 months later, we saw another of their gigs advertised in the music paper, so we sent them a formal written warning. If they don't respond to that or just change their name to something else, we will subpoena and consequently sue them. I kind of hope one of them or one of their friends is reading this, it's not an idle threat or practical joke. We copyrighted our band name to protect our material and ourselves in an instance EXACTLY LIKE THIS!!"

What are all the members of (the real!) PRIME EVIL doing now, musically?

"ALL of them? Dude, I don't even KNOW all the people that played in PRIME EVIL over the years!! I'll try to make a list... STEVE HANSON (guitar & bass) - played guitar in MORPHEUS DESCENDS up to their first album. He left then, I don't know if he still plays. TAD LEGER (drums) - did 2 albums with TOKIK until they broke up. Did 2 demos with a band called TERRITOMA, then quit. He does session work (THE GREAT KAT etc.) I think he's looking for a band now. TODD GUKELBERGER (drums) has a jazz/experimental band called IMplode - they're a 3-piece. MATT MAYFIELD (drums) is a full-time deejay. I don't think he's picked-up a drumstick since PRIME EVIL broke up - what a waste of talent. ANDY RICHORN (vocals) joined a band called FEAR WITHIN."



They're like a thrash/ mosh kind of metal band. Too weak for my taste. GARY DAY (guitar) - just joined Andy's band, if you can believe that! MIKE USIFER (guitar) did a US-tour with DEMOLITION HANMER as soon as PRIME EVIL ended. He writes music at home on his 4-track & drum machine. He told me he eventually wants to do a studio demo. ME - nothing, but not because I don't want to!! I haven't found a band that needs a bassist who plays the kind of heavy stuff I like. (so, what are you waiting for?? All bands in Mary's area who are looking for a bass player are advised to get in touch with her right away! -Ed) Was it a problem for you to switch from a musician to a "journalist" and do interviews for VOICES? Did you enjoy it so far?

"Wait, wait, wait right there Frank... I have DEFINITELY NOT "switched" from being a musician!!! You talked me into this, remember?" (Uhhh, you know... maybe it was just a bad choice of words for this question... Ed.)

Any merchandise that you still have for sale?

"No, no. I promised myself I would never milk profits from a band I was so proud to be a part of. When the little bit that was leftover was sold off, that was it. I would never make more merchandise again and sell it." (that's what I meant - stuff you have left out of the glorious days of PRIME EVIL, not NEW merchandise... Ed.)

Anything else?

"Yeah, 2 things. First, can I list some places that still sell the 7" single and the comp. CD, if people want to hear them? (sure, go ahead, that's what we are here for, don't you think so? -Ed.)

7"
Hellion Records
Postfach 1445
23504 Itzehoe
Germany
(10,-DM + postage)

Barbwire Productions
1626 N. Poinsettia Pl. # 208
Los Angeles, CA 90046
USA
(\$5 + postage)

Eternal Darkness
830 South Dobson Rd. # 50
Mesa, AZ 85202
USA
(\$5 + postage)

CD
Growing Deaf Entertainment
Paletsingel 101
2718 JB Zoetermeer
Holland
(\$15 + postage)

Metal Merchant
2336 S. 1st Avenue
N. Riverside, IL 60546
USA
(\$12 + postage)

The other thing is: If you had any interest in PRIME EVIL whatsoever, if you read about us, wrote us, came to see us play, listened to us in your friend's car, dubbed our demos for trade, wore our shirt - anything... Thank you thank you, thank you!!! Your attention and support was and is totally appreciated!!

It was great while it lasted
Thank!

Thank to you as well Mary, for being so supportive over the years and for helping us out with VOICES! May you find a new band pretty soon!! Anyone interested should also remember the following (last) address:

Mary Ciullo
356 Alpine Drive
Cortlandt, NY 10566
USA

PRIME EVIL will be missed!!

Frank Stöver



ENTRAFIS is a pretty new band to the scene, but they already sound really professional! Their debut demo is called INTO OUT and it features 4 tracks of technical death metal. The band's drummer Sean Verabioff told us all necessary info, so read the following interview and get yourself a copy of INTO OUT!! It's definitely worth the money!

Sean, before you all got together as ENTRAFIS, what have you done? Give us some backing information about each member in the band...

"Well, myself, I have been playing drums for 13 years. I'm 22 years old and I am a cook for a living. Jake is 23 and has been playing guitar for about 5 or 6 years. Mark is 22 and also works in a kitchen as well. He has been playing for about 7 years. Serge works in a hardware store and is 19 years old. Before ENTRAFIS, we all played in other local bands that basically went nowhere."

For how long is ENTRAFIS together now and what have you done until you put out your INTO OUT demo... and what happened after the release?

"ENTRAFIS was formed in November 1990. Our first gig was 2 months later opening for SACRIFICE (you lucky dudes! -Ed.) What a disaster that was!! We recorded a demo in the summer of 1992, but it never got released because someone stole our money. Then for about a year we just kept gigging on a local scale. In the summer of 1993 we started INTO OUT. After I recorded my drums, all our gear was stolen which stopped all band activities for about 4 months. We finished the tape around May of 1994. By that time we had opened for ENTOMBED and that remains as our best show. It was so intense and we played great. During the summer of '94 Jake took 250 copies of the tape to the Milwaukee Metal-fest and handed them out for free. We have sent the tape to magazines and some record companies but we haven't heard anything yet. Right now we are getting ready to record again and hope to have a new tape by spring '95."

Give us some info about the local scene in your area. Did you have good possibilities to support the name of your band over there?

"We are fairly popular on a local scale. It is quite surprising actually. The scene here is both good and bad. There aren't many places to play and there are so many bad bands. Of course there's good ones too!! Basically we have done all we can do in our city. It is time to focus on getting the band known elsewhere." (well, we are working on it, don't we? -Ed.)

What kind of details can you give us about the origin of the INTO OUT tape?

"The music is pretty old... Over 2 years. Our new material is just ten times better. One song on the tape is actually written with someone who isn't in the band anymore! The music on the tape I think represents us just when we were finding our own sound. With our newer stuff we definitely have our own sound. I truly feel that way

(well, I already thought that you were sounding original on the INTO OUT demo, but what do I know anyway... -Ed.)

How did you find out about the studio you worked in?

"Well, believe it or not, the tape was actually not recorded in a "proper" studio! It was done over in the basement of the guy who recorded it. People can't believe it when we tell them because everyone says it sounds really professional (I agree -Ed) We are very pleased with the way it turned out. Of course you always find things you can improve on, and on the next tape we will just do that!"

Have you been satisfied with the producer? Has he done anything else before?

"Yes!! Steve is a god!! If you saw what he had to work with you would agree!! We will definitely work with him again on the next one. He did a few other things before us, but I never heard them. He is cool to work with and we trust his judgement. He is the Colin Richardson of Halifax! Hahaha!"

Titles and coverartwork as well as your bandname differ alot from the usual death metal cliches - would you like to comment on that in a couple of words?

"Thank you. We take alot of pride in all that other stuff like art, titles etc. I love our name. It is very heavy sounding I think. The artwork too, I think is unique. We plan on always using that face in all of our artwork. Jake comes up with all the lyrics and titles. I think our titles are very heavy sounding as well. Some new song titles are THINK AS MUTANT, IS, ALL THAT ARE SLEEPING and LET THE FEATURES FALL."

Is it more difficult for a band to get recognition and experiences if you are based in Canada instead of the USA or Europe for example?

"That is a good question. A lot of people here think you have to move to Toronto or Montreal to be successful. I don't think location has to do with anything. Look at SEPULTURA! Our music would still sound the same if we moved. A couple bands have gotten big deals from here. Have you heard of SLOAN or JALE? (unfortunately not -Ed.) They are from Halifax. We need to have a really heavy extreme act get signed. That would help a band like us. It would be great for the heavy scene here. There are some really good heavy bands from here like GORBAGE, RESIN and ADRENALIN and us too, hahaha!!"

Where do you draw your musical influences from and how would you describe the overall sound of ENTRAFIS to someone who's not familiar w/ your music?

"Well, my personal favourite bands are RUSH, NAPALM DEATH, BLACK SABBATH, SACRIFICE and SLAYER. I'm always listening to those bands. I also love DEATH, DARK ANGEL, POSSESSED, KREATOR, SUPPOCA, TION, MORBID ANGEL, IRON MAIDEN, MACHINE HEAD as well as bands like YES, THE POLICE, SUPERTRAMP, STING and DR - EAM THEATER. The other guys listen to Rap, Hardcore, Jazz and all the really heavy

stuff as well. As far as influences, my two favourite drummers are Neil Peart and Dave Lombardo. I think my playing is a cross between those two guys. Earlier you called us death metal. We really think that what we play is NOT death metal at all! (ooops, I'm sorry! -Ed.) I just think we play really heavy extreme music with a touch of melody. We have aspects of thrash, death metal (aha! -Ed.) and Jazz in our music. The term death metal is too limiting these days. Even all those bands are now progressing into something else (yeah, it's a SHAME! -Ed) As long as this music stays heavy and extreme that's all that matters.

For someone that has never heard us, all I can say is that if you are looking for something a little different we might satisfy your ears. Is there anything else you'd like to add to this interview, Sean, then go ahead...

"Frank, thanks for all your help. You have been totally cool. I hope people who listen to the tape enjoy it and if you do, get in contact w/ us. We love to hear feedback. Long live the Toronto Maple Leafs and Boston Bruins!"

If you think ENTRAFIS might be THE band for you, then write to the following address: (with \$5 for the demo) ENTRAFIS
32 Riverview Cres.
Bedford, N.S.
B4A 2X4
Canada

People from Germany can order a copy of the band's tape from our address for twelve german marks (incl. P&P)!

Frank Stöver



IMMORTAL have always been one of my favourite black metal bands as they deliver some high-quality music instead of using this genre for image purposes only. They do have a really strong look and their stage show is one of the most intense, very ancient with lots of spikes, bullat belts, leather, corpse-paint and fire ! At the time we did this interview, their new album **BATTLES IN THE NORTH** wasn't released but at least they had finished the recordings already, so we had something to talk about... But my first question concerned the split-up with Erik the band's drummer, who had just filled in after the recordings of **PURE HOLOCAUST** and also did the european tour with the band... What's the problem with him ?

Demonaz: "We decided to get Erik out of the band because he wouldn't be able to play our new stuff, and we thought that we needed to have a much more steady drummer for the future... Until this very moment we have not found a replacement for him, but it would be no use having someone in the band just to have a stable line-up. What we really need is someone with a nerve for the music and who is tight as hell ! The gigs on the tours were not tight enough on drums."

As I asked them, if they already have decided on a replacement, Demonaz gave us some very interesting news: "Hellhammer (MAYHEM) will be playing on our next release !" That sounds like a strong combination to me... ! Anyway, on **BATTLES IN THE NORTH** Abbath once again has been responsible for the drumming and Demonaz seems to be very pleased with the work of his band mate as he admits: "I believe there are extremely few persons who will be able to play the new stuff, but we will see for that later !" Well, maybe the just mentioned news, that Hellhammer will be recording with the band next time is a clue for the fact that he knows at least one person of that quality !

BATTLES IN THE NORTH has been delayed in it's release a little bit, so I wanted to know if the band probably wasn't satisfied with the recordings, as they seem to be out for perfection... But Demonaz denies my thoughts: "We are truly satisfied w/ the new album, it came out perfectly the way we wanted it... It shreds ! The reason for the delay was caused by the fact that we wanted to have more time for the layout this time. And when we work, we don't rush anything to satisfy others and make the release suffer in anyway !"

Now it was time for me to satisfy my curiosity about **BATTLES IN THE NORTH**, so Demonaz was forced (with words) to tell us some details about it...

"**BATTLES IN THE NORTH** is our most intense album so far", he replies, "it has 10 tracks and features the best work we've done so far. I believe it will be hard to understand the songs at the first times of listening cause they are extremely hard & specially structured... I think we have finally made a statement with our own singularly style" he continues, "and I think it will be hard for the clones to follow us this time !" Sounds already really promising and I hope that Demonaz will be right ! On the last european tour **IMMORTAL** only played a very short set, although they've been headlining, so I wanted to give the band a chance to explain themselves to the disappointed kids who came to the shows...

Demonaz lays the blame on their ex-drummer... "The main reason for this was that we didn't have so much time to rehearse the songs with Erik and it took him some time to learn the songs... that's mainly why !"



BATTLES IN THE NORTH

It was already their second tour across Europe, so I was wondering how he would compare both to each other... "The second tour (with **MAR-DUK -Ed.**) was indeed better", he says, "but we will never ever again play with more than one support act cause it makes the gigs and conditions only worse !" (I agree on that, the only advantage for the kids is that they get more bands for the money they pay, but due to the fact that there's mostly at least one band on the bill, that's pretty useless, it seems to be unnecessary ! -Ed.) And the guitarist continues even more pissed: "From now on, we will have a different policy concerning touring. We get a lot of requests for going on tour" he points out, "but it's no use for us to go touring the same places all the time. We will definitely not accept to play for the same conditions as before. Next time we go on tour there will be different contracts, different paying and so on. Why should the booking agencies and the clubs owe more money than the band ? We don't play for fun !" (well I can understand his opinion, but at least a band should have fun to play live or consequently deny it like most black metal bands already do ! -Ed.)

When **IMMORTAL** started out, they had a second guitarist by the name of Jorn... what has happened to him ?

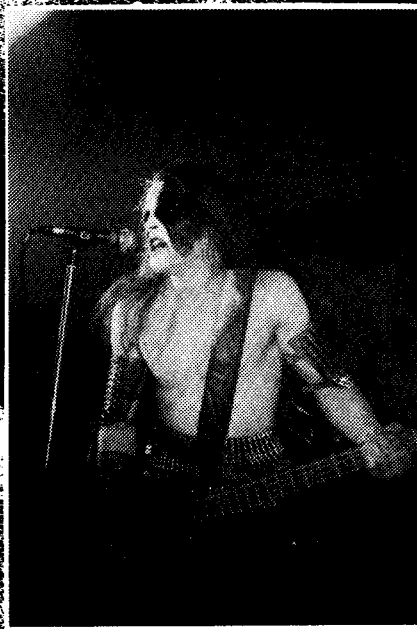
Demonaz surprised me as he told me something I should have already known... "He is in some band called **HADES** !" (remember our last issue ? -Ed.)

Another subject I'd like to get cleared-up is the cover design of **IMMORTAL** albums, as they seem to prefer band pictures instead of drawn covers or atmospheric pictures... So what about **BATTLES IN THE NORTH** then ?

"I don't like to have drawn covers, they mean nothing to us", explains Demonaz, "atmospheric photos would be bet-

ter, like the ones we had on the first album **BATTLES IN THE NORTH** will also have a picture of the band taken in '91, but it's a very special one... Of me and Abbath at the gate of Blasmyrkm !"

Before Abbath and Demonaz joined forces in **IMMORTAL**, the guitarist played in **SATANEL** with Varg Vikernes of **BURZUM** for a while, but I never found any recordings in traderlists of that project/ band, so I asked him, if they ever recorded anything... and



Demonaz gave me a simple answer: "No, we never recorded anything with **SATANEL** !" I might be wrong, but it also seems to me that **IMMORTAL** is not really connected to all the other norwegian black metal bands such as **EMPEROR**, **DARK THRONE**, **SATYRICON** and so on. I mean all of them already have helped out each other in one way or another, but I never noticed that members of **IMMORTAL** have been involved in something out of their own band... I wanted to know, if that's because they don't share the views of their countrymen maybe ?

"We are in contact with **DARK THRONE**, **SATYRICON** and **EMPEROR** and they are bands that we support" explains Demonaz, "I believe we share the same views on most things !" So, I was wrong. Well, another thing I found really strange is that **IMMORTAL** have lengthened their contract with **OSMOSE PROD.** recently as I thought they would go with some bigger label after **PURE HOLOCAUST**... Haven't there been any bigger labels that had shown interest in the band ?

"Not really big labels, but we wouldn't care less !" So, what made **IMMORTAL** sign to **OSMOSE** once again ? Have the contracts become better compared to the original contracts maybe ?

"The new contract is for 2 more albums and **BATTLES IN THE NORTH** is the first of them", explains Mr. Occulta. "There's been alot of things we needed to change but I don't feel like telling anyone about the details of it. Anyway, things are alot better now !"

On the other hand one could say that **OSMOSE** is the ultimate label for a black metal band and that they are aware of the fact how to promote their bands, does the guitarist agree on that ?

"I believe there are more and more labels coming up these days... I don't know too much about 'em so what is there to say ?!"

Maybe, you could go on by telling us, if you ever had thoughts to do a video maybe ? Demonaz' answer surprised me quite heavily as he mentioned, that "...it has already been done for **UNSILENT STORMS IN THE NORTH ABYSS** !"

Wow ! I'm still wondering who is willing to broadcast a black metal video... But to change the subject here, it always seemed to me that **IMMORTAL** have taken the lyrical side of their songs quite serious as they have published them in all of their albums so far... I was curious to know, what they would deal with on **BATTLES IN THE NORTH** and Demonaz explains that their style has changed a bit...

"The new album is more like a concept album. It's mainly about Nebulah's Kingdom on the earth, **Blasmyrkm** ! We were the first ones to write about this theme and it seems like lots of people wants to follow but they certainly lack of wisdom concerning this matter. So it belongs to us only !", he says with pride and continues "We are the masters of **Blasmyrkm** frost, the owners of **Blasmyrkm**'s mightyness !"

Unfortunately I was running out of questions at this point of time as I haven't heard **BATTLES IN THE NORTH** so far, so I left the final words to my norwegian brother and he was able to tell you this: "Anyone interested in strictly limited merchandise write to the fan club. There's alot of really killer stuff coming up ! Thank alot Frank, this is highly appreciated !"

Here's the address where you can get more detailed informations on the merchandise, but don't forget IRC's for a list.

IMMORTAL
Finnegaardsgt.7
5003 Bergen
Norway

Frank Stöver

BOLT THROWER

DO NOT PLAY WITH SPAGHETTI-STRINGS..IF YOU ARE OUT FOR VICTORY

As long as there are bands like BOLT THROWER around, the death metal scene will never really burn out. These dudes have always been able to satisfy their audience with excellent albums and their latest output FOR VICTORY is no exception. We hooked up with guitarist Barry shortly before it's release and he turned out to be in a extremely good mood for a conversation... But read for yourselves.

When BOLT THROWER got together as a band, how long did it take you to write enough material worth to be released on your first demo-tape?

"I can't really remember, but I would say probably about two weeks or something like that... a very very short time. I hot really recorded the first demotape in the first two weeks of course, but I remember that we got our songs together very quickly... Have you recorded all of 'em when you did the demo?"

Yeah, I think so. I can't really remember... it must be 8 or 9 years ago, but... yeah I can remember that we did record every song we made off and combinely we never had any songs we left off... So, I think all of our first songs have been on the demo that we also called IN BATTLE THERE IS NO LAW or later on the CONCESSIONS OF PAIN tape, which was our second demo!

Have you later on re-recorded all those tracks for your debut-album?

"Yeah, they are all on the IN BATTLE THERE IS NO LAW album, both demos and a couple of other songs that we had written..."

Do you still remember how many copies you've sold of each demo and when you have stopped selling them?

"I think Gavin was the one... I don't think he never really charged anyone for them, he just wanted the people to send him a tape and he recorded the demos then. I think if we charged... it was purely because people wanted to send us money instead of

a tape. We never really made any money out of it at all. I think Whale often got letters from people who were asking him for the demos and he recorded them, if they sent a tape of course..."

And what about the covers? Did you made-up any covers for them?

"Yeah... ooooooh shitty ones! They were sooo awful (laughs) just copied things... But we still use the design funny enough. Do you remember our t-shirt with this kind of beast with a spear in its hand and the BOLT THROWER logo was around it...? BOLT was up on top and THROWER down aside?"

Yeah, it's like a classic by now!

"You remember that? Well, that was our first ever demo cover! And we kept that with us and it goes out on every single tour that BOLT THROWER do, that t-shirt! We just change the colours, it was already in red and in blue and this time it's in black again. It looks absolutely fantastic!"

And the second demo - cover was just in black and had BOLT THROWER and CONCESSIONS OF PAIN written on it. It wasn't a really good one, but at least it looked better than the first one, which was kinda cheap (laughs)!"

What kind of feelings did you have being in the studio for the first time back then or haven't you been in a real studio for the demos?

"Yeah, we recorded the demos in a real studio and I was so excited! We did it at night as it was cheaper and we always wanted to do it at night, so we could tell people: Oooh, we're going in the studio and we're gonna record from 12 o'clock to 10 o'clock in the morning!!!! (laughs) It was grrreeaaaat!! We didn't know anything at all, we didn't know anything what we were doing... And the demo sounds shit, but back then we thought we were sounding like SLAYER (laughs) But for us it was the first time that we were really able to hear our material, cause

we only heard ourselves in the practice room where you never hear nothing! And then you are able to hear every instrument in fine volume... it's just fantastic! It's a great feeling!"

Was one of those demos responsible for your record deal back then?

"Yes, the CONCESSIONS OF PAIN demo got played by John Peel on his radio program, cause we had to do a session for him. After that session was played on the radio we got a couple of offers for a record deal. We didn't actually sign, but we recorded an album for VINYL SOLUTION..."

You just mentioned the PEEL-SESSIONS... Would you like to tell about them and how you got the opportunity? I mean what is actually happening, do you send in a tape, or...?

"What happened was, we sent him a tape, thinking we will never hear from him again (laughs)! And he does a radio show obviously on BBC RADIO ONE, but he lives in Ipswich which is about 100 miles from London. And on his way home he listens to all the demo tapes that he gets during the week and he picked out ours and put it on and thought: Oh it's a little bit different! So he phoned us up the next day and asked us to come into the studio to record 4 songs for him, cause he's not allowed to play demo-tapes on the radio. So, we went in and recorded them... We had alot of fun doing it. We recorded them with MOTT THE HOOPLE's drummer, cause he was the engineer in that studio and that was a thrill as well! We freaked out as he told us that he played w/ MOTT THE HOOPLE! We had a great time, going to the BBC studio, a top-quality studio! That was one of the best parts in my life!"

But you also did a couple of other BBC sessions later on, didn't you?

"Yeah, that's right. We did another two, but they were

never as good as the first one... Not only in going down there and the atmosphere of 'em, but the recordings as well. Don't know what went wrong, we didn't had the same feeling and I think that comes across in the recording. I think the first one's full of fun and of course the original vocalist was on that as well, Alan West..."

What made John Peel or BBC invite you for more sessions then? I mean, I know the reason now for the first one, but why have you been able to do 2 more?

"I don't know, they must be mad, mustn't they (laughs)? He just asked us, if we have any new material and we said yeah, we have a couple of songs. So, he offered us to come down and record them, so this could be the first chance to anyone to get to hear our new material. The 2nd session was... we only played brand-new songs that people had never heard before and obviously wouldn't be released for another 4-5 months, so people we able to listen to them already. In the 3rd one we didn't really do such new stuff and that's probably one of the reasons why they stopped. Plus he has to do new bands, he can't just keep doing the same band over and over again. I respect John Peel, he's probably one of the best guys in the world I know!"

Have you done any touring for the first album?

"For the first album?"

Yeah... "Yes, we did a british tour cause obviously we weren't large enough to go out to Europe. And we had a really good time - I think we did about a 15-date british tour but fuck, it was awful to sleep in a van... There were always alot of people at the shows, having a good time but we mainly played to a hardcore crowd back then, we were just punk to them, doing alot of double-bass drumming (laughs)!"



What has caused the split-up with your old vocalist Alan West back then?

"As we got offered a recording contract, Alan decided that he didn't really wanna do it anymore. He said: I achieved what I wanted to achieve and that's to get signed, but I don't want to take it anymore! We tried to persuade him, but no, he didn't wanna do it anymore..."

Was it difficult for you to find Karl then or did you already know him?

"Andy knew him and he turns out to be such a good vocalist...and frontman as well! Has he been in any bands before BOLT THROWER?"

"No, Karl never picked-up a microphone in his life and we had to do our first album two weeks later (laughs)!"

At which point of time did you get together with EARACHE then?

"They already had shown interest in the band on the first album, because of the demos, but we told them that we already record with VINYL SOLUTION. And after the album was released and we were touring with the album, they came to see us in Newcastle. And he said, I'd like you to do your new album with me... Dig was just a guy like me and you, who goes to a concert, watches the band and EARACHE was a very very small label, they just had 3 albums out, just very very small and it wasn't even a step-up from VINYL SOLUTION, more of a step-down, but he was very independent, very honest. The deal was a 50/50 deal, you know, he pays the recordings half, he takes half of the profit, a very punk way of deal if you like. Everyone helps and does 50% of the work and will get 50% in return. We were very pleased & it turned out to be the right decision for both of us, cause REALM OF CHAOS turned out to be a great seller!"

But it also seemed to me that you regretted your decision every now and then...

"Ehh... yeah, every now and then we got grouched with EARACHE, because they don't pull their weight, not like they used to be, but I don't really care. As long as I can go in and record, I will record with them and sign new contracts with them... They know how we feel about them, we know that they don't promote us as much as they could. I mean, if you're dealing in a mass market like the our now, it's not like it is used to be. We were both fans when we started out and we developed together. But EARACHE doesn't want to promote these bands, they just don't want to put the money in 'em and the reason why EARACHE don't wanna do that, is because they paid for promotion! It's the only thing the bands don't actually pay for and all the contracts with EARACHE now have changed. All it is, is a major label without the backing, the contracts are exactly the same you get with SONY, standard recording contracts and so, the whole idea of being on an independent label didn't even exist anymore. An independent label is purely a name, you just don't get the financial backing of a major label. If you'd start a race, a 100-metres-race, and one band starts 50 metres off the track with running shoes and you started at the back with bare feet... That's exactly how it is with EARACHE at the moment, but we just signed a new contract with them, cause we didn't wanna search for a new record label. We said, what are you gonna do for us and he said, yeah, you are my number one priority blablabla and that's all gone now! We are just another band that sells units and if you hear that you are selling "units" from a record label, you know that you are just another fucking number!"



BOLT THROWER

Have you been approached by any other labels?

"We have in the past, yeah, but nothing to the extent that we wanna leave EARACHE. I mean, EARACHE still is one of the largest, if you still wanna call them 'independent' labels, and what can any other label really do for us, except for a major and a major's certainly not interested in us and our music, cause we are already on our fifth album by now, so..."

The REALM OF CHAOS album and the GRINDCRUSHER tour with CARCASS, NAPALM DEATH and MORBID ANGEL made you alot more popular back then, so would you like to summarize those two things in a few words maybe?

"Yeah, the REALM OF CHAOS album was fun! Dig constantly came down to the studio where we recorded and the studio was haunted (laughs)! It was so funny and some of the days we couldn't really record, cause we were all ways laughing! We had a really good time and it was a great era for BOLT THROWER, cause we made this immensely popular tour, GRINDCRUSHER and you had NAPALM DEATH, CARCASS, BOLT THROWER and MORBID ANGEL on the same bill! And that was fuckin' ace!!!! That was a great time, we got along so well and it's a shame that that time is gone! All the bands had to go separate ways and start their own careers and there's no way you can ever get this package back together again, it was just a once in a lifetime package... it's a shame really... GRINDCRUSHER TWO maybe? I don't think so..."

Why not?

"The band's egos wouldn't fit on the same bill anymore and even if I think that we would find the time to do it sometime, it wouldn't happen. I know it...!"

It's too sad...

"Yeah! Compared to your follow-up albums, REALM OF CHAOS had a pretty strange production..."

Has that been intentional or have you made any mistakes, while you recorded that album?

"Yeah, there's a big mistake made definitely on REALM OF CHAOS (laughs)! And that was not to play with spaghetts as strings (laughs)! We tuned down far too low on that one and the strings were basically hanging off the guitar, but you learn by that. We were young and we wouldn't do it again, so on the next album we tuned-up a bit more and we stayed at that pitch constantly now."

How did you find out about Colin Richardson back then as a producer?

"Ehh... he did the MENTALLY MURDERED EP with NAPALM DEATH on the EARACHE label..."

But that's not why we had him, even though we thought the production on that one was the best that EARACHE could have... ehh, the thing why we liked him, was that he actually produced and engineered the DISCHARGE album HEAR NOTHING, SEE NOTHING, SAY NOTHING..."

Oh, really?

"Yeah, but he's not credited for, on the album. It has produced by Mike Stone on it, but Colin had a really big part in that and so we really respected him from his days within the punk scene. You can find him on alot of old punk singles, just look at the producer. So, we liked him from that era and he knew we were coming from and what we wanted to achieve, so that's how we found him really... and we went up to his studio in the north of England and did WARMMASTER which turned out to be a big seller for BOLT THROWER, a very popular album with the fans as well."

Besides the GRINDCRUSHER tour, you've also been on the road with ASPHYX and NOCTURNUS over here in Europe...

And PESTILENCE!

And PESTILENCE of course! Stupid me... Any good or bad memories on those tours?

"Oh, all good memories! I tell you something about PESTILENCE... It was the first time for BOLT THROWER that we were able to go to Europe and we didn't know how to take PESTILENCE or AUTOPSY because we didn't know them and we were pretty new to the scene at that time, especially in Europe... We didn't know how to take these foreigners, you know?! It was a really strange situation until we had this massive vibe w/ these skinheads at one of the shows in Holland... After that, everyone got great mates, we had alot of drinks together and everyone was saying, hey we must party together and so on. It took a big fight to get everyone together and that stayed since then with all the people on that tour."

Are you still in contact w/ all those guys?

"We are still in contact w/ Graham, he sets up tours for us and BENEDICTION and he used to be the manager for PESTILENCE. He's a really good friend of ours and very much with Martin, obviously, (we come to that a little later boys'n'girls! -Ed.) and we still see Patrick Mamel, when he shows up at the Attack Club in Enschede, where he's from and also Patrick Uterwijk... I haven't seen for a bit and also Marco, who used to be the drummer for PESTILENCE... he's a good lad as well, but I haven't seen him for quite a while either not since we have played a couple of years ago at the Attack Club... I haven't seen AUTOPSY for quite a few years actually (so it's your chance to get in touch again Barry, as we have an AUTOPSY feature in here as well!! -Ed.). NOCTURNUS I've seen a few times but not to the extent that I would call it friendship like with PESTILENCE..."

When you toured the States for the first time, you went with a really strange package...

"Yeah, we toured with BELIEVER, this christian band, and also with SACRIFICE! Do you remember those guys?"

Yeah, I used to worship their first two albums alot back when they came out...

"Yeah, we toured with them & it was good though, a little bit different. Guys with bibles in their hands came to watch BELIEVER... really strange..."

I can imagine... Your next release was the CENOTAPH-EP, so what can you tell us about that EP and the WARMMASTER album that followed shortly after?

"The CENOTAPH EP had to come out because the tour had be-

en planned so badly through one of the promoters when we toured with NOCTURNUS. The release-date of the album didn't go inside with the tour, so they had to rush out the 12" ! So, the only song that people knew was CENOTAPH, but at least they had heard something. That was the idea behind that and the album came out when we were about 3 weeks into the tour! And luckily enough, I think it just came out when we played in Germany, cause we had a great time in Germany on that tour. NOCTURNUS were supposed to headline in Germany which we weren't too happy about. And when they played, they didn't go down too well, so we took over the headlining and it turned out alot better..."

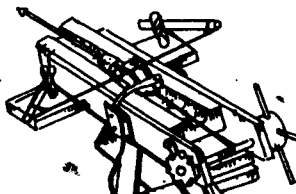
Next were THE FOURTH CRUSADE album and the SPEARHEAD EP...

"THE FOURTH CRUSADE had not such a good production as it could have, although everyone says, ahh it's the best production... I say no, because I know what it sounded like when I was in the studio. The sound was fucking ace and it blows my head off. But the mixing-room was so strange. You could sit in a different part of the room and the sound totally changed! I think mostly dancebands mix there and we went there for the electronic mix, it was computerized mixing in there, but it was the first time Colin used it, so it didn't really work, something was wrong with the production on the album & the kick-drum sounded like a typewriter! It sounded like if someone was fuckin' typing a letter, y'know (laughs)! Even if it sounded "ok", I knew it was originally better than that..."

After the release of THE 4TH CRUSADE, you did another european tour together with GRAVE and VADER from Poland...

How was that tour for you compared to previous BOLT THROWER tours? Anything better or more professional?

"Yeah, it was definitely the most professional tour for us cause it was the 1st time we were able to use a coach. We used to go around in vans and stayed in hotels... One year we actually got three campers and slept in them! We had 8 people sleeping in a camper and things like that! Ridiculous things we used to do, so yeah... it was a much more professional setup, even if we set that up for ourselves with Graham, our tourmanager... It's a shame it probably didn't go on a little bit longer, really! I would've liked that cause we got along really well w/ both bands on the bill. For GRAVE it was the first time ever they earned any money on a tour and they were really surprised about it, cause they never earned any again on anything. I think they went out on a next tour and didn't get paid or anything! But we set the tour up and everyone who plays with BOLT THROWER gets a fair deal... They can use our backline & stuff like that. We're out to have a good time, not to compete with anyone! And we took VADER, because I think if they would be from Europe they would be a much bigger band, ok they are from Europe but I mean from Western Europe! It's a shame for them really! The album has been released for such a long time and I don't know if there is something new from them coming out... I haven't heard EARACHE speaking of them at all..."



They HAVE a new album out but on a polish label!
"Oh really ????"

Yeah, it's a mini-album and it's called SOTHS... It came out in Poland, so I'm not sure if they are still on EARACHE...

"Boy I think they ARE... I don't think they've dropped them... Maybe they've put it out themselves... Uuuuh but I didn't know that..."

Anyway, after that particular tour, there's been a long silence and also rumors were circulating that you've split up, so what happened?

"Shh, we had a long time off, the band needed it! We've been working so hard that we needed some time off and also to write the new album.

And when we started writing, things were okay within the band but the music wasn't quite right. So we went to Australia and left the music alone a little bit, and toured for THE FOURTH CRUSADE.

And we came back, listened to the songs and we thought, there are some good bits and there are some bad bits, so we re-wrote the songs again.

In the meantime Karl and Whale decided that they didn't wanna do it anymore, they wanted to do something else in their lives. They wanted to do different careers, not in the music industry.

They just wanted to calm down, get married, get a proper job. And if you're 27/28 years old you start thinking about stuff like that. There's no point in being stupid that you go on with the band until you're 45 or something like that.

BOLT THROWER's career will come to an end someday and it might be within the next 4 or 5 years, that BOLT THROWER will cease to exist on the music market!

So, they thought that the time was right for them to leave... But I, personally wanted to carry on, but I did not want to do it without Karl and Whale at that time.

So, we went away and had a month of not doing anything, not talking to each other and

To me it's also the most catchy album you've ever done!

"Yeah, the riffs are the best and also the difference between this album and the last... we didn't worry about how long the songs were, we didn't think about what the song's missing, we just let it flow and I think that's why we went wrong in the 1st initial writing stage of this album. We were thinking too much about how the songs sounded instead of letting it flow, letting the riffs come out and do what comes natural which we had done on all the other albums, except for FOURTH CRUSADE, where we took a bit more time to get it more professional.

After that, we toured America and this is where Karl and Whale definitely found out that their future didn't really allow with BOLT THROWER. They thought that they maybe had made the right decision in the first place, to get a different career, because they really weren't enjoying themselves on tour. So we had a really bad time in America plus we had trouble with promoters and agents & record labels and everything you can imagine! Problems... all the way down the tour!

And I think that was definitely the final nail in the coffin for Karl and Whale! They just had enough of the problems, because we never had a manager and we always had to deal with these problems ourselves and Karl did take a lot on his shoulder, when he used to do the BOLT THROWER management side of things and he used to be in the t-shirt company and blablabla. And I think in the end he just had enough! He just wanted an easy life and I think he's having a good time now! We're still very good friends and it was a very nice split, it's not like everyone's shooting at each other, which everyone thought would happen. And I never agreed on that, it's not gonna happen at all. Everyone likes each other immensely still, BOLT THROWER are still very good friends and hopefully it will remain so!

But by now, you changed your mind about NOT continuing w/ different members didn't you?

"Yeah because... I tell you why... I thought again when I left America, that was it! I personally didn't wanna do it anymore as well! And then I came home and my long relationship that I had for 5 1/2 to 6 years with my girlfriend was finished immediately when I got back...! So I was like, FUCK, I lost my band AND my girlfriend and both things have been very dear to me, so I had nothing! Cause I also thought about having a family, settle down and do women and men things together, create a house and blablabla! So I thought, fuck what have I got? I've got a fuckin' brilliant album on the shelf and we'll never gonna play, but now WE ARE!! Martin Van Drunen is doing the tour and we are still searching for that extrapersonal person to be the drummer! We had drummers who are good enough technically wise but we have not someone who is personally good enough for the band. So we're still looking for that particular person.

And will both of them just help you out on the tour or are they gonna be full-time members for BOLT THROWER after that as well?

"Hopefully after that as well! I don't wanna do one tour and then say, thanks it was great!"

But it might confuse a couple of people because Martin has a totally different style of singing...

"Yeah... and I can see people thinking ohh, it's not gonna be the same without Karl Willets and it's not gonna be the same without Andrew Whale, BUT the music hasn't changed at all! And hopefully people can see that we still want to do what we do! BOLT

THROWER will never change, it will always be BOLT THROWER! Cause I write the music for BOLT THROWER anyway. So, if we do new recordings with Martin, the music will be the same, maybe the vocals will be different, but you never know, it could be better, it could be worse, who knows? We have to find out..."

There was talk about an EP to be released before the album... what happened to that one?

"I think it's coming out after. Yeah I think we got a couple of tracks on there... that we want to release, so hopefully that will come out on the start of the tour. We recorded a couple of tracks in the studio that are not on the album..."

Did you also do the re-recording of...?

"WORLD EATER! Yeah, that was one of the tracks that we've done, but I don't know if we're gonna release that. We might hold that back, I don't really know what's happening to tell you the truth! But there's a live-album coming out with the new album. It's a bootleg that'll be in the first pressing of the album. It's kind of a tribute to the old line-up and we got fed up with hearing those bootleg lp's that are bollocks, you couldn't hear a

modern day warfare. The album is called... FOR VICTORY and it has 3 dots in front of it and that means it follows on from something and you put a word in front of it, anything you want! So you could have DIE FOR VICTORY or something like that. And the actual photo is called PARATROOPERS AT DAWN by the

thing!"

Yeah, I remember older interviews where you talked about it and that you were pretty much pissed about those bootleg-albums and that you had plans to put out an official live-recording...

"Yeah and what it was, was THIS recording! But we didn't think it was good enough to go out and definitely not something you could charge people for. So, what we did was, we took an 8-track to a gig that we had in England & just recorded the show just on an 8-track... and we never mixed it at all! And all of a sudden, we thought, hey lets mix it, so we went into a studio and spent about five hours mixing it (laughs) and that's all it took! We just left it pretty raw and it sounds like a bootleg still, but you can hear what song it is - not like the bollocks things you get on Headache Records, that's fuckin' awful! That's such a rip-off! And this will hopefully put a stop to that. People can tape it to people, it's a good live gig and it has the original line-up!"

I was also wondering about the change of your album cover concept this time... FOR VICTORY has a very untypical album cover for BOLT THROWER...

"Yeah, it is, but all the albums have come a bit different in their own way, because they had different styles on the war-theme. REALM OF CHAOS had the futuristic style and then you had the warrior style on the next one, then you had the crusade, a different aspect of war again and then you have on this one, FOR VICTORY, a bit like



modern day warfare. The album is called... FOR VICTORY and it has 3 dots in front of it and that means it follows on from something and you put a word in front of it, anything you want! So you could have DIE FOR VICTORY or something like that. And the actual photo is called PARATROOPERS AT DAWN by the



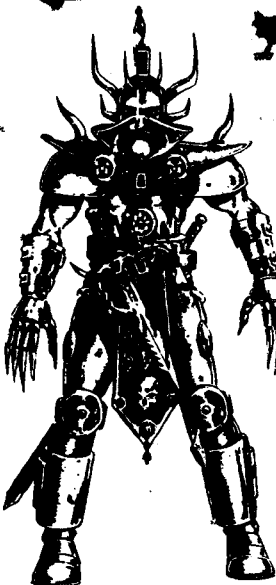
way. And those paratroopers have just landed and are marching towards the enemy, to confront them, and they're looking across the hill and they see the sun rises and to me that's like, look how beautiful that sun is, this might be the last time I see that. And they are prepared to give all up, their lives, everything! The beauty, the see... things like that, just to gain victory, for something they might never see you know... And that's what this cover is all about."

Do you think you will be able to take this war-concept any further in the future? It might be a little bit limited, because someday you might have covered all war-topics already...

"No, there's plennntly more to write about. War keeps going on every single day and there's plenty wars going on right now, it's an neverending subject. For example, we could write about financed wars, cause there's so many wars that your government & my government have financed and there are so many things like that. It's a fact of our lives and it's forever gonna be with us. In thousand years people will still be fighting wars."

Have you ever been misunderstood, maybe like, that you are promoting war or some thing like that?

"Yeah, that's true, we have been! They called us warmongers, we would glorify war... We DON'T! What we do is, we tell people about the aspects of war and what it can do to you psychologically. And also... you have to keep respect for these people who fight these wars, they are



that's when the rumors were starting. People heard that BOLT THROWER didn't exist anymore and in that time I phoned-up Karl and said, are you sure you know what you have done, leaving the band? And he said, I have to think about it and he phoned me back the next day and said yeah, I thought about it, we worked on this album already so let's go and record it!

Let's see what we can do! So we recorded the album in April '94, after we re-wrote it and I think we've made a bloody good job of it!

FOR VICTORY is the most aggressive album we've ever made in my opinion, not only for the riffs, but the power in the songs as well. I mean, I think the guitar sound is the best we've ever had!"

giving up their lives for something they believe in or purely because it's their job!"

Have you ever thought about doing a kind of concept video for one of your songs, including war-topics maybe?

"Yeah we have, but videos is something that EARACHE isn't prepared for to put into the band really, this big finance on videos. They said they were going to this time, but I'm not sure if they WILL! What they say and what they do is two different things!"

Have you already decided on a song you might do?

"Yeah, we wanted to do 2 videos actually before the split-up within the band. We wanted to do obviously the titletrack FOR VICTORY and also one of the faster ones like WHEN GLORY BECKONS or FOREVER FALLEN, something w/ a bit more uptempo, so they could play FOR VICTORY on MTV one week and the next week they could play FOREVER FALLEN, two absolutely different type of songs..."

And would you do that with the original line-up then?

"I think so, yeah. We haven't really discussed it, but... It would look a bit stupid, if Martin would appear in the videos and you would hear Karl's voice..."

"Yeah, that's true..."

BOLT THROWER is one of the very few true death metal bands that always stuck to their roots, no matter what, so would you ever incorporate other influences like hardcore, gothic or whatever in your music?

"No, I don't think so. We are too long in this scene to do anything like that. We've got our style of music and I don't think we need to change in any way. What we play is what we're good at, there's no point to try out something else we don't know anything about... But why changing an original style anyway cause I think BOLT THROWER is an original band! We've never been a trendy band and we've never been the flavor of the month but at least we like what we do!"

Anything else we might have missed out cause I'm running out of questions?

"I'd like to say, I give you credit, that was a far more interesting interview than alot of the ones I did. I like interesting interviews & it's also alot more fun for the readers. It's boring to hear 'What's the new album like and blablabla' because you can read that everywhere and I think the stuff you did is far more interesting for your readers. I hope they will enjoy it!"

Well Barry, I hope so too but I hope they will even more enjoy BOLT THROWER's new album FOR VICTORY which is a brilliant piece of brutal music which you can't ignore if you consider yourself a fan of true death metal! Get it!

Frank Stöver



BOLT THROWER-update: The band has announced **MARTIN KEARNS** as the new drummer recently and the 2 videos they finally decided on are: ...**FOR VICTORY** and **FOREVER FALLEN**! A massive european tour will take place while these lines are in the printing process.



EFFUSION OF BLOOD



One of the most promising new bands out of the United Kingdom is without any doubt **EFFUSION OF BLOOD**! Their **CARVING IMAGES**...demo had a lot more to offer than the usual doom/gothic or grind-core stuff we're used to hear out of that country. This band offers the perfect mixture of brutality, aggression and technical abilities, so it was no question that we would feature them in **VOICES** one day - Scott answered our questions...

Scott, EFFUSION OF BLOOD's debut demo **CARVING IMAGES** is already on a really high musical level, so would you like to talk about the background of each member in the band at first?

"Well first of all I would like to mention that at the time of writing this, **E.O.B.** is still experiencing line up difficulties and so there are only 3 members remaining. But that major problem aside when we recorded our demo we had a full line-up (obviously!) our original guitarist was **Tony Orchard** and he is (I believe) self taught. He also plays classical music, and last time I was in contact with him he was intending on taking spanish guitar lessons. I don't really know too much about our (ex) drummers musical background, other than that he was in a thrash band called **CREMATORIA** and another band named **SEDITIONS INTENT**. **Graham Breach** (bass) is also self taught as am I (I actually learnt to play guitar through playing **METALLICA**'s **RIDE THE LIGHT** - **NING** and **MASTER OF PUPPETS** - music tablature books!!) **Simon** (vocals) doesn't play any instrument, which is possibly why he is the vocalist!"

You've been often compared to early **ATHEIST** - so, I was wondering if that's the kind of style you wanted to play, or has it just turned out that way after a while?

"Hmm... I don't really understand why we've been compared **ATHEIST** as I would say that we are quite removed from their technical style, although it is an honour to be compared to such an excellent band. When I was writing the music I hadn't intended for it to turn out in any way technical, I guess it just kind of happened. The newer material however was written with a more complex and technical style in mind"

Do you listen to alot of technical music on your own? What do you think is the reason that most of those bands are lacking in brutality after a while?

"I don't really listen to technical music, except for **ATHEIST** and **SENTENCED**, and maybe a couple of other bands. I think if one isn't careful the songs can sound too complex and fiddly, and this can tend to detract from the brutality. So variation is needed in the music"

EFFUSION OF BLOOD is also a pretty different band when it comes to the UK-scene which is dominated by doom and grindcore mostly. So is it

difficult for you to find places to play overthere and even more important - is there really a crowd for that kinda stuff?

"It's difficult for me to imagine **E.O.B.** playing anywhere, as we have never played a live show (oops! -Ed.) We could have played numerous of gigs by now (we've had enough offers) if it wasn't for the loss of our drummer and lead guitarist. But to answer the question, it will be difficult for us to get (good) gigs around our hometown area, as there really is not a scene here at all (unless you're into rock or indie/grunge) so we will probably have to travel. Yes, I believe there is a crowd for our type of music, but the death metal scene seems to be situated toward the north of England (and of course London) where as we are South-West."

Give us a few infos on the origin of **CARVING IMAGES** and **EFFUSION OF BLOOD**!

"**E.O.B.** formed in June of '93 (actually this was when we acquired a drummer and so had a complete line up) before this date it was just a couple of us putting some material together. After deciding what material would be included on our debut demo we began practicing it, to get it all together. Around November we decided that we were ready and contacted **Mat Sampson** (the producer) and arranged to use his studio for a weekend in December '93 and that's when the demo was recorded. We recorded it live using an 8-track and the sound quality is excellent for such a recording. The title of the demo was chosen from a piece of poetry/lyrics that I had written, which is: 'Carving images into your skin, you are a work of art, creating sculptures from your bones, your body torn apart, painting pictures with your blood, angry red splashes on canvas, a testimony to my violence, committed on your rotten carcass!'"



There is no particular meaning behind the verse (maybe that murder is an art form), but that's for whoever reads to decide. The demo contains 4 tracks: SUFFER...FOR LIFE IS PAIN, SEXUAL CORRUPTION, LEGION OF THE DEAD and LICENTIOUS DESIRE and runs for approximately 19 minutes. The demo cover was designed and produced by myself on a DTP-system (and it contains the lyrics). We are very pleased with the demo as the recording turned out very well & the whole package is quite professional looking (with pro-duplicated cassettes). "You mentioned line-up problems..."

"Well, the difficulties with the line up began back in August of '94 when we had to get a new lead guitarist. Our original guitarist (Tony) left which we always knew was a possibility, so we got in a guy named James Davies but after about 3 months of practicing he decided that the songs were too difficult for him, so he quit! Anyway, we carried on with the intention of playing some live shows with only one guitar. So, I was in the process of re-writing some of the guitar and bass parts when our drummer stopped turning up for practice. After numerous phone calls I still hadn't been able to contact him, and eventually we were informed by a friend that he no longer wanted to practise. Only to play live shows (!). So to say that we were not amused would be a gross understatement! We have been advertising for some replacement musicians, but so far we have had no luck in finding any. It would seem that Bristol has nothing to offer. So I think it's time that we searched farther afield."

Do you think that you have a lyrical concept in a way?
Or do you write about anything?
Give us a few details about the lyrics on CARVING!
 "Our lyrics tend to deal w/ subjects that most (normal) people care not to think about. We write about social horrors, such as the Nazis & their concentration camps (LEGION OF THE DEAD) and the state of our world and so-called cities (SUFFER...FOR LIFE IS PAIN). We sometimes write about bizarre fantasy (SEXUAL CORRUPTION) and subjects such as paedophilia and torture/abuse. But all the songs in some way or another involve suffering and/or death."

Due to the 2 different vocal styles, I compared you to CARCASS... Have they been an influence on you in any way or what made you work with 2 vocalists?

"No, I don't think that CARCASS have been an influence on us at all. I only like their first 2 albums & think their newer material sucks! I don't believe that we sound much (if anything) like them musically. The reason that we had (and still have) 2 people doing the vocals, is because there were a lot of lyrics (in SUFFER...) that were to be said one line directly after another, which one vocalist could not have comfortably handled." (unless your name is Tom Araya... for further details, see our last issue! -Ed.)

There's been a lot of (by now) well-known bands out of the UK, but what about the current underground movement? Do you have any cool bands to watch out for? Is the UK scene also in the mood of black metal as most other countries at the moment?

"Yeah, there are plenty of cool UK bands to watch out for. To name but a few underground bands: MALEDICTION (death), they should be recording their debut album around mid '95, so everyone should check that out when it's released. THEODICY (brutal / technical death - excellent!), NEPHISTO (black metal, their TOLL THE RAVEN KNELL demo totally



kills !!) DESECRATION (sick brutal death), CANOPIC JAR (they play a type of progressive death with rock influences, which has got a good groove - cool!), SPITAPH (death metal - heavy as fuck!), CEREBRUM (death, they sound similar to CANCER), ANTHROPO-MANCY (excellent doom/death), THUS DEFILED (they should be recording their debut album in January of '95. Check these guys out, because their material is fucking awesome) PUTREFY and MORPHOSIS from Ireland... there's too many to mention! Yeah, it seems that the UK has also been gripped by black metal fever (not that I dislike black metal, on the contrary) Some of the distros I'm in contact with tell me that that's all that seems to be selling at present. I guess it's just a phase it's going through. What will be the next thing you'd like to achieve with EFFUSION OF BLOOD? Any new material coming up in any way?

"Obviously a stable line up would be nice! Once we have achieved a complete line up, we intend to record our second demo (if you thought the first was good, this one will blow you away!) which will contain 5 tracks, which are: THE HAUNTED, AFTERMATH, BUTCHERED INNOCENCE, A VENERATION OF PAIN and LUSTMORD (outro). The music style is slightly more technical and brutal than that played on CARVING IMAGES. I am constantly writing new material so we are still progressing musically, even though we can't play any live shows."

Is there anything else you'd like to mention to the readers of VOICES? Any merchandise for sale?

"Well, the only merchandise we have available at present is our debut demo CARVING IMAGES (no death metal fan should be without a copy!) It's a difficult time for us at present with the line up hassles, so bear with us and await the second demo. Oh yeah, have you bought our first one yet? Thanks goes to Frank for all the help he has given us and for producing such a fucking cool magazine. I have to take this opportunity to thank Clive Williams THE KING OF THE STATIONERY CUPBOARD for all services rendered! Support the true underground, and may all trends and sellouts perish!!" So, anyone without a copy of EFFUSION OF BLOOD's debut -

demo should order it right away for \$5/2,50 pounds from the band's address:

EFFUSION OF BLOOD
 c/o Scott Williams
 12 Cleve Road
 Filton, Bristol
 BS12 7QF
 England

Any german reader can get a copy for 10,- DM (p&p incl.) from us directly! So, hurry up!

Frank Stöver

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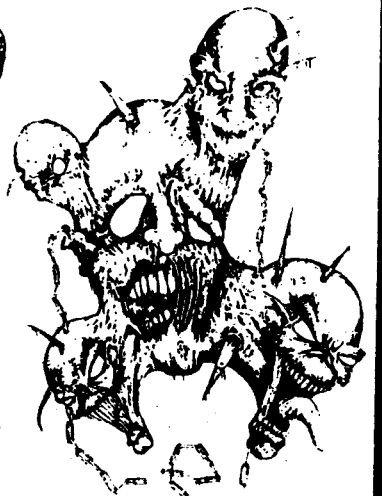
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SICK, SICKER...



AUTOPSY have always been a band that didn't care about fashion or trends within the death metal scene. Their two ep's and three albums featured probably the goriest type of death metal ever and vocalist/drummer Chris Reifert is always a great person to talk to. His sense of humor is still present and that's why I really enjoyed the following interview quite a lot for myself...

So, Chris it's been quiet for a really long time in the AUTOPSY camp by now. Can you tell us if the band was still existing after you released the ACTS OF THE UNSPEAKABLE album in 1992? What have you been up to?

"As I write this, AUTOPSY is just about to enter the studio to record our final lp SHITPUN which will contain 21 tracks of toe-curling craziness and rectal turmoil. Then kiddo, that's it for the good old AUTOPSY. We decided to hang it up around June '94 on good terms, with the exception that we would still grind out the last lp as it was all written and ready to explode. So now we are ready to do it after many delays! (None our fault - we're perfect! Heehee!) So it'll be a sick fucker you and your gramma will have to buy! Actually buy 5 or 6 copies cause this is the last one and the best one for AUTOPSY! No more tours, gigs, any of that stuff. Ok, let me go back in time to June '94 (using the "wayback" machine) Me and Danny Corralles formed ABSCCESS, after AUTOPSY decided to call it quits after the lp, along with Clint Bower (ex-HEXX) and Freeway (ex-IMMORTAL PATE, AUTOPSY touring bass). ABSCCESS is a raw sick brutal noise! Not totally unlike AUTOPSY but without the technical side. More straight forward with elements of death/doom/punk and plenty of distorted aggression! We won't let ya down if you want heavy sick shit in your veins! As ABSCCESS, we've done 2 demos so far and a live radio session, some sick gigs!"

With the last AUTOPSY album you've caused a lot of controversy once again due to the cover artwork. What kind of feeling is that for you, being censored all the time. I mean do you really give a shit or do you just laugh about it?

"We never gave a fuck, nor will we on SHITPUN! We love it! It's great fun, ain't it? (well, it depends on the sense of humor of each one I guess...at least I don't care about it! -Ed.) There's been a different logo on the album for the first time...What made you change your great old one..Ha-

ve you been bored of it? "Actually we've used a different logo on the front of all the lp's so far (if a slight difference) - it's cool to use different logos for us."

Due to the fact that you never cared for any musical fashions within the scene, I was asking myself if you enjoyed it, not to be involved in the current underground scene because of it's trendiness...?

"Actually I still write with fanzines, bands, people etc., but there is and always been trendy elements in the underground, but fuck it! I do not take influence from anyone but myself so I can ignore fashions and all that shit. Our music is from our own demented ideas."

By the way, who's playing the bass for you at the moment? Hahahaha...

"On SHITPUN it will be Eric, Danny, myself and Freeway (on 4 songs)."

Could you imagine that AUTOPSY have been ahead of their time maybe? That people might recognize your brilliance way too late like it was with POSSESSED, HELLHAMMER or BATHORY?

"I dunno, but my mouth tastes like the bottom of King Kong Bundy's shoe right now, that's brilliant! Now c'mere an' give me that root beer enema, ya big walrus!" (???-Ed.) Do you still listen to death metal music (new or old stuff)?

"Yes, new and old. Get the KORPSE cd if you can find it! Holy shitballs! Too much to mention! Now ask me about my LEIF GARRETT and KRISTY MC NICHOL albums! (How about your Leif and Kristy albums, old buddy? -Brave Ed.) Fuckin' rage!!!" (that's what I expected, don't ask me why.. -Ed.)

Give us some info about the final AUTOPSY album and why you decided to call it a day...

"It's called SHITPUN, it's got 21 songs on it, it wants to rape your dog! Fuckin' buy it! What else can I say? It will knock yer knickers off! As far as the band breaking up, it was mutual and on good terms. Things didn't go well within the band on our last U.S. tour and that kinda brought it on along with me and Danny wanting to play less technical, more straight for the gut stuff. I'm sure AUTOPSY fans will like ABSCCESS. Ya just gotta be a fiend, you know!"

What comes after AUTOPSY? (silly question, I know, but at the time I asked it, I wasn't aware of ABSCCESS, so don't kill me for that. -Ed.)

"A big greasy load cast upon the face of all who play fal's metal. Ooops, sorry! I thought I was in MANOWAR for a second!" (don't mind my metal brother, just hail and kill! -Ed.)

I'd like you to comment on each of your releases in a few words, starting with the 1st demo! What was good, what

was bad etc.? "Holy shit man! You asked for it! I guess you mean AUTOPSY, right? (yep! -Ed.) 1st demo: Served it's purpose. We were only around for 4 months but it was cool. Eric sang a song! CRITICAL MADNESS demo: Much heavier, fun for all! 13 songs Neato!"

That's about it - if you want a copy of the ABSCCESS demos (each one goes for \$5(US)



SEVERED SURVIVAL lp: Basic & brutal. RETRIBUTION FOR THE DEAD ep: Probably our best sounding record. Doomy like being in the shadow of Burl Ives ghost! Whoohoo!!

MENTAL FUNERAL lp: Ok sound, shitty bass playing, sort of lame cover, but I like it overall - what do I know?

FIEND FOR BLOOD ep: Fast and flatulent. Cool but I smoked too much before singing (like always) Yeah!

ACTS OF THE UNSPEAKABLE lp: Some people thought it was too chaotic - fuck you, ya wimps! I love it! The pain-ting rules! I have athlete's foot!"

Do you regret that you've signed to PEACEVILLE back then? Could you imagine to be a lot bigger on a different label by now? Do you care?

"Doesn't matter anymore, so fuggit! We'll see what happens with ABSCCESS!"

What was the best day in your career with AUTOPSY and what was the worst?

"Funniest things: We're playing in Holland and finally getting the finished products of our lp's in the mail when they came out!" (It seems you didn't had any bad days, didn't you, huh? -Ed.) Anything else you'd like to tell all the AUTOPSY fans outthere?

"THANKS if ya ever wrote to us, came to a show, bought an lp of ours or supported us in any way! Thank you Frank! You're a die hard sicko!!! Check out ABSCCESS and SHITPUN - we won't disappoint you! Drink puke and fuck corpses!"

or \$6(elsewhere), you can still use the old AUTOPSY-address. Chris Reifert P.O. Box 2257 Benicia, CA 94510 U.S.A.

And even though ABSCCESS is a pretty good band, AUTOPSY will sadly be missed!

Frank Stöver





I know of a few people who dislike New Jersey's REVE - NANT just because of their PROPHECIES OF A DYING WORLD album, which indeed wasn't the best this band could've come up with. But if you get the chance to experience this four-piece in a live situation or if you get a hold of their 7" that came out in '92 or the promo-tape from '93, you'll know why I wanted to have 'em in VOICES finally! They don't care about any kind of fashion, but pure aggression and lots of musical ability (Mary Ciullo was so kind to get in touch with Henry Veggian and conducted this following interview.... Tell us about your most recent 2-song demo - is it a limited promotional item only, or is it for sale? How has the response been thus far?

"We recorded the last tape in October of '93 at a studio out in Western N.Jersey. Our original intention was to use it for promotion only but the response has been so killer and the demand for new REVENANT from our fans so persistent that we just started sending copies around to everyone we felt deserved to hear it, since some people had been waiting so long. Personally, I think it is the closest we have ever come to capturing the spirit of the band in the studio & the rest of the guys feel the same. (me too - Ed.) As far as I am concerned, it is the only good thing we ever did." (nah, you can't say that - Ed.)

Can you describe any post-release music you've written both musically & lyrically?

"Yeah, we basically started writing a new album immediately after the first one was finished. We just finished writing it. It will have about twelve songs on it, including two trilogies. The first trilogy is THE FAITHLESS, of which EMPTINESS is the first part. It is a kind of Nietzschean theme I have been developing lyrically for about four years, and is the musical and poetic embodiment of our philosophy as a band. The basic idea is that once a person can free themselves of all the bullshit emotional, religious and ideological baggage that is part of our conditioning in Western culture, they can truly be their own masters, and live beyond the laws and repressive systems of organized "faith", whether it be religious, political or whatever. The three songs are a movement towards the celebration of nihilism. It is by far the most intense stuff we have written. Some of the newer material is more tripped out, and there are songs where I just sing and don't play guitar. Some of the stuff, especially the second trilogy, is science-fiction/gothic horror stuff with some industrial grooves and really weird vocal arrangements, something like old VOIVOD meets the CELTIC FROST that recorded TO MEGA THERION, which in my opinion is one of the best albums ever made by anyone."

In the lyrics to the song THE BURNING GROUND (from your second 7" single) you meant to make a very serious point, correct?

"We have a new version of that song that we play now, with better lyrics, although the old images are still there. I have to admit that one of the most gratifying moments of my humble life as a musician was when we received a letter in the mail from some kids in the Ukraine who lived near the Chernobyl reactor that inspired that song. This might sound corny, but that letter changed the way I felt about this band. Those kids figured out that the song was about their area and the horror they suffered at the mercy of the technological illusion of "progress", and they were very happy that someone halfway around the world had the idea of writing a song about them. To be honest, I think it is a bit condescending when musicians touch on these terrible events without having ever suffered any such a thing in their own life, so I had to be really careful about how I wrote that song. There is nothing I hate more than these bullshit rockstars and their pet causes, because they only champion the cause itself, without going on the offensive and challenging the root of the problem. I am a terrorist with words, and I hide as many subversive messages as I can in my lyrics in order to challenge people to think. I saw some of the government films of the evacuation of the area, and they were telling the people everything's okay (as usual! -Ed.) but on the films you can see the radiation is falling like snow, but fallout is invisible to the naked eye, so it shows up on film as white spots. Eerie shit. I am very suspicious of the military/industrial complexes that run this planet, and I think the least a person can do is challenge them, and the best way to do that is through music."

Your 7" for RAGE REC. will be the first release to see a re-press (the initial 1000 copies sold out). How do you feel that relates to your underground status?

"I can only tell you that we as a band, have seen the worst aspects of the music "industry", and really don't want anything to do with it if the people who are running it are thieves and trendy college kids with their archaic conceptions of "heavenness", like those morons at RELAPSE. Almost every person I have ever spoken to on the business end, with the exception of about three people (and Ed & Joe from RAGE are two of them), are assholes who are good for two things: kissing ass to their peers and stealing money from young bands. We are not ones to complain. The last thing anyone wants to hear is a whiner. My mission in life is to create music, and these people are totally irrelevant to my project. The fact that Ed

has to repress the 7" is very cool, because it shows us that there are people out there who care about the fact that we are trying as hard as we can to do something new, instead of relying on all the old death metal clichés. If underground music is going to keep being the breeding ground for new bands, it will only do so if the bands coming out are doing something that hasn't been done before. Stagnation is death, and that should be the enemy of any artist. To get back to the subject, I am happy for Ed, and I am glad to contribute to the cause of a small label that isn't stealing money from anyone. I think this scene needs more people like him."

Do you take an interest in the underground scene, either local to where you live or elsewhere?

"I would have to be crazy not to. Although we aren't as prompt with our mail as we used to be, I still keep in touch with all my friends locally. For example, in this last two years, I watched DOG EAT DOG go from being a local band to one of the biggest bands in their scene & having known those dudes for so long and seeing them become successful is very cool because it means that some people still have open minds. Obviously, REVENANT and DOG EAT DOG are two different bands musically, but we come from the same area and the scene here has always been healthy, because suburbia spawns kids that hate suburbia and want to make music and party and travel around to clubs. As far as our style of music is concerned, I think the Jersey-shore area definitely produces the coolest stuff and RIPPING CORPSE and HUMAN REMAINS are proof of that."

What are some of your favorite musical releases of the past year or so?

"I love this question. I know a guy in a very big Florida-death metal band who made a girl turn off her recorder during an interview because he was ashamed to admit he liked RACER X. (Nothing wrong with that - they shred! -Ed) Give me a break. That is my favorite example of a dishonest rock star, and it amazes me that the interviewer did not puke on his leg when he asked her that. I bet you want to know who it is? Here's a hint. He is "Belial" (Belial - ar?). Here's my top ten list if anyone even cares:

1. LOREENA MCKENNETT - The mask and the mirror (great mystical yeats-inspired celtic / medieval music)
 2. FEAR FACTORY - Soul of a new machine
 3. GORFEST - False
 4. SOUNDGARDEN - Superunknown
 5. PETER GABRIEL - Us
 6. SEPULTURA - Chaos A.D.
 7. TOOL - Undertow
 8. RUSH - Counterparts
 9. OPUS ILL - Guru Mother
 10. TOM WAITS - The black rider
- Those are my favourite releases of the last year, but I have been going back and listening to a lot of 70's art rock over the last few years, especially early GENESIS w/ PETER GABRIEL, YES (Tales from Topographic oceans) PINK FLOYD (Animals) and anything by KING CRIMSON. I also rediscovered DEEP PURPLE from jamming with the guys in WHIPLASH."

You admittedly spend large amounts of time writing your music, taking months off at a time from live shows. Do you place equal emphasis on both lyrics and music?

"Yeah, we take our time now. The reason why the music and lyrics of PROPHECIES... is so undeveloped is because we were only together for a year."



ar and a half with this line up when we recorded it. I am always writing, so the lyrics are always moving along with the music and in recent years I have learned to develop them together, as opposed to writing music & lyrics separately. It's more natural this way and the vocal arrangements benefit from that. It's organic, like growing good buds or making a movie, there has to be chemistry between the parts."

What do you consider to be your original influences?

How about your bandmates?
 "This is a hard question. I hate to say "these are my influences..." because it sounds like I don't listen to anything but that, and that I want to be nothing more than that. The biggest influence on me musically was LED ZEPPELIN and when I started learning guitar I would study notation and sight reading for one hour and then play LED ZEPPELIN songs for two, and I did that for three and a half years. If I really think about it, it scares the shit out of me, because their songwriting was such an influence that I wonder sometimes if everything I ever wrote is just a bad ZEPPELIN riff played really fast. In the beginning, when John and I started the band, that is what it was, but now it is different, because I have grown as a musician and Dave and Will brought a whole new approach to the band in 1989. Will's influences can be summed up in one word - RUSH! Dave is more diverse. He and I are both big SABBATH fans, and we both like the DOORS & he really likes old AC/DC. Tim is a bit of a freak musically and I really don't know where he is coming from. I know he likes MINISTRY and PRIMUS and I catch him listening to old SODOM and DESTRUCTION, which I think is a little funny."

Was there a particular band or artist that made you want to play guitar? Was it your first instrument? Can you play any others?

"Like I said, I guess Jimmy Page is the person to blame for that. I can play the piano a bit, but I only just learned recently."

You'll probably want to kick me for bringing this up, but tell us the differences between the Henry ("Veg" as you were known at the time) that played in REGURGITATION and the Henry that now plays in REVENANT. REGURGITATION eventually became O.L.D. & both bands have matured MEGA since their respective demo days, would you agree?

"I was never a member of REGURGITATION, I only jammed w/ them because Jim could never find a bass player and since he and I have known each other since we were kids and we shared the same musical interests (and his wretched family lives around the corner from my parents' house), I made those tapes. In retrospect, it was a learning experience. Here are some things I learned:

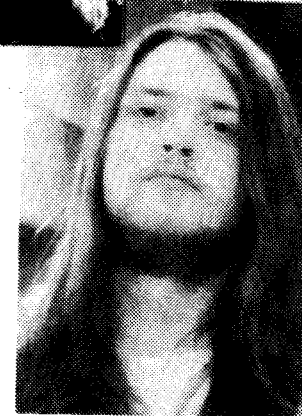
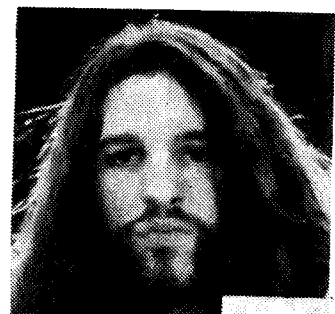
- a) never trust a kid who beats his dog, his sister, or his mother and father.
 - b) never trust a kid who destroys the back door of his house with a shovel only because he forgot his keys and his parents locked him out, because they made the mistake of assuming he was mature and responsible enough to remember his own keys.
 - c) always walk up to the person who has been disrespecting you behind your back after you helped him when he needed a musician for his stupid band and punch his face as hard as you can without saying a word.
- I firmly believe that spo-

led kids should be subjected to ten years hard labor when they begin to show signs of an inability to deal w/ the reality that the people you call friends should be treated with the respect w/ which they treat you.

As far as concerns "Henry", I don't think he matters here. What matters is that you always have to be on your guard with certain people, because they are liars."

What are some of your interests/pastimes outside of the band?

"If this answer sounds like a hobbies listing for a dating service, it's not my fault."



I fish, I play soccer, and read as many books as I can get my hands on. I like to travel, and eventually plan on living somewhere in Europe, preferably Italy, but Holland is an option if I can learn some more of their crazy language. I love the United States, especially New York, but I'm very skeptical about some of the inhabitants. There are too many wound up and repressed people here. The way people drive is an example of that. Look at someone's face next time you are on the highway. They look like they are about to take a shit and die most of the time, or they are so zoned out with stress that their face is a perfect blank and their life is just one big shot of anesthetic. Numb man, numb. What ever happened to the land of the free? I think a big hoax is going down here, with all this commodification of culture and life. I can't think of a better example of a good idea gone bad than the corruption of television in this country. Who is responsible for the death of our brains? I want to talk to the motherfucker, and I see if the people who write these programs actually watch them or if it is just a big joke that's being played on everyone by a few rich guys."

Could you clue us in on your plans for the future? Will you sign with a new company, or would you consider releasing something on your own?

"Right now, we are preparing to do one of two things. We will either self-finance our own record, or make a really killer tape and go after a big label deal. I would rather make our own record, but I am perfectly happy with the idea of infiltrating some big label and then, after we are signed, making them regret ever signing us by refusing to play their image/marketing game and releasing some of the best music ever created by mortal minds. Both of these things are options, and it is only a matter of time before we make a move on some suckers. I

am perfectly happy living out my life in musical obscurity and just writing songs and making good tapes, but I would be even happier making life hell by blowing up in the face of the people who think the lives they live are real, when their lives are only conditioned lies that have been fed to them by hundreds of years of blind selfishness and illusions whose life's blood is money. Give me a break. I vomit on

convention and the dogmatic adherence to the mythology of money. If there is one thing we will continue doing is proving that bands don't have to be part of the "industry" to succeed as artists, and the best thing musicians can do is do what Frank Zappa did. Run your life by yourself and fuck the corporate executives & yuppie scum."

Mary Ciullo



ABYSS

THE SECOND BIRTH



Do you remember my ABYSS review in our last issue? Well I knew you wouldn't, but if you WILL, you probably will remember that I was a little bit disappointed that the band hadn't returned my interview-request back then... To make a long story even longer, let me tell you that a couple of days after the release of that issue, I got it in the mail finally! So, here it is - not the newest interview anymore, but still worth to be featured. Hiroaki answered all our questions.. ABYSS came together in 1991 but your musical abilities are quite impressive, so I guess all of you have been playing before ABYSS already... Could you tell us something about the time before that when you started as a musician and so on?

"When I was 15 years old, I started playing guitar and I was playing in many bands. When I turned 19, I was a student at our university at that time, I was in a band called OCCULT ARTS as a bassist. Other members were Akira (guitar), Hirano (keyboard) and Ohtsuka (drums). OCCULT ARTS was playing instrumental progressive music like AL DI MEOLA, YNGWIE J. MALMSTEEN, SILVER MOUNTAIN... It's influenced by fusion music or progressive rock mainly. In 1990, after OCCULT ARTS broke up, I (guitar) and Ohtsuka (drums) started a new band. ABYSS was formed in 1991 with a session bassist and in '92 Hatano joined us as a permanent bassist. In 1993 our demo THE SECOND BIRTH was recorded and released. "As I've never heard your 1st demo, could you give us a short description of what kind of style you played back then?"

"When we recorded our first demo, we were still looking for a bassist, so we recorded it with a session member on 2 of the songs and I played on the other 2. We recorded it all by ourselves with a 4-track recorder and the sound quality was not so good, so it was never released, except for domestic promotion. But I still think that the songs on the first demo were very good. A little bit more progressive than the songs on our 2nd demo. Besides that our music hasn't changed at all so far."

You call your music "Progressive & Technical Death Thrash" - Are you bored of the "normal" death metal scene? And is it possible that you get a heavy influence from bands like ATHEIST, CYNIC or never DEATH?

"I like to listen to Death, Thrash, Black, Grind... It's all fun for me, but I'm not really influenced by the recent and normal Death Metal very much. I'm more into progressive rock like KING CRIMSON, YES, ELP, PINK FLOYD or MAGMA. I always get many many inspirations or ideas from these bands in making songs. So I think that ABYSS' music

is a kind of progressive rock which is death metalized. That is the reason why we are in the vein of CYNIC or ATHEIST. Of course I like them very much, but we don't get influenced by them."

Your new demo was recorded on 16 tracks. Do you think technical music needs an excellent sound to impress people or could you imagine that a rehearsal tape could be almost as impressive and show people what the band is all about?

"It depends on the band's attitude, I think. For example the bands who appeal their power, brutality or aggressiveness may not need an excellent sound. But we want to express our songs strictly, exactly in all parts. So we needed a 16-track recording. We cannot express what we wanna do without good sound quality."

The Japanese underground scene isn't that popular overseas and I've only heard about SABBAT, C.B.N., SIGH and S.O.B. Could you tell us a bit about your situation overseas?



"Our underground scene is still not big. Though we have many great bands like HELLCHILD, MULTIPLEX, ERODED, VOIDD but many of them hardly promote themselves in foreign countries. That's why Japanese bands are not well known overseas. Besides that, there are only a few labels for underground bands and no magazines except for some fanzines like CIRCLE OF THE GRIND, OCCULT GRINDER, SILENT NOISE or POISON CHILD. So it is really hard for a band like us."

On a flyer you enclosed in your letter last time, there was talk of a kind of festival with several bands including ABYSS. (see elsewhere on this page for details) But your name was on top of it with very big letters... Are you the most popular Death Metal band in your area right now?

"No, ABYSS isn't that big but we've played many festivals and gigs so we became more famous than ever. As for the flyer, it was advertising for ABYSS and I made it, so ABYSS was written in big letters on top of it."

How's the response on ABYSS overseas? Do you try to promote the band worldwide or do you mostly concentrate on Japan?

"The response is very very good. I've got lots of mail from people who got THE SECOND BIRTH demo and they have been very positive to our music. Recently, UK's TERRORIZER mag (# 8, May 1994) picked up our demo and said that "this is one of the best demos I've heard this year". (this is a good possibility for me to say "HI" to Russ from TERRORIZER MAG! -Ed.) We hope to be more famous worldwide and get a deal so that we will be able to release our stuff all over the world."

Have you already contacted any labels? How's the reaction on your material from the A&R people?

"I've sent our demo to many labels, but don't receive any reactions. So I keep on sending till I get a good offer." (maybe this feature is gonna help you a little bit with it, I wish you all the best! -Ed.)

Do you think it is a big problem for you to come from Japan when you play this kind of music?

"The most difficult thing is the language for me. Our lyrics are written in English but I'm not good in English, so it's very hard to describe

be what I want to say. So we concentrate on our instrumental parts and song arrangements rather than lyrics. Of course I always try to write more impressive lyrics. Another problem is the location of our country. It's very far east, so it's not easy to play gigs in Europe or in the United States etc. It costs very much money. But besides that, there's no problem for a Japanese band who plays death/thrash metal."

Something personal - how popular have CASBAH been in Japan? They've been one of the very first bands (heavier bands!) I've heard of some years ago over here... Are they still together?

"Yes they are alive. Recently they released a new demo, MARCH OF THE FINAL DECADE '94. But CASBAH have become more melodic, orthodox than ever. I like old-CASBAH, their 7" EP RUSSIAN ROULETTE ('86) is one of my favourites." (Yeah, that is the stuff I was talking about! -Ed.)

Anything else you'd like to mention?

"First of all, thank you Frank for making this interview with me, DANKE SCHON! Good luck and take care of your VOICES FROM THE DARKSIDE zine. (oh, you're welcome! -Ed) Anyway, check out our demo THE SECOND BIRTH. It's still available only for US \$3 or 2 IRC's (everywhere) of course trade is ok. Send your stuff! We are very open minded. And we are going to record new songs in this autumn. Let's see what will happen. Also

we are appearing on a comp-cd FAR EAST GATE IN INFERNO. It contains 8 Japanese bands like WORM, ABYSS, SIGH, TERROR SQUAD, VOIDD, SABBAT etc. Total 14 songs. Order this cd from Evil Records (c/o Masaki Tachi, 1056, Hoshikawa, Kuwana, Mie, 511, Japan) It's available for US \$20. Keep the underground alive and anyone who is interested in us should write! No problem! Thank you again! -C-YA!"

So, the only thing I have to tell you now, is the band's contact address - it goes like this:

ABYSS
c/o Hiroaki Satoh
3-5-10-202 Nakacho
Musashino-City, Tokyo
180 Japan

Anyone into technical death thrash should write and get a copy of their demo THE SECOND DEATH! It's really cheap boys'n'girls, so what are you waiting for?

Frank Stöver

DEMOS, DEMOS, DEMOS

F L H
Sacred Red

The 8 tracks appearing on this second demo/album cassette of the canadian FLH are performed quite decently, which I assumed as they were formed back in '89, but SACRED RED is all the way a deception: put some well-known thrash riffs together, cover them with a screamy and monotonous vocal-work and add some lame drumming and you will get the name of FLH's game! The great coloured cover, the weak lyrics and the average (if this really stands for an album-tape!) sound are the only aspects I can point out apart from the fact that thrash needs outstanding representatives, to come up again and FLH don't belong to those who ease the pain! 4 info pages, but no price mentioned, gotta ask.

FLH
Comptoir Postal Jacques-Cartier
C.P. 21010
Longueuil, Quebec J4J 5J4
Canada

Leif Jensen

S O T H O T H
Unholy Alliance
(It is not a blasphemy)
Demo '94

I have to warn you: NOTHING FOR PURE DEATH METAL FREAKS HERE! At first I didn't really understand what SOTHOTH from Canada are trying to transmit, but as I think I have a pint of an idea now, I'll better choose to present these sickos to you: I suspected some black metal-project and it really opens up like that with wild metal and shrieky vocals but after the first song it turns into strange, eery, complex, experimental metal with lotsa samples, normal melodic vocals & weird arrangements! Sometimes even only single instruments or sounds dominate this voyage, which really confuses me (I admit it!) but some of you might love outstanding stuff, so you are invited to write them. This is SOTHOTH's third demo and it is buyable for \$4 elsewhere. But I don't really think it is a "new way of looking at music"...

SOTHOTH
c/o Maximos (Bartek W.)
261 Provender Ave.
K1K 4N8 Ottawa
Ontario, Canada

Leif Jensen

PATH OF DEBRIS

Time lies in chains Demo

Doomy death metal has "hit" the german underground really hard and one of the several bands of this generation are PATH OF DEBRIS. First called TRAUMA ('92) they were dedicated to "typical" death metal, but have seemingly now progressed to something more "original" (?). Their debut-demo is introduced by a DEAD CAN DANCE tune which is always admirable but the following 4 own songs are nothing but melodic, slow to mid-paced metal compositions (B-side contains pure death!) with deep growl without refreshing moments. Although the arrangements seem partly maladjusted (which is normal for young bands anyway) TIME LIES IN CHAINS isn't a bad debut at all, but they better search for an own face soon, as this slow genre is almost as full of clichés and unoriginality as the wide pure death metal underground! 10 DM to:

PATH OF DEBRIS
c/o Thomas Kessel
Bühmerwaldstr. 13
84032 Altdorf
Germany

Leif Jensen



EL PECADO

Angel de mi guarda Demo

Strange one! Looking at the band picture on the demo cover, the first thing I noticed, was some guy wearing a Buzzum shirt and another one a "Farm Road 666" shirt... So, I already expected something "evil" here. And I was right, at least as far as the vocalist goes, cause he screams in a hysterical way! But musically this ain't ordinary black metal, it's more of death/thrash with spanish lyrics... Due to the fact that I'm not able to understand Spanish at all (Leeeeeiiiiiff Ed.) I have to guess, that the lyrics are "black" as well, cause the democover is also in that kinda direction... I don't know - not my taste, but anyone interested can get it for \$6 from:

Mike Coles
P.O. Box 603
Anna, IL 62906
U.S.A.

Frank Stöver



R O T T I N G
Human race liquidation Demo

This band would probably have been signed a couple years back by Enrache or Road-racer Records, cause they deliver somekind of polished death metal, musically somewhere between Obituary and the latest Bolt Thrower offerings with some grinding parts "made in Florida". The band knows how to handle their instruments, the production/sound is also ok, but they need to improve a little more, to find a more outstanding direction. On the other hand, this is really (!) cheap, so you definitely wont make a mistake either (\$2-US; \$3-CAN) Write to:

Korey Arnold
165 Cherrywood Dr.
Newmarket, Ont.
C3Y 2Y6
Canada

Frank Stöver

F O U R E X

Walk the plank Demo '94

You might already have noticed that I hate to slag off a demo completely, but FOUREX force me to. Sorry, I can't help myself, but first of all normal metal with a certain fun-character is not the adequate stuff for VOICES and furthermore WALK THE PLANK totally sucks, in my ears! It begins with the superfluous biography pages and ends w/ the horrible annoying vocals

which totally lack of power! I really like some guitar-work from this second demo of FOUREX, a band formed back in '91, and I also dig the moody keyboard insertions, but that's not enough for me to seriously get into this tape! I probably would open my hair and bang my head off if I were drunk, but I'm totally sober, so... try on.... Price for the demo (+ sticker) is 10 DM... you choose... you loose...

FOUREX Management
c/o Patrick Gotsch
Kirchplatz 7
71083 Herrenberg-Mönchberg
Germany

Leif Jensen



MISGUIDED
TIME

HALIFAX GIBBOT
Misguided time Demo

Wow, a highly professional packaging (printed cover with lyrics and live pics of each bandmember) and pro-copied tapes; you can expect alot of HALIFAX GIBBOT! There's 8 tracks on the demo and all of them are in a brutal thrash direction, nothing particular new, but still good for what it is. Sometimes their material reminds me a bit on Revenant, just to give you a little comparison here.... It definitely is worth it's \$6 (their debut demo SILENT CRUCIFIXION is still available for \$5 as well) - just write to:

F. Williams
P.O. Box 946
Dixon, IL 61021
U.S.A.

I'd like to know, if their guitarist Mike Knoblauch is aware of the fact that his lastname means garlic in our language... Vampires beware!

Frank Stöver

hora suprema

H O R A S U P R E M A
Vita Demo

Gee, this is VALUE for money!! The demo of HORA SUPREMA has a total running time of 47min and it only costs you 13,-DM (incl. p&p) OK, I can understand, that you won't order a tape where you don't know anything about the music itself, so I'll give you a little clue. As strange as the monicker, democover and titles IS the music AS WELL! I mean, you'll get heavy influences from depressing melodic doom acts, but I also hear some DANZIG stuff in their tunes! Sometimes (not that often) a death grunt can be heard, but mostly this clean Danzig-type of vocal style is dominating. Unfortunately MY copy of that tape

has a pretty poor sound and I hope that it was only a dubbing mistake, cause for this type of music you need a clear production! Excellent stuff!

Giovanni Agliarulo
Albert Schweitzer Str. 17
77654 Offenburg
Germany

Frank Stöver

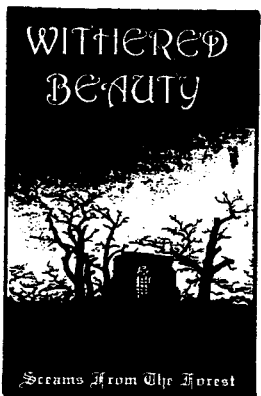


CHRIST DENIED

Thy horned god Demo

CHRIST DENIED - DEATH HE LIED... Ha, that sounds pretty much like good ol' IMMOLATION here. Anyway, CHRIST DENIED is a spanish project, consisting of Dave Rotten (AVULSERD/REPULSE REC. - see feature in this issue!) and David Nigger of INTOXICATION, who was responsible for guitars, bass and programming. Can't really believe that this should only be a 4-track recording as the sound quality and powerful production sounds way better than that! It was already released as a double-split 7" EP on MORBID RECORDS (with HAEMORRAGE), but due to the fact that it was limited to 1000 copies only, here's a cassette version of CHRIST DENIED's participation. There are 3 original tracks on the tape and a absolutely godly cover-version of OVERLORD by canadian gods INFERNAL MASTERY!!! The "band" call their style "brutal christophobic death metal" and it's really brutal (!!!), indeed! Some fuckin' deeeep growls here! Excellent stuff and available through REPULSE. Address in the feature somewhere else in this issue.

Frank Stöver

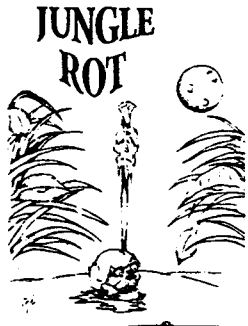


WITHERED BEAUTY
Screams from the forest Demo

This is the debut demo from a swedish band, that is already around for a while. Before they released this demo, there was another tape, that never got published due to some strange circumstances. And the material on this eight track release here was written between 1990 and '94 so you can expect alot of variety and you GET IT! Musically WITHERED BEAUTY are somewhere between black and death metal and even their xeroxed cover is very black metalish looking... But it's far more easy to quote their own description as it fits perfect: "Sorrowfilled melodic, hysterical and brutal death/black/doom metal"! Can you stand a mixture of all

that ?Then send \$6(Europe)or \$7(elsewhere)to this address and keep an eye on WITHERED BEAUTY in the future:
Magnus Björk
Björnbovägen 5
80429 Gävle
Sweden

Frank Stöver



RIP OFF YOUR FACE

JUNGLE ROT Rip off your face Demo

Oh boy, this is not really the best monicker or cover-design for a band, BUT after I heard the first notes of the shredding riffs for the opening track MURDER 1, I was totally into these guys already ! There are 13 (!!!) songs on this professional recorded and duplicated tape and all of them are full of pure heavyness and aggression ! It ain't really death metal, but fckin' intense and extremely R.A.W. (!!!) thrash and I love the voice, arrgh ! Killer ! Get it from this address (no price mentioned):
JUNGLE ROT
P.O.Box 7165
Grayslake, IL 60030
U.S.A.

Frank Stöver



NEBELBURG Verdammnis Demo

Yep, this is a german band & according to their flyers, they play "black funeral metal", which is simply a new description for traditional, pretty raw black metal ! The tape contains 6 songs that have an above average rehearsal recording soundquality & everything is in the german language (quotes, songtitles, demo title etc.) although I can't understand if they all so sing in german as the vocals are in the typical shrieky black metal style. NEBELBURG are not better nor worse than most of the other new black metal bands around these days and 10,-DM/\$7 is a fair price for this tape. So, worshippers of the dark-side should write to:
Jan Tappert
Vossweg 4
59348 Lüdinghausen
Germany

Frank Stöver

LETHAL PRAYER Evil Filth Demo

I already knew this band's earlier releases, but I think this one is their best so far. This is fucking brutal death/black metal from the USA. Even though I am sure that they regard themselves as black metal, I would still think that there are massive death metal influences too, as for example the vocals & many of their lyrics. But if you look at their lyrics, there is no reason to doubt that this band is BLACK and that this fucking mean what they say. The production on

this tape is fucking excellent, very heavy and brutal, but still clear, while the music dwells somewhere in the misty realm of both death and black metal. I can't really compare this band to any other band which is a positive thing. Well, I think I can keep this review short this is yet another very good promising band. Anyone interested in this tape can get it for \$6 from:
LETHAL PRAYER
c/o Bellial
P.O.Box 7942
Pittsburgh, PA 15216
U.S.A.

Werner "Nyar" Linke



DAWN The darkness within Demo

DAWN from Germany consist of former BLOOD and DEATHCORE members among others and they are around since '91, but THE DARKNESS WITHIN is their first official release and a really extreme one !!! At no fuckin' edge you'll find out that TORI AMOS belongs to their faves (God!)... this is grinding death, ultra fast then suddenly ultra slow w/ deep grunts. And the vocals are again the oddest fact about the whole tape ! I bet the brutal death freaks won't mind that the songs are not the most original, so that the good sound and professional coloured cover should make the tape interesting for the just mentioned group of persons ! Ha, there is something unusual... I was wrong: A girl is doing the brutal drumming, which is not common at all ! Yeah, that makes them outstanding, but the music bores me to death (!!!).
10DM/\$6Europe/\$7 overseas to DAWN
c/o Martin Jäger
Otto-Dill-Str.6
67141 Neuhofen
Germany

Leif Jensen



ACOUSTICAL CRIME

The irresistible conquest
(self financed MCD)

ACOUSTICAL CRIME is another 5-piece band from Germany, formed in '92 and chose to drop the "demo-step" and jump immediately to the CD-format ! But they are one of the few young bands which do not deserve to be criticized for this decision, because they really try to create something different from the masses of outputs on the actual market ! This self-financed MCD will offer you in 21 minutes that what a total crossover means: a complete mix of the different edges in music, both instrumentally and vocal wise ! The base apparently was death metal but the first song has a certain BIOHAZARD-like touch (uuurgh ! -Ed.), later on follow dark but clear vocals, then some thrash riffing and further on even some rock hints ! Seems that they are still searching for the best way to choose, but if "open-minded" fits to you, then you better check these hopefuls out ! 15,-DM+3,-DM stamps to these weirdos:
ACOUSTICAL CRIME
c/o Roger Klambauer
Höchster Straße 24
64823 Groß-Umstadt
Germany

Leif Jensen



EUTHANASIA Cassette EP (Emanzipation Rec.)

The nice EMANZIPATION zine made it's first step in the area of also releasing material by bands: the Italian deathheads of EUTHANASIA are the very first with a tape simply entitled CASSETTE EP 1994 and lead the young label into a good direction. Some of you might still remember them from the Nuclear Blast GRINDCORE compilation - cd and they still show no mercy ! 4 songs/14 minutes of MONSTROSITY-like death metal with great musicianship and a wonderfully brutal sound (54 track recording ???) and that should do for you, all-the-way-death-freaks ! Being one of the numerous SERAPHIC DECAY REC. victims, they are now in search of a serious label. Not much variety here, but on the other hand fundamental death for \$6 from the label's address ! By the way, look out for EMANZIPATION zine # 4 (\$4) which should be out by now with great material...
EMANZIPATION PROD.
c/o Michael H. Andersen
Holbergsvvej 137
DK-4700 Naestved
Denmark

Info/Interviews:
EUTHANASIA
c/o Manuele Bruno
Via Matteotti 9
I-40012 Calderara di Reno
Italy

Leif Jensen



IMPENDING DREAD In cold blood Demo

Quite a powerful debut-demo by the german IMPENDING DREAD is what I've gotten here ! The 4 featured songs (+ intro & outro) attain their aim through the fact that they are not monotonous, meaning that they are delivered in a cool mix of death and thrash metal riffing; The structures even remind me on old DECIDE (EAT THE FLESH OF GOD) from time to time. The vocalist who can be heard on this demo belongs no longer to the band and the guitar player took over the growling, so that I'm waiting for the next release to keep making up my mind. This solid metal attack will let you forget about the poor cover. 10,-DM should be enough:
IMPENDING DREAD
c/o Torsten Kroke
St.Johannerstr.82
66125 Saarbrücken
Germany

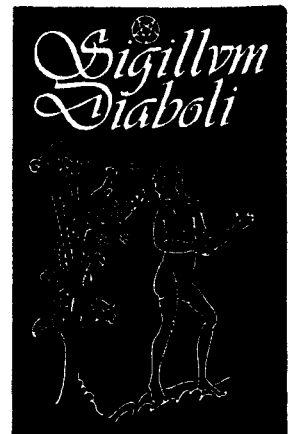
Leif Jensen

HELHEIM Walpurgisnatt Demo

Another impressive demo tape of these crazed Norwegians. I already liked their first tape, and this one is no disappointment either. Musically I would roughly describe this band as black metal, even though they do not sound that much like most of the other Norwegian black metal bands. HELHEIM's music is fairly simple, yet those simple parts are put together in a way which makes the songs sound very good, nonetheless. The guitar riffs are mostly very fast, yet still somewhat melodic and heavy, I guess most of you are familiar w/ these "long" black metal riffs. There are keyboards thr-

oughout the whole songs, and not just in some parts to make it sound a bit more atmospheric. The vocals are not those usual black metal screams, it sounds more like a normal voice, the singer is screaming into the mike but it's not those high-pitched "argh, someone just crushed my testicles" type of vocals that so many other black metal bands use. The production is slightly weak, however, for some weird reason it even fits to the music. Plus I think the overall atmosphere of a demo is more important, than just the sound. And in HELHEIM's case, I think the material is strong enough. A promising band to keep an eye on for the future, I think. This tape costs \$5 and it's available from:
THE HELHEIM SOCIETY
P.O.Box 82
1713 Grålum
Norway

Werner "Nyar" Linke



SIGILLUM DIABOLI Demo II

Hell yes, finally a black metal project that has incorporated some older influences in their northern sounding compositions again ! SIGILLUM DIABOLI's second release has even got a HELHAMMER cover version of the 3RD OF THE STORMS (EVOKED DAMNATION) on it and they turned it into a song that could be their own - really evil and hateful vocals here on the whole tape and I can really feel their magic ! 5 tracks - \$5/20mk, so get it:
SIGILLUM DIABOLI
P.O.Box 54
33961 Pirkkala
Finland

Frank Stöver

CASKET

C A S K E T

...but death comes soon Demo
Again a german band with CASKET as name, but this time from Bavaria (the other CASKET were presented in VOICES # 5 already !), so be careful and don't mix them up ! This CASKET are pretty young with 17(!) years in average, but it doesn't mean that you should stop reading here... If you want some melodic slow death metal music with dark vocals and mainly simple structures, this could be yours ! The clear recording (on 24 tracks !) and the coloured-copied cover should attract you in case you are into e.g. the second CEMETARY album, as the track OWN PRISONER hits that direction. Anyhow, there is still lots of work to be done, but for the beginning it's surely ok ! 13DM/\$9 is FAR too expensive though !
CASKET
c/o Marc Fischer
Im Haag 5
97346 Iphofen
Germany

Leif Jensen



PAIN PRINCIPLE
Unhappy hour

I had serious doubts about this Orlando/FL based band , cause in their press-kit you often found comparisons to Pantera and I'm not really into all those "clones".BUT: PAIN PRINCIPLE have managed to impress me ANYWAY !Musically this is a little bit of SLAYER,EXHORDER,WHITE ZOMBIE(specially the vocal style in DEAD TO THE WORLD) , MACHINE HEAD or...PANTERA... sad but true !But due to the fact that they have mixed it with lots of older thrash elements and made a pretty unique style out of it,I was carried away by their incredible groovy rhythms and intense aggression !The production turned out amazing , the overall packaging is more than perfect and the cover idea is cool !Excellent! Even though I usually don't listen to the above mentioned bands,PAIN PRINCIPLE is highly recommendable ! This 6-tracker sells for 1\$ each song(makes 6 if I did my homework...)Write to:
PAIN PRINCIPLE
P.O.Box 141251
Orlando,FL 32814
U.S.A.

Frank Stöver

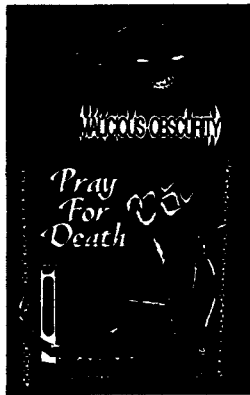


FANTASMAGORIA
Demo '94

From Bollnäs,Sweden's capital of heavy metal,hail FANTASMAGORIA and actually they rehearse together with MORGANA LEFAY and TAD MOROSE in the same house,so I bet you will expect some class here! And you really get it !These four maniacs are certainly heavier than their mates named before,but still capture a melodic aura to enrich their aggressive power-thrash-metal !They partly remind me on SACRED REICH or heavier TESTAMENT,and PANTERA not to be forgotten,but FANTASMAGORIA manage to speed themselves through these 27 min without sounding like a lame rip-off !Powerful vocals and sound,plus great musician-ship should mean a recommendation for everybody who st-

ill trusts in thrash metal !
Labels requested...\$6 I bet.
FANTASMAGORIA
c/o Robin Engström
Granbergsh.15c
82141 Bollnäs
Sweden

Leif Jensen



MALICIOUS OBSCURITY
Pray for death

If you get through all the demo reviews in this issue you will notice that there's only very few death metal tapes among them,so that might be the reason why it was some kind of pleasure to get PRAY FOR DEATH from the dutch deathers MALICIOUS OBSCURITY.This 5-track demo w/ its xeroxed,but nicely done cover,features pure death metal the ordinary way.Nothing outrageous but in times when almost every 2nd release these days tries to sound sooo goddamn weird,it was a pleasure listening to it... Don't know the price,but if you have the same feelings, try to get a copy of a real death metal demo again after all from this address:
Robert Gangelhof
Eckartseveg Zuid 181
5623 PB Eindhoven
Holland

Frank Stöver



EIBON
I'm the womb of rebirth

More and more death metal bands are trying desperately to add some non-metallic elements to their own compositions just exclusively in order to evade submerging in the loaded scene or even sometimes trying to hide that they don't exactly got the real death groove !Same thought came across my mind when listening to EIBON's 1st demotape,as they point it out quite often that their harp player(who by the way manages to sound like playing the mouth organ)enriches their sound...and yet he appears only for a really few seconds on 2 songs,so... What's the problem ? Simple thrash(death)metal w/ boring vocals and a terrible powerless production...but you're given an unspectacular harp also for the usual 10DM/\$6 . I suppose.Anyhow,I didn't want it to sound tooo hopeless,as I know they will try to arrange some catchier stuff soon.

EIBON
c/o Carsten Lutzke
Kornstr.94
38642 Goslar
Germany

Leif Jensen



TARGOST
From dream ...to reality

I notice to have discovered a german style of death metal and frankly,I would put it like a faceless mixture of american and swedish death with some trendy melancolic melodies.TARGOST are from Germany,but still are in the raver thrash - death vein and manage to sound quite average due to the fact that they mix superfluous death-boring passages with cool riffing also,and as you know,such a mixture doesn't work joyfully !TARGOST,don't being the tightest band on earth,don't present the necessary bemauling and deadly constructions on their 2nd demo FROM DREAM...TO REALITY and having also an odd vocalist,they drive themselves directly into oblivion . Sound is ok,lyrics are not . I just pray for a little bit of identity;they hopefully surprise us soon.10DM/\$6 to:
TARGOST
c/o Ralf Köhler
Tulpenveg 3
73061 Ebersbach
Germany

Leif Jensen

PLAYLISTS:

LEIF

- 1.SLAYER-all
- 2.LUCIFERION-Adv.for CD'95
- 3.PSYCHOTIC WALTZ-Mosquito CD
- 4.EDGE OF SANITY-all
- 5.SENTENCED-Amok CD
- 6.BALVAZ-Phlegm EP
- 7.CRADLE OF FILTH-The principle of evil...CD
- 8.FORBIDDEN-Distortion & Live
- 9.SOLITUDE AETURNUS-Through the darkest hour CD
- 10.PAVOR-A pale debilitating autumn CD

WERNER

- 1.2 UNLIMITED-all
- 2.BATHORY-all
- 3.EDVARD GRIEG-In the hall of the...
- 4.BURZUM-all
- 5.WAGNER-Ride of the valkyries
- 6.SLAYER-all
- 7.MUSSORGSKY-Pictures at an exhibition
- 8.MORBID ANGEL-all
- 9.TYPE O NEGATIVE-Bloody kisses
- 10.DANZIG-How the gods kill

MARY

- 1.REN & STIMPY-You Eediot
- 2.GEORGE CARLIN-Occupation:Foole
- 3.MONTHLY PYTHON-The off.soundtrack to 'The holy grail'
- 4.CHEECH & CHONG-Sleeping beauty
- 5.JOHN VALBY-Dirt
- 6.THE SINGING DOGS-Jingle bells
- 7.PARTRIDGE FAMILY-The Partridge Famaily Album
- 8.THE OSMONDS-Homemade
- 9.THE MONKEES-Greatest Hits
- 10.THE BEACH BOYS-Endless summer

FRANK

- 1.IMMOLATION-Promo'94
- 2.PAVOR-A pale debilitating autumn CD
- 3.LUCIFERION-Demonication CD
- 4.EMPEROR-In the nightside eclipse CD
- 5.UNANIMATED-Ancient god of evil CD
- 6.SIGH-Scorn defeat CD & Live
- 7.BEYOND NORTH-The dark is my father CD
- 8.ABSCESS-Demos
- 9.EMPYRIUM-Demo'94
- 10.DAMNATION-Divine darkness Demo



DISSOLVING OF PRODIGY
Echoes of my sadness

Doom-death is growing big in Eastern Europe and DISSOLVING OF PRODIGY from the Czech Republic express clearly with their 2nd demo ECHOS OF MY SADNESS that there is quality around within that genre in that country. Great sound and a nice printed b/w cover support the priorly impressive opinion I had from listening to their old MY DYING BRIDE-type of doom death with lots of violins, keyboards and whispering vocals to diversify the slow metal and its typical grunting. DOP are in the average 19 years old and their evolution has got to show if they just jumped on the hype wagon or if they take it seriously. Not revealing stuff but solid and classic doom/death in 52min/7 songs (little far-fetched!) available for an unknown price from a known address:

DOP
c/o Antonin Mlynek
F.Hrubina 1
73601 Havirov
Czech Republic

Leif Jensen

DEVON

DE V O N
Energy

German industrial? Hm... have serious doubts, but DEVON surprisingly unmask themselves being quite amusing! But it was generally strange to have a tape to review without further information than the beats per minute for each song which are printed on the cover... sick! Well, industrial is cold and cruel and hopeless and heavy but then I discover more emotion (expressed in relativity!) from other bands than DEVON, but it's probably not their concept, so what?! The production is really strong and apart from the fact that they are for too motionless for me, I bet it's outstanding for their genre! The vocals are clear and not distorted like most similar bands handle them, and further more they have really short lyrics! Wanna find out more about DEVON? Take the chance and ask for additional merchandise, they could probably have their own album recorded by now as this tape isn't actual at all anymore!

DEVON
c/o Marjan Tomas
Rothenfelderstr.17
33775 Versmald
Germany

Leif Jensen



MENTAL OPPRESSION

MENTAL OPPRESSION
Demo '94

Oh noooo, industrial! PITCH-SHIFTER is the only real thing in my ears and eyes, so that in fact I have my problems with other bands from the industrial machine! But MENTAL OPPRESSION are influenced by TYPE O NEGATIVE and CARMINA BURANA and I'm allowing myself to expect a special tape! MO don't only bore you with clinical effects, but have a "biological" metal-base as well (gt., dr., bs. and voc.) and consequently forbid me to call them pure "industrial". I don't pretend to sound dramatic, but their demo '94 is interesting without being my cup of tea! Surely a good investment of \$6 for industrial psychos.

Alexis Carton
149 rue Laurendeau
80000 Amiens
France

Leif Jensen



CAACRINOLAS
The egg

Having an outstanding but still bad-sounding monicker, CAACRINOLAS from France claim to be influenced by "every death metal band which changes death metal into something new" but don't necessarily sound attractive themselves! Their (basically) death metal music is far too hectic and packed with keyboard and samples and ends up being material which you soon wish to forget after a listening. Death and thrash with growls and incoherent additions, what's special here? I can't give you any decent answer, but in case you want to research, send \$5 for an egg to this young band (formed in '93)! Calm down, go wild!

CAACRINOLAS
c/o Oliver Graux
495 rue d'amour
80650 Vignacourt
France

Leif Jensen

SERENADE

S E R E N A D E
Let loose the beauty within
(Deviation Rec.)

I better review SERENADE's tape-mlp like a demo, as I don't see the point of a cassette mlp!! Do you? Anyhow, in case SERENADE are Scotland's best in doom death, I rather refuse to hear the following!! DEVIATION haven't chosen the best act to open up their career as record label, because SERENADE still need to develop and get themselves a real face! Slow riffs and grunted love lyrics won't make you the new doom death masters! Endurance, originality, better production and mainly a better vocalist are necessary to make them really to be taken seriously. By now, let it be said that the good guitar work save this nice packaged demo from my garbage can. There's actually too much doom death clones around and time will tell if SERENADE deserve your attention. \$5 or \$6 to:

DEVIATION REC.
49 Carfin Road
Newarthill
Motherwell
ML1 5JZ
Scotland

Leif Jensen

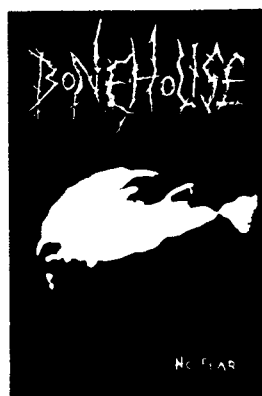
PROX FOUND

PROX FOUND
Shiva

Psychadelic crossover or crossover-space-rock are descriptions given autobiographically by PROX FOUND from southern Germany, and I don't want to disagree, because I wouldn't be able to analyze them any better myself. Not that they are right, but their first demo SHIVA simply isn't my kind of pot, so that I prefer to skip any subjective opinion here. I could inform you that they sound like a band which is bored of playing hardcore and tries now some acid rock. I don't know... and I don't care! 5 songs on SHIVA, demo cover is printed on glossy b/w paper, mediocre sound (still ok!) which sells for 6DM/\$4... oh... it's Vanessa Paradis on the tv-screen, gotta go! Write to Tinchen...

PROX FOUND
c/o Tina Rudlof
Friedenheimer Str.3
80687 München
Germany

Leif Jensen



BONEHOUSE
No Tear

BONEHOUSE from northern Germany don't take themselves seriously as band, apparently and their hardcore/death metal/punk crossover shouldn't be taken too seriously either. Can you expect a serious review then? Fuckin' no! And if you call yourself a "musical slut" (original label by the way) then you might want to cope w/ BONEHOUSE, but instead if you want to spend your seriously earned money (10DM/\$6) in a serious way, please search for a serious band on a different VOICES page. I don't think I will listen to their first official and "serious" demo again, but if you should be searching for a wild live act to perform your next party, get in contact and order these guys some drinks! Avenge sounding punkcore with grunt-vocals, you "fuckmachines" from:

BONEHOUSE
c/o Philip Wolter
Iltisstr.21
24143 Kiel
Germany

Leif Jensen

INQUISITION

Krank

Next band to be dissected is the austrian five-piece INQUISITION with their 2nd demo output, conceptionally entitled KRANK. Being formed in 1989 they do have an intelligent lyrical and musical concept, but I personally don't reveal myself in joy or pleasure when listening to KRANK. Leading keyboards and death metal is what INQUISITION present, coloured with a translated story by Franz Kafka (some reader might remember him?!?) for the lyrics to the trilogy called A TALE ABOUT AN UNATTAINABLE AIM and various other topics for the other songs. And it

doesn't only sound interesting, it certainly is, especially the keyboards, the "funk'n' swing" inputs and also the excellent sound and cover printing but the basics should count as well! And apart from the good ability on their instruments, the songs still have no lasting impact on me. In case I was asked at all... if INQUISITION sound like your flavour of cake drop these "sickos" AT580 or 15DM for their 55(!) different minutes of death metal. Oh, SLAYER are surely simple compared to INQUISITION but they always blow me away, so gimme HELL AWAIT!

INQUISITION
c/o Thomas Kaindl
Obere Bahnhofstr.9
2752 Wollersdorf
Austria

Leif Jensen



C R U S T
Alief

It necessarily has to be death grind if a band decides to choose the name CRUST, but the german youngsters (formed in '92) have opted to adorn their blasting music w/ slower, nearly groovy riffing in order to build up a "column" and not only grind our ears down. ALIEP(?) is basically nothing but a 5-track, 30min piece of devastating metal with both shrieking and lowest vocals which, surely doesn't distance itself from bands that have tried something similar before, but at least is a solid and dirty tape, which could make your next traffic-jam enjoyable. Sound is not the best, but it somehow fits to their music, being so rough and obscure. \$6/10, -DM to:

CRUST
c/o Matthias Mulder
Friesenstr.36
26721 Emden
Germany

Leif Jensen

DISJUSTICE

D I S J U S T I C E
Demo '94

A real newcomer band must be DISJUSTICE from my area, coz the members are like 15 years in average (!) and this fact let me have a look at their very first recording attempt with different eyes! The sound is surprisingly quite clear, not yet powerful but at least not chaotic mumbling! Listening to it, you will probably find out about their fave bands, which seem to be TIAMAT, DARK MILLENNIUM or CREMATORY, as they stick to their patterns, meaning lotsa acoustic guitars, lyrical concept and melodies. Another important aspect is that each side of the tape features a different vocalist and you generally shouldn't mess this tape with the common standards, as DISJUSTICE still need time to develop, grow together and find their own way, but the selftitled debut is a nice beginning to me! The packaging and all that is sadly quite poor, so that 8DM / \$5 should make it:

DISJUSTICE
c/o Björn Barz
Im Hagen 17
29699 Bomlitz
Germany

Leif Jensen

GANGRENA

GANGRENA
Infected Ideologies Promo '94

The metal underdog country Portugal once again! This outfit is called GANGRENA & the promotape I own is formed by three songs from their INFECTED IDEOLOGIES debut cd and another track taken from a comp.cd with portuguese metal acts. Musicallywise GANGRENA stick totally to the thrash metal tradition, if it wasn't for the deep-deeper - the deepest grunts and they do their job quite good and furthermore they have a fairly over-the-top sound considering their location. They already supported biggies like CARCASS and BRUTAL TRUTH/PUNGENT STENCH during their journey through Portugal and although I don't think GANGRENA are from out of space, you certainly get some cruel thrash'n'death here! \$12(Europe) or \$15(elsewhere) for their cd from their label:

MTM
Apt. 30072
1321 Lisboscodex
Portugal
Band Contact:
GANGRENA
Apt. 94
4415 Carvalhos
Portugal

Leif Jensen

ORPHANAGE

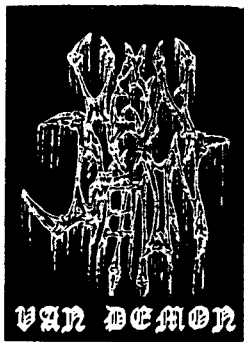


ORPHANAGE
Druid Demo

This is without doubt one of the best demos I've heard in a really long time!!! ORPHANAGE from the Netherlands is a pretty new band to the scene, but they already have a very unique way of writing! It was not a surprise to me that they already got featured on the 6th edition of the D.S.F.A. compilation and will even do a full-length album for DSFA Records pretty soon as they simply rule! They've got a highly professional production that could easily be released on cd as well and the songs... Well, it is not easy to find the right words for it as they are so impressive: ORPHANAGE's original style has to be extremely brutal doomy death metal, BUT it changes with a lot of other influences in every of the 4 tunes. The opening track ODYSSEY has some melodic stuff in it that also could be from the ALAN PARSONS PROJECT ("Eye in the sky"), while REQUIEM has got a massive choir-like vocal part that sounds pretty classical inspired. The title track DRUID features some jazzy influences and in VICIM OF FEAR you'll get some nice acoustic stuff with an even nicer female voice on top of it before it turns into brutality again! Now!! Unfortunately I don't know the price of it, but I guess 10,-DM/\$6 will help here, so write and support 'em:

ORPHANAGE
Gaasterland 8-D
NL-3524 CA Utrecht
The Netherlands

Frank Stöver



VAN DEMON
Demo '93

I got this demo from one of our readers, who was complaining about the fact, that VAN DEMON don't get that much press, so here we go! The band is located in Australia & this is already a quite old release by now, but the eight featured tracks are still worth to check out. The first thing you'll notice is their gory logo design and it fits perfect to their brutalizing cool death metal, that has obviously gotten influenced by the style that mostly is created in New York's surroundings. VAN DEMON are not as fast as most of the just mentioned bands, it's more in the midtempo groovy style w/ great melodic solos here and there, some grindparts and a deep growling vocalist. The production is rough and the lyrics are included... the only thing I don't know is the price, so you have to write and ask for yourselves:

Andrew Hayes
28 Foote St. Hadspen
Tasmania, Australia 7290

Frank Stöver



KADATH
Face your death Demo

Hah, never talk shit about the german underground scene cause there's alot of really cool bands overhere! One of them is KADATH from Aachen. Their debut demo FACE YOUR DEATH features 7 tracks (and an Intro) and it's really a pleasure to listen to them, cause KADATH is pretty heavy influenced by extremely brutal death metal with some grind parts and the guitars are almost all the time quite groovy! Shreds! The old vibe is in all of their tunes and there are thrash as well as death metal roots to be heard. The rough sound fits perfect (which I cannot say about the purple logo on their pro-printed cover, urgh!) and 10,-DM (Germany) or \$6 (world) isn't much, so feel free to write to:

Harc Leclere
Haarener Gracht 32
52080 Aachen
Germany

Frank Stöver

NOX MORTIS
Wald der Angst Demo

45 minutes of excellent music! This is my conclusion, after I heard the great demo of Germany's hopefulls NOX MORTIS! After reading their demo-title and noticing the use of the german language in particular, I immediately expected a black metal band here, but I was WRONG!! NOX MORTIS continue where THE GATHERING left off, when they released ALWAYS! The main difference between both releases is quite simple: NOX MORTIS are far more exciting in their demo-stage than THE GATHERING has ever been! Lot's of really moody keyboards, powerful (mostly slow-motion) riffing and a good

production and on top a vocalist that sings in a brutal death metal style! The whole tape comes with a full colour cover and 12,-DM is almost nothing, so get this demo as soon as you can, cause I'll bet, we will hear of these guys alot more in the near future!

Jan Simmen
Mönchhof 18
99891 Tabarz
Germany

Frank Stöver

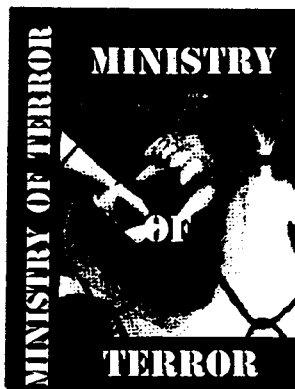


PROFANITY
The transitory Demo

Another new german death metal band, another review! Formed back in the yearbreak of '93/'94 and their ages varying from 17 - 19, you shouldn't expect that much! Their midpaced (melodic) death tracks were recorded by themselves, which in this case stands for a clear but not all-crushing sound, anyway, times better than most self-produced stuff we use to get. The limited vocal-sound and the well-known, poor acoustic passages are the worst points I can find and apart from that, you get some catchy riffs and additional keyboards. Nobody get me wrong, but if you still think that I will make you "outstanding" to include keyboards/violins or female vocals to average death metal music, you definitely slept for too long! I still love those additions, in a moody way of using, but it won't save a band from unoriginality, at least not anymore! Well, just my opinion. As far as PROFANITY goes not a spectacular release, but a very solid one. I suppose 10,-DM should do:

PROFANITY
c/o Thomas Sartor
Steinfeldstr. 8
86405 Neitingen
Germany

Leif Jensen



MINISTRY OF TERROR
Demo '94

And another demo out of the neverending underground explosion in the Netherlands! This one comes from a 5-piece with the "nice" monicker MINISTRY OF TERROR and what I already mentioned in the ORPHANAGE review fits here as well: the sound is so perfect, the production so powerful, it could be a cd! Musically this is of course a "little bit" different to ORPHANAGE's material as MINISTRY OF TERROR are on the brutal thrash type of way! These guys are highly talented musicians, really aggressive stuff with some hard-

core influences (urgh!) in their vocal-style as well & social awareness lyrics. So, if you dig CHAOS A.D. and ERASE, why not adding a perfect mixture of it to your demo collection? It goes for 13,-DM from their german distributor:

CONCRETE RECORDS
P.O. Box 1421
77845 Achern
Germany

bandcontact:

MINISTRY OF TERROR
P.O. Box 206
9411 AE BEILEN
The Netherlands

Frank Stöver



TORTHARRY
When the memories are free
(Taga Rec.)

TORTHARRY is a four-piece out of the Czech Republik & WHEN THE MEMORIES ARE FREE is their debut album. But these guys are not new to the scene because of that, cause they already started out in 1984 (!!) under the monicker IMAGO, changed name and lineup a few times, released three demos and got featured on some compilation albums. This first real album features 10 songs (1 bonus trk. on the cd) and the band has alot of potential, great musicianship and even the production is good (although my dubbed copy has a pretty poor sound but I can still hear what it is all about, so...). The only thing I really dislike about it, is the annoying production of the drummer's snare drum... urgh! TORTHARRY can be categorized as thrashy death metal somewhere in between the likes of Obituary and Sepultura, so nothing wrong with that, huh?! And the album can be obtained in Germany through the guys from Evil Message Mag. (MC for 13,-DM/CD for 23,-DM). Write to:

EVIL MESSAGE MAG.
c/o Christian Otto
Kirschgarten 2
34613 Schwalmstadt 21
Germany

Frank Stöver



GUTWRENCH
Beneath skin Demo

In 1993 GUTWRENCH put out a demo entitled WITHER WITHOUT YOU and got also featured on the ANTICHRIST SUPERSTAR compilation cd with an unreleased track. Now it was time to come up with something new and their 6-trk. demo # 2 is neither bad nor good... Just some ordinary death metal w/ extreme influences from acts like SINISTER/SUFFOCATION, good musicianship and a deep brutal voice. It's still enjoyable though, but you have to come up with a little bit more special these days... 13,-DM to their german distributor service:

EVIL MESSAGE MAG.
c/o Christian Otto
Kirschgarten 2
34613 Schwalmstadt 21
Germany

Frank Stöver



G O D E N

Darkness over paradise Demo

This is the 2nd demo of GODEN from the Netherlands. I'm not familiar with their debut release, but this one here has 6 tracks on it, all of 'em performed in a decent way & mostly on the thrasher side of things. The vocalist is in the Benediction direction and it has got a colour cover... (the tape, not the vocalist) Nothing special, but for all of you interested maniacs, here's their address:

(price: 12,50 fl. / \$7)
GODEN
Bakelsedijk 82 A
5701 HD Helmond
Holland

Frank Stöver

I N T H E W O O D S

Isle of men Demo

Okay, okay, this is an old one by now, but due to the fact that IN THE WOODS still sent it to us, we'll do a review on it anyway! ISLE OF MEN is probably one of the most successful demos to come out of Norway as the band already sold 1800 copies of it!! An album will be out on MISCARRIAGE REC. these days, so you should know what going on here... IN THE WOODS might be categorized as black metal, but I doubt that they're happy with that classification as they have alot more to offer. A great sound/production, really unique compositions, lots of atmospheric parts and brilliant musician ship can be heard in all of the songs (running time: 40(!) minutes). The band is extremely tight and powerful and the vocals are i.n.t.e.n.s.e and very high-pitched!! If you are used to black metal stuff and if you are on the lookout for something a little bit more over the top, this is a must-have release for you! And don't forget to keep an eye out for the album!!

IN THE WOODS
P.O. Box 7093, Vestheiene
4628 KR Sand
Norway

no price mentioned, but it's also available through the german distribution address for 13,-DM:

CONCRETE RECORDS
P.O. Box 1421
77845 Achern
Germany

Frank Stöver



M I S C A R R I A G E

Blutsyndrom Demo

One of the most active and professional bands in the german underground jungle is without doubts MISCARRIAGE! Formed back in '89, I can now present their 4th demo (cd - advance ??) entitled BLUTSYNDROM! These guys (+ female - back-vocalist) really think about what they want to create and offer 6 tracks (+ nice intro) in a good sound quality, jumping from thrash to doom metal with dark but also clear vocals, interesting and intelligent lyrics, a copied (coloured) cover, great arrangements, lots of samples, keyboards (excellent ones, by the way!) and even a

keyboard song with german lyrics is included. What else can I tell you? Should be something in here for every type of taste, but the mixture makes it hard for me to really get into this tape! There is absolutely nothing wrong with BLUTSYNDROM but to me it lacks of... ahhh... I don't know! Try to find it out by yourself, first sending your money (10-12 DM?) to the hardworking MISCARRIAGE. Dare to go for something special out of the death metal cage...

MISCARRIAGE
c/o Sven Neumann
Iserlohveg 15
34346 Hann. Münden
Germany

Leif Jensen

WAR CRIME

WAR CRIME

4 trk. Demo '94

Ahhh, some real metal has also managed to get in here this time again! I'm totally impressed by a 4-track demo I recently got hold of by the Californian 3-piece WAR CRIME. These lads have managed to put out some exciting metal tunes, totally unimpressed by any fashion that has infected the metal scene over the last 10 years. Their stuff still sounds like all the great old heavy / power metal releases that came out in the beginning to mid 80's and even their production is in the same vein. Simply great! The demo opener NIGHTMARES is an uptempo track with a catchy chorus and great melodyline and it already was featured on a compilation cd put out by Perris Records. Probably the best tune on this tape. Next comes HELL BELOW ZERO, a midpaced headbanger, with a cool groove, that reminds me alot on classic stuff by Sweden's old heroes TORCH! NEVER WORTH THE PRICE has a great hookline, but a weak chorus and is not really the strongest song the band has to offer, while BOUND FOR GLORY closes the tape in a really powerful way again, featuring great guitarwork from ex-MALTEZE guitarist Steven Genker. But the most impressive person in WAR CRIME is vocal - ist/bassist A.J. Schad, cause without his outstanding power voice, the majority of the band's material would sometimes sound a bit average, cause there's not really much happening in the pretty simple structured songs. But the unity of the band make this demo a really recommendable release. No price mentioned, but ask them at this address:

WAR CRIME
4352 Pickwick Circle
Suite 310
Huntington Beach, CA 92649
U.S.A.

Frank Stöver



Desaster

Lost in the ages Demo

Holy shit - the debut demo of Germany's DESASTER was just reviewed in our last issue and here's already the follow-up release. It seems that they progressed quite heavily in every way, cause the production and packaging is really good (full colour - cover with single bandmember shots, but no lyrics) and the music has gotten more experienced and alot tighter than on the FOG OF AVALON demo back then. Musically this is pure black metal, but really well done; no crappy stuff or cheap reh. tapes with poor musicianship! There's six songs on it and it's about 30min long, so don't hesitate to send your 10,-DM/\$8 (or for the people in Eastern Europe 7,-DM/\$5) to the following address:

M. Kuschke
Jahnstr. 76
56218 Mülheim-K.
Germany

Frank Stöver

abscess

A B S C E S S

Abscess & R.S.B.N. (Demos)

Yep, Chris Reifert is back w/ a great new band that carries the spirit of AUTOPTSY in the form of these two ABSCESS demos! And they are sooo godly! Unfortunately the sound on the debut-demo is a little dull and overmodulated, but the music itself is just awesome! If you enjoyed the brutal style of AUTOPTSY, Chris' sick vocal style and the total rough sounding productions, you're gonna dig this one also!!! Each demo has 6 tracks on it and the second one has got a better sound, plus a potential hit by the name of SUICIDE FUCK! You can easily hear how much pleasure they had while recording those tunes, it's totally Raw, Sick & Brutal Noise!!! (which gives you a clue what the letters stand for...) By the time this issue is out, there's gonna be a third demo, so ask for that as well. Each one sells for \$5(USA)/\$6(elsewhere) from:

ABSCESS
P.O. Box 2257
Benicia, CA 94510
U.S.A.

Read the AUTOPTSY - interview in this issue to find out more about those guys...

Frank Stöver

PREMONITION VOL. 3

Compilation Tape

Usually I don't like compilation tapes that much although they often could be considered as a helping hand for unexperienced death and black metal fans.

This one here is a great example of a really high quality compilation in every sense! It comes with a full - colour cover, features all band-addresses and even some of them with photos inside. There's 19 tracks on it and the playing time is approx. 90min!! I could easily recommend you side one from start to finish, as it only has killer acts on it (for example: ALTAR, INQUISITOR, PENTACLE INVERTED and so on and so on!!). Side two is a little weaker, but that's only my personal taste. Check this tape out, cause the recording quality is way above the ordinary compilation-tapes and it goes for ONLY 7,-DM (Germany)/\$5 (Europe)/\$5+2IRC's (overseas)!!!

PREMONITION
c/o Michael Ülschlegel
Bad Stebener Str. 4
95119 Naila 2
Germany

Frank Stöver

DAMNATION

D A M N A T I O N

Divine darkness

This is a 3-piece from Sweden, featuring Richard of DISMEMBER on guitar/vocals and Peter of UNANIMATED on drums (the line-up is completed by Björn on bass). Their debut demo consists of 3 own compositions that musically have some hints of DISSECTION (guitar-wise/vocals) and ordinary black metal (fast straight forward drumming and vocals once again!), but it is really well done! The 4th track is a great cover of BATHORY's THE RETURN OF DARKNESS AND EVIL and it was transformed into their own style, so check it out!! The demo sells for \$6(world) and comes with a black xeroxed cover... My cassette was bloody red! Don't know if all of them are like that... Looks cool, sounds cool! Get it!!!
Björn Gramell
Ekensbergsv. 128
11769 Stockholm
Sweden

Frank Stöver



S E P H I R O T H

Demo II

Due to the fact that I wasn't able to re-create their demo title on a typewriter, I simply called it demo II... The original title can be found below their logo... SEPHIROTH are hailing from the U.S. of A. and this 24 track recording consists of 4 new songs that have been recorded after they had to face a couple of line-up changes. Their music's great brutal US-death metal in the old tradition, which means, intense but really cool vocals (no harmonized crap!), lot of variety, good musicianship & production plus a highly professional packaging (like it is used to be on PAGAN REC.) They do not deliver anything really new, but at least their stuff was able to impress me anyway, so \$5(world) to:

PAGAN RECORDS
P.O. Box 12
86-105 Swiecie 5
Poland
band contact:

SEPHIROTH
1609 Lincoln Way West
Apt. A
Mishawaka, IN 46544
U.S.A.

Frank Stöver



E M P Y R I U M

Demo '94

I haven't been impressed by a german band for quite a while like I have been impressed by EMPYRIUM's debut demo! This young 2-piece is only around for 2 years now and their music was already able to carry me away into a new dimension of dark music! Romantic, dark & mystic stuff with influences from classical music as well as black, thrash, doom or heavy metal, yeah even DEAD CAN DANCE was named in their info-sheet. The easiest (but WRONG!) way to describe them would be to name KATATONIA's direction on DANCE OF THE... as a major impact on their songwriting, but EMPYRIUM are already alot more unique by now! There's lotsa feelings and a warm, but very dark at-

mosphere created !Simply gods !I hope to have'em in # 7 with a big one !Write to the following address(12,-DM/\$8) and order this demo, cause you need to be prepared !!!!
 Markus Stock
 Hauptstr.17
 97640 Hendungen
 Germany

Frank Stöver



EN TRAFIS
 Into out

These canadian youngsters are also featured with an interview in this issue, so I'm gonna keep this short. Their demo features highly technical death/thrash metal with a heavy influence from earlier ATHEIST and the likes. Great potential here and the drumming is just INCRE-DIBLE !!The vocals change from deep growls to aggressive shouting and you will also recognize some jazzy influences in the music (but not as weak as PESTILENCE !) I personally feel connected to New Jersey's finest MASS PSYCHOSIS here and there ... Yeah,I'm just mad !The cover is ugly as it can be,but the music simply KILLS !You will find their address in the interview,the demo is available for our german readers from our address for 12,-DM! GET IT !!

Frank Stöver

CEREBROCID
 Total insane

I wasn't that much impressed by these dudes here...CERE - BROCID play ordinary death metal with some melancholic guitar & keyboard melodies . You'll get 5 songs (+ Intro/Outro) and a full colour, but stupid childish looking coverartwork...All in all nothing special and not enough to impress.10,-DM(+ postage) to:

Torsten Kohl
 Marktstr.18
 04445 Liebertwolkwitz
 Germany

Frank Stöver



HELLWITCH
 Anthropophagi

It's good to see that some of the older bands are still around,not giving up after a few downs...HELLWITCH from Florida is one of 'em and this 5-track demo is the 1st release since the band parted ways with Lethal Records in Austria.Among the featured tunes is also TORTURE CHAMBER,a "golden oldie" if my mind doesn't play tricks on me.Pat once again has a new line-up,but musically this is more HELLWITCH than the last mcd,cause it's more in the fast/hysterical direction again and Pat's unique vocal-style is very much present again !It comes with a xeroxed inlay and Giger coverartwork and sells for \$6(USA)/\$7(rest of the world)at this address:

HELLWITCH
 P.O.Box 2341
 Hollywood,FL 33022
 U.S.A.

Frank Stöver



HIDEOUS SUN DEMONS
 Mindcontrol

Yeah,you got it !Strange monicker = strange band ! This is NO DEATH, or BLACK and it ain't GRIND either,but I really enjoyed the overall feeling of the 5 songs on this debut effort from this dutchmen.I would consider'em as a band that has gotten a lot of influences from ordinary metal(mainly SABBATH), some power metal,progressive music and even hints of SO-UNDGARDEN meets PSYCHOTIC WALTZ !Sounds weird,eh ?Yeah you should check'em out if you are openminded enough.It has a high quality packaging and sound and the musician-ship is really good !It is available for \$6/10DM from the band's address(But if I remember correctly, CONCRETE RECORDS distribute it over here,so ask them as well):

Eric Jongsmas
 Koopmansgracht 8
 8606 AA Sneek
 Holland

Frank Stöver



NUM SKULL
 Promo '94

This is a compilation of all the never tunes, NUM SKULL have come up with in the last year.2 of 'em were featured on the dutch compilation cd HISTORY OF THINGS TO COME and another one is from the split-7" with SEA OF TRANQUILITY...leaving this tape with 3 previously unreleased tracks.They all prove very much that NUM SKULL have turned into a pure DEATH metal act by now and at least myself likes that new stuff very much !OK, their older material might have been more unique and more special to a few people,but nevertheless,this is good stuff! As far as I know,this is not for sale,but if you're going to support those guys in any way,I'll bet,they will have a copy for you.Just ask and read the interview somewhere else in this issue.

Frank Stöver

I L B R E D

I L B R E D
 Demo '94

ILBRED from Illinois is also in this issue with an interview,so we'll keep this short.They have released a professional 3-track demo which has got a great production, good musicianship and features groovy death metal with some thrash metal hints here and there(especially when it comes to the vocals).Mostly, they play very midpaced, nothing really new, but still way above the average !Excellent stuff that comes with a professional printed cover (w/lyrics & a bandshot) and a pro-duplicated tape ! Read the interview for further details...

Frank Stöver



I M M O L A T I O N
 1994 Promotional Demo

There's only a FEW bands around these days that still remember the exact(!)meaning of the term DEATH METAL !IMMOLATION is luckily one of them !This 1994 Promotional-Tape contains 3 brandnew tunes of New York's finest and will definitely be featured on their upcoming second album !It really made my stereo go berzerk,I can tell you,cause there's not many bands around anymore tuning that low and having such a GODLY brutal PURE DEATH METAL vocalist as these guys ! Musically they managed to continue exactly where they left off on DAWN OF POSSESSION !AWAY FROM GOD,the first song on the tape is also the fastest one,while TOWARDS EARTH is a little bit more technical,kinda like in the THOSE LEFT BEHIND direction and CHRIST'S CAGE has the most brutal 'chorus' if you could call it that way...Their songwriting is still very unique,same goes for the production and you easily recognize them as IMMOLATION after hearing a few seconds only,which is cool ! As soon as the band has inked a new deal,MORBID ANGEL better watch out,cause these guys are coming after you !!

Frank Stöver



MANIFEST

Cross of Four/Promo 12/94

Ok,here we go again ! CROSS OF FOUR is the newest promotional release of our dutch buddies from MANIFEST ! They have gone through a line-up change since they put out their HAGRIDDEN demo,and got rid of their old vocalist, which is too sad,cause this musically highly appreciated stuff is lacking a little in the old brutality.They are still a must for people into technical metal,but the vocals are way more into the thrash/hardcore direction,so I guess they are trying to leave their death metal roots behind now completely. We will see about that later... As this one's not for sale, you should get their HAGRIDDEN demo from us,cause we have a few copies left of it and it sells for 12,-DM. If you wanna get in touch with the band directly,write to :

A.Heyden
 Corn.Houtmanstraat 76
 2593 RJ Den Haag
 Holland

Frank Stöver

COMPOS MENTIS

Creation undone

COMPOS MENTIS ?Oh yeah, we had their first demo reviewed in the 3rd VOICES and the general impression still is positive.They seem to have changed their death metal mood,as this is(contrary to their debut)pretty melodic, letting names like BOLI THRONER,AMORPHIS or a softer version of early GOREPEST appearing in my head.The sound is again excellent,real-ly clear and brutal at the same time and the professional full-coloured cover does its work as well !! And additionally these flying dutchmen have a really sweet small booklet with the lyrics...but returning to the

music:mid-paced to fast death is what you get,performed outrageously good and some obscure vocals !Surely not the most original,but one of the steadiest "pure" death demos I heard lately.Holland again...10,-DM/\$6...

COMPOS MENTIS
 c/o Marco van der Meer
 Beatrixstraat 119
 2625 BJ Poeldijk
 Holland

Leif Jensen



SOPHISTICATION
 Comp.Tape Vol. I

Another compilation tape is SOPHISTICATION,but exclusively concentrated on their national austrian scene. You are offered 14 partly totally unknown bands,to give you some examples:EVOCATION,APHIS,BELPHEGOR,ABIGOR,CREMA-TION,SUMMONING and some other fellows.It would take me too far,if I give you a particular opinion of every contained band,but I can assure you that SOPHISTICATION is more than the best way to find out about the fast growing austrian underground, talking of doom,death & black metal!The layout is unfortunately quite poor and the sound is not all the way acceptable and enjoyable but you are also given a xeroxed booklet with infos about the featured acts !\$6/9,-DM to :
 SOPHISTICATION
 c/o Klaus Pichler
 Sonnenrain 10
 A-8750 Judenburg
 Austria

Leif Jensen

THE RITUAL TAPE II

THE RITUAL TAPE II
 Comp.Tape '94

Compilation tapes are always stressful to present and review,so instead of wasting my time,I'll give you the facts THE RITUAL has begun, with its second attack featuring a lot of interesting bands to me,because I mostly never heard them before,namely the devilish EVOL(with timing problems and female vox!), MEDICINE DEATH,KRABATHOR, PREDATOR(Isr.),KORSAKOV and the darkest from Sweden TRISTITIA(album soon through HOLY REC.)to point out the better ones and then also MANGLED,BLOODY RITUAL,AMAYMON and KAWITZ which don't impress me excessively!Anyhow,a great investment,as it will give you a basic idea of what some unknown underground acts are about, with a good sound.\$6 to:

THE RITUAL
 Nieuwe Langedijk 106
 2611 WN Delft
 Holland

Leif Jensen

POLLUTED INHERITANCE

POLLUTED INHERITANCE
Demo '94

Fortunately POLLUTED INHERITANCE are still around!! West Virginia turned out as a flop but POLLUTED INHERITANCE are back and stronger than ever! I don't think I need to introduce you in an explicit way about them, but still I need to point out that the Demo '94 seems to be their most constant, powerful and mature release, and certainly a total killer within their genre. They still keep the highest technical level, stressing to be totally outstanding musicians and know how to fascinate with their thrash death metal! A perfect sound & their skilling voracity and mindblowing impressiveness should make a total classic of this tape! I see the day coming when POLLUTED INHERITANCE get the attention they surely deserve!! Prepare yourself for an in-depth interview with these guys in the next VOICES issue & better you order your copy of this giant tape (best coloured cover, four songs etc.) as soon as ever possible!! I bet \$6 or 7 will help you out...
POLLUTED INHERITANCE
c/o Mennode Fouw
Dokweg 51
4537 RR Terneuzen
Holland

Leif Jensen



TERRORZONE
Tape II

Another classic thrash metal outfit from Brazil are TERRORZONE which formed in 1991 and are devoted to keep the flag of heavy thrash metal straight in their hands! Their second demo includes 3 own songs of timeless, melodic and well-played thrash, which doesn't necessarily need the "bonus" that they come from South America to be liked. They know how to play and especially how to arrange! The sound isn't the most powerful, but at least clear and in case you need something special to come up with interest, I can inform you, that their 3rd own song has lyrics in their native language and then the 4th song unmasks being the ACCEPT cover PRINCESS OF THE DAWN! I bet the usual \$6 should do for this nice demo with its printed b/w cover. Prepare to enter the TERRORZONE...

TERRORZONE
A/C Paulao
Rua Lavras, 4320
Conj. Pirangi-Neopolis
Natal-RN
CEP 59.086-410, Brazil

Leif Jensen

INTO OBLIVION

INTO OBLIVION
Demo I

Thrashcore with doom and death metal influences, does it sound modern to you? I can assure you that INTO OBLIVION ARE modern, combining those styles, but they should've probably stressed the HC some more, as their first demo has a quite dominant HC-influence! Anyhow, they still manage to sound brutal, have rough vocals and partly the songs come up with an emotional and depressive edge, which is pretty good! INTO OBLIVION are on the way to find their own style and in my opinion they are following the correct signs! They

are young and dedicated to compose some music that fits to the current situation on the market(...), so what's wrong here? No big mistake, but then I find their newest song being the one they point out to be their direction to follow... well, I thought that the mentioned song LEISTUNG was the worst of the 4 appearing! Maybe I just didn't get the point?! German lyrics suck!!! 10DM/\$6 to:

INTO OBLIVION
c/o Marcus Noll
Gropiusring 7
22309 Hamburg
Germany

Leif Jensen

Götterdämmerung

Weltenbrand

I still remember Werner Nyar Linke, as I used to be in contact with him and I even contributed some stuff to his COTM zine years ago. He always told me that he was on the search for a band to really work with and he apparently found what he was looking for: the first GÖTT-ERDÄMMERUNG demo lies on my desk, Nyar contributes to VOICES from now on, and you obviously want to read about their music finally?! DARK METAL is their weapon and they vary from slow to fast stressing always an atmospheric edge within their sound. Mechanic drum-work, leading bass-playing, black metal guitars and vocals mixed into the background all in an obscure conception for you, lost souls to be obtained for 10,-DM/\$6. I better check out their following release to be out of doubts!

GÖTT-ERDÄMMERUNG
c/o Werner Linke
Klopp 4
55471 Fronhofen
Germany

Leif Jensen



HELLSPAWN
Demo I

Finally Brazil again! HELLSPAWN are a bunch of death metal maniacs who formed as SANCTIFIER in 1990 and even released the demo I own under that monicker. Nowadays they are HELLSPAWN and pass a really devilish message, full of dark death metal w/ grinding drumming, low vocals and wicked and twisted guitar playing in a really good sound quality, so it might be attractive for you as well. A thrashy CANNIBAL CORPSE w/ some MORBID ANGEL guitar influences should describe the matter. The greek Molon Lave Rec. is supposed to release an EP, I heard. Anyway, try to get in contact:
HELLSPAWN
c/o Marcos Flávio
Rua Rio Azul, 7928
Cidade Satélite
Natal-RN 59038-340
Brazil

Leif Jensen

B E S E E C H

Last chapter

Howdy, I really dig this tape! BESEECH are the ones to thank for LAST CHAPTER, their "new" demo (so what has been before?) and they are more than right describing themselves with the catchwords: Melodic, harmonic, atmospheric, heavy! Sweden isn't dead yet, I've noticed and I also hope that this tape isn't their last either (calling your demo LAST CHAPTER you can never know!). The music is a sort of really melodic slow death metal with massive influences of pure heavy metal adorned with gracious vocals in the vein of the new PARADISE LOST

ones! BESEECH have an undeniable charm through their deep-guitar work and giant leads, the good and to-the-music-fitting production and specially those vocals with class! You can follow the lyrics and still the vocals sound obscure and mystical (the ones on the first side I mention!). They seem to have listened to CEMETARY somehow, but that doesn't mean that they are really close to each other. Violins, keyboards and moody samples help to claim this demo as a real treasure!

Yours for \$5+IRC:
BESEECH
c/o Jürgen Gredåker
Svedjegatan 2c
50253 Borås
Sweden

Leif Jensen

FORLORN

FORLORN
Waves of sorrow

By coincidence I was given the WAVES OF SORROW demo by the Swedish ragers FORLORN during my last trip to their country, and I'm more than happy because I really enjoy the 5 featured tracks of doom and death! Take care and don't mix it up with slow death metal... it's more like fast and brutal death music with clear SOLITUDE AETURNUS like vocals and then some real doom passages which really get to kick my ass! They also brilliantly incorporate some demented screaming which sounds really evil and fits perfectly to their melodic atmosphere, in contrast! The sound is really good and it's only on 8-tracks excluding the opening-track, which was recorded on 24-tracks 16 months before the rest of the demo! I have no idea if I go too far saying that FORLORN are a great death metal band which has switched over to the melodic doom vein and also know to please there! One of the best demos I've reviewed for VOICES # 6... have no clue about the price, better you write and ask as they must be cool guys, I presume... 34 lovely minutes!

FORLORN
c/o Daniel Bryntse
Runstensvägen 77
80433 Gävle
Sweden

Leif Jensen



NILE
Debut Demo '94

NILE are one of those bands I really love to find in between all those other generic death metal demos to be reviewed. This American trio delivered on their very first demo - attempt a really well-produced and performed example of how you can differ from the masses without losing catchiness. NILE stick to the fat thrash riffing and add such a big amount of groove into their songs, that they make it difficult for me to give you a comparable band... maybe a faster and weirder CROWBAR version they are... Could also give you at least a slight direction vocal-wise (partly switching over to deep some more!). I would claim them as "unique", but still they really do bring their heads further than others and surely deserve your attention, because in addition they have a professionally printed colour cover and lyrics and a great sound... oh, and even a low price with \$5! SURROUNDED BY FRIGHT and MECCA are my fave tracks here, being doomier type of efforts but I enjoy the other tracks as well and so could you! Write...

NILE
105 Edgewood Dr.
Greenville, SC 29605
U.S.A.

Leif Jensen

VORACIOUS HATE

VORACIOUS HATE
Existence

These guys explain the first word in their monicker hailing from a DEATH ANGEL song, but still they are heavier balancing somewhere between thrash and death metal, being the vocals which let me think about death metal! Nothing outstanding but then again really rough and to-the-bone music presented with a great printed coloured cover and solid sound. Generally, apart from the fact that VORACIOUS HATE (formed back in '91, by the way) are not a revolutionary band, the only negative aspect I'm able to find are song timing difficulties which sadly come through from time to time! Anyhow, even clear vocals and a nice intro at the end of side B, so pay 10DM/\$6 for EXISTENCE in case I should have made you curious (I fear not!)

VORACIOUS HATE
c/o A. Rung
J.-Offenbach-Str. 1
76744 Würth
Germany

Leif Jensen

NOISE FOREST
Demo '94

Hey, it won't help to make a review any better if you send two copies of your demo to a zine, but I couldn't care less if you choose to.... Well, NOISE FOREST from Northern Germany at least come up with "abnormal" music, which is on one hand interesting but then again lacks of consistence for me to really get into their tape. I could state them as displayed metalcore with industrial influences and dark vocals, but the description still would remain unsatisfactory. What are they trying to prove? The thrash basics are the most visible here and the vocalist reminds me fondly of someone... well, dead-end for me, as you might notice! Not catchy enough but probably interesting for you, if you can spend 10,- DM for such a confusing release. Not my cup of tea, but definitely not every-day's metal of the usual boring class!

NOISE FOREST
c/o Ollie Fröhlich
A.d. Braken 24
24248 Hönkeberg
Germany

Leif Jensen

MAXIMUS CRISPUS

MAXIMUS CRISPUS
Lost sheep to shepherd

A totally unusual demo to be found in VOICES is MAXIMUS CRISPUS' second release entitled LAST SHEEP TO SHEPARD Title and cover already warned me to be dealing with non-death-stuff, but I didn't expect their explanation "we like to mix different moods in our music" being stressed so much here. They cover all from punk to viberock and metalcore, basically sounding "soft" for our blasted ears! I personally can relate to their style of music and let you know that they are not bad, but a little lame and the vocals could be more intense. I can't praise MAXIMUS CRISPUS (stupid name somehow) as I know there are better (far better) acts in their category, but perhaps you wanna find out what the mysterious music description is all about. \$4 postage paid for this young band (formed yesterday, end of '93)

MAXIMUS CRISPUS
P.O. Box 291962
Kettering, OH 45429
U.S.A.

Leif Jensen

DISMEMBER

It's been really quiet in the DISMEMBER camp for quite a long time now and nothing really has happened since we featured them in our 3rd issue. So, we had to meet up w/ drummer Fred once again to find out, that there's a new DISMEMBER album on it's way. Fred started our conversation by telling us about the reasons for the long silence...

"We were supposed to release a mini-cd in spring '94 and we started to record and everything after we got back from our european tour with MORBID ANGEL in Fall '93. But then we realised that we were supposed to release that mini-cd in the summertime & that was the same time we're releasing INDECENT & OBSCENE and it's not too good to release an album when everybody's on vacation. So we thought that we perhaps should save those 4 songs, because we were working on new songs for the album too and we wanted to record the album in the summer of '94. We had the studio booked up and then we thought, well if the mini-cd comes out when we start recording the album, then we will only have like 8 new songs on the album and that's too little. So, we took all the songs and instead we recorded the whole album with 12 songs. And we took 2 from the album and 1 song that is not gonna be released elsewhere and put it out on a cd single which is gonna be out in February. It is called CASKET GARDEN. When we get back from this tour (DISMEMBER had played a couple of NBR festivals in January-Ed.), we're mixing the 11 songs for the album. So, the problem was, that the studio where we're recording, the Sunlight Studio, where I work as a sound-engineer... we had like double booking schedule, double a year, so everything always has been pushed forward. This is a quite important record for DISMEMBER, so we thought that we'd better wait until all the smaller bands have finished in the studio, so we could go on and really concentrate on it." The album's supposed to be out sometime in April & according to Fred, the title is gonna be MASSIVE KILLING CAPACITY...



"The single is gonna be called CASKET GARDEN, that's the title track from the single and on that single is also gonna be a song called WAR DEAD, which is also on the MASSIVE... album and one unreleased song called JUSTIFY BY HOMICIDE, as a bonus track and on the album we have like ON FROZEN FIELDS, TO THE BONE, CRIME DIVINE and some more tracks, one instrumental track too."

The last DISMEMBER album offered quite a few changes, when it comes to the more melodic leads and the vocal style, which had turned into a more aggressive type of singing, instead of the typical death grunts, so I wanted to know from Fred, if MASSIVE KILLING CAPACITY will again have something new to offer...

"There will be a lot of changes! This new album is so different from song to song, because suddenly everyone in the band has started to write material - before it was only me and Matti, but nowadays David does a whole song by himself and everybody has a lot of different influences. We have one song that is very JUDAS PRIEST oriented and the instrumental track is very very mellow! And then we have this song WAR DEAD which is typically like the stuff on the EVER-FLOWING STREAM album, just right in your face, really fast! Some songs are really heavy and some are fast." DISMEMBER played CASKET GARDEN already that night and to me it seemed slower than the usual DISMEMBER stuff... "Yeah, that's one of the heavier songs on the album..." When DISMEMBER put out their INDECENT AND OBSCENE album I thought of CASE # OBSCENE and EVISCERATED BITCH as the most important songs, lyrically and was pretty much surprised when I noticed that the band put out videos for SKINFATHER and DREAMING IN RED...

"We had an idea for CASE # OBSCENE, to release that as a video from the start, but then we realised, as we asked a lot of people, that the label, the band and even Thomas our producer thought that DREAMING IN RED was the best track on the album and it was more different from what we have done before, so they thought it would be cool to release that as a video. And the guys who produced the video thought it was easier to make a video outta that,

MASSIVE KILLING CAPACITY

because the lyrics are about the death penalties and they thought that was a better theme on video. And SKINFATHER was just released as a video because we were going on tour with MORBID ANGEL & everybody says, let's release another video to get things rollin', you know... SKINFATHER was recorded at a gig in Stockholm, one year before the album was released and DREAMING IN RED was recorded in an industry area outside of Stockholm."

As Fred works in Sunlight studio for quite a while now I wanted to know from him, if the work already had some positive affects on the work he's doing with DISMEMBER... "Yeah, it teaches me a lot to work there. Most of the bands that are recording there I know personally, so it's really easy to work there too. The only problem, I think, when I work there, is that people think, when they know, that I play in a death metal band, that they think that I only care for death metal. I mean, I grew up with KISS and BLACK SABBATH and all that, so I'm very open-minded when it comes to music. We recently produced a hardcore band from northern Sweden called REFUSED and they are very good, they sold good too! I don't really care for the music as long as the people in the band are easy to work with. Sometimes a band can be really good but it's a pain in the ass to work with them

like one synth kind of band we did in the style of KRAFTWERK. Everything was programmed and I never worked on that side of music, so it was a good experience, but I didn't like their attitude. I tried to give them some ideas, tried to work as a producer, but they didn't want me to do that, I didn't really like that, not because of the music but because of the attitude."

Fred also told me, that Thomas (Skogsberg) has quit his band BUBBLEGUM RIDE and that he's doing a new project now that is called ANIMAL WAR. According to the drummer, it is more heavy, with distorted vocals and programmed drums. So, it seems that he's away from the BEATLES-type music he did on the BUBBLEGUM RIDE album.

But, to get back to DISMEMBER now - the new album MASSIVE KILLING CAPACITY will feature a painting from Kristian Wahlin this time, cause the band always had problems with the previous covers...

"It's still gonna be raw, but we won't use any photos this time, as a couple of stores didn't wanna put out our last album. So it was released with this black inlay..." Finally I asked Fred, if in his opinion DISMEMBER will always stuck to their death metal roots, or if they might turn away from it like lots of other Swedish bands already did...

"I think it's up to people, what they consider as death metal. We consider ourselves as a death metal band & we have like 2 or 3 songs... if we would have written a whole album like that, people would say we have changed our style! But on the other hand, some of the new songs are even more death metal than the stuff from the 1st and 2nd album together! It's more growling vocals on some of the new songs too, even darker! We have fun playing death metal, we don't do this for money. Perhaps some people will say, when they hear the cd, that this song is not as much death metal as that song, but I don't think you can compare it like that."

Before we ended, I asked Fred about the show they did that night... it seemed to me that the band wasn't really into it and especially Matti, who left the stage when he had parts where he didn't sing, but Fred explained the situation...

"Matti is a person who can't really stand heat. It was the



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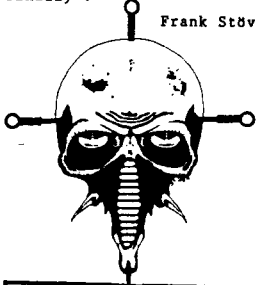
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same when we were in the States, when we played in Florida, it was really warm, so he walks off stage. I don't think it was a matter of something else tonight as the club was pretty crowded and it was really warm inside." After the new DISMEMBER album is out, the band plans to go out on a headlining tour for the first time, as they always had to pay a lot of money to go out as a support act of bigger bands. So get your fingers crossed that these 5 Swedes will make it finally!

Frank Stöver



I DON'T MEAN TO GUSH, BUT ISTEEN #7 IS BOTH BEAUTIFUL AND INTELLIGENT. OUR ENTERTAINING/IRRITATING REVIEWS HIT HARD - NO APOLOGIES. NO SHAME. WE DISCUSS THE STATE OF THE UNDERWORLD, SATAN, CELTIC FROST, THE GOTH INTERVENTION, ETC. INTERVIEWS WITH KATATONIA, DECORAH, BEYOND DAMN, SABRAT (JAPAN), BIZARRE, DIVINE EVE, THE EQUINOX ON THE GODS, LAVRA, CROMBAR, AND HUMAN WASTE.

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#5 is a historically remarkable encyclopedia of death. It features: P.A. BRYONID, PARADISE LOST, BAKTERIUM, STYNA, and GORE FROM CHAOS on its 32 pages! (#3)
#6 is the bible of the blackened abyss, and contains interviews with DISE TRASH, HULLY, MATHS, SENTENCED, IMPALER HAZARD, and MY SYRING BIZNE. 38 pages of 'Lacunculatype'! (#5)

ISTEEN ZINE
c/o MIKKO MATTILA
PELTOLAMINKATU 6 A 17
33840 TAMPERE
FINLAND

DESCENDENT are hailing from Ohio and their 2-track demo release from '94 had really impressed me quite heavily! This four-piece delivers a lot of aggression and musical abilities plus a really professional attitude, so it was time for us to let them talk. Vocalist Brian K. Norwalk and guitarist Tom Martin answered our questions. DESCENDENT is a pretty new band to the scene, so maybe you can give us a little bit of background info where you all come from musically, what you've done before and so on?

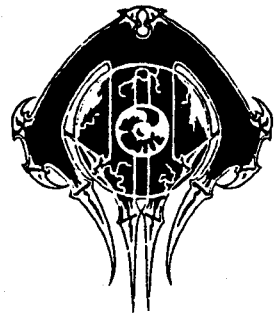
Brian: "We all have extensive backgrounds in the heavy end of the musical spectrum and have all come from other bands that were successful on a local or regional level. Through the turning of different events, we seem to have found the right combination of musicians."

Your first, self-titled demo was done in a really professional way, with full color cover etc. but only features 2 tracks. What was the reason for it and how about new/other songs from you guys? Have you already written more stuff worth to be recorded? Will there be another demo?

Tom: "Our goal with the first demo was to put out a professional quality tape with excellent production and packaging. So, the two songs were all our budget would allow at the time. Also, those two songs best represented what we were about, musically. We wanted to see what kind of reaction we got from the underground, as well. So far, the reaction to both songs and

DESCENDENT

PURE AGGRESSION



our professionalism have been great. So, it was a good move for us."

Brian: "We'll be entering the studio again on January 7th to record our second release entitled DEGENERATION. This one will include six of our songs. Unfortunately, we can't record them all. It's always difficult to decide which ones will make it onto tape. We have a tentative release scheduled for late February" (so you might already find a review of it in this issue -Ed.)

It seems that all the reviews you've gotten so far have been pretty positive, but none of them was really able to describe your style (all of them had different comparisons). How do you see yourself, which type of bands would you name as the biggest influence of the DESCENDENT-style?

Tom: "Our style is pretty much a cluster fuck of our collective influences which explains all of the different categories we're put into. To me, it depends on which of our songs you're talking about. I don't think we have any one song that sums up our style. Some are slower, some are more technical, some almost psychedelic. Obviously death metal and it's predecessors are some of the most prominent of our influences, but I personally feed off of anything that isn't commercially motivated drivel."

How's the response on the band in your own area - have you tried to get in touch with any label due to this 2-track demo or will you wait for the next one to be recorded?

Tom: "We are very happy with the amount of support we have gotten from college radio and fans alike. The only problem here is the club scene. There are very few venues to play and it seems that they are shutting down all the

time. As far as labels, we haven't gotten quite a bit of interest from small labels, both overseas and in the U.S., but we are definitely holding out till the release of our second recording. You are going to see a huge amount of growth from our first demo to the next EP."

Something I was really missing when I got your tape, have been the lyrics, so would you like to express a little bit about your thoughts when you write them, what your songs are mainly dealing with?

Brian: "Tom and I co-wrote one song from our set. The remainder were written by me. I think that it's very important for a singer to write his own lyrics. When the subject matter for a song is something the singer can truly identify with, the real emotion behind the words will be conveyed to the listener. The subject matter for our songs is based upon human nature and the things we do as a direct result of our nature. My lyrics are very cerebral and possess a certain degree of deepness. In other words, they make you think. I try not to make what I write about so obvious that there is only one way it may be interpreted. I would rather people form their own mental picture of the words and relate it to themselves." (yeah, but to do so, they at least should get the possibility to read something, don't you think? I doubt, that everyone is able to figure out what you're singing... -Ed.)

Death & Thrash Metal has been around for more than 10 years now with tons of new bands coming up every day, so how do you see the chances for DESCENDENT, what makes you to something more special than the average new band these days?

Tom: "Like I said before, our musical backgrounds are di-

verse, and so it is with our musical growth. We recognize the importance of a strong song and a good groove. We strive for originality, although that word has been 'beaten senseless'. I think it's safe to say that every DESCENDENT tape will be a natural progression from the one before, without abandoning our style."

Brian: "Due to the fact that everyone has a different classification of our music, I'd have to assume that we do have a certain amount of originality and that we cross more than one musical boundary. I think this will bring us a larger audience & I also think that what we write about will be relevant to most people."

Do you have something else in mind at the moment, what you'd like to tell the readers of VOICES?

Brian: "I would like to remind your readers that our first demo is available through VOICES DISTRIBUTION and that our upcoming 6-song EP will be released in February also available through VOICES DISTRIBUTION. Special thanks are extended to you, Frank, for making this interview possible and for producing one of the finest underground zines in existence today."

You heard this man - all the german readers are advised to send us 10,-DM (incl. P&P) for DESCENDENT's debut killer release, which is still available! As soon as their follow-up release is out you will be informed! Readers from foreign countries, fanzines, labels or whoever else might be interested in DESCENDENT, should write to this address:

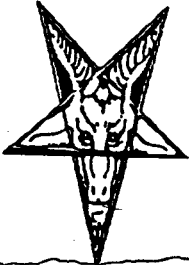
DESCENDENT
P.O. Box 4184
Toledo, OH 43609
U.S.A.

Frank Stöver



Austrian Black Metal Syndikate

P.O.Box 525 A-1061 Vienna Austria



TRIFIXION

Demo '94

This is a one man project of the drummer of SUMMONING and PERVERTUM, Trifixion of the horned king, who was responsible for everything concerning this release. There are 6 tracks (4 intro) on this demo, musically pretty raw but unique black metal, with atmospheric keyboard parts and a totally sick voice! The sound/production is not really bad, but a little strange

ONE MUST TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR HIS/HER OWN ACTIVITIES, WETHER IT BE POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE

anyway, so maybe the upcoming album on Lethal Records will offer something more. If you would like to get a copy of this demo, hurry up, cause I don't know if it's gonna be sold after the album release and I only have the austrian currency (80 Gs) but maybe you can send something similar in your own country's currency as well... Just get in touch with TRIFIXION through the A.B.M.S.!

Frank Stöver

ABIGOR

Verwüstung/
Invoke the dark age
(Napalm Rec. CD)

Next to SUMMONING this is the best, the most professional black metal act out of Austria and their debut album is a great release! It features 7 tracks and 2 moody keyboard instrumentals, all in a really good recording quality! The tracks themselves are pretty much known from the band's 4 demo tapes although they sound a lot tighter and better experienced this time. Great voice, really blasphemic and good musicianship (not just noisy) with a lot of variety within the songs... fast, slow, atmospheric... well done! The next album is already on it's way! Pretty fast writers...

Frank Stöver

This is not an interview, it is just a compilation of all the bands that have combined forces under the A.B.M.S. monicker. All of them support each other and have (or will have) albums out, so if you are interested in the austrian black metal scene (which is really interesting), get in touch with them. None of the bands is involved in politics, and they are against right-winged or neo-nazi organizations, as their result is oppression of humanity, hate and the leadership of one single person, totally contrary to the occult believes that the A.B.M.S. feels connected to. They don't wanna be connected to other scenes (e.g. Inner Circle Of Norway or BM Mafia Germany) and truly believe in what they are doing without burning down churches or murder! They just follow the original ideas of black metal...

PAZUZU

P A Z U Z U

And all was silent

(Head Not Found)

HEAD NOT FOUND, the true label, goes ahead with it's strange releases, which only partly have a connection to the metal scene, (the previously unknown to me) PAZUZU are a new band on their roster and their debut AND ALL WAS SILENT again stands for something different: The talk in this case is about dark, est, atmospheric folk... how can I put it better? The lyrics and musical conception from these austrian boys and girls from the darkside app-

ears to me like a fairy-tale concentrating on the devil-ish side of things! No metal once more, but lotsa keyboards, bongos, gruntings, screaming and some female vocals burdened to a deep and really outstanding result. Ha, I even seem to observe Metalion dancing on graves listening to PAZUZU!! I can admit to really have gone into AND ALL WAS SILENT (was it really ??) BLOW YOUR SPEAKERS someone said! and in case you should belong to those (open-minded) blackhearted souls, better check out this away-from-the-norm piece of music. Price is \$22 from: HEAD NOT FOUND P.O. Box 447 1701 Sarpsborg Norway Let it folk!

Leif Jensen



NO GOD(S) SHALL COME BEFORE THE SELF, FOR WE ARE THE MASTERS OF OUR OWN DESTINY

PERVERTUM

Creature of ungod Demo

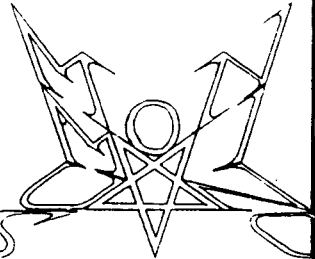
This is another band out of the A.B.M.S. (austrian black metal syndicate), although I can't see what the "B" stands for here... PERVERTUM might have a vocalist that hardly tries to sound like a witch or something, but musically this is far more death metal than black metal. There are even well played solos & some weird technical rhythms in their material, so I guess

their lyrics must be some kind of blasphemic... Anyway, the CREATURE OF UNGOD demo has lots of songs to offer & the band recently was picked up by Lethal Records, so you will get an album of them pretty soon as well... I'm not sure, but they should've waited a bit longer in my opinion, try to develop a bit more... But I'm not responsible for ANYTHING, I'm just a dump fanzine editor, so...

Frank Stöver



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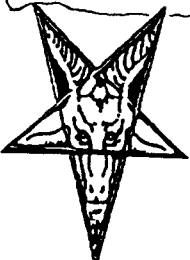
SUMMONING

Lugburz Demo

This has to be Austria's best black metal band without any doubts! SUMMONING's last demo (before the upcoming album on Napalm Records) offers some high quality black metal with intense emotions. I mean, be honest to yourself, how many bands of this musical genre were able to capture a really dark and mystical atmosphere in their songwriting? Not many, huh? It's not really difficult to come up with a thin guitar sound and a shrieky vocalist nor is it a problem to paint the faces, BUT a really scary atmosphere you mostly only get on soundtrack albums of horror or psycho movies. SUMMONING combine this particular atmosphere with their music and deliver an orchestral, keyboard/piano orientated piece of music with a great vocalist, that is way above the average hysterical screamers! Lots of emotions and absolutely unique! Really impressive! Unfortunately this demo is lacking in it's sound quality and I'm not sure if it's for sale anyway, so wait for the album! It's gonna be a milestone if it's in the same musical direction!

Frank Stöver

ALWAYS STAND PROUD FOR WHAT YOU BELIEVE IN, NO MATTER HOW MUCH IT MAY NOT BE ACCEPTED. HIDING IN THE SHADOWS IS NOT THE WAY OF THE STRONG





MARDUK once again ?Yes, MARDUK once again !I know that we had them in issue # 4 already, but there's a brand-new album out, entitled OPUS NOCTURNE and that is probably one of the best black metal releases out of Sweden, so what are you worried about ? Luckily Morgan already knew about the quality of VOICES this time (cough cough !), so he delivered us a really interesting interview via the Swedish postal service...

The first thing we had to discuss, was the split-up w/ Devo Andersson, the band's guitar player. I was wondering, if it had something to do with his project OVERFLASH and Morgan confirmed my thoughts...

"Yes, that is correct. Devo is out of the band and one could say it has partly to do with his own project OVERFLASH, because we all think it sucks very badly (nah, I think it was pretty interesting stuff, but no black metal of course !-Ed.) He also became more and more concentrated and distant on MARDUK rehearsals. So, we decided to fire him. You could say that he grew away from our beliefs and our musical direction (quite obvious, if you hear the stuff he'd done with OVERFLASH-Ed.) The riffs he started to come up with were boring and useless, those few he ever made. By the way, one week after we had fired him, the 'flash was over' and he was dropped from his record label; that was indeed no great shock to us."

A little bit strange for me was the situation within the band, when it comes to the position of the vocalist and drummer. Joakim, who used to play drums and who also was responsible for the vocals on THOSE OF THE UNLIGHT decided to concentrate on the vocals only on OPUS NOCTURNE (and on the pre-release tour with IMMORTAL already) and with Fredrik Andersson they added a new drummer to the band... I always thought it is way easier to find a vocalist than a drummer...

"To get a grip of the situation for you, I can say that one week before the recording of our 2nd album THOSE OF THE UNLIGHT, we kicked out our vocalist (Dread, who's also in EDGE OF SANITY-Ed.) because he was very unserious and never showed up at rehearsals. So we decided to let Joakim take care of the vocals on the album, since we knew from before that he has a killer voice. When we started to rehearse again after the recording of the album, Joakim took care of both the drumming and the vocals.

It sounded ok, but not perfect, and since I knew an awesome drummer (from a band we used to split rehearsal room with), I and Joakim had a talk about how things were to be in the future. We both agreed on the matter that Joakim could handle the vocals only in the future and that it would be better to take in that new drummer who plays like a fucking machine gun."

From the past I knew, that MARDUK haven't really been satisfied with the overall packaging/layout of their albums, so I asked Morgan about his opinion about the outcome of OPUS NOCTURNE in his own opinion...

"You are right about that we have not been purely satisfied on previous packagings. It is not very satisfying w/ a pink logotype on the album cover. Some stupid idiot at some factory fucked that up really well. Considering the new one - OPUS NOCTURNE, we are very satisfied with it. It is quite bizarre with its different colours compared to all other stuff that is released the same goes for the music."

I found it rather original to use paintings of the band members in the booklet this time, so I asked Morgan about the actual idea behind it & how they got in touch with the guy who did it...

"The idea with those band member paintings was basically mine and the person who did them is a friend of the band you could say. We have all known him for some time and he's quite good at drawing and painting, so we decided to give it a try... which turned out ok - with a few exceptions. (I'll bet it's Fredrik's portrait that you regard as an "exception", isn't it ?-Ed.)

It was kinda like a surprise to see Morgan working w/ his old mate IT from ABRUPTUM together again on the new ABRUPTUM album as well as on the title track of OPUS NOCTURNE, so I wanted to know, why they don't combine forces permanently...

"Actually it is only the lyrics that were written and sung by IT, the music was written and performed by MARDUK, ABRUPTUM and MARDUK, lie very far away from each other musically (indeed !-Ed.) and IT of ABRUPTUM has a very special kind of mentality. He's kind of a lone wolf and also lives quite far away from where we live. I can also add that we are now about to take in a replacement for Devo, now that the new album has been recorded. We have managed to find a guy with the right mentality which is very hard around here. You could say he is the only one we ever thought of, so soon the circle will be complete."

It seems that MARDUK already know how they wanna sound like, as they produced their latest 2 albums on their own and only used Dan Swanö as an engineer. I wanted to know if this is the best combination they can think of or if MARDUK would like to work totally on their own in the future maybe...

"We have produced the albums ourselves because we have always had a very clear idea of how we want to sound, but Dan Swanö has always been a very wise man to have in the studio as an engineer since he mostly understands what we want. So far everything that MARDUK has ever recorded has been recorded at his studio, but as it looks now we are not sure if we are to record our 4th album in there. I think it would be an interesting experience for the band to try out another studio. We have been approached by the guitarist in the Swedish band HYPOCRISY to come and try out his 24 track studio called ABYSS. We will probably record two tracks and try it out. If the outcome is positive we might record the next album there. Our 4th album will of course be produced by ourselves but this time we might also use HELLHAMMER of MAYHEM as a co-producer, to help us create an even more original & crushing sound." (sounds really promising !-Ed.)

Talking of Dan Swanö - I was wondering, if the relationship between him and MARDUK has been disturbed, due to the fact that Dread had been kicked out of MARDUK...

"No, I would not say that our relationship has been disturbed. I have known Dan a very long time even before Andreas joined MARDUK and Dan also very well understands why we fired Andreas, so that has brought us no problems." To me, OPUS NOCTURNE is the best MARDUK album to date,



so I wanted to know from Morgan, if he thinks, that MARDUK finally found a style on its own within the black metal scene...

"Of course ! We have developed a lot since the beginning. Our 4th album will also be a progression from OPUS NOCTURNE and by progression I mean NOT vamping out in any way, I mean to play faster, more aggressive and bring an even more darker and haunting atmosphere - more haunting than ever."

In 1994 MARDUK did their 1st european tour with label mates IMMORTAL, so I asked the guitarist what kind of experiences they made and if there have been any happenings they disliked...

"Firstly, it was great to tour with such a genius act as IMMORTAL. Anyway, this was our first tour ever. I guess what I disliked most on the tour was the stinking toilet on the tourbus - the stench from it was even worse than of a MORTIFICATION record !! (oooooh, sounds awful !-Ed.) We are quite satisfied with this, our first tour. I have heard of many bands, and many of them bigger than us, that have had more shitty circumstances than we had."

Due to the big demand for MARDUK's FUCK ME JESUS demo, OSMOSE will re-release that one as a mcd... Morgan tells more about that...

"The FUCK ME JESUS demo tape will be released as a mini-cd in February 1995. The reason for this is the tremendous demand for it. Both OSMOSE and we ourselves have received lots of mail asking for the demo and how to obtain it. Since it has been sold out since February 1992 people have not had a chance



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but alot. But that is mainly positive since we are a great band. I guess originality will come to them with time" (anyone who's interested in the DARK FUNERAL mcd can still get it for 20,-DM from our address-Ed.)

By the time this issue is in the printing process, MARDUK will tour Europe again with ENSLAVED, so I wanted to know, if there will be any changes in the band's live-performance, compared to the IMMORTAL shows?

"Yes, we will return - be sure of that. The tour will be entitled WINTER WAR TOUR '95 and we will march throughout Europe. There will be 20 shows in countries like Austria, Tcheque, Germany, Spain, France, Belgium, Holland and Switzerland. Unfortunately no shows in Bosnia - it would be a



to get their hands on it. Therefore we have decided to release it on cd so that everyone who is interested can get hold of it...that's all about that."

As I mentioned the non-presence of the MARDUK - lyrics in each of their albums, Morgan starts to express in a really massive way, why there never have been any (so far). Weren't they satisfying enough to publish them maybe? "Yes, of course we are very satisfied with our lyrics. I would never include lyrics to a song if I was not satisfied with them. Let us start at the beginning. For the debut album DARK ENDLESS we never even thought about including the lyrics in the booklet since we did not think there was any real demand for them. With the follow up THOSE OF THE UNLIGHT we had problems with the cover and layout and the release was already delayed, so we did not want to increase the delay by starting to work on including the lyrics. As you see on OPUS NOCTURNE only the lyrics to one song is included. The reason for this is that OSMOSE PROD. has had very much trouble with the recent releases of for example IMPALED NAZARENE or ENSLAVED, because of their blasphemous nature of the lyrics. To escape that problem & to prevent a serious delay of the album we decided to only include the lyrics to the song OPUS NOCTURNE, since it is the least blasphemous and satanic of all the lyrics on the record. It is a hymn to the night. People who want to obtain our lyrics (we have now noticed the great interest for our lyrics) can hopefully soon be satisfied. We are in the planning stage of beginning the work on a booklet/book printed in an old-fashioned way to make it look like an old time-ravaged tome with a medieval look. This book will have all the lyrics included along w/ a complete biography and photos etc. We are not sure yet when this will be ready, there is much work to be done & many ideas to try out and as I said we have just begun discussing it."

To get back to the artwork of OPUS NOCTURNE - there's no logo on the frontcover so I draw the conclusion th-

at MARDUK have been afraid that it could be ruined again, just like it happened on THOSE OF THE UNLIGHT and... bingo!

"We did not use the logotype on the cover because it would ruin the look and effect of the supreme dark artwork. People will still recognize it as a MARDUK record since MARDUK-OPUS NOCTURNE is printed on the side in the crystal box.

A very touchy subject when it comes to black metal bands are videos - so could Morgan imagine to do a video with MARDUK sometime if it would be necessary? "Considering making videos we have thought alot about that. We might do a video some day, but in that case mainly to satisfy ourselves and a handful of others. It would be too extreme to show on TV and I guess nobody would agree to broadcast it. Basically we are not interested in starring on some shitty metal programs who do not have a clue of what we are about FUCK THEM!!"

There's a band in Sweden as well, that we featured in our last issue, that often has been compared to MARDUK when it comes to the musical style, so does Morgan agree that DARK FUNERAL sound like his own band in a way...?

"DARK FUNERAL, yes I know them. I would not say that they sound entirely like MARDUK,

killing thrill. (and unfortunately this has already happened by now! -Ed.) Considering the live performance, there will probably be no major changes - just colder and more hateful than ever! We would like to bring a very bizarre and special show but it is very hard to bring extreme stuff on the plane and so on, and to be able to maintain it for 20 days. We can only use it in Scandinavia."

And before we ended, I gave Morgan the usual possibility to express whatever he likes at the end of this interview and he simple did it as follows...

"Buy OPUS NOCTURNE and be impaled by it's wickedness. Also lookout for the FUCK ME JESUS mcd."

So, the only thing I could do for you, is to give away the band's contact address, which goes like this:

MARDUK
Lindövågen 50B
602 28 Norrköping
Sweden

Don't forget to include an IRC for a guaranteed answer.

Frank Stöver





EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW W/ CHUCK SCHULDINER

It's been many a moon since Orlando-based death metallers DEATH playfully mixed and mingled among hordes of local die-hard followers; it's been a few extra moons since the group performed in front of the hometown audience, three and a half years to be exact.

"Actually it's been longer than that" says DEATH vocalist/guitarist/mainman "Evil" Chuck Schuldiner. "Dude... we haven't played Orlando since SPIRITUAL HEALING (the group's 1990 release) and that was definitely a while back" he regrettably admits. "That's when the band suffered some serious problems, that's for sure."

"I'm fully aware that we've neglected this area in recent years - not entirely our choice, mind you, but for specific reasons which I don't really want to get into. People ask me 'Why don't you ever play Orlando?' or 'When is DEATH going to play a local show?' or, more commonly, 'Does DEATH have some vendetta against Orlando?' All these questions are valid, but believe me, DEATH has absolutely nothing against Orlando - or any other part of Florida. Heck... this is my home... I went to school here... I still live in the same area of Altamonte where I grew up!"

His long-standing residence notwithstanding, Evil Chuck, for all intent & purposes, is a veritable metallic icon of sorts - a sole pioneer of garage-throated vocals and rapid-fire musical brutality collectively hailed as new-wave death/doom/grindcore metal. Take your pick of any aforementioned genre currently in fad, but certainly give Schuldiner and, for that matter, ex-DEATH members Rick Rozz and Kam Lee their devilish due for singlehandedly blueprinting death metal to its current acceptable status. In all modesty, Schuldiner politely brushes the "pioneering" accolades so commonly associated with DEATH.

"I just kept the tradition going, that's all" he politely shrugs. "Bands like SLAYER, HELLHAMMER... ANGEL WITCH, VENOM, MERCYFUL FATE - those were the true pioneers of this genre, not to mention all those other killer metal bands of the early 80's like METALLICA and DIAMOND HEAD. It's really depressing to think that most of these bands no longer exist. Who's going to provide up and coming metal bands a musical influence?" he rhetorically asks. "Who's going to carry the torch?" Almost instantaneously another influential band of Schuldiner comes to mind.

"MANOWAR is God! I can't wait for the new lp to come out and kick some ass!! I still faithfully listen to all that stuff - very frequently, I might add. I'm looking at a huge stack of records right now... old FATE... SAVATAGE... NASTY SAVAGE... It's sad when bands decide to call it quits or as is the current trend, cave-in to eventual corporate nonsense. It's as if they consciously disappoint their fans. DEATH wants to re-open the idea of unlimited musical potential within a seemingly limited musical genre, that's what the 70's and, to some degree the early 80's were all about. There were so many categories derived from particular musical styles, labels and overall image but everything seemed to gel very nicely."

Contrary to popular belief, DEATH is, indeed, a Florida-based METAL band more so than ever with the recent addition of resident musicians "Berk-lee" Bob Koelbe (ex-AZRAEL) and Kelly "Killer" Conlon on lead guitar & bass respectively. Granted drummer "Mean" Gene Hoglan still resides in sunny California, Chuck is nonetheless excited when referring to DEATH as a true Orlando-based band.

"Bobby lives just a few streets away" he says, pleausurably admonishing the musical sobriety DEATH's newly assembled line-up currently receives. "Making DEATH... at least 3/4 of it, any way a local band was something I wish could've happened a long time ago. It's really cool to have musicians in your band living in your hometown; it is as if DEATH suddenly creates this strange vibe of togetherness - especially when Gene's in town because all of us hang together and do 'band' things, so to speak."

"I initially met Bobby years ago when I was in high school... he was friends with some people I knew at Lake Howell. Bobby was a killer guitar player back then... and he's even better now! When we were recording INDIVIDUAL THOUGHT PATTERNS (1993) I tried to contact Bobby several times but was unsuccessful. John and Brian from (the local band) PAIN PRINCIPLE eventually hooked us together. Those guys are more or less DEATH's connection to the local musicians" he laughs, adding that Schuldiner's new-found musician's referral service was also responsible for recruiting Conlon.

"Kelly totally rages... Bobby's a killer shredder! Gene and I are so psyched to have two wonderfully talented musicians in DEATH. We're all positive individuals with a common goal and, more important, for the first time the members of DEATH are on the same musical wavelength. We admire the same killer metal bands yet we're musically influenced by different musical styles. Bobby is really into the jazz/fusion type of music... I love the early 80's metal... but above all, we're friends united in the common cause: metal music. It's hard to keep an allegiance to metal music these days, because there's so many outside pressures prone to influencing you and your music."

The unsaturated humility and effervescent pride bristling from Evil Chuck is quite refreshing indeed. Those familiar with DEATH's ongoing battles with various promoters, industry moguls - label executives, so-called "managers", booking agents etc. can fully appreciate Schuldiner's adamant & repeated adherence to heavy metal music. He's to be admired and, quite frankly, commended for his steadfast consistency in what he believes in. The point is best illustrated by THE METAL CRUSADE, perhaps a well-deserved & properly timed fan club created especially for the band's worldwide admirers; a personally symbolic pinnacle representing that dreaded "o" word - namely, "organization", a mute anomaly definitely lacking in DEATH's repertoire these past seven or eight years, though not any particular fault of Schuldiner.

"Dude... it's really cool to have some REAL organization... finally! The fan club is really kicking some serious ass for us; we're getting tons of killer letters from fans wondering what the heck happened to us. We do read our mail, contrary to popular belief",

he mechanically illustrates. "And we write back when we can. The overall response from the fans is positive; it's really gratifying to hear first hand what people really think about DEATH."

"Most of the letters received are from Europe - Poland especially", he continues. "Apparently people in Poland - and Eastern Europe, for that matter, are so staved for metal music, it's greatly appreciated over there. It really surprises people when I personally answer their letters; it's important for us to keep in touch w/ the fans... y'know, (to) find out what they're listening to and their overall attitudes toward current trends of music. It gives us encouragement when fully encompassing other peoples concerns about DEATH."

What most surprises Schuldiner is the fans' general concern for his personal well-being and overall health - both mental as well as physical - and the admiration for DEATH's inbuilt passion for staying decidedly brutal for each successive release since the monumental SCREAM BLOODY GORE reared its ugly head over eight years ago.

"People have always respected the overall honesty conveyed in our music and lyrics, which is totally cool because it just re-enforces our commitment on what we need to do. There's been so many trends in music - especially in heavy metal", he says rather glumly. "Recently everybody's tentative about embracing a new style of music and, naturally, they're wondering exactly what DEATH will do next. INDIVIDUAL had a major impact on us from an exposure point of view, it really took people by surprise."

Perhaps contributing to DEATH's seemingly endless rise in popularity among mainstream metalheads worldwide was the eclectic video for THE PHILLOSOPHER, which consistently aired on MTV's HEADBANGER'S BALL. The video



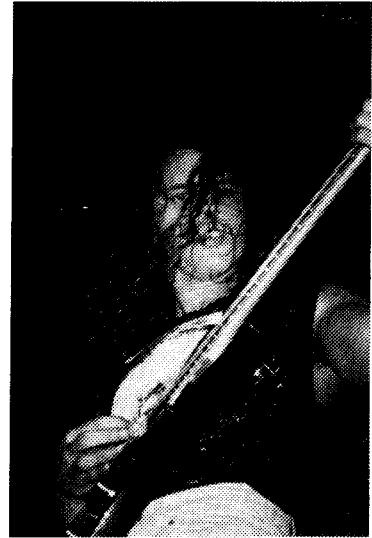
filmed in Rock Springs, a natural spring reservoir just outside of Orlando, captured the group's lyrical essence, and thanks to many requests from DEATH's fans, prompted HEADBANGER'S BALL host Rikki Rachtman to invite Schuldiner to the FOUNDATIONS FORUM in Burbank, CA last year. Unfortunately the video also received some external negative feedback, courtesy of the very popular BEAVIS & BUTTHEAD, who mercilessly ripped into DEATH in the animated duo's usual abrasive manner. "Yeah, totally! It was a total drag at first" admits Schuldiner. "Believe it or not, that actually helped us! They ragged on us pretty bad but hey! They are only cartoon characters! At first it didn't really bother me at all... after all like I said, they're just animated characters. What really bothered me is that they didn't dig the video I mean, for all that crazy stuff they do and dig, you'd think a group named DEATH would be favourable! Sure, they ended ragging on us but so what? Who cares? The person who writes for that show obviously doesn't listen to metal music that regularly, though I found out later that they requested the video explicitly from RELATIVITY (DEATH's previous label, but more on that later) so I obvious can't blame them! People come up to me and say 'Hey! I saw you on

BEAVIES & BUTTHEAD... it was sooo cool!' so in a way, it just exposed more metal fans to DEATH's music!" Speaking of exposure to new audiences Schuldiner excitedly mentions that DEATH's new release, titled SYMBOLIC, will undoubtedly brutalize once again the uncensored pomposity currently filtered among hordes of anxiously awaiting death metal fanatics. "I'm very pleased about the whole thing", says Schuldiner rather excitedly. "I've never been this excited about a DEATH record! We've put a tremendous amount of effort and labor into this one, believe me... Now that I'm able to finally sit back and 'objectively' assess the whole lp, it's definitely a positive product resulting from the numerous changes we went through this past year or so." One of the many changes incurred by DEATH was the band's choice of producer Scott Burns, who more or less singlehandedly produced the group's previous five lp's, was unavailable, which prompted Schuldiner & Co to recruit MORRISOUND STUDIOS owner Jim Morris as the harbinger of DEATH's unique brand of blasting brutality. "Things didn't work out schedulewise with Scott, so my first choice was Jim He's worked with different artists over the years - not necessarily death metal bands, either... in order to create a recording of difference we needed to match our initial ideas w/ a producer familiar with the concept of diversity. Jim really crushed on this lp; he really opened things up for DEATH. We went in with plenty of ideas and Jim more or less brought everything to life, but most importantly he brought our conception of what WE WANTED to a level of personal satisfaction. He's definitely a major-league producer, that's for sure. I'd love to work with him again on the next record!" "Plenty of heavy metal bands are initially tentative about recording at MORRISOUND for fear of catching that infamous 'Death Metal band syndrome' so to speak", Schuldiner continues. "If you know what you want and, basically, are aware of your band's overall identity, then it's easy to avoid the aforementioned cliché usually associated with contemporary death metal bands. There's a lot you can do at MORRISOUND, but as I said, we went in with our instruments sounding exactly the way we wanted; that's why this record - though it's different in some production aspects, still sounds like DEATH but in a way exhibits that bit of musical diversity I mentioned earlier."

"I'm sincerely trying to break down barriers commonly associated with this style of music; I'm tired of 'labels' and 'tags'... so-called limits & other bothersome clichés used to describe DEATH's music", he adamantly insists. "I want DEATH to be remembered as a METAL band first and foremost, though it's still up to the critics & journalists to further classify us as so. I think there's too many classifications and categories that go hand-in-hand with a specifically targeted genre of music; I'd like to avoid that if all possible, but as you know, it's extremely difficult." Difficult, in a sense, that SYMBOLIC methodically annihilates the aforementioned label 'barriers' Schuldiner would very much like to crush. DEATH's destructive approach to senselessly brutalizing intensity brings back haunting memories of LEPROSY (1988), yet the technical precision on display mirrors the group's more recent releases... HUMAN and, of course, INDIVIDUAL. By filtering DEATH's incessant rapid evolution of slant musical adeptness it's only fair to mention that SYMBOLIC exhibits an explosive repertoire of instrumentation on every track. For example, the eight minute PERENNIAL QUEST features Schuldiner's picking acoustic guitar - a landmark achievement in DEATH's music.

"I always wanted to put some acoustic guitar in DEATH's music" admits Evil Chuck. "Acoustic guitar almost always signifies a different mood. Our main concern was to keep everything REAL - not to overgloss the natural sounds of our filters. The material & lyrics are straight from the heart so, in essence, the production must mirror that exact feeling." What's most impressive is Schuldiner's conscious decision to slightly alter his already brutalizing vocal style. His trademark devilish growls still exist, but take a much different form in a higher-pitched screech with a tad more audible sensitivity. "Hopefully it's not too drastic a change. I just wanted to experiment by expanding musically, that's all. There's not too many things we can alter and still retain that essence which is expected of us", he says, citing contemporary death metallers CANNIBAL CO-

RPSE's recent vocal-style alterations on 1994 release THE BLEEDING. "Chris is moving around quite a bit on the last record which, to me, was totally surprising but also very cool! It's important to re-evaluate DEATH's vocal style from time-to-time. The



vocals are probably the most limiting aspect of our music; that's why moving around from pitch-to-pitch was a conscious decision to make things a little more dramatic. Plus, as always, I'm trying to get the lyrics across more clearly - that, in itself, is a never-ending goal!" Another 'change' in DEATH's overall stress-free environment is the long-awaited severed ties with RELATIVITY, a blessed if not timely relief which, in spite of continuous financial aspects notwithstanding, please Schuldiner to no end. "Dude... you have no idea how happy I am to no longer have DEATH enslaved to RELATIVITY. ROADRUNNER, our new label, is treating us right - that, in itself, is a HUGE worry off my mind! I initially thought this records would belong to RELATIVITY - a horrifying thought which made me depressed and, quite frankly, very angry. The thought of wasting this record on a label that has no interest whatsoever - not to mention a metal promotions department - really worried me to end. They couldn't even promote DEATH when they HAD a metal department! Our deal with ROADRUNNER is a basic crossover/option deal. They more or less purchased our option record, which is this one, from RELATIVITY, so in a sense we're long ROADRUNNER. I couldn't be happier because both the band and the label have a good understanding; we're hoping that a solid, fulfilling relationship continues." Perhaps the ease of transition is further assisted by ROADRUNNER's familiarity with DEATH; the European based label has helped promote the band in Europe these past few years. However the obvious question arises concerning DEATH's tendency to lean towards another independent label rather than a major.

"Of course it's a valid concern, but at the same time I continually hear horror stories from bands hopelessly exploited by the corporate powers of major labels. Sometimes it pays for an underground band to be signed to an independent label that's 'massive' in a sense. A label can have millions of dollars and still be unwilling to filter that money toward your career for reasons completely unknown or absurd. Being on a major label unfamiliar with marketing metal music is very dangerous... I feel confident in the move we made, besides we've worked with ROADRUNNER before when we toured Europe and they've totally kicked ass."



"What's really killer about the whole scenario is the complete resurgence of DEATH's positive outlook," he says confidently. "All(of)our problems seem so distant, but that's not to say there's plenty of space available for future obstacles to surface. Believe me...it never, ever ends! Put it this way: There's never a dull moment with DEATH," he laughs. "We're constantly facing new obstacles daily, but now we're able to confront each of these so-called 'detours' as a challenge; with this general approach it strengthens our band and filters into our music."

Fan support, says Schuldiner, has been DEATH's saving grace these past eight years and has kept the group's life's blood flowing consistency throughout. DEATH's most recent local 'exposure' if you will, was the highly successful DEATH FOR LIFE BENEFIT held at the Fairbanks Inn in Winter Park this past December. A rather "unofficial" record release party for the hometown fans, the benefit, sponsored by DEATH as well as various area merchants, raised over \$3000 for local charities B.E.T.A. and the NATIONAL MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY, and allowed area fans to hear the new record before anyone else in the world.

"We've always wanted to do something like that, and believe me, before it's said and done we're going to do alot more", Schuldiner says. "It was the first EVER record release party DEATH's sponsored for the hometown fans; it was interesting to unite various peoples for a common cause - a good cause nonetheless! We spent considerable time and effort promoting the event and luckily, it turned out very well. It's our way of saying 'Yes, we DO really care about what's going on in our community!'"

"My mom works for B.E.T.A. (Birth, Education, Training & Acceptance) and I know first hand that the organization really needs help - as do many local chapters of nationally sponsored charities. If we can make a difference financially or otherwise - even if it's just creating a mutual awareness, then all the hardwork is well worth the effort."

"I guess it gives a sense of purpose to people like us - y'know, long-haired youths who play in heavy metal bands



nds and like listening to metal music. We do have a value in society somewhere. We really do! We'd love to sponsor more benefits - for other charities as well, because it's fun; it gets people talking and, more importantly, it gets the scene organized for a good cause."

"There's such a lack of original metal bands - not only in Orlando but in Florida and for the past few years it's been really difficult to keep up with what's happening at home."

Perhaps the most anticipated event of 1995 - at least in the underground metal community worldwide, is the possibility of a DEATH/MASSACRE WORLD-WIDE ANNIHILATION TOUR - to commence, quite appropriately, in Orlando this spring and continue well into 1996.

"It's been suggested many times and, quite frankly, it's certainly not out of the question", says Schuldiner rather evasively. "Who knows? Anything is possible these days. I really dig the new MASSACRE - I haven't heard the finished record...just the demos Rick played for me when we were at the DIO concert. It sounded really killer..."

"It's really strange that two of the original pioneer bands in death metal history are based in Central Florida - da."

It is strange, indeed, that two of the most brutalist - not to mention the originators of death metal as it sits today, bands with worldwide recognition are based in Central Florida - just a stone's throw away. "I remember when we first started out back in 1983", says Schuldiner. "It was just Rick, Kam and myself - we didn't even have a bass player back then! That's when we recorded MANTAS 'Death by Metal' demo in my mother's garage... on that old panasonic radio (which, by the way, is still in the possession of Rick Rozz who still uses it to record MASSACRE practices...but that's another story!). Those were some good old days, actually...I think about those times quite often. Though we've certainly come a long way since those early days, it seems that things were a bit simpler back then..."

THE METAL CRUSADE
P.O. Box 300787
Fern Park, FL 32730-0787
U.S.A.

Thomas Garcia

Abscess



Ha, Mary rules! And Chris as well! Just in time she sent us another interview and it continues exactly where I left off in the AUTOPSY conversation, so read on to find out more about the sick world of Mr. Reifert and his new outfit ABSCESS!

To start with, how did you come to form a new band with AUTOPSY still technically existing at the same time?

"And away we go, kiddos! We decided after the last U.S.-tour that we would split the band after recording the 4th and last lp SHITFUN due to personal/musical/umbilical reasons. As it turned out, there was a huge record-company delay so we had to wait 7 months (!!!) til we could do the lp - so rather than drag those lp songs in to the dirt, we put AUTOPSY on hold, got ABSCESS going, did the AUTOPSY lp in December '94 (w/ABSCESS on hold!), then AUTOPSY could finally rest in pieces. Now it's ABSCESS all the way. So get the AUTOPSY lp when it's out and get ready to wring out yer socks from all those cascading tear drops of nostalgia."

You had some press which incorrectly named ABSCESS as THE ABORTED. How did this happen?

"Actually when we first started ABSCESS it was called THE ABORTED (for 1 gig) til we found out there was a local band that already had the name so we changed it to COUSIN GERTRUDE'S ELECTRIC DOORKNOB SLAPPERS til we found out a band had that one too. Bummer, eh? So then, crestfallen, we switched it to ABSCESS."

Tell us about the members of ABSCESS and how you came to work with them...

"Danny was in AUTOPSY, Freeway played bass on tour w/ AUTOPSY & drums in IMMORTAL FATE til they split. Clint is a longtime friend who used to play guitar and sing in HEXX. I don't know where I came from, but I wish I'd go away!"

ABSCESS has recorded 2 demos to date, will you seek a recording contract, or will you attempt to continue building your fan base?

"Hey, we have 3 demos out now! Do we cook or do we cook? (well Danny does any-ways!) - as far as a recording deal goes, we'd love one but it would have to be strictly our way. My mouth is burnt from overly hot peasoup so I personally don't feel like suckin' the corporate shlonger. Come to think of it, I wouldn't want to anyways. Incidentally, I'm writing this interview in my long johns in case that excites you."

Who writes your music and lyrics, and how do you go about putting your songs together?

"We all write music & so far we all write those icky, stinky, dirty sponge suckin', bathtub ring lickin' deep fried lyrics except Mr. Way, who will soon, I suspect, be a shifty hound and wants to molest your pet Chihuahua. He'll make that thing REALLY shiver!"

I hear a pretty wide range of styles in your music, from extra-fast to extra-slow. What do you consider your influences?

"Anything that's nasty and

gritty, be it death/doom/punk grind/whatfuckin'ever! Just check the shit out, whatever you do! For best results, play it loud with your head immersed in the nearest comode while flushing on every fifth beat!"

Do you like or dislike when various types of heavy metal are tagged or labeled as a particular style? Would you rather be compared to specific bands, or classified as a style? If you had to describe ABSCESS, what would you want to know for?

"We just want to be known as ABSCESS, how's that? Call it what ya want, but don't write it off til you've heard it! Labels don't mean much to me though I guess it can help steer you towards your preference in a generic kinda way. All I really know is my leg itches, so before we go to # 8 I'm gonna scratch it!" You and most of your bandmates are multi-instrumentalists correct? Care to tell us everything each of you can play? Don't be shy - if you can play the xylophone, the triangle or the kazoo - say so!!

"We (Chris) - drums, guitar, bass and babagazoo. Danny - guitar, bass, butt trumpet. Clint - guitar, bass, meat whistle. Freeway - drums, bass, guitar, testostosterone."

We're just wholesome american boys who like fishing for farts and magma sculpting."

I'm almost afraid to ask, but where do you come up w/ your song titles/subject matter? Personal experiences?

"Lots of made up stuff for personal amazement & amusement plus true stories like HORNBY HAG which is about Danny's downstairs neighbor, who attacked Clint demanding his cock! This is true folks and the look of fright in his eyes was undeniable!" Before we wrap this up, describe a typical weekday in your life and then a weekend day!

Weekday: Get up at some strange time, play "Lickin' Lizards" and "Operation" till the hallucinations kick in, then run naked thru town, shouting BULLWINKEL, BULLWINKEL WHERE ART THOU, FAIREST OF THE FAIR for the rest of the night or until the guy with the butterfly net comes after me and I have to hide in the dumpster outside of the fish factory. Ah, life!

Weekend: Same thing."

Mary Ciullo

Abscess

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PUNISHMENT

It's really weird! We feature bands from the U.S., Sweden, Norway, Japan, Italy, Poland or the UK and nearly forget about bands that kinda like live only a couple of minutes from the VOICES headquarters... Shame on us, cause a band like PUNISHMENT needs a lot more attention as they have gotten thus far. Musically they deliver a really intense form of thrash with some death metal influences and their debut demo was very much inspired by the "old school" of this type of music. In other words: PUNISHMENT have nothing in common with any trendy fashion at the moment and that's probably another reason, why we finally decided to have them in here... Guitarist/vocalist Niko and bassist Claudia were the ones to answer...

As you are quite new to our readers, maybe you can start with some backing infos on the band? Yeah, you got it, the boring history-question!
 Claudia: "Okay, to make a long story short: Andreas and Niko started a band called OBSCURE in 1987 which has later been renamed after several line-up changes to PUNISHMENT."

It seems to me that you are lacking in motivation quite a bit as you haven't sent out your debut-demo to the usual underground press, so would you like to tell us a little bit about the philosophy of the band PUNISHMENT and if you have any goals you wanna reach... stuff like that?

Claudia: "Well, you're right, we were a little lazy concerning the distribution of our demo but in the end we are happy about the fact that there even is a tape after 6 years!! (I hear you! -Ed.) We don't strive for any particular goals except for playing a few live gigs here and there and making people like our music so that they're gonna buy our demos. Sure we would also like to be known outside our own area and we know exactly that therefore we had to send more tapes to the underground press... maybe after the second demo."

Niko: "I mainly agree with Claudia, but we play music for ourselves, to begin with. We made a demo to make our friends and fans of our music happy, so it wasn't planned to be sent out anyway. But this does not mean that we ignore the magazines. If a magazine writes to us, it surely will get a PUNISHMENT-tape. Goals... I don't know. Playing good and heavy music. No philosophy included. Musically you are in-between death & thrash metal, so was that the kind of style you wanted to achieve as you started out, or did it just happen while you rehearsed together?"

Niko: "In the beginning we simply wanted to play fast & noisy music but after a cou-

ple of rehearsals our own demands have reached a higher level and everyone of us wanted to bring in his personal input. Another point is that we adapted the music to the lyrics in many cases. I think both made up our sound of today."

Knowing the musical tastes of all 4 of you, I was asking myself if it was some kinda problem to get all those different faves together in the music of PUNISHMENT?

Claudia: "The next demo will show the result of combining all our different likings. Like Niko said, each of us contributes more or less his personal flavour to our style (musically and lyrically). The songs on our first demo go back to a time when all of us preferred the same kind of music, so the next tape will definitely sound different."

Niko: "That's not as unproblematic as it sounds, because even within the band we cannot always please everybody. But I'm sure after it's done, you will hear it's PUNISHMENT right when the needle hits the groove."



Your debut demo wasn't recorded in a real studio, but it has a quite good sound anyway, so maybe you can tell us a little bit about the recording of it?!

Niko: "We did it on our old 4-track-recorder because of two reasons: a) We needed to have a lot of time and b) we wanted to make sure that everything we do is totally under our control, so we cannot blame anybody except ourselves. We recorded some times in a relaxed atmosphere and other times under the stress of circumstances but after all it was fun. Most of the songs were done live except for the vocals & some solos. The mix itself took most of the time but that was great 'cause therefore we learned a lot."

Do you feel connected to any new bands musically or is it basically the "old school" of death and thrash you admire?

Claudia: "We don't feel ourselves connected to any band

or style whatsoever, least of all to those death metal bands that spread brainless ideas of so-called satanism! We used the term "death-thrash" in our bio only as a rough sign for our musical-direction. People who buy our tape can then make up their own minds about our style. We don't give a shit about any classification."

After the release of your demo you started to play a couple of shows in your hometown area (e.g. with RUMBLE MILITIA and DEW-SCENTED), so what kind of memories do you have on those gigs and is there something you'd like to change when it comes to the stage presentation for upcoming shows?

Claudia: "Considering the fact that Niko and I do not really like to play live, it was fun most of the times & very easy. Changes for further gigs? Make it more easy." Niko: "Yeah, that's it. The reactions on our shows were quite good in general. We've got something like a "live-formula": Entering the stage, blowing everything away and off we go. Everything that happens on stage is spontaneous, so what shall we change anyway?" (how about a big bloody monster walking around and ripping some heads off? Sounds good, doesn't it? -Ed.)

There are 2 versions of MORITURI on the demo -- would you like to explain the reasons?

Claudia: "As you can see on the cover (!) we couldn't decide for or against each of them. (uuuuuh, would you believe me, if I tell you that I'm heavily short-sighted?? No, well it was a try at least... I simply forget about that note on the cover, will you forgive me? -Ed.) Two of us preferred the speed-in-your-face-version and the other ones liked the rather double-kick oriented version." A few words about your lyrical subjects maybe...

Claudia: "The lyrics on the whole deal with personal, rather negative experiences and impressions, so don't expect any particular messages. Especially these kind of topics inspire us the most to interpret them in our way. Some of the real old songs have been re-written because meanwhile we don't agree with the former words anymore."

There are plans for a 2nd demo, right? Give us some advance infos on that!

Niko: "Right. We will go for it as soon as possible. In addition to a few new tunes it will probably contain also two old songs, of course, modified versions: RACE OF SUFFOCATION (about fascism & WWII) and THE FALL OF MEN (a pretty complex, uptempo track). Unfortunately I cannot tell you very much about the upcoming stuff yet, except that the arrangements will surprise a lot of people for sure. Right now it seems the new material is gonna be in a more extreme and brutal direction (yeah, that's what we love to hear!! -Ed.) This time we're gonna record on

our 8-track-recorder to build up a better and more massive sound."

Claudia: "And of course we're gonna produce on our own again. This goes for the music as well as for the multiplication and the cover artwork. So, I guess you figured that everything won't happen very quickly once again but next time we're gonna do some promotion, bet on it!"

OK, then this should only be the beginning of something more to come... Anything else you'd like to add?

Niko: "Yes. As we all could see in different publications, the development of heavy metal - and black metal in particular - has gone through some very dubious phases. I mean, VENOM were okay, they were fun, but those fucked-up "satanic" idiots nowadays really suck! All bands which strive with their music for definite "religious" or political goals make me sick! Don't they have other problems so that they have to make up their own? Hey, you buttheads, wake up, this is the real world. There's enough fuckers around, we don't need your shit!"

Another point I like to mention is: I'm sure that neither Tom Araya nor Pete Steele stand for rightwing-attitudes. And I'm not saying this is only because I like SLAYER and TYPE O NEGATIVE but also because I disagree with the high-handed and arrogant behaviour of some metal magazines. Anyway, thank you for the interview and the opportunity to introduce ourselves to your readers. (you're always welcome! -Ed.) Hi to



all who've read patiently up to this point. Believe in yourself and don't be a selfish asshole, you know what I am saying!"

Claudia: "I'd like to say some words to and about people who live out their brainless aggressions at concerts. I mean, what's the point in hitting and beating other persons? Is that, what you call 'having fun'? Or is it just a sign of the times, something like a trend...? Look, especially heavy music has always been a center for individuality, so why do you follow a 'fashion'? There's really enough violence on this planet. Think about it and keep smiling! (and what about the church burnings? -Ed.) Oh, I almost forgot: We would like

to give other bands, who like to make a demo, the chance to record it in our rehearsal room. Just write to us."

Yeah, write them, cause those 4 definitely know what they are talking about as they have been into this music for more than 10 years by now, so...

If you would like to order their debut-demo (6 tracks) feel free to do so, as it's still on sale for 10,-DM or \$7 (incl. p&p) from the following address:

PUNISHMENT
c/o Julia Prahm
Kasseler Str. 60
28215 Bremen
Germany

Frank Stöver

NUMSKULL

I'm sure most of you will still remember a classic album by the name of RITUALLY ABUSED that came out in 1987 on Medusa Rec./Enigma... The band that was responsible for that album is still alive and kickin' and we have them in our unholy pages for you... Ladies and gentlemen; from Illinois/USA: NUMSKULL; The line-up might have changed over the years and also the music is not the same as in their early days, but nevertheless, NUMSKULL is still a great band and Tom and Scott have proved themselves as one of the fastest replying bands on this planet as I got the interview back within less than a week (from the US to Europe !!!!!). I hope you will enjoy it as much as I did...

What do you think have been the main problems with ENIGMA/MEDUSA back then and why haven't you tried to get a new deal in the meantime?

Tom: "We all felt that the label really didn't give a shit about us. Some people who actually worked there thought we only had a pressing and distribution deal, they didn't even know we were signed. The label manager also hated our manager as well. The reason we really haven't tried to get a deal

since then is because of the shitty treatment we got at ENIGMA. Another part was the constantly changing line-up. It seemed once we got going someone quit or else they turned into an asshole and we kicked them out. We have sent a few tapes out though to labels like MECHANIX, PEACEVILLE & NUCLEAR BLAST but

we were rejected. We just figured on putting out a few 7 inches until we became re-established enough to get a full album deal."

As I'm not really sure about the line-up situation, maybe you can tell us who's in the band still and why you have parted ways with some of the older members?



Num Skull

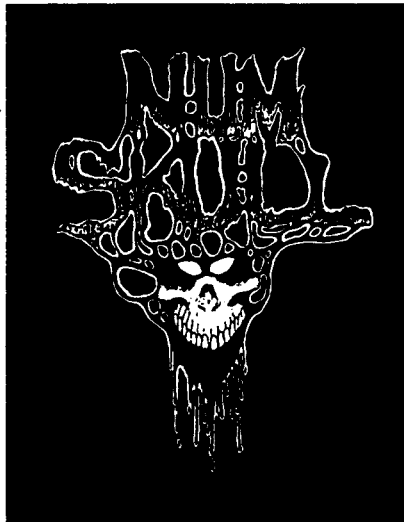
Scott: "The current line - up consists of Paul Benigno (vocals), Dave Harrington (guitar), founding member Tom Brandner (lead guitar), myself Scott Creekmore on drums and Rob Charrier the bassist that played on RITUALLY ABUSED fills in for shows but is no longer a permanent member. Jeff and Skip McGullam left the band in late '90 I guess they just didn't want to be in a band anymore. We still party with them once in a while. After they left Rob handled vocals until '93. We got Paul from a band called AGAMAS after Rob left."

What was the reason for you to change your musical style from thrash to death metal over the years?

Scott: "I think it was just a natural progression. The new material we were writing kept getting heavier and heavier, also Rob's voice was heavier than Skips and Paul is even heavier yet!"

I've got 3 demos of yours ('87, '88 & '89) plus an advance tape of an EP ('93) that never got released, if I'm right... and I also noticed that there was an EP in '91. Could you clear up that situation a little bit, telling us a little bit about your releases maybe?

Scott: "The '87, '88 & '89 demos were with Skip on vocals and the '91 tape was with Rob on vocals. The '93 tape was originally going to be a 7 inch but that's when Rob left for a while so we decided to wait about putting something out until we had



a steady line up. After we got the line up straight we released the split 7 inch w/ SEA OF TRANQUILITY on RAGE RECORDS (N.Y.) and the 2 songs on a comp. CD called HISTORY OF THINGS TO COME on GROWING DEAF (Holland), they were both released in '94. RITUALLY ABUSED has by now totally disappeared from the market, could you tell us the reasons for that and if there are any chances that it will be re-issued, on CD as well maybe?

Tom: "ENIGMA refused to promote it. At the time CD's were new and we were supposed to be released on CD but we got into huge arguments with the label and after we were released from the contract ENIGMA stopped pressing RITUALLY ABUSED. I doubt it will ever be re-released" (so, there's gonna be some bootleg versions of it pretty soon, I guess - Ed.)

How did you get the chance to be a part on the comp. CD of GROWING DEAF and the split-7" on RAGE RECORDS?

Scott: "Erik and John from GROWING DEAF contacted us & said they were planning to release a comp. and wanted to know if we had any new material we wanted to put on it. So we went into the studio and recorded a few tunes and put 2 on the CD and the other one we put on the 7" with RAGE RECORDS. Both labels are really cool and put out material more for the love of the music and the scene rather than just trying to make a quick buck and that's pretty hard to come across these days!"

Do you think NUMSKULL's original fans have disappeared over the years and that you play to a totally different audience by now?

Tom: "Not completely, but I think 80-90% of the audience is new. We still get mail asking about RITUALLY ABUSED. We also sound completely different and some of the older crowd doesn't like the new sound and some of the new crowd wouldn't like the old sound."

What was the reason that you haven't been present in many zines over the years? You can hardly find articles on NUMSKULL...

Scott: "The main reason for NUMSKULL not being in zines recently is because of lineup problems. Now that we have got that straightened out and have got new material to offer you should hopefully see a lot more of us soon!"

Is there a chance that there is gonna be a new album some time? I mean you must have written more than enough material by now?

Scott: "Hopefully we'll be able to find a cool label w/ good distribution and promotion soon. We would love to release a new album. We've got more than enough material and are writing more now. We are sending out promo packets with the tunes from the CD comp. & the 7" along with 3 new ones. I guess we will see what the response is and if they don't like it well just keep putting out through the underground ourselves. The coolest thing about a label is the wide distribution."

Anything else you'd like to mention?

Scott: "Yes, I like to thank you Frank for the cool interview and wish you luck with the zine and if anyone wants information (or free stickers) write to us at the address below! Support the underground!!!"

NUM SKULL
P.O. Box 386
Winthrop Harbor, IL 60096
U.S.A.

Frank Stöver



DESECRATION

I know that a couple of you have prejudices against the Italian scene, but commonly all of you enjoyed ABOVE THE LIGHT, the debut album from SADIST, so... Another great example of excellent music made in Italy is without doubt DESECRATION! Their last mini album VALLEY OF ETERNAL SUFFERING offers you well-played death/thrash w/ some over the top classical guitar work! Due to the fact, that we distribute the bands cd, we decided to make you a little bit more curious about them through this little interview with Fabio... It seems to me that DESECRATION is heading into a direction in the future w/ less death metal influences in the music (just a guess)... is that possible?

"Well, I really don't know. We just write stuff and what comes out, comes out! Maybe you're right, you know, we listen to a lot of music these days, so it's pretty natural that what we hear, is reflecting in our music. You've got so many different influences in your music that I was wondering how you manage to create your material? Is it possible to satisfy everyone in the band when you write a song? (yeah I know, I used a similar question in the PUNISHMENT feature, but nobody's perfect... -Ed.)

"More or less, yes! It's difficult, but not impossible. The thing that we all have in common is that we all like good music. I can imagine, that (guitar-wise) there's also some moody

or classical music involved in your influences... Would you like to talk about that and which other bands you admire?

"Yes, you're right. Our previous guitarist, that plays on the cd, is influenced by MALMSTEEN and classical composers like PAGANINI, ALBINONI etc. There are a lot of different music styles. For example BJORK, TRIBAL TECH, DEPECHE MODE etc."

Is it getting better for Italian bands since SADIST put out their debut album? Have they opened some doors for upcoming bands maybe?

"I really don't know if things have changed that much, let's wait and see where Italian bands will get to."

Is the debut mini cd of yours a self-financed thing or did you get any support from the label? Why did you decide to release a cd at first and not a full-length album?

"The cd is co-produced with the label ZASKO LAB so all the profits and the expenses are divided equally. We wanted to do a 12" EP but the production costs were similar to those of a cd."

What have you done before the cd was recorded - give us some info on your previous activities!

"Before the cd we had a demo out called ABANDON... that went quite well in Italy. Then at the demo we got in touch with ZASKO LAB who liked our material and signed us."

Which country is the best for you at the moment, response wise? How's the reaction on DESECRATION in your own country?

"I think the best country now and always is USA. We are one of the few bands with a cd out, therefore we are enough famous."

Have you had the possibility to promote the band live properly so far? How's the cl-

ub scene for this type of music in Italy?

"It's very difficult to get gigs in Italy so the live promotion of the band is not that good."

What have you done since the release of the cd? Anything new coming up in the near future?

"We have written new songs & got in touch with some labels to see if they would be interested in a full length cd. We got some answers but it's too early to talk about it."

Before we end this interview I'd like you to promote your cd in your own words - how would you describe your material to people who haven't heard of DESECRATION so far?

"It's death metal with some melodic parts and some grind parts. I like it very much & until now the most of the people that have listened to the cd have liked it as well. So have a try and buy!"

(hey, it seems that Fabio is also some kinda poet -Ed.)

Any last comments?
"Ciao a tutti e grazie al nostro amico Frank!" (uuuuh, I'm not into the Italian language at all, but it seems to me, that this could mean something like "Bye & many thanks to you Frank", am I right? Will somebody ever tell me? Confused Ed.)

Anyway, the address to write to DESECRATION is:
DESECRATION
c/o Fabio Frascini
Via della Stazione d'Ottavia
130
00100 Rome
Italy

The cd goes for 22,-DM at our address (for the german readers) and I'm not sure about the price if you order from the band directly, just drop them a line and ask, ok?

Frank Stöver





The Celtic Black Legend

If you've read the BEHEMOTH-interview, you might have noticed, that there was talk of another really dedicated polish black metal band..Yes we are talking about GRAVELAND here and by the time this issue is out, their 2nd full-length album TEN THOUSAND SWORDS will be in the stores, so read on what ROB DARKEN had to tell us about his band...

Since you formed GRAVELAND already back in '92, I was wondering if you still have the same kind of motivation to keep the band going, in times when every new shitty black metal band gets signed right away?!

"My most glorious music was born in darkness..I've always played this kind of style, the gods are my witness! My way will never change, only my musicians will..My ideas, my faith are strong and stable and they force me to hate christianity, so I hate it..I play for war, I play in the name of the pagan gods of darkness, for victory and glory..Gods are friendly to me, others aren't important! Their music is white and they will die because they've been taken in."

Why have you started the whole band as a solo project in the beginning - was it difficult to find the right members back then?

"In the beginning I was alone..There was no possibility to find proper musicians w/ the intension of dark faith..Now, there where I live, the grain of evil was scattered by Crom..GRAVELAND wouldn't exist without the backing of the high power of the ancient gods in this land of fanatical catholics!"

There's been alot of confusion about all the GRAVELAND releases so far, so could you maybe give us a short description of each of your releases?

"From 1991 until the beginning of 1993 I've played alone and recorded some dark music (the NECROMENTION demo in 1992 and the PROMO TAPE in June '92 - Ed.), but the turning point for GRAVELAND was the DRUNEMETON Promotape '92, dark and evil climate, it excellently showed the condition of my spirit..Later on the times of WITCHING HOUR PRODUCTIONS came..They released the '93 Promo EPILOGUE & the '93 demo IN THE GLARE OF BURNING CHURCHES..That demo was our answer to what was started in Norway..War against christianity is the obligation of all true black metal hordes!! At the end of 1993 we recorded the CEL-

TIC WINTER demo which was released as a mini-cd by NO COLOURS RECORDS! In 1994 we recorded our first full-length cd CARPATHIAN WOLVES for ETERNAL DEVIL RECORDS."

There was talk of a cd on the HAMMER OF DAMNATION label, but that never got released...What happened?

"We recorded the mini-cd THE CELTIC WINTER for HAMMER OF DAMNATION REC. but they couldn't release it (money), so NO COLOURS REC. helped us."

Was it important for you to go with a total underground-label or would you also have signed to an more established company?

"Underground labels are the most important for me cause they don't become imbued by greed for money..True black metal was born because of the help of these labels but the time for us has come to move on and that's why we've signed a contract with LETHAL RECORDS..We need money because we wanna start our own label ISENGARD PRODUCTIONS & we aren't rich sunny boys from countries of the european union..We will come back to the underground cause there is our place..ISENGARD PRODUCTIONS will support the ideology of black metal and the war against christianity; everything for the rebirth and triumph of paganism!"

By now, GRAVELAND has become a 3-piece, so I was wondering what kind of demands you had on the musicians that wanted to join you?

"I wasn't interested in their playing abilities, but anxious about their devotion to our unholy cause, to the faith and ideology..Dark faith is the most important thing - only darkness & evil cause it's very difficult to believe in what we believe! But if your faith is strong enough you can achieve everything!"

Do you think that black metal would be as strong as it is now, if there never would have been christianity? Do you think the hate against christianity is the main thing in a black metal band? Could you imagine that black metal would only cover horror and occult topics?

"I lead my private war against christianity! I have some reasons for it and my triumph is near when I see, that thank to my music, young people turn away from christianity..When they learn hate or reach for fire and burn false temples of a false god! Evil gives power! The more evil black metal will be, the more posers will be afraid of it! In the name of

all true evil black metal - destroy all false, weak, sunny bands!"

Who designed your bandlogo? It reminds me alot on the logo that EMPEROR uses? Was it done by the same artist?

"This logo was done by Christopher Szpajdel from Belgium long time ago..I already used it on the DRUNEMETON - promo in 1992..Maybe Christopher did something for EMPEROR as well but I don't know anything about it."

Why haven't you printed the lyrics of your songs on the album-sleeve? Don't you think that people into black metal would be interested to read them?

"People are too curious! We didn't include lyrics in the cd because we wanted to awake more of their interest..Those people who are really interested in them will find ways to get them!"

Would you like to express your negative feelings towards A.S.LaVeY and IMPALED NAZARENE?

"A.S.LaVeY is a typical american pig devoid of faith & spirit which is known to us europeans as white, good and greedy for money! There is no evil and nothing of a true satanist in him..He's good for a circus where he started! IMPALED NAZARENE are submen, fuck hardcore, vacant minds, occult opacity..Pro-LaVeY reminding sneakers!"

In the booklet of CARPATHIAN WOLVES is mentioned that the album was recorded in RADIO PRO FM Studio...Is that a radio station? How did that come about?

"It is a shitty radio station from Opole..They have nothing to do with underground!"

Who's idea was it to release the actual cd in total black?

"I wanted this record to be totally in black, this blackness will bring on it's benediction and also damnation and it'll be in the minds of many people for a long time! Do you think it is a problem for you being from Poland instead of being from Scandinavia? Have you ever gotten letters that accused you of not being true enough?"

"I have never gotten such letters..We have many allies in Norway with similar ideas and common enemies joining us..I'm full of respect for Euronymous and I'm trying to continue his work..In my country a great war is taking place and poser bands get destroyed! Our ideology is spreaded around, so some of them destroy each other, but we have some new enemies: White living death metal, comm-

ercial trend! PANDEMONIUM, VADER, we destroy everybody who uses (without reason) symbols of black metal or satanism in his music and image! Do you think that a progression (musically) within the black metal scene could turn into an overkill like it was with death metal?

"Not in my country! People who listen to black metal & who are devoted their heart and soul to it know what to do..Besides, in my fucking catholic country this music will be forbidden soon cause the evil is done! Don't support posers, destroy them in the name of the true evil black metal ideology! War!"



How is your view on live-shows? Do you also follow the ideas of some of your fellow bands that black metal shouldn't be played live? What do you think of IMMORTAL, ROTTING CHRIST or MARDUK who already did really successful tours overhere?

"We don't play shows..Live shows are stupid! They only give joy and pleasure and we don't want to give joy! It kills intelligence! It destroys power and might! GRAVELAND is a great cloud, everywhere it comes is war and evil! You said that ROTTING CHRIST, MARDUK and IMMORTAL did successful tours.... It's only illusion..They lost true fans of evil black metal, they are popular among silly children who don't know what they really want! What's coming next from GRAVELAND? Any news already?"

"In December ('94) we will



record our second lp/cd for LETHAL RECORDS(TEN THOUSAND SWORDS)and it should be released in February '95(it is as you can see in the review section of this issue -Ed.) This stuff will show our new musical style:Pagan black metal folk !Original dark -ness !A breath of the spirit of paganism !Later I will play intros and keyboards on the second INFERNUM cd and I will release my solo project LORDWIND - black folk, dark climate spirit of the pagan past !"

Anything else ?
 "Support the black metal ideology !Death to all enemies of black metal !Destroy posers and trends !The triumph of paganism is near ! Black Metal is a faith and an ideology !Democracy is only mockery and skit ! Don't let hardcore pigs defame the black metal name !Hate is our daily bread !Let fire clean this land defiled by christianity !And then they will come at the dark and later the daybreak won't wake the unbelievers - they will sleep forever in neverending darkness !"

Well,I don't agree with anything that Rob just told us, for example I can't really



I L B R E D

I'm not really sure what I should tell you about ILBRED from Illinois...They released a great demo, simply entitled ILBRED and it features three tracks of really groovy death metal...Greg, the bands guitarist, answered our questions and made it happen, that we were able to tell you a little more...

Is the '94 demo your debut-release ?Would you like to tell a little bit about it, so people will know what to expect when buying it ?

"Yes, this was the 1st release of ILBRED. The demo contains older material which we finally thought was ready for release with the present line-up. The songs are more on the thrash side which differs from the new songs that we've been working on. We think the material is still heavy enough for today's standards."

You've mentioned some old ILBRED members in the special thank list of your demo, so can you tell us why you had to go separate ways and if there's someone left of the original line-up ?

"Ed our first drummer left to pursue a more commercial style of music. No found a new band when ILBRED temporarily broke up. Leo left due to personal problems. The rest including Mike McGarahan, who was on the tape, we asked to leave because the chemistry wasn't there. As far as original members go, I'm the only one."

By the way, when did you put together ILBRED ? And have you changed musically due to the line-up changes until now ?

"Me, Pete and Leo started ILBRED in 1990 when our first band NOCTURNAL DISMEMBERMENT broke up. The music is basically the same, it's just heavier now."

As you've also mentioned a lot of bands in your demo, I suppose you've already played a lot of shows so far... Any special ones (good or bad) you still have in your mind ?

"Yeah, we've been playing a lot of shows lately. One that sticks out is a show we played with MALEVOLENT CREATION MONSTROSITY, LIVING SACRIFICE BODY BAG and OPPRESSOR. That show was fuckin' great! Another show that was kick ass, was the one we played with some great Chicago bands like AVERNUS, DYSPHORIA, FLESH - GRIND, ABORTUS and SUBCONCI - OUS. The crowd was fucking brutal that night. They've all been good though."

I described your music as groove orientated death metal... Do you agree with that and what makes a good song in your opinion ?

"Yes we agree about the groovy death, mostly our new shit. A good song has to be heavy. It can be totally fast or slower than shit. As long as it has that hook that makes you listen to it."

Is it more difficult for you to get recognition these days, as you play death metal still ? And the biggest hype (or trend) is already gone & has been replaced by black metal or hardcore... ?

"No, we don't find it any more difficult now than it's ever been. The Chicago scene has been very supportive lately. The crowds and shows

have been getting better and better and the bands have been working together to make the scene happen." (sounds good ! -Ed.)

Are you connected to any old bands of the scene musically or do you prefer newer acts ?

"We get our inspiration from everything old and new. We also get inspiration from other types of music not only death metal."

What's your view on industrial sounds ? Do you think this type of music should be a part of the death metal scene ?

"Industrial can be cool if done right. Some could be considered death but for the most part it has its own scene."

What is GRAVELHEAD PROD. ? Just a name or is it a real company that puts out your stuff along with other bands as well ?

"It's basically just a name we use to book shows with other bands, but no, it's not a company or anything." You dedicated your demo to HATHE POPPOV... Was he a close friend of yours ? What happened to him ?

"Hatt was a guy Steve introduced to us a few years ago. He was a great friend who helped us alot. He was at all the shows and didn't bull - shit at all. If we sucked he told us so. He was a true friend. He died after leaving a party we had for Rick joining the band about a month before the studio. He went to a bar and somewhere between there and his house something happened we will never

see any logical aspects in the phrase "Destroy posers and trends" as alot of the black metal kids are posers to me and this form of music has turned into a trend by now anyway, so... And I can't see any reasons to sign to a label that has death metal bands (some of them even "use black metal symbols") if he really believes in the stuff he just mentioned I would NEVER sign to a label like that if I would truly dedicate my lifestyle to the black metal ideology ! Anyway, besides that GRAVEL - LAND is still a brilliant example of how black metal music can sound like these days and they've improved a lot since the origin of the band in '92 - just check out their "CARPATHIAN WOLVES" album or the latest output on LETHAL RECORDS "TEN THOUSAND SWORDS" ! Really moody, dark & atmospheric stuff, total blasphemy

If you would like to get in touch with them, write to the new address:
 GRAVELAND
 P.O. Box 1775
 50-385 Wroclaw 46
 Poland

Frank Stöver

know for sure. But it was definitely foul play."

It seems that you are for the legalization of Marijuana (due to the shirt on the band photo in the democover) but what are your views on hard drugs ?

"He and Steve like to smoke, but the heavy shit is a waste of time."

Anything else you'd like to mention that we might have missed out in our previous conversation ?

"We would like to thank Andy Harris of SARCOPHAGUS for filling in at our shows since Mike is no longer with us and Randy Williams of INNER SOURCE ZINE for helping us with our EP which will be out sometime in '95. Frank, thanks for the interview and the support and tell everyone to support the underground. That's how it happens !"

Well, I can do something like that. For example, I can tell you that the ILBRED demo is available to our german readers for 12,- DM (incl. P&P) at our address. If you live somewhere else in the world you have to write to ILBRED directly (I guess \$5 will be cool for the tape). The address goes like this:

ILBRED
 c/o Greg Giomi
 1654 Ashland Ave.
 Desplaines, IL 60016
 U.S.A.

Frank Stöver

REPULSE RECORDS



Interview w/ Dave Rotten

Everybody who's into underground music must have heard of DROWNED PRODUCTIONS from Spain, a great label that has put out lots of great stuff within the last years. The main person behind it is Dave Rotten, some of you probably know as the vocalist of AVULSED, a really brutal death metal act from Spain as well (quite obvious, huh? Ed.) But something went wrong w/ DROWNED, cause Dave started a new label not long ago, that already brought us GOLGOTHA, DERANGED, HETSHEADS, IMMOLATION and DARKIFIED. The label is called REPULSE RECORDS & we decided to promote that a little bit, so here's an in-depth conversation with Mr. Rotten himself...

What has caused the split-up with HAKD VINYL and why did you have to start from zero again under a different name (REPULSE REC.)?

"There has been many reasons during the two years I shared the label with H.V. and in the last months I was really sick of the egoistical attitude of H.V.'s boss who was only behind the money & didn't give a shit about the music itself. I couldn't do things the way I wanted and sometimes I had to give excuses to some friends because H.V.'s boss took some absurd decisions. All in all I felt I had to split up and form a new label under a new monicker because this is something that has nothing in common with DROWNED PROD., just my personal reputation in the scene, and this has helped me a lot to gain the trust of lots of bands and labels that already knew my work thru the years."

What will happen to all the bands that have been signed to DROWNED PROD.? Will you continue to work with them at REPULSE REC.?

"Since I left DROWNED PROD. I knew that the label was destined to die and in fact the label hasn't done anything without me. I mean, though the financial support came from H.V. I was the one who ran the label, but I had to consult the big decisions with the boss. I was the one in touch with the bands, so they won't continue doing anything about death metal. They wouldn't know what band to sign! I tried to do something with CENOTAPH, SHUB NIGGURATH & DETERIOROT, but the first ones were going to do their album on CYBER (out now!!), the second ones split up and they're too lazy to work with and the third ones seem to have disappeared from the earth!! I'm now working with IMPRECACTION & DARKIFIED (RIP) who were on DROWNED PROD. before."

Tell us about upcoming releases on REPULSE REC.!

"Well, I tell you what we started with. GOLGOTHA - "Caves of mind" MCD in Feb. '94, later, in Nov. we did DERANGED "Architects of perversion" MCD and in Dec. of the same year we did HETSHEADS - "We hall the possessed..." CD. Now we're putting out an IMMOLATION CD entitled "Stepping on angels before dawn" containing all their early studio recordings (some unreleased stuff!!) since their days in RIGOR MORTIS plus some killer live tracks and other surprises. This CD is

sts for about 76min and it's 100% official and it's going to become a classic!! The next release is a MCD of the defunct swedish gods DARKIFIED - "A dance on the grave" containing their demo and 7" EP. After that, a release of AVULSED's 7" EP "Carnivoracity" plus some live tracks on MCD and a full CD by IMPRECACTION containing their demo, 7" EP and new promo '94. I've offered them a full album deal for late '95, let's see what happens. In March/April, DERANGED and GOLGOTHA will enter studios to record their respective debut albums for REPULSE RECORDS and both will be memorable releases, watch out for them!!"

You are in the underground for quite a while now and I noticed your name in the SPAIN IS DIFFERENT 'zine some time ago, so would you like to tell us when you started working within the scene and since when AVULSED is existing?

"Yeah, I did this mag together with two friends in 1990 one is Daniel from the BLOODY REVENGE 'zine which is located in Germany (Mannheim) and the other is Toni ex-AVULSED drummer, now in FERNENTO. The 2nd number (1991) of that 'zine changed it's name into DROWNED MAG because I was doing almost everything, so I decided to go by my own I started to work within the scene back in '87 when I started tape-trading with some german friend that later did a 'zine called LIFE OF DREAMS and another portuguese guy. That was my first step in the scene, later I began writing with other people, bands, zines etc. until I decided to do a zine in early '90 and a label in October '90. AVULSED started as a band in late '91 when I started seeking for some member and it wasn't until January '92 when we finally rented a reh. place and began making some shitty noise."

Was it always a dream for you to be in a band for yourself or do you like to work for fanzines and labels in the same way?

"Yeah, it has always been a dream for me to be in a band but unfortunately I couldn't do it before because of my studies, military service etc so it wasn't until I finished the m.s. when I started to think seriously about a band. I love to work for zines and labels in the same way. I love everything that has something to do with the underground death metal scene. I'm working at record labels since Oct. '90 and I also play in a band for 3 years now, but unfortunately I had to leave the DROWNED MAG. because I didn't have time for it, but in exchange I was collaborating every month in the biggest spanish mag devoted to this music called METALI-K.O. since Oct. '90 with a 2 pages underground section, interviews and record reviews. I left writing for that mag in November '94 because I'm really too busy with my label and band and besides we now do a monthly CATALOZINE which is half zine half catalogue, printed in 600 copies every month with interviews and

record/demo reviews. It's spreaded for free and it's having some cool acceptance." Musically you seem to be totally into the great old brutal bands that formed this musical style a lot, but do you agree that most newer kids have a lot of problems to get into stuff by INCAN - TATION, CENOTAPH, IMMOLATION, SHUB NIGGURATH and so on due to the gothic and industrial trend that has infected the scene?

"Yeah, I'm heavily into old bands because they were the ones who really frightened me in the beginning and I still feel some great sensations when I listen to them. I don't really think that most of the newer guys have problems in getting into brutal stuff!! I can tell you this knowing what I say, because I sell lots of records through my distro and I know the main tastes. The most selling stuff nowadays is the trendy black metal that is infecting the scene, also brutal death like CANNIBAL CORPSE or SUFOCATION have a great acceptance! Of course doom and all the 'avant-garde' stuff sells, but not so many, but the industrial influenced stuff is the minor part." (luckily! Ed)

Do you consider AVULSED as a band that still carries the old feeling in the music? Is it a problem NOT to drag influences from never bands? Do you feel limited in any way, sometimes?

"Well, it depends on the listener. I myself try to carry that feeling through my way of singing, doing it the brutaest way I can without using any effect, but it's actually difficult to have the same feeling in the band's sound like the old bands, because the recording studios have much better equipments and it's almost impossible to achieve such raw and defective sound in a 16 or 24 track studio, but today you don't go anywhere with a bad sounding release. I think it's difficult not to drag influences from never bands because we think we're influenced by all the stuff we listen to in one way or another. I think we are actually very limited because we want to play brutal death metal, not anything else! So unless you put stupid influences from jazz, rock, funk, industrial and other shitty music and even ridiculous instruments just to say: "Oh we use a tambourine (or whatever instrument), so we're original because no one has used it before", then it's difficult to sound original, playing brutal death metal. Anyway, we play what we feel and we don't give a shit if we don't get a deal or we do not have a massive acceptance, only true lovers of this genre will appreciate our stuff and feel there's quite many actually!"

Would you like to comment on each of AVULSED's releases with a few words maybe?

"EXBALMED IN BLOOD DEMO '9/92 Our first experience with a studio and just to see how we sounded like on it. 2 tracks, quite untight, but with

a great feeling in it! 1000 copies. DEFORMED BEYOND BELIEF DEMO '93: Our second demo, 5 songs and 2 guitarists. Much better songs and very good mood, really deep, heavy and brutal! Excellent artwork and good response worldwide. 2000 copies sold.

LIVE IN PERFECT DEFORMITY - LIVE TAPE '93: Released by a small german label called PUTREFY TAPE MAG. 7 songs including an ASPHYX cover version of HULLITATING PROCESS & good sound. Only for AVULSED fans. 120 copies sold from our side.

DEAD FLESH COMP. CD/LP/MC: Five spanish bands, 2 tracks of each band. We recorded 2 new songs in June/July '93 and it was just another step in the band's career.

SPLIT 12" LP w/ACID DEATH: Our side is just the demo '93 but on vinyl shared with a greek band and released by the greek label MOLON LAVE REC. Of what I know, it's the first piece of vinyl released by a spanish band on a foreign label so far, so you can imagine how long our scene had an influence on the scene: Never!

CARNIVORACITY 7" EP: Recorded in Dec. '93 and released in Aug. '94 by the german label M.M.I., represents our best studio material to date. A strange song in the AVULSED stuff, another normal song & a killer cover of chilean gods PENTAGRAM. It was the last recording with the original line-up, cause we changed the drummer days after the recording and one of the guitarists in June '94.

PROMO '94: Just a promotional tape containing the 7" EP songs plus the two unreleased comp. tracks. This is not for sale, only to be spreaded thru the underground supporters (mags, radios, friends, cool people...)

PROMO '95: This is going to be recorded in Feb. and will contain 2 songs played and composed with the new line-up and will show a really huge improvement in the band's sound not heard before, because of the untightness of the replaced members. This will be used for a definite search of a decent label, who wants to put out our debut album planned to be recorded in summer '95. If no one gets interested in AVULSED, then we'll release it on REPULSE REC., no problem."

Could you imagine that it is a lot more difficult for you to make it, because you're from Spain, a land that has not come up with a breakthrough band so far?

"It's not a problem of imagining, it's just a problem of living the fact! I've always said that if my label, band or zine would have been swedish, german or dutch, I would have had much bigger success, but unfortunately, the support that we receive from spanish people is very small. Not many people go to underground shows, not many people buy underground publications or give a shit about underground releases, just the usual big-selling bands from Florida or EAR -

ACHE shit. Besides, no one gives a shit about spanish bands, only 7"EP's and our fuckin' split album, but nothing else. Let's see if we start doing something someday! Would you release an AVULSED album on REPULSE REC. if you wouldn't find another label? Would it be a problem for you to promote your own band besides other acts? Do you think there would be jealousy involved that other musicians wouldn't believe that you treat them in the same way as AVULSED?

"Yeah, I told you that before we'll definitely do it on REPULSE REC. if we don't find any cool, honest & decent label to do it, but before doing it by ourselves we want to try outside of Spain (because here's no other label...) I don't think there would be jealousy from other bands. Every band receives a cool promotion from my side. I've done everything on my own, but obviously I put special emphasis on my band on which I've been working for three years now and I've spent a lot of money and time on it. Besides that, it doesn't mean I will forget the other bands. Above all I have a label, so I must see what's best for the label and the bands that form the label. I normally sign the bands that I love, so it would be stupid not to treat them good!"

You originally wanted to record a cover by INFERNAL MAJESTY, but that didn't make it on your 7"EP... Could you tell us about the reasons?

"The reason is very simple: The old drummer and the replaced guitarist were unable to play such technical stuff so we forgot it because it would sound like shit & opted for an equally godly band like PENTAGRAM which was more simple. As you probably know, I have a side project, called CHRIST DENIED which is a 2-man project band and we're putting out a split double 7"EP on the german label MORBID RECORDS in January '95. This is shared with another spanish band called HAEMORRHAGE where our replaced guitarist plays and where one of my partners in REPULSE REC. does vocals (the third partner plays bass in AVULSED). We've done five songs and one of them is... the cover of INFERNAL MAJESTY!! Yeah, OVERLORD is the song and you must hear it (if you haven't done it yet!!) (I have!!!! It is just godly! -Ed.) We're now planning a cover of ONSLAUGHT's ANGELS OF DEATH which dates from '85! Uh! Old thrash/death bands fucking rage!! (Yep! -Ed.)

Since you are in the scene for such a long time now, I was wondering if you could tell us your view on things that have become better and things that have turned out to be alot worse than a couple of years back within the death metal scene?

"Well, it's difficult to compare the scene 8-9 years ago because almost none of the bands that are actually considered like gods existed then or they just had demos so it was somekind like a precious jewel to get their demos even by tape trading. Now, there's thousands of bands and demos are so professional and easy to get that it has no sense to make tape trading. Well at least I think there's not so many traders as before, because I left that activity behind in '91, so I don't know much about that. I don't see anything bad in the scene, it naturally grew up and of course there are alot of trendy assholes who jump on the bandwagon, both fans & bands. But everyone can see who they are, because unavoidable, they jump on the next trend when they get tired of it! Also the labels! EARACHE started signing death metal bands, but now they are jumping on another bandwagon



(industrial shit!) and also ROADRACER signed some cool bands and now they are with the dicksucking grunge, same goes for PEACEVILLE, who prefer weird stuff like KONG, G.G.F.H. These labels still maintain their successful & bigselling bands, but they don't support the scene any longer. That's because they saw a golden mine in this music and later, when they realised it didn't reached enough sales to make them big millionaires they left and jumped on the next trend. The greatness of death metal is that it's so extreme that it can never be a commercial form of music (well, in a way it already is commercial - Ed.) It's music made from people like you and me, everyone can do it! You don't have to be special to play it, just feel it! (maybe that is one of the major problems these days - EVERYONE seems to FEEL it, cause there's so goddamn many shitty bands out there, it's unbelievable! - Ed.) It can never grow to the extremes of other musical styles, I mean not in relation with death, but with Hard Rock etc. Only the true lover of death metal, the one who really feel it will be there for years and I think I'm one of those because my feeling about this music hasn't changed during 8 years and it's still getting stronger and stronger!"

Do you think it's getting more and more difficult to get recognition if you are involved in death metal music due to the trendiness of hardcore right now... that people lost their interest in death metal or grew out of it?

"I think that most part of this has been said in the previous question, yeah you are right! Trends are ruled by the big labels which decide which bands have to be supported. If they see that some people are taking a bit of interest in some specific kind of music, then they sign a couple of bands of that style, give them big promotion and then the typical mass of trendy idiots without formed musical tastes follow it, buying these records and forming millions of bands of that style. I think that now hardcore is the trend, but it's not an underground type of music, so it don't take many influence. (??? Hardcore also was very much underground stuff! Ed.) I think the real trend in the underground is the fucking black metal. I've been loving VENOM, MAYHEM, HELLHAMMER, BATHORY, POSSESSED since years and what?? Now, since '92 it seems like everybody was into that then! Every black metal that emerge says: "Oh I feel the power of the

northern darkness on me. We hail the ancient bands..." Bullshit! If you ask them about INFERNAL MAJESTY, EXORCIST, ONSLAUGHT, SLAUGHTER, PENTAGRAM, POISON etc. they say: "What??" These are idiots who were born, listening to EMPEROR & BURZUM two years ago. Where were they 7-8 years ago?? I didn't see them!! (ne neither!! -Ed.) I'm not against black metal don't take me wrong, but I think there's too many shit involved in it and too many false idiots that will change into another music in the next two years (hopefully! Ed.) when they don't feel happy anymore, painting their faces like clowns. There's shit everywhere, in every style, but only the ones who really feel that music will survive and that's what matters. Fuck the mainstream. I know death metal is not interesting nowadays, but REPULSE REC. is a death metal label and we'll release this stuff!"

Anything else you'd like to mention before we say good-bye?

"Yeah, everybody must keep this in mind and in two years, after the black metal trend they should tell me: "Dave, you were right!" Well, keep this in mind: THE NEXT UNDERGROUND TREND IS GONNA BE GRIND!! (I have my doubts, and I don't really think that grind will EVER be the next trend! -Ed.) Let's see how many "true" black metalers you can see then. Thanx Frank for this mega-killer interview and the best of luck with your mag. I know you're into this like me, and I respect you for that! !FUCK FAKE TRENDS!!"

Well, to be honest, I never really thought that this interview would be such a pleasure, but Dave made it possible with some really interesting thoughts... I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did. If you would like to get in touch with REPULSE RECORDS or AVULSED, note the following address:
 REPULSE RECORDS/AVULSED
 c/o Dave Rotten
 P.O. Box 50562
 28080 Madrid
 Spain

Frank Stöver





Not dead



...but dreaming

We had KATATONIA in our 4th issue, but the interview that Chris had conducted was a little bit short, so we decided on a never and also longer feature and found out that the band is not really working anymore (at least not at this point of time), but you'll notice that for yourselves by reading the chat we had with Blackheim...

It took NO FASHION REC. about a year to release your debut-album after all... Do you know the reasons for this big delay?

"Well, going back and start digging on this shit again then. NO FASHION screwed up due to the major lack of money. If another label (idiots) hadn't started helping NO FASHION, the KATATONIA, DISSECTION and THRONE OF ANAZ albums would never have been released, but I can't feel any gratitude for that anyway, since their way of working makes me frustrated. It's too bad we released this album in those stinking circumstances."

You mentioned, that the songs on the album are not comparable to what KATATONIA is up to musically by now, so how does your new stuff differ from the album?

"Our new stuff isn't written under KATATONIA so I find it difficult to express the differences in comparison to what KATATONIA has released so far."

Is it true that KATATONIA is no longer together by now & that you all have new projects already? What kind of stuff are you doing nowadays?

"First of all, KATATONIA are not split-up! Only layed in silence to prioritize other projects incl. KATATONIA members. Watch out for DIABOLICAL MASQUERADE which I'm involved in. I've material written for an album and it'll emerge a/s/a/p. That's basically all I can say right now."

There's a new mcd available of KATATONIA these days, so maybe you would like to tell something about that?!

"Well, it's entitled FOR FUNERALS TO COME and features our old metal way of doing 4 new tracks. AVANTGARDE MUSIC from Italy put it out. They also put out the first ever made long sleeve shirts. Explore!!"

Do you think that a KATATONIA fan has to be open-minded to follow the band through the years?

"This is important to say. No, not openminded, but generally darkminded and truly, melancholy addicts."

As your main influence in the beginning has been PARADISE LOST, especially when it comes to the morbid guitar melodies, I'd like to know, why you expect a KATATONIA-fan to be addicted when you are not willing to follow the new direction of PL yourself? Are you not addicted enough to follow their new stuff?

"Blahh!! I've talked enough about this matter. Openminded or narrowminded for the future of PARADISE LOST, I don't care. Anyway I just don't like it, but on the other hand I almost adore the GOTHIC album. I claim with all my powers that PARADISE LOST did NOT follow a normal or natural evolution from that album and forward. They are too busy with their successive crap nowadays. All the darkness in the band is gone. They even changed their godly logo (which really brought forth the bandnames meaning. Miserable and depressed) probably to take further distance from their past. Meaningless band they've become. A shame really."

Why have you decided to drop the corpsepaint after using it for quite some time already?

"We've not actually dropped it. We simply haven't used it on the photos for the latest releases. It all depends on the mood to use it. KATATONIA hasn't gone through an image change like KISS did when they finally unmasked themselves. Expect a pale miserable face when you least suspect it."

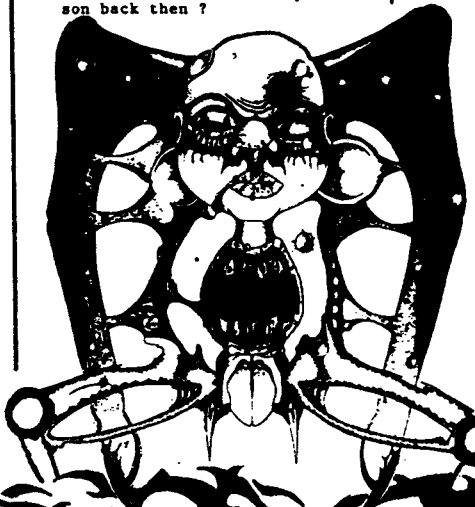
Would you agree that you weren't really ready to record your first demo in 1992 as Dan Swanö told me, that you had a big grindcore influence back then as well?

Do you think it was a good decision to work with him and listen to his ideas? Would KATATONIA be a different sounding band maybe, if you'd worked with a different person back then?

"I'd the idea of putting out the demo on cd since it definitely was worth to be released properly. I'd decided to stop selling the demo as a cassette at 400 copies sold. I searched around for interested labels to release the cd and finally Roel told me he was very proud to do it, so then in late '93 it was out and VIC REC. was born. The cd-version is the identical demoversion. No remixes just the same great recording on a proper release it is."

Who came up with the design of your bandlogo and do you still think it needs the pentagram in it? Are you influenced by the darkside?

"I did our logo. Still I'm very satisfied with it, but perhaps you're right, it doesn't necessarily has to contain the pentagram, but erasing it would change the logo too much in its overlook. And it would be kinda silly to just break the lines of the pentagram so there's a little space between, to say it's not longer a satanic -



symbol. I don't think it is necessary to make too much problematics out of this. It's there and was designed while having the believes behind it, something that changed. I mean, how serious should you take this subject over a symbol in a logo? I remember once that we were gonna play in Lulea, the north of Sweden and the police warned the organization responsible for the gig that they were going to stop the gig. The police's only explanation was that the headline band (KATATONIA) had a satanic symbol in the logo. The christian dictatorship world makes me vomit (upon the cross)."

You try to get away from all the typical genre clichés in my opinion, but you still have a silly skull on the back of your excellent album. Was that your own idea? What does it stand for?

"That wasn't really our own idea, it was Martinsen (the one who's doing most of NO FASHION album layouts and he is Lord J. Renske's uncle by the way). A photo he'd taken in a church in Belgium I think. The skull originally has a body as well, but we thought it would look appealing with a close shot of a skull on the back. It spreads the feeling of death, nothing more to it really. I guess it's a matter of own opinions whether it's silly or not."

What kind of language is ELOHIM METH and how did you get the idea to use that for KATATONIA?

"It's either latin or hebrew. The whole statement in one bound sentence (IHVA ELOHIM METH) means GOD IS DEAD. That's why we choose to call the instrumental song on DANCE... for ELOHIM METH thus IS DEAD. A cryptic title for an obscure song."

You re-did WITHOUT GOD from the demo for the album. Is that song the most representative from your point of view when it comes to older KATATONIA material?

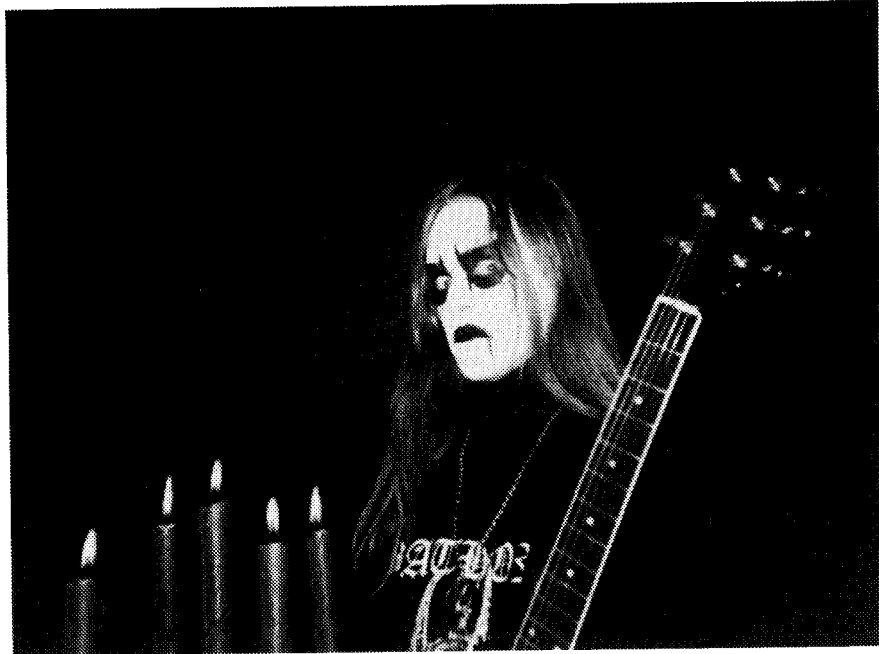
"The reasons for re-recording WITHOUT GOD was because of the major support this track has gotten at the gigs and in general. Our kinda main "hit" song. So we thought it was obvious to include it on the debut album. I've had some after thoughts of why we didn't re-record all the demo songs. That would have been interesting, but this is what have accured. Personally I can't make up my mind which song is the most representative in my point of view, but I really like THE NORTHERN SILENCE. Fuck! They are all unbeatable!"

Why has Lord Seth decided to change his pseudonym into Lord J. Renske?

"Identity changes I guess. No major reason."

As you've always been a two-piece act in the past, I can imagine that you never played any gigs back then... Is that correct and will that change now with KATATONIA as a three-piece?

"We never played live while being 2 members, but since Israphel joined us we've until now played about 10-15 gigs, always using the guitarist from OPEH as a session live musician. So, there aren't really any difficulties on playing the songs making 'em sound equal to the recording except for the lack of keyboards, which when not used causing a lot lesser atmosphere. No luck in getting a keyboardist either for live



performances or permanent as of yet."

How did you get in touch with Israphel and have you ever thought about problems you might get, having a drumming vocalist when it comes to the stage show?

"We got in touch with Israphel through the same rehearsal place we were using. I was jamming around with his earlier band when he one day asked us if it was possible for him to join us permanently. After some thoughts we accepted him and he became the bass player we'd been longing to recruit. About the stage show, there aren't any problems because I then do all the singing. It works out best this way."

Do you mind, talking about your lyrical contents? Would you like to give us a little overview, what the songs on the album are about?

"I'm not the creator of these lyrical works, but all I can tell is that they all combine true darkness with deep sorrow and melancholy. Each lyric reflects different kinds of visions."

I've found somewhere that you personally don't read that much, but what about Lord J. Renske? Has he any particular faves maybe, where he draws his lyrical influences from?

"I know he was into some kind of grave romantic poetry by Italian (I think) authors. Also northern mythology, which we all are into as well as subjects like paranormal believes, clairvoyance, telepathy, magics of different kind and other occult wisdom. I also enjoy the fantasy literature from Clive Barker, H.P. Lovecraft, Tolkien etc."

Do you think it has become a one-way to search musical influences within the death/black metal scene today? Has this music reached its borders already? Do you have to listen to other kinds of music to go on? What about KATATONIA and FIELDS OF THE NEPHILIM? Do they (or those kinda bands) inspire you more nowadays?

"It depends on what you mean

by saying "to go on". I guess you must be thinking of the progression of a band (yep! Ed. Many bands don't want to progress out of their music style, just improve it. The limit for improvement doesn't exist, because this is based on different opinions. Speaking for myself, I can't say I'm a one-way searcher within death/black metal. I as an artist seek inspiration out of far different things. Winter, deep enchanting forests, misty graveyards, night skies... and so on truly inspires me. And it's also true that I listen to a lot of bands in the same genre as FIELDS OF THE NEPHILIM. I find it more appeal-

ing to listen to those kinda bands than the 3rd and 4th generation of the present metal bands."

Ok, that's all for now - anything else you'd like to add to this interview?

"Well, thank you for the support and interest in the band. Nothing more to say. I think KATATONIA will restore its power in a coffin for a while, dead but dreaming..."

KATATONIA
c/o Nyström
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Sweden

Frank Stöver

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THE LAZIEST DEATH METAL BAND EVER?

Anybody remembering SORCERY? Shame on you, they were one of the first swedish death metal bands and one of the really few which didn't have any profit from the "trend" or "hype" some time ago. They never cared, still stick to their origin and basically have the perfect attitude to be featured in-depth. So please enjoy this utmost in-depth view on SORCERY with my doom man Ola and drop them letters offering your support! I wish to see these great guys for a long time alive and rocking, it just depends on you... TRUE DEATH METAL HERE!!

I think you should be the one opening up this interview with some introductory words...

"Well, I don't know really how to start but it's nice again to be back doing something with SORCERY. Even though we never broke up or something we have been away from the underground for some time. During this period since we had our latest release (BLOODCHILLING TALES album) in '91 we never stopped to rehearse or write songs but in a much slower pace than before and I think, no-one can describe us with a better word than you used to call us, Leif, when we last met: Lame. I also want to thank all the people that have written to us and kept us alive (at least on a life-support) in the underground never forgot about us."

Although you have been around for quite a while now with SORCERY there are still too many persons without an idea about your band, so you should better give them an insight of your past...

"We started to play under the name of SORCERY during the summer of 1986 so we are in our 9th year very soon. There are still three of the original members in the band but during the years we have had numerous line-up changes. All in all I think there have been up to 14 members in SORCERY since the beginning. The first release came in April 1987 and was called THE ARRIVAL. This demo was about 50min long and contained some songs which were more in a speed metal type of style. I think, when I listen to it now, it seems to be ages ago when we recorded it but I still remember that it was something of a dream for us to record and release some songs that we had made ourselves. The songs are in my opinion still quite good and the sound is really ok. Before our next release, the ANCIENT CREATION demo in 1988 we had some problems going on in the band and we changed the drummer and one of the original guitarists. The guitarist just had a short departure and came back during the recording of the demo. We actually recorded this demo twice but it was the second version of it that was released and even though we had a terrible sound quality and we had changed our musical style to something that can be described as some very fast hardcore stuff this demo opened-up the underground scene for us. People from all kinds of different places seemed to like it and we started to appear in different mags. We could almost not believe it. Again we had some real changes in our band, new people came in and we started to change instruments with each other. In 1989 we recorded what should be the third demo with SORCERY UNHOLY CRUSADE. The recording was made in a professional studio and the sound is very good. Now the band had developed into how it should sound and again this demo had a quite good response from everywhere and that pleased us a lot. THRASH RECORDS of France offered us a contract for one EP and they wanted some new songs so in 1990 we went back to the studio for the second time to record the RIVERS OF THE DEAD EP. This was released in August in the same year and I think all of the copies were sold out within some months, so they had to make another press. All in all I think there were about 2100 copies made. Now we had released an EP & we were just happy with that when UNDERGROUND RECORDS offered us a deal for an album. We recorded the album called BLOODCHILLING TALES by our own

money in the notorious Sunlight Studio in December 1990 and after various delays it was released during the summer of 1991. After this everything looked bright for a while then it just stopped. Nothing more happened and four years later we are still where we were when we released the album. Ok, we have a new line-up and we have almost enough songs to record a new album but we are still standing still planning this planning that. At least our line-up is steady now and has been for almost two years and I think everybody have their minds set on playing so we have to see what will happen.

Let's go back in history: after the 3 demos you made the "first step" into the international underground scene w/ your ep for THRASH REC. What were your thoughts on the scene back then, your ambitions, your reactions to the way the ep has done and everything?

"We released the ep RIVERS OF THE DEAD /RITE OF SACRIFICE in 1990, I think that at least in Sweden the underground scene was in the middle of it's peak. I remember at the time we were so overwhelmed that we could get so much mail and response on our stuff. We have never been a band who had a goal to be famous or anything, we just played our music because we liked it and had nothing to do so when we got contacted by THRASH REC. about the ep at first we couldn't believe it. I think that the ep sold as good as it should and I am very pleased with how everything was handled at the time. We got our payments from the label and we had no problems what so ever."

Later on came your debut lp and it is still your one and only platter... How come the whole idea why have you only released it as lp (not cd/tape) and weren't you frustrated about the fact it sold so much less than the eps: especially considering the fact that the lp could have been something like your "breakthrough" within the death metal scene back in those days?!

"The guy at UNDERGROUND REC., Tobias, had sold the ep for a while in his mail order catalogue and when Mikael Jansson (bassplayer at that time) called him up to hear what our money was, Tobias just offered us a deal. We did exactly what you shouldn't do, thanked yes directly without looking around for maybe a better deal. At first everything was drawn up big to us. How it would be released everywhere and have a great promotion and everything. Then came the first pressing, on vinyl. Why you ask, well we did too and the answer was that our german distribution company didn't want cd's and they had ordered about 500 copies on vinyl. The album got delayed so much that when it was out, no one didn't care about vinyl anymore. The album was pressed in 1100 copies and what could have meant our dreams really took us nowhere. Some of us got quite frustrated with this and left the band but as I mentioned before we only play our music just because we like it and if we got appreciated this much that someone wanted to release an album with us then it felt good at the time but then again you have to remember that there aren't happiness that don't have a side of reality within it. The reality with this is that we believed in all the promises about promotion and everything, without realizing that we were heading into a dead end. I still remember the flyers that UNDERGROUND REC. sent out prior to the release saying that it should come out soon on lp, cd, mc & video but that shows a little bit about how up in the blue the plans were from his side. Well, I have no hard feelings about Tobias and I don't think that anybody else in the band has either. I think we all realized that he wanted and hoped for more that he could afford and I am really proud that he liked our songs enough to give us the chance. Also to this story I might add that I'm a great fan of vinyl records and when I look back I think even if it was a bad move at the time to release it this way, at least we have

got a vinyl now and if we ever going to make another album it will definitely not be on vinyl so this was our way to say good-bye to an old friend and head towards the cd-age." Being SORCERY one of the very first dark/death metal bands from Sweden, you should have a clear vision on your country's scene! So, how did it look in the earlier days, what about the times of the so-called "trend" when so many death metal bands began to appear in Sweden and what's your view on nowadays scene?

"At first when we started back in 1986 we didn't had contact with anyone. Then we started to meet other guys from some other bands and so on when we visited gigs. FILTHY CHRISTIANS and TRIBULATION were the first real bands which we played with and it was TRIBULATION that opened the underground scene to us. And when we entered, it was like going into a different world. Some of us were in contact with TREELINKA, NIHILIST, GROTESQUE and bands like that and we all traded tapes with each other. Then the scene just grew as the bands grew and went through alot of changes. Around 1989 and a few years forward I think that the scene was at its biggest. Many were the followers but as always when people jump on a bandwagon and changes everything in their lives just to do or listen to the same stuff as their friends a lot of people didn't get the point of the whole thing, doing something you like for yourself and not to prove yourself cool to your friends. People like that killed the scene, at least made it a lot less credible and put it away from it's glorious days. The scene is today alot smaller and the audiences at gigs aren't as big as they used to be but there are still a few souls left from the beginning who make the whole thing live and hopefully it will grow again." You used to play some gigs with now "big" death bands from Sweden in the past (you could name a few) and you had to observe that most of the bands are now times bigger than SORCERY, although you began at the same time or even earlier playing basically the same music. Didn't this fact affect your moral or aim as a band? What possible reasons could explain the happened? Maybe even your own laziness? If so, then is laziness directly connected with a bit of "misfortune"?

"We have played together with bands like ENTOMBED, MERCILESS, DISMEMBER, THE RION and so on. Bands that all have passed us with miles in popularity, even though we started at the same time or they came up after us. The fact that we stood still while all other bands were moving was kind of annoying sometimes, but it has never affected us musically. We knew that we didn't had the same condition as the bands who came from places like Stockholm or Gothenburg as we come from a smaller town where there are harder to find gigs and people are more stuck into what they are used to and afraid of the new that death metal was when we started. Laziness is also one of our biggest problems. I will definitely not say that I am less lazy than anybody else in our band, but I also think that we have been quite misfortunate in the past. We have sometimes made wrong steps and every time we could feel it loosen up a little, then somebody always left the band or we just felt satisfied with that for the moment and took a short break which we had a really hard time to come back after."

As far as I know, you began with really dark lyrics at the very first day of SORCERY and still keep that direction (but the "level" of expressing something has been raised and it doesn't sound soooo "primitive" anymore, but still obscure!). So how would you comment on this "need-to-be-dark" attitude in Sweden, the actual Black metal TREND where lots of normal guys claim

or attain to be the most extreme and devilish just in order to promote their bands?

"I think with the exception of just a handful bands the whole idea of being the worst band, the most evil or the most satanic band is just an image thing that has no deeper meaning. When we started back in 1986 we were just kids that thought the whole satanic thing was so cool and we just jumped on it because we didn't know anything else that was worth writing about. Maybe we were afraid at the time to show our inner thoughts as we just hide behind this satanic front. I can see how other bands have had just the same development in their lyrics as well as the members grow older. Our satanic period seems to me as a very childish one as most of us weren't into it at all but at least it was a start for us to develop into what we are today. Nowadays the lyrics are more mature and deal with social topics as well as fiction. We have this song called MASS MURDER which is about wars and another one called MACULATED LIFE which is a song about suicide. Even if the topics aren't new and original the lyrics are mine and I can back them up 100%, something I never could when they were just about Satan and killing people. I have no defence for those older lyrics and I think that if you asked all the "really cool satanic" bands if they all can stand for what they sing about you wouldn't have many who truthfully could answer, yes. I believe that a band should be free to sing about anything they want and I don't want to preach or anything, I just want to tell you how it was for us. The only thing that bothers me is that most of the new bands that come up nowadays are using the same lyrics, the same concept and in many cases the same bloody corpse - paint as all the other bands do. Where is the originality? Where's the new ideas?"

I know that it's dull to ask about bands that influenced SORCERY, but I bet your tastes have changed from the beginning to the actual situation! So, you still feel connected to those bands that once have animated you to begin this type of music? Any non-musical topics that influences your work (special looks, or whatever, food, no idea!!) and is it possible that the social conditions in Sweden also push so many persons to form a band (like the fact that you don't have to work more than 3 months a year, so that you have a longer spare-time etc.)?

"We have had very different opinions sometimes musically in our band and we doesn't all listen to just death metal all the time. For me it is almost the opposite way, I seldom listen to death metal at all. I have always been a great fan of older bands like BLACK SABBATH, BLUE OYSTER CULT but also much into the doom metal movement. When I write a song, or maybe I should say a lyric, as I can't write any music at all, I am influenced not by other musicians as much as things that happen around me and what I feel like at the moment. I could never just sit down and say that I should write lyrics if I wasn't inspired to do so. There are so much things out there to get you inspired, your friends, your ups and downs, sadness, loneliness, happiness and stuff like that are issues that I pick my inspiration from. The fact that there is so many bands in Sweden may have something to do with the social conditions but I rather think that we have a great musical tradition here which let people grew up around music from the early beginning of their lives. I think that if you really would like to put everything aside just to concentrate on the music you can actually get a great help with money from different cultural divisions and schools. I think that there is a need for the people to say something and for them the music is a purpose to reach out to others."

Well, SORCERY are reformed by now! Maybe you should tell us about the new line-up and even if possible something personal about the single members... also about your new material and about the possibility of finally seeing a new official SORCERY product being released one day or another?

"We have had a steady line-up now since about April 1993 when our original bassplayer asked us if he could start playing with us again after one year departure. We who have been in SORCERY from the beginning are: me, Ola Malmström on vocals, Paul Johansson on guitar, he started in SORCERY as a guitarist but in the beginning of 1989 he changed his instrument to drums and it his him you can hear beat the skins on the last demo, the ep and the album. Paul changed back to guitar in February 1993 and has since then concentrated on that instrument. Paul used to play bass in a side project band called THE GYPSY SUN AND THE RAINBOW BAND, which played old blues tunes and Hendrix stuff. Magnus Karlsson-Mård is the original bassplayer but he did actually change to guitar when we recorded the ep and the album. After an argue-

ment with the rest of the band he left in April 1992 to rejoin a year later & now everything works well with him. Peter Hedman is the other guitarist & he joined us in the end of 1991. He is a great source when it comes to song-writing and he writes most of the music today. The newest member and old friend to the band called Patrik Johansson



who started to play drums with us in February 1993 and has been with us since. We are all between 22 and 25 years old. Today we have no release planned and no one who would like to sign us. We have had some discussions about recording a new demo to promote our stuff but it seems we have to wait a little and see what will be."

I was told that you played 2 gigs lately, mostly with cover-tunes from your old heroes! Could you explain us exactly what and why you played and how it felt to be on stage again after such a long break?

"It was great to be up there again on stage playing some songs. This time we decided to play some songs which we grew up with and from bands that we like. We didn't had so much time to rehearse, only three weeks before the 1st of the two gigs. The songs we played were: THE TEMPTER by TROUBLE, BLACK MAGIC by SLAYER, CALL FROM THE GRAVE by BATHORY, PIRANHA by EXODUS, BLACK FUNERAL by MERCYFUL FATE and SHAKE YOUR HEADS by ACCEPT. We also played two of our own songs at both gigs. The second gig was kind of special to us because we had some guest musicians playing w/ us, Linda Adamsson of SAPEIRA played on SHAKE YOUR HEADS, Erika Wallberg of LONG LIZ played on BLACK FUNERAL as well as singing background together w/ my brother Henrik on one song. The other songs were played by an old, long forgotten member of SORCERY called Peter Sjöberg. Both gigs went by without any bigger problems and I hope that we will be on stage very soon again, maybe just playing our own stuff to our own audience."

Most of the bands nowadays need a method to be promoted like "heaviest ever", "most evil band" etc. Would you agree with a sticker on your products, saying: "SORCERY, the laziest/death metal band ever"?

"I guess that you can actually say that but I don't want to put down other lazy bands calling us the laziest ever. As we never had this goal in front of us maybe we haven't been so motivated at all times. We use to have these periods which are very slow to us and then suddenly start to rehearse several times a week. We have just started to rehearse after a short Christmas break, hopefully we will keep it up to a normal pace this time."

I've got one point of criticism and that's the cover artwork to all your releases so far which was (at least in my eyes) pretty poor and that hinders without doubts the spreading and buy-



ing ability of a product... Were you really satisfied with those covers or do you plan to change the basical thoughts about this aspect?

"The cover on the ep was made by a local graffiti artist called Roffe Gustavsson and he presented quite a few different versions to us before we decided to go with the final one. THRASH REC. wanted the cover to be in b&w and when they printed the covers I think the printing was a little faded and not as many details as on the original were recognized. It was also a money aspect in all this. We couldn't afford a professional to make a cover to us and at the time this was the right choice. The cover to the album was made by an artist that the guy at UNDERGROUND knew. We gave him a description of what we wanted the cover to include & he painted it of those instructions. I think some parts of the painting turned out quite well but the whole finished product was kind of dry and didn't say anything. I can agree that none of the covers are the ones to catch your eyes when you come into a record store. But at least as for the ep, I don't think that it had any effects on the way it sold. On the album, well I don't know, maybe. I remember at the time of the release of the album Mikael and I wanted to have a totally black cover with just the SORCERY logo in white on it. Very discrete but at the same time it gives the whole thing a feeling of massiveness but in the end the other three guys won the argument and it turned out this way."

Which bands (out of the metal genre) are the most important representors and why of the swedish potential for music? And by the way, what's so special about ROXETTE?

"Maybe it is hard to believe but I am a great ROXETTE fan, something that puzzled many for a very long time. Paul does also like ROXETTE but maybe not as much as I. I don't know really what makes them so good. Other stuff I listen to besides the metal genre may be something that is very emotionfilled, like ENYA, TORI AMOS or LOREENA McKERRITT. I also listen to some classic stuff if it's heavy enough. I like quite dark music, apart from ROXETTE of course and happy tunes doesn't exactly make me wanna jump around."

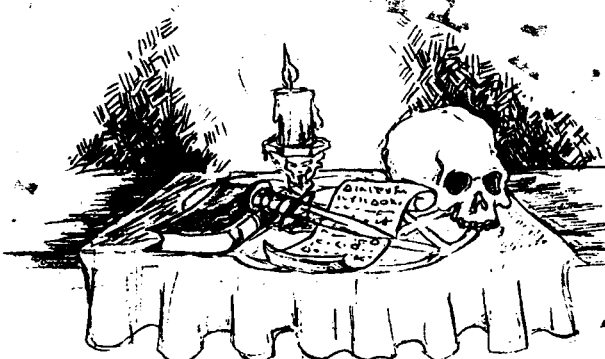
Ok, I think we got in-depth enough, or what? (yeah, unfortunately we even had to shorten the original version due to lack of space! Sorry!! -Ed) Plans for the future... and in case I should have forgotten something, just put it down here! Thanx to you and best of luck, pal!

"Well, I think all has been said and I really hope that all of you out there who thought we were dead for a long time, realized that we are still around. If someone's interested to hear some of our newer songs please send a blank tape or just \$3 to me and I'll record something for you. We can still record the old demos if you like. The plan right now is to get a grip on ourselves and really start rehearsing for another recording, if it will be a demo or an album time will tell. But right now the most important is to once again come out to the people who once liked us. As this interview is beginning to reach its end I would like to thank you Leif for the opportunity to be in this mag and I hope that I'll soon see you again, maybe at your place this time."

Leif Jensen

Leif and Ola also talked about FEAR MY SOLITUDE, the side-project of Ola where he worships the doomer side of life, but unfortunately that didn't fit here anymore. But feel free to ask Ola about that as well, as FEAR MY SOLITUDE have released tons of demos by now...

SORCERY/FEAR MY SOLITUDE
c/o Ola Malmström
Smassenvägen 33A
81151 Sandviken
Sweden



The Final Interview



CELTIC FROST



One of the most influential bands on today's death/black metal scene has been without doubt Switzerland's CELTIC FROST! Due to the fact that the band kinda disappeared since the origin of our zine we weren't able to get ahold of one of the members for an interview and by now they have sadly broken-up. BUT, at least we got the opportunity to use probably the final conversation of TOM WARRIOR which originally appeared in ILL LITERATURE MAG, so all credits go out to them! Ula Gehret made it all happen... I was surprised to hear new material, as I feared you'd packed it in after VANITY / NEMESIS and the two new cuts on PARCHED...

"After INTO THE PANDEMONIUM, packing in became a permanent friend of ours. No, seriously, there's a lot of obstacles and that is always a thought at the back of our minds. Not to frighten anybody, but it's not easy to carry on a band like FROST, and sometimes you want to stop standing up to conventions and directions and music industry conditions."
What is your current line-up?

"Reed St. Mark is playing (again) - a minor sensation probably among our fans! Curt (Victor Bryant) is our lead-guitar player. I'm of course in the band, and the only new person is the replacement for Martin (Ain) - Renee Hernandez. Really, this was never intended to be my solo project, but there's been so many line-up changes that people started to think that it's Tom and some back-up musicians."

"I knew Reed was out of MIND-FUNK, but I thought when you got rid of him there were ego problems?"

"Well, it's a very complex story. Yeah, we all had problems with egos, and those problems were pretty well hidden. Then we ran into some legal problems with NOISE Records in '87 and everything came apart. Videoclips were cancelled, tours were cancelled, everything... In a situation of extreme stress ego flaws can surface, and that doesn't go for Reed alone, that goes for me and Martin too. I don't want to single out somebody. I was very much involved in this crap, but it's been 6 years. I'm going to be 30, and Reed's past 30, how long can you go on being a kid? We were always hoping we would be able to talk on a professional, mature level again. Reed came to Switzer-land over a year ago and we

had a long talk and he apologized for a lot of things, and I realized a lot of shit I did, too. That was the first step. So when I moved to the States we hung out, and when we did the demo we asked him to join FROST, and he did, and it's worked out fantastic."
"I'd say that definitely brings more credibility back to the FROST fold. But what of Tom's longtime friend and partner, Martin Ain?"

"Martin has severed ties w/ the music scene. He doesn't rehearse anymore, he doesn't play in a band anymore. He was always the one that was very frustrated. He wanted to leave the band since '87, because Martin's an artist and he didn't want to deal with all the politics in music - business. He does some work with some local Swiss bands but nothing big. The last time I spoke with him, he said several times that he had no intention of getting back into music. We remain friends and, as a matter of fact, I sent him a demo (of new material) and consult him on things because I formed the band with him."

Does that mean he's abandoned his attempt to reform HELLHAMMER?"

"When he left FROST originally he wanted to do HELLHAMMER, then he wanted to do another band. But you see, Martin was more of an intellectual influence on FROST. Everybody in the line-up had their assigned positions, even though we never set those roles. I was foremost a songwriter, Martin was an intellectual backing - he came up with a lot of ideas and concepts. Reed was a very musical force because he was the best musician in the band. Martin hardly ever wrote material, and Martin said several times that he needed me to kick his butt. If you wouldn't pressure Martin, nothing would come out; if you'd pressure him, he'd be a genius, but he's somewhat lazy. Lazy is not the correct word but he doesn't like to get off his butt and do it himself. I'm not saying that as a mean assessment, but when he was out of the band he told me he had problems reforming HELLHAMMER because of that."

Weren't you a trifle uncomfortable writing new material without being able to bounce ideas off him?"

"Not really, as I've written songs without him since MORBID TALES in '84. I don't know why Martin was only mentioned because when Ron was in the band, I'd bounce all off him, and I bounced every-

thing off Reed, too. I'm not a trained musician, and I always need the influence of other people to see where I am standing. I play from intuition. In the new FROST, past '87, we approached every thing as a band. The credits changed drastically, whereas before it was all 'Warrior' and sometimes 'Warrior/Ain', after '87 it's almost always the band. We write everything together and I feel it's helped us a lot and it has improved the material. Martin had written like two songs the whole time he was in the band and he had written some lyrics which we almost had to beat out of him. So I didn't jump into cold water (you mean a cold lake, Tom?) writing without him."
How much new material have you completed?"

"We have 6 songs on the demo, we have 2 songs from PARCHED WITH THIRST... We have a bunch of songs because the album is supposed to be really big, so we have more than enough."

The 2 tracks from PARCHED... will be re-used?"

"Yeah, absolutely. Those were taken from the demos as well. Those were put on the album to make it more interesting. We always promised the fans after VANITY/NEMESIS we were going to go heavier, and a lot of people were skeptical, so we put on some demos to prove the point. There's a song called 'GOD THE USHER', and a song called 'FEMININITY', a song called 'TEMPLE OF DEPRESSION', which is about the marketing of naked female meat, the loss of dignity and the tragedy behind the machoism in marketing the beautiful artistic aesthetics of the female body. There's a song called 'PAIN', which is very heavy guitarwise, and there's a very melodic vocal line over it, kind of a contrasting combination. We've worked on some cover versions of 'THE CROSS' by Prince, we have a version of 'LUCKY MAN' by Emerson, Lake and Palmer, and we have a version of 'EVERY STREAM A HEARTACHE' by Roxy Music."
Sounds eclectic, although I can imagine a certain paley clad pop monarch getting a few premature gray hairs up on hearing the covering of his work. Would these appear on the album or surface as B-side material?"

"Well, if the next album ever comes out, it's going to be very large. We enjoyed the cd format very much on PARCHED WITH THIRST... As you can see it's like 73 minutes and 18 songs. If you have room, why

not put so much on there? I hate those bands that still dare to put eight songs on a cd. We're bursting with creativity, and if we're given the chance to put so much music on there, we'll do it."

FROST has always dabbled w/ mood-enhancing embellishments on their releases, such as the horns on TO MEGA THERION or the orchestration on INTO THE PANDEMONIUM. Are you planning some equally unique touches for this release?"

"We approach this album as something like a successor to PANDEMONIUM, even though that's the wrong word again. There can only be one; however, we're the band that created it, and we needed some distance after doing it. We needed to let off the steam. We cannot do a PANDEMONIUM - album every day, so we needed to rest for some years, but it's time again to do an album like that. Yes, we're going to use an orchestra, a lot of sampling, a lot of industrial sounds. This time we'll use a male operatic singer, and of course, it's almost standard, a female operatic singer. We're going to record one song twice - one version we play it as a band in our regular line-up, the second we're going to sample the guitar riff and enhance it with a distorted keyboard sound and re-record the whole song in a totally different set of lyrics. There's going to be acoustic tracks on there as well. There's a lot of experiments on there."

The new material I heard reminds me of a cross between your last 3 albums...

"Absolutely, that's the difference, whereas prior to the big change at the end of '87 every album was standing on its own. Then came COLD LAKE, which is very much the turning point. I think we achieved what we wanted to do. We always try to incorporate everything we've done before into every single song to give a FROST identity."

It seems that you always had a very clear vision as to CELTIC FROST's future, such as your original plans to break up after 3 albums and your advance planning for LINEBACKER THREE, which became COLD LAKE. Do you still have that much foresight today?"

"No, the only thing is, I'm not the only one to decide about our future. By now it has become an industry game and we're not so naive any more that we think it's just up to us. As you can see right now, bands like FASTER

PUSSYCAT, L.A. GUNS, GREAT WHITE, all those bands are in rather large trouble. A lot of rather big bands have been dropped, and some of the stadium bands are playing small clubs. It's very hard to find a backing for a band like us. You know an A&R person's mentality, they're mainly desk people, and if you come up with something that is so off-the-wall like a PANDEMONIUM-style album, they get very cautious. If it comes down to us, we would like to do an album that rivals THE BEATLES' WHITE ALBUM - I mean nobody can ever topple THE BEATLES, but we'd like to do something that rattles the 90's. However, to find backing for this in a time like this is very hard, so it's up to us whether we can proceed. We're certainly not going to compromise, though. If we cannot find a backing for the project, it might spell the end of FROST.

I feel that many people did not really understand INTO THE PANDEMONIUM when it was first released, and it took several years to catch on to it.

"I tell you, PANDEMONIUM only made us kind of famous when the 90's began. The year it came out, '87, it almost hurt us more than it helped. And PANDEMONIUM was the reason we got into all the legal trouble with the record company."

It's a shame you'd have to give most labels a very straight forward album just to be able to experiment on the subsequent release, but it's true, isn't it?

"When we did PANDEMONIUM, the record company people came into the studio and literally asked us, 'Why don't you do albums like EXODUS and SLAYER?' They're much easier to market." And at the same time, the classical musicians were sitting in the studio. Back then, we had two independent albums out and nobody knew it. Now, there's a lot more at stake and there's a lot more money in the contract - that has made it much harder to defend a project like that in times like we are now. It might take off like PANDEMONIUM and revolutionize music, but there's just too big a chance that nobody's going to get it and people are going to go for the Seattle sound. Record companies just aren't risk-oriented. But that doesn't come as a surprise to us. We're a band that has attracted such situations all the time but we're trying to market this product. If we do it, it is going to be an album that is going to turn a lot of heads."

Even though they were both very separate albums, it seemed you grew monumentally frustrated over the negative backlash that resulted from both INTO THE PANDEMONIUM & COLD LAKE. Do you think you overestimated the ability of fans and critics to accept such a radical venture?

"Yeah, I always have. Otherwise we never could have found the courage to do albums like we did. But there's always so many fans that come up to us after shows that display a total knowledge of what we do, and know all the lyrics and their meanings. There's journalists that show in their articles that they're getting what we're trying to get at. If this is only one in a hundred, it's already worth it, because they will pull another hundred with them, and so on. So yes, we have overestimated, but we knew. On the other hand, we've been realistic - when we did albums like PANDEMONIUM, we always knew there was the possibility they won't sell. We knew that we were bargaining with our careers, and we're doing the same now. If I had to give up the band, I cannot really join as a rhythm guitar player in any band. If I lose this band, that's basically it with my musical career because any new band I would form would be the same kind of band, a revolutionary try-

ing to alter things, and it would be even more radical." Does it bother you that many people never bothered to listen to VANITY/NEMESIS solely because of the two albums that preceded it?

"Yeah, but this is a two-sided thing. In Europe, VANITY/NEMESIS is our biggest album here in the States, VANITY/NEMESIS was hit by slot of business difficulties. BMG/RCA licensed the album through Noise Records, and Noise got into a lawsuit for several reasons not connected to us. BMG decided a month after VANITY/NEMESIS came out to drop anything that had to do with Noise. So once the initial pressing of the album was sold out, that was it. No video was circulated here, no tour was funded in the States, hardly any advertising was funded. We still feel that at VANITY/NEMESIS is our best studio album so far as production and maturity. If we land a new deal for the new album, we'll press the company to re-release it. If that doesn't happen, I guess VANITY/NEMESIS is basically dead here."

Now that you're finished w/ Noise and they no longer have any financial control over you, do you wish to comment on your years with them?

"On one hand, I owe them my career, because nobody else would have given HELLHAMMER a record deal so I owe Noise. When we were not really worth a chance they still gave us one. And even though they tried to stop PANDEMONIUM,

they still released it. On the other hand, their professional conduct was so destructive and counterproductive that it almost negates everything good they did. Noise is an operation that works very good for a certain status of band, and when the band becomes big enough the major investments are needed and the policy is to save as much money as possible in order to have it flow into the pockets of the executives."

The last thing Noise did was the release of the PARCHED... compilation. Was that put out as a reward to fans or to fulfill your contract?

"Actually, neither. It was put out as a financial vehicle for Noise. Before PARCHED... came out, they had already announced plans for several greatest hits albums like the Helloween one. We knew there was tons of unreleased stuff sleeping in Noise's vault, so we approached them and said, 'If you ever do that contact us. We'll do all the artwork and every thing for free.' And they were actually nice enough to call us up when they were drawing up plans. The first thing was to change it from a greatest hits and make it an unreleased thing and put on new material, liner notes, unreleased photos and so on. They wanted a best of album on CD for the U.S., but we reasoned against that because we said a lot of fans will pay whatever the price for two unreleased tracks. When I was a fan, it always made me mad when I had to buy a greatest hits just for one song, and we didn't want to do the same shit to our fans."

While back, you had expressed some interest in doing a one-time show in a major city such as New York, at which you would have this phenomenal set-up, just to allow you to perform all your left-of-center material such as REX RAE (R&Q) and TRISTESSAS DE LE LUNE... is that still a goal?

"Yeah, absolutely. And by now we would have even more material to do. There's plans for a classical arrangement of WINGS OF SOLITUDE, and we could do stuff like THIS ISLAND EARTH with a classical orchestra. It would be fantastic to do, and to film it properly and put it out as a home video with intercut interview scenes and backstage scenes. We'd just love to do that."

Often, it seems musicians hype anything they do when it is released, despite feelings to the contrary.

"Why? I'd say it. By now, I hate COLD LAKE. Even though I perfectly understand where it came from, why it had to be the way it was. I couldn't have done it any other way back then, because after PANDEMONIUM and a year of the worst business difficulties, we just wanted to go out and party on the album. Maybe it shouldn't have been released under FROST, but that was impossible for contractual reasons. Musically it cannot touch anything we've done. As an artist, I hate it even though then it was very liberating to do an album like that."

So what would you say is your personal highlight during the last ten years?

"I think PANDEMONIUM and VANITY/NEMESIS must personally stand equally as my biggest achievements in life. I told you before, I'm not a trained musician. I come from a Swiss farm village. In Switzerland you have no music scene whatsoever, you have no manager, no clubs, nothing to give you any idea how to do it. So personally, that I achieved an album like PANDEMONIUM blows me away."

To sum it up, it seems the future of FROST hangs in the balance of a corporate bean counter?

"Yeah, but it's always that way. At the end of '87 we were looking for a label, and it was really hard, so we got

the licensing deal. So it's not the first time in our careers. There's only so many bands, there's only so many deals and numerous bands don't land deals. Numerous bands that are a lot bigger than us never land a deal again, and numerous musicians that are a lot more famous than me cannot achieve a deal. If we don't, it's going to hurt unbelievably, and I don't know how I'm going to release it because it's going to make me insane to have all this shit inside of me and not being able to release it. The musician has no rights in this scene. If anybody thinks different, they're fooling themselves. It is a cruel world and it has nothing to do with the artistic reasons. For a band like us, that's very devastating, but it's a fact."

(and it's a fact, that CELTIC FROST is history by now, which is a shame, cause instead of signing ten useless death metal bands, labels should have invested their money in this great band! You will be missed guys! -Ed.)



FANZINES

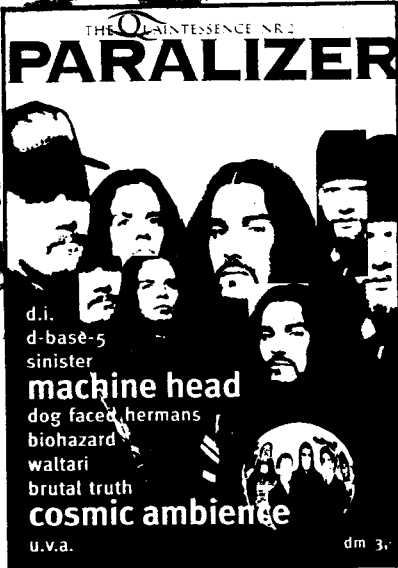
We've got bombed with many many zines over the last few months, so it's time to have a look at a couple of them once again... Feel free to write to them and support their work, cause every zine consists of a lot of hard work and money...

EVIL MESSAGE # 5

52 pages/A4 size/in german
This is a highly professional german zine and it comes with a full-colour cover and high glossy paper! It features tons of reviews, interviews w/ CREMATORY (GER), ATR-OCITY, HYPOCRISY, FORBIDDEN, METAL CHURCH, MEKONG DELTA & so on... As you can figure-out yourself, it's mostly based on the more known acts, but there's some underground bands in it as well. If you like those kinda mags, this could be something for you. I disagree with most of their reviews, but that's only natural, so send 3,-DM(+ postage) to:
Christian Otto
Kirschgarten 2
34613 Schwalmstadt
Germany

THE QUANTISSSENCE NR. 2

PARALIZER



d.i.
d-base-5
sinister
machine head
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biohazard
waltari
brutal truth
cosmic ambience
u.v.a. dm 3,-

PARALIZER # 2

54 pages/A4 size/in german

You might have noticed the name of this zine in the interview with Vomiting Corpses already and that's due to the fact that Frank from Vomiting Corpses is involved in this zine. BUT, don't expect a 100% pure death & grind zine because of that (like me), cause PARALIZER is a MUSIC zine, featuring interviews with strange acts like D.I., D-BASE-5, WALTARI, COSMIC AMBIENCE, DOGFACED HERMANS & also SINISTER, BRUTAL TRUTH & MACHINE HEAD or BIOHAZARD... So, if you are into weird stuff, check it out - good quality, but not my taste at all... Price: 3,-DM(+ postage)
Sebastian Otto
Postfach 900736
21047 Hamburg
Germany

VOR TRU - # 52

Zine

Well, this is not a zine really, it's a professional printed magazine and it's not about metal either. I guess, most of you have noticed just how fashionable it has become among black metal bands (in particular norwegian ones) to use the name of the ancient Germanic gods and their mythology. Well, if you wanna find out more about this to-

pic, here you can get your information straight from the source. VOR TRU (Our faith) is put out by the Asatru Alliance, an organization dedicated to Odinism based in the USA. In this issue you will find an article on the topic of vether or not Asatru (which the term commonly used instead of Odinism, to reflect the polytheistic essence of this religion) is a tribal or universal religion + another very good article on the significance of the blot (= ritual). Plus you will find a long report on Caucasian "mummies" which've been found in China (that's what Pete Helmkamp calls Tocharia in Swastika...) & one on the ice man which was found in the Alps some years ago. There's a news-section, too, called HERE & NOW, in which news are reported that might be of interest to the readers, including a full page report on Count Grishna-ckh (!). Furthermore, there are reader's letter + reviews. This magazine is well layed out and always fascinating to read. If you want to read something else than just your ordinary metal-zine, then check this out, it's worth your attention. \$4 (USA) or \$6 (Europe) for one copy. You'll also get a free catalogue which contains alot more interesting items (books etc) so it can't be a mistake to contact these guys:
VOR TRU
P.O. Box 961
Payson, AZ 85547
U.S.A.

Werner "Nyar" Linke

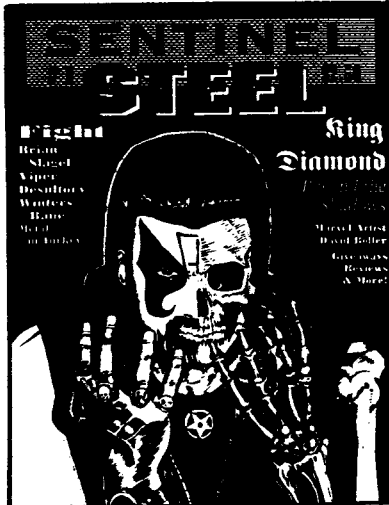
DARK OATH/HALLUCINATION-ZINE

We all have heard and know split-ep's, lp's or cd's. Now here is a split ZINE, something new in the scene! This zine (or should I say zines?) comes from Portugal and I found it very promising. The pictures don't look that good, but the layout and printing is very clear and good. Furthermore, the writers of this zine (zines?) all speak english very well, and you won't find any pidgin english here. The only problem I had with this zine was that I hardly knew any of the bands featured... There are interviews with BETHLEHEM (a long one), ANCIENT RITES, SAL-EM, TENEBRAE and BEYOND BELIEF, just to name some that're a bit better known. Plus of course lots of interviews w/ underground black/death metal bands, some of which are rather short and superficial. All in all a very good zine which can be yours for \$3 (Europe) or \$4 (elsewhere).

Fernando Roberto
Rua Capitao Tenente Oliveira
& Carmo, No. 41-R/C dco.
Quinta da Lomba
2830 Barreiros
Portugal
And yes, I forgot: this address SUCKS!

Werner "Nyar" Linke

SENTINEL STEEL # 1

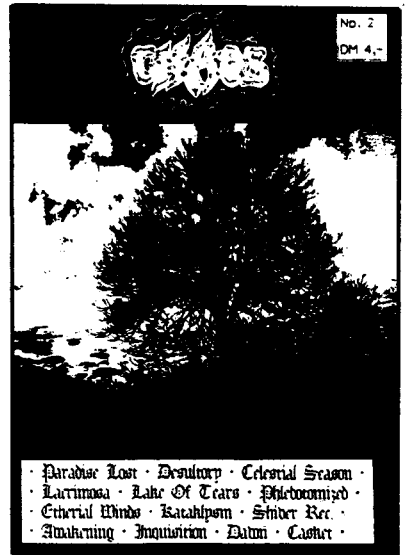


King Diamond

SENTINEL STEEL # 1

36 pages/A4 size/in english
By the time you read this, the 2nd SENTINEL STEEL issue will probably already be out but we haven't got it in time, so here's a feature on the debut release of this power metal mag. If you are into bands like VIPER, WINTERS BANE, FIGHT, MERCYFUL FATE or DESULTORY... if you would like to read an interview w/ BRIAN SLAGEL of METAL BLADE, or if you are interested in MARVEL COMICS, get yourself a copy of this excellent done zine! It's honest from start to finish, you'll get fair written reviews and brilliant layout/artwork. The cover for example features a two-faced KING DIAMOND (half of his body has turned into a skeleton), drawn by the editor HIMSELF! What a genius! Anyway, this is really cheap, and \$2.50 (+ postage) for an professional mag like SENTINEL STEEL you won't regret!
Write to:
Denis Gulbey
P.O. Box 123
Rockaway, NJ 07866
U.S.A.

No. 2
DM 4,-



Paradise Lost · Desultory · Celestial Season · Lamentosa · Lake Of Tears · Phlebotomized · Ethereal Winds · Kataklysm · Sinner Rec · Awakening · Inquisition · Dawn · Caster

1 & 2 by the way... It goes for 4,-DM (+ postage I guess) from this address:
CHAOS MAG.
c/o Schenk
Wormser Str. 40
72760 Reutlingen
Germany
Oh, before I forget! In the VOICES-review, you (Schenk) mentioned that you have doubts that issue # 4 is already sold out... well, I can tell you even more... # 5 is also sold out already and that's NOT A JOKE! Quality sells!!

AMON # 1



AMON # 1
32 pages/A4 size/in polish
Excellent new polish magazine... Full colour cover and even inside some colour features plus tons of great new bands like AS SERENITY FADES LUBRICANT, SUPFER, EMPEROR, BURZUM, DENIAL OF GOD, KATATONIA and lots of other stuff. BUT I CAN'T READ A SINGLE WORD, as it's written in polish, dammit! Anyway, if you live overthere, or if you know the language or if you simply enjoy collecting zines, write with \$5 to:
AMON MAGAZINE
P.O. Box 1
00-961 Warszawa 42
Poland

AMON # 1

32 pages/A4 size/in polish

Excellent new polish magazine... Full colour cover and even inside some colour features plus tons of great new bands like AS SERENITY FADES LUBRICANT, SUPFER, EMPEROR, BURZUM, DENIAL OF GOD, KATATONIA and lots of other stuff. BUT I CAN'T READ A SINGLE WORD, as it's written in polish, dammit! Anyway, if you live overthere, or if you know the language or if you simply enjoy collecting zines, write with \$5 to:
AMON MAGAZINE
P.O. Box 1
00-961 Warszawa 42
Poland

CHAOS # 2

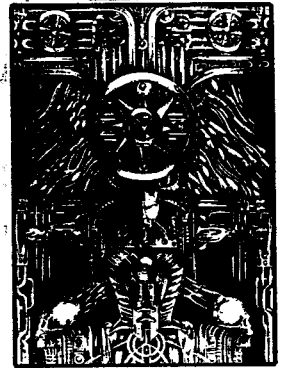
40 pages/A4 size/in german

And another zine I wasn't really impressed by. CHAOS # 2 hails from Germany and the quality is really good, but I miss a little bit the true underground feeling in it. You get the usual stuff like reviews, interviews etc., but it all seems so unimpressive to me - more in-depth conversations with the bands or a more interesting layout & another way of putting it together (computer typing) would definitely help alot! I'm also not that much into the featured bands, but that is just my personal taste. You get interviews with PARADISE LOST, AWAKENING, LACRIMOSA, ETHERIAL WINDS, INQUISITION and so on. The best one has to be the DESULTORY interview here... The cover - idea was stolen from VOICES

BREEDING FEAR # 6

48 pages/A5 size/in english

This one's lying around here for a while and Tim from CRACK UP sent it to me long time ago (thax mate!), but due to the fact that I was not that much impressed with it, I always forgot to review it. The printing quality of this half-size is pretty poor and you can hardly figure out the pictures, but on the other hand it features alot of really important addresses, for example from Diastros, Labels and traders! Good idea, by the way. You'll get some interviews w/ SADIST, THE REIGN, FURBOWL, CHEMICAL BREATH (just to name a few), reviews and the usual typewriter stuff... But, although I can't explain why, it really bores me and I have



not managed to finish any single interview I started to read... Seems to be the wrong contents and questionnaire for me... Anyway, I'm not sure if this issue is still on sale, but you can write to the following address and ask for yourself:
Trashkopke
Jacobcatsstraat 3A2 B7
3630 Maasmechelen
Belgium



A B L A Z E # 3
60 pages/A4 size/in german
Really nice !This is probably the most promising german mag EVER !Officially ABLAZE is "just" a fanzine, but due to its professional look and printing etc. this could also be categorized as a magazine !It comes out bi-monthly and features mostly black metal acts, although there's some death metal in it as well. The interviews are done in a really interesting way, you always get all necessary bandinformations plus in-depth questions to lots of other topics. Every issue has a "cover-story", which means the interview/feature is really (!) long and so far, this happened to BURZUM, ANCIENT RITES and DISSECTION ! Issue # 3 just reached me by the time I was putting together these fanzine pages. It has lots of requested stuff in it, that the readers already asked for in the previous issues, like readercharts, to-

LIFE OF AGONY, BLACK SABBATH, THE ORGANIZATION and so on, but the interviews are really interesting (especially the one with David Vincent & the one with Tom Warrior ... the latter one you can also find in this issue as we've stolen it, hahaha!). Many albums and demo reviews are included as well and it's a FAT issue for \$3.95 (+ post - age). Available from:
ILL LITERATURE
1626 N. Poinsettia Pl. #208
Los Angeles, CA 90046
U.S.A.

I S T E N # 7
36 pages/A4 size/in english
Mikko is moving away step by step from the total death - zine ISTEN used to be, which is clearer than ever reflected in this seventh gate to hell ! I've noticed that I always liked ISTEN for it's non-musical aspects, as I don't complain at all seeing a band that just plays death metal and thinks it's enough being slagged off completely in these holy pages ! ISTEN's bonus still is the underground base (no ads, no distributors, no really big bands!), the marvellous writing-style and especially Mikko's unique humor and entertaining abilities. You know, this guy could write a magazine about horse-races and I would still subscribe it ! But as it hasn't gone so far (yet... hehe ! !) I can announce you that DECORYAH, BEYOND DAWN, SABBAT (Jap.), KATATONIA, CROWBAR among others are featured as interviews, the layout is still wonderful and the cover and everything else concerning art is provocative, chilling and more than lovely. Bands (to take some work away from Mikko), if you want to observe your material reviewed, better you first make sure that you are really original and matured enough to mess with Mikko. In case you are not, he won't just give you a bad review... he will rob your pants and destroy your darkest black'n' death metal dreams ! Times pass by, trends change, likes change (Mikko's didn't exactly change, he still sticks to the roots but has now enlarged his horizon!) and ISTEN remains in the medal-ranks ! Classic ! \$5/8, -DM and roses, clapping hands, ovations, slips, kisses etc to the only official address (by the way # 5 - \$3 and # 6 - \$5 are still around for a few selected, fast people to order!)
ISTEN ZINE
c/o Mikko Mattila
Peltolaminkatu 6A17
33840 Tampere
Finland

ing out all the glorious colours of this beautiful deep blue and purple in the shadows of the peaks, mingled, and an perspective of jagged rock and pointed crags, till were the distance, where the there seemed mighty niches as the sun beams the gleam of of my companions to my arm, swept round the base of a hill an up the snow-covered peak of a mountain, which wound on our serpentine way, to be before "Look! Isten zek!" - "God's seat!" himself reverently. As we wound on the sun sank lower and lower behind the evening began to creep round us, byed by the fact that the snowy sunset, and seemed to glow of pink. Here and there we passed in pictures, but I noticed the continually present the roadside and as we swayed my companion all crossed selves. Here there was a peasant man or a shrine who did not even turn to approach seemed in the self-surren to have neither eyes nor ears for the out- ticks in the trees, and here and there be- lasses of weeping birch, their white shinn-

CHAIN LETTER # 15
40 pages/A4 size/in english

This zine is around for so long by now that I don't really have to tell you that much about it... It's already the 15th issue and it features interviews with WARGASM, FUNERAL, BEYOND DAWN, THERION, GOLEM, GRAVE, VOICES FROM THE DARKSIDE (ooooops...) and a couple of others. Tons of reviews are included as well and the writing is always fair. The only thing I dislike a little bit, is the use of extremely big logos in the reviews and that it is not really a stitched like book, it's more of a pile of paper fixed on the left top side. But that doesn't really matter, cause the contents is pretty cool... Write to:
Mark Gonca
3611 Woodlea Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21214
U.S.A.

The Metallic Voice Of Underground

ABLAZE #27
3DM
Poster
Address: IMMORTAL

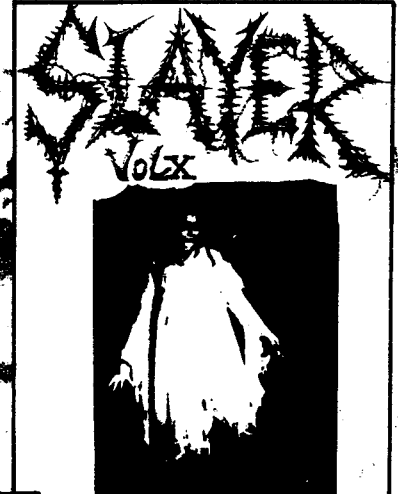
DISSECTION
CANNIBAL CORPSE
IN THE WOODS
ENSLAVED
MYSTIFIER
KOROVA
SAMAEI
BELMEZ
BLOOD
HADES

One Kompanier
Jon Nordqvist
(DISSECTION)

updates, space for private - advertisements and even a cool live poster of ABBATH (IMMORTAL) interview-wise this is the issue I like the least, but that's just my personal taste and stuff like DISSECTION, HADES, ENSLAVED, IN THE WOODS or SAMAEI is always a must ! It's written in a very intelligent way and the whole mag is in black and white which is great for that kinda stuff ! It goes for 6,- DM (incl. p4p) from the following address (but beware: it's written in GERMAN !):
Peter Schrama
Oberspreestr. 59b
12439 Berlin
Germany

is the one to blame!! Informative interviews with MIS - ANTHROPE, CHORUS OF RUIN, GGFH GOREFEST, ENSLAVED, IN FLAMES, MORTHEM and some more, plus a DEADHEAD tourreport, presentation of the bulgarian and the russian scenes and some untypical articles lighten the pages to a real masterpiece ! They are supposed to go on as LEGEND ZINE and a new issue is planned to be out soon. By now, drop \$5/10,- (?) to my buddie:
MORTICIANUMSKULL ZINE
c/o Harold Dekkers
Boeroestraat 66
3312 HD Dordrecht
Holland

Leif Jensen



Leif Jensen

Mortician NUMSKULL **LAST PRESENT FOREVER**

MORTICIANUMSKULL # 5
56 pages/A4 size/in english
The best dutch underground - magazines namely the brilliant MORTICIAN and NUMSKULL have joined forces and released together a "fifth" issue, which surely establishes them in the row of the five more prominent and outstanding underground publications for heavier music in Europe ! MORTICIANUMSKULL means quite alot to me, as I find devoted work, in - depth features and capable opinion (the guys know, unlike most of the new zine-runners what they are writing!), all in one ! The giant coloured cover and generally their taste, which mainly goes hand in hand with mine let me read this really professional printed and layouted (boring standard layout of major press, but who cares ?!) issue with delight ! An uncountable hell of an amount of reviews infects their pages, but it's still not their own fault, is it ? The packed underground

SLAYER # 10
84 pages/A4 size/in english
Unfortunately this issue reached us very late, so space is a little bit limited for a review ! BUT, I don't think I have to introduce the mighty SLAYER MAG. to any of our readers, do I ? It is the 10th anniversary issue and the biggest so far ! Dedicated to the black metal underground even more than before and features on nearly all important acts: EMPEROR, THORNS, THOU SHALT SUPPER, MAYHEM, BATHORY, MARDUK, ENSLAVED DARK FUNERAL, DARKTHRONE, CRADLE OF FILTH, SATYRICON and so on and so on. Also a few true deathheads like DISSECTION, ORDER FROM CHAOS, SADISTIC INTENT, DECEASED, SADISTIC EXEKUTION ! Surely a must !!! For \$8/50 N.O.K. from the wellknown address or 8,- DM at ours (german readers only) SLAYER MAG.
P.O. Box 447
1701 Sarpsborg
Norway

BLOODSHED **FIVE**

REXENS LIVE REVIEW AND PHOTO EXTRAVAGANZA/PULL-OUT POSTER

BLOOD - SHED # 5
48 pages/A4 size/in english
Good to see that all the nice zines are still around these days. One of the great ones, I always enjoy reading alot is BLOOD-SHED from the USA. This 5th edition is alot more in the black metal style, but I guess that's pretty natural if you notice the amount of bands in that genre nowadays. You'll get great interviews with the likes of IMMORTAL, CRADLE OF FILTH, UNPURE, MOONSPELL, OCCULT, SIGH, CANNIBAL CORPSE and so on !! The whole mag is nicely done and the reviews are always enjoyable to read, plus you also get a DECIDE pull-out poster with several photos ! Unfortunately I lost Mike's flyer, but I guess \$5 will be ok for it...
Mike Minicucci
14 Linden Ave.
Westfiel, MA 01085
U.S.A.

TALES OF THE MACABRE # 1
40 pages/A4 size/in english
Ahh, one of the best new zines nowadays and it comes from Germany, isn't that a nice surprise ? TALES OF THE MACABRE is mostly a black metal zine and you've got a great old Tom G. Warrior pic on the cover. Lots of great features and reviews and interesting interviews w/ UNGOD EMPEROR, ANCIENT RITES, SIGH, BEHEMOTH, ROTTING CHRIST, IMMORTAL and so on and so on ! Order it fast, cause it's gonna be a collectors' item pretty soon. I'm not sure if # 2 is already done but feel free to ask (also about # 1) at this address:
Costa Stoios
Herrenbergstr. 12
56812 Walvig/Mosel
Germany

ILL LITERATURE # 8
106 pages/A4 size/in english
This mag used to be called NO GLAM PAGES before, but with this issue it's got a much better monicker and even a full colour cover ! It features mostly known bands like MORBID ANGEL, CELTIC FROST,

all fanzine reviews by Frank Werner and Leif



WARRIORS

FROM THE FAR EAST



why we can't write songs in the vein of today's trendy black metal. I guess lots of people found CELTIC FROST - rip off riffs in our songs. Our guitarist Shinichi is a big Tom G. Warrior worshipper so you'll hear CELTIC FROST a lot on the new album - ain't. (so, make sure to show him this issue - he's gonna love the Tom G. Warrior interview! -Ed.)

Do you think it has helped your band, that DEATHLIKE SILENCE had shown interest in SIGH? I mean a lot of people trusted Euronymous' taste... (and still do of course)

"Definitely! It's really helpful for unknown bands like us to spread the name. If our album had been released on some other obscure label, less people would be interested in SIGH. When we got an offer from Euronymous in early 1992, DSP was just another small label that had only released the MERCILESS-IP and of course I never expected this kind of stuff would be so big in the future. But I was really impressed by Euronymous and his belief, so we accepted the offer."

Will your second album be released through VOICES OF WONDER, who took over all the DSP stuff after Euronymous got killed?

"We left VOICES OF WONDER as they know nothing about metal and did nothing to promote our album. They just fucked over the fame of DSP. Now we're on CACOPHONOUS RECORDS in the UK. I hope they will treat us better than VOW. (I have some doubts as CRADLE OF FILTH already left that label due to a lot of negative aspects about 'em! I hope you won't get fucked again! -Ed.) Finally we've found a proper studio for the recording, so we'll start recording as soon as we get the budget. The new album is gonna be entitled INFIDEL ART and will include 6 tracks which are all 7-9 minutes long. If everything goes well, it'll be out in April. Musically it's not that different from SCORN DEFEAT, but it's way more symphonic and majestic with a lot of orchestrations by the synthesizer." (sounds amazing! -Ed.) Is it difficult for you to play live in your area?

"It's not difficult to play gigs here in Tokyo if you want. But we're quite sick & tired of playing in front of brats in CANNIBAL CORPSE shirts. Also we always have

Black Metal seems to be a quite limited musical genre and most bands obviously try to re-create the old BATHORY style. But luckily there are also some exceptions for example the Japanese SIGH! I was totally into their debut album SCORN DEFEAT after the first time listening to it. The combination of the ancient black metal atmosphere with some really outstanding piano/orchestral parts have taken me into another dimension, so I had to contact the band and Mirai nicely answered our interview request at once. Here's what we had talked about...

The last thing I heard from you guys was the TRAGEDIES demo which already is quite old by now and musically not really comparable to your debut album, don't you think?

"TRAGEDIES is our demo recorded in December of 1990 and released through Wild Rags Records. On the demo I played the bass and the synth, and Satoshi played both the guitar and the drums. I don't think the musical style is drastically different, but obviously we didn't know how to compose songs at that time. I'm sure that my way of singing is completely different and I really hate that on early demos which is not atmospheric at all. Also the guitar sound is quite different because it was done by Shinichi on SCORN DEFEAT."

Give us some info about your first demo DESOLATION which you released in 1990!

"Actually it was a rehearsal tape rather than a so-called demo. It was recorded at our rehearsal room with Kazuki on drums who parted ways with us just after the recording of it and I added the keyboard later. It sure is childish if I listen to it now, but I'm proud that we used the synth back in 1990 already when so many people criticized us for it. What would they say, seeing today's situation that almost every band has a keyboardist?" (probably that YOU are just another band that is jumping on the keyboard "trend"... -Ed.)

TRAGEDIES was released through Wild Rags Records back then - so how did you get in touch with them?

"Wild Rags used to do the self-titled zine, so I sent our demo to Richard and he offered us to distribute it

and to release it on his label. It was a real good offer for us at that time, so we accepted it. And I guess it helped our name spread actually in the early days of SIGH."

Weren't you afraid to get ripped off by him as a lot of rumors already circulated about him back then?

"Of course I've heard a lot of bad rumours about Richard but fortunately he's been honest with us. Now we don't work with him anymore but that's not because we had some trouble... (It seems to be a PRO Wild Rags issue this time... -Ed.)

After that you put out a 7" called REQUiem FOR FOOLS. And that one seems to be the real beginning of SIGH as you finally found your own style, don't you?

"Yes, I think so. The 7"EP was the first stuff that we were satisfied with. Our next album will sound quite different again, but it'll include one of the demo tracks, so there's something common among all the tracks we've written."

When did you decide to change your image and to use corpse paint and stuff?

"I guess it was in the end of 1992 or something. It was Euronymous' influence. When I talked with him on the phone, he told me that the looking is very important as well as the music."

Your lyrics seem to be influenced by your own culture & occultism, for example in the first song on the album, where you write about the horrors of Dakini - would you like to talk about that?

"It's real natural for me to sing about occultism in Japan as I am a Japanese. Our occult culture has its roots mainly in China and India and in my thoughts, the character of the Japanese occultism is the concept that the word itself has the power in it. So we chant MANTRA (= the word extremely close to the truth) so many times to curse people, heal disease and so on. Anyway, if you're interested in Japanese occultism such as DAKINI, IZUNA, just write to me." (I already did! -Ed.)

I never really found out if your bandname SIGH is just the English word or if there is something out of your own culture where you got the inspiration for it from?

"It is the English word SIGH

as it is and nothing else. We just wanted something original. SIGH gives you varied impressions from beautiful to depressive and that's what our music represents. Also I don't think there's another metal band under the same monicker."

I was really impressed by the awesome piano playing on the album, but it wasn't mentioned who had been responsible for it... is anyone of you playing it or do you use guest musicians?

"I play all the piano stuff myself. I'm strictly against guest musicians. You can do anything if you use guest musicians, so it's not fair. All the instruments are/will be played by us three. When we play gigs, we can't use the synth or the piano, so we often play lots of cover tracks by VENOM." (Yeah! -Ed.) How did you get into it, I mean what influenced you to use the piano for SIGH's music?

"As the piano is my main instrument, using it in SIGH was very natural to me. So there was no particular motivation. Some influences are SABBATH BLOODY SABBATH by BLACK SABBATH, LET LOVE IN & THE GOOD SON by NICK CAVE etc. I really love the way the piano was used on those albums. Also I adore DECORYAH from Finland, their piano player is great."

It seems to me that you also have been influenced by some old thrash metal acts... We don't do it on purpose. We all three grew up with thrash metal in the 80's, so we can't avoid it's influence. (Nothing wrong with it, the thrash like it was played in the 80's was a lot more exciting than today's hardcore influenced BIOTERA AGAINST THE BODY COUNT type of crap! -Ed.) That is probably



to play with life metal/grindcore bands. So we just play only a few times a year. I do hope CACOPHONOUS REC. can let us tour Europe after the release of INFIDEL ART. Next year SABBAT and us are planning a Japanese tour, so if that's gonna happen, it'll be great."

Would you agree that black metal has turned into something similar as death metal nowadays and that it might burn out because of all the trendiness and hype these days?

"I think so. We can see the same symptom that's happened to death metal. Now Black Metal is trendy and almost every Black Metal band can easily sign and release an album. But in spite of the big number of the releases you can't find truly excellent stuff so often and people are getting bored with the scene where nearly all the bands sound alike. Like this thrash metal busted and death metal did. Now it's happening to black metal."

Ok Mirai - this last one is for you, feel free to tell us whatever you like!
Thank you very much for

the interview. If you're interested, just drop me a line but no stupid form letters please, they'll go straight in the dust box. Now we're printing the stickers of SIGH's photo, so ask me first. Hear my last elegy, join our Dakini horde!"

Before we're going to give you SIGH's address, let me update you with some stuff I found in their latest info sheet. According to that, the band appears on a compilation cd with a brand new track, which was recorded in January '94 (THE ZOMBIE TERROR) and which is available for \$20. In April '94 they recorded another track for a split-7" with KAWIR which is supposed to be out on CACOPHONOUS REC. as well. Some of the new tracks on INFIDEL ART are gonna be called IZUNA, THE LAST ELEGY and SUICIDOGENIC - so watch out for it! Write to them & support a truly dedicated band SIGH

c/o Mirai Kawashima
1-2-8-401 Mejiro
Toshima-Ku, Tokyo
171 Japan

Frank Stöver



METAL-CORE #18 out with long chats with: Morbid Metal Distribution, Nightfall, Internal Bleeding, Moribund Records, Cynic, Marco from Metal Blade plus many demo record and 7" reviews. Huge fanzine and distribution section. Also a article on how bands can spread their name in the underground. All for \$3 (US) \$4 (World)
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VIOLENT DIRGE



CRAVING

Here's another great example of excellent death metal made in Poland. VIOLENT DIRGE have released a cool demo a couple years back (OBLITERATION OF SOUL) and their debut album ELAPSE in 1993. Due to the fact that I really like both releases a lot, I asked our polish contributor Pawel Panek to get in touch w/ the band and here's what he came up with...

Your last release ELAPSE came out back in '93 and was released as a tape only... I heard something about a cd-release as well, but nothing happened and you disappeared for quite a while since then except for a few gigs here and there...

Mariusz(bs.): "Yeah, after the album was out we had lots of plans, but then our problems with CARNAGE REC. began and the cd-version never came... Our manager, who's also the label owner of CARNAGE, made a lot of promises, but he never kept them, so we parted ways with him. We played a couple of shows and looked for a new label plus we were writing new material which took some time as well as it is a lot more varigante. It took us some time to record the new stuff and we played a few shows in Switzerland, but now we are back!"

You haven't been in the polish press quite often either...

"Well, we answer every letter even from the smallest zines but it might be due to the fact that we haven't really played that much here, so hopefully the situation will change very soon as we like it to be in zines..."

Would you like to tell us a little bit about your demo and the ELAPSE album?

"In the very beginning we released a demo called FACE OF X-TERNITY ('91), which was recorded in the ARP studio in Stettin. We distributed it ourselves by mail and sold about 400 copies which was quite a lot for that time. After that, the OBLITERATION OF SOUL demo and the ELAPSE album followed. Due to that, we got the opportunity to take part on the NUCLEAR BLAST compilation GRINDCORE ('93) with the song LEPROUS SANCITY, which was a big surprise for us and it got us some attention outside of Poland as well. The OBLITERATION demo was our first official release on CARNAGE REC. and it was also the first release that features Adam (voc.) & Robert (dr.) as new members of VIOLENT DIRGE. It's really a tough situation for me to talk about that now, as Adam and Robert haven't been that long in the band and me and my brother Wojtek wrote all

the material. We've been pretty much satisfied with the ELAPSE release as it was a lot more professional and it sold a lot better. It even helped us to get a new deal. The material was more professional, more brutal but also more technical and I doubt that people who bought it have been disappointed. Our new stuff is a continuation of that album..."

You've got great reviews in west-european zines quite often, so can you tell us how many copies have been available overthere?

"That's true. The west european and american media has reacted pretty positive on our stuff, but I don't really know how many copies we've sold overthere. The only thing I know is that it has been available and that it sold quite good..."

As you've worked with CARNAGE RECORDS, it often seemed that VIOLENT DIRGE is one of the fave bands (next to VADER and ARMAGEDON) of the label owner and lots of others didn't like him that much. So how was it to work with him?

"We've never been one of his favourite bands, we've been more of a black sheep for him! His faves were PANDENONIUM, VADER, ARMAGEDON and CHRIST AGONY. We weren't easy to categorize musically, so he didn't do anything for us, that's why we quit!"

Are you still friends with him?

"I don't wanna talk about it anymore... We got along great in the beginning as we hadn't any serious problems but in '93 the situation changed and a lot of things happened" But you've been in the studio again...

"Yeah and we played 3 of the new tunes tonight (the interview was done when VIOLENT DIRGE supported CANNIBAL CORPSE, DESULTORY and SAMAE in Poland - Ed.) We played the titletrack CRAVING as an encore and it got great response from the crowd, even better than our older stuff. We recorded the album in June '94 in Modern Sound Studio / Gdynia and the release date has been delayed again and again. Originally it should've been out in September, then October, now we are hoping to have the cassette and cd out in the beginning of '95. It features 10 tracks, 8 brand new ones and 2 from the ELAPSE album (OBLIVION and PESSIMUM). It's different and more weird than our old material cause we used keyboards and two females this time as well (zzzzzz! -Ed.) It will be out on the polish label SICK RECORDS and it looks really promising so far!"

Would you like to tell us a little bit about your musical change?

"It's really difficult and people who will buy the album can do that a lot better I think, but there are some quite obvious changes in our material. The lyrics have stayed the same as Wojtek has written them once again. They deal with the estrangement of the human race & all it's problems in the actual materialized world."

Do you mind being labeled as the polish ATHEIST?

"No, not really anymore. After you hear the new album you will know why. But it's more of an honour and I don't think that this comparison is meant in a negative way, it only describes the style of music we play. As I said, it is a great band and we like them a lot, but we also admire JUDAS PRIEST, IRON MAIDEN, CORONA, MALVOLENT CREATION or CYNIC, so..."

Next to VIOLENT DIRGE there is only one other polish act that plays this kind of technical stuff, the techno thrashers GEISHA CONER. Aren't there that many good musicians here?

"Yeah, you're right. GEISHA CONER is a great band, but I don't think we can be compared to each other as we play totally different music. I don't think you should judge the musicians by their technical abilities. I know of a lot of straight forward acts and they are excellent and only because we play more technical we don't talk negative about other bands. It can be fantastic to play in a simple way, just listen to the old stuff from BATHORY & CELTIC FROST - we like them a lot! But to get back to your question, the technical abilities in Poland are really not that high."



Do you think your new album will finally impress the people from the polish METAL HAMMER, who haven't been really fair to you in the past?

"The promotion has just begun. Tonight's gig, some features in bigger polish mags & other zines, but I don't know about METAL HAMMER... It is a great magazine and we would be happy to get a feature in there, but it's not up to us anymore... it all depends on the publisher and he features lots of stuff that is not on his own label METAL MIND PRODUCTIONS." So, it seems that you need a deal with an established west european label...

"At the moment we are not interested in a deal with a west european label, like we were when we've been signed to CARNAGE REC., cause we have a great manager now and he is able to promote us in a way we want it. But we are still interested to get our



album out there as well of course. It will be distributed through some companies in the States and in Europe Nuclear Blast will help us out. We also did a video clip that hopefully gets broadcasted on MTV.

What's your opinion about popular styles like gothic or black metal?

"To be honest with you, I don't know much about those musical styles as I mostly listen to technical thrash & hardcore etc. But if I hear of bands that do that kinda stuff from the heart, like TIAMAT for example... it's great! We don't care about black metal at all as we don't like that kinda music! What are you doing besides the band?

"Robert is a musician only! He also plays in the thrash project QUO VADIS. Me and Adam study... Adam biotechnology and I politic/science. Wojtek is the only one that has got a higher education. He finished the sea-highsch-



ool in '93 and is now an officer of the merchant marine."

Your final thoughts and your view on the year 1994?

"It wasn't a bad year for us as a band. Ok, the album didn't come out in time, but at least we put together something we really like... We toured in Switzerland, played on the biggest open-air festival in Poland (you'll get almost every kind of musical style there on 3 days - Pavel) and I hope that the new year will be even better for us. Private? I can't speak for the others, but for me it was great..I have a fantastic girlfriend, haha!"

If you would like to get in touch with VIOLENT DIRGE, here's the address:

Mariusz Novak
Przasnyska 17/6
01756 Warszawa
Poland

Interview: Pavel Panek
Translation: Frank Stöver



PARENTAL ADVISORY EXPLICIT INTERVIEW

These guys drive me nuts! Not only that there's something going on with MASS PSYCHOSIS everytime a new VOICES is supposed to be out, no... that would be pretty natural by now... This time I got an interview with Doug and Tom, which is even more sick than the MY DYING BRIDE chaos out of issue # 1... Enjoy it (or not)...

It seems that there are some news concerning a new label you probably will tell us about, right?

Doug: "Dude, you're missing out! Man, you should be here with me and Tom are kicking back answering questions to our favourite zine of all VOICES FROM THE DARKSIDE, yeah! And as Tom puts it, we are watching pornos with two hot chicks eating each other out pool side and that's what life's all about! Ok, let's get back to the question. Yes! We have signed to the german label KOCH INTERNATIONAL; SHIT you should see these chicks OH! FUCK MAN! THIS IS THE SHIT!"

What made you go with them instead of MASSACRE REC, who are quite experienced with metal bands already (which KOCH is not)?

Tom: "DUDE DUDE, Doug LOOK! LOOK AT THIS CHICK SUCKING THIS GUY'S FUCKING COCK! SHE IS AMAZING! SHE'S GOT HIS BALLS AND ALL, LOOK!"

Doug: "OOOOOFFF! SHIT MAN, THAT'S NOT NATURAL! AAAAUG - GAHH! Money?"

Tom: "Good answer Doug!"

Doug: "Koch made us an offer!"

Tom: "DUDE, GREAT THREESOME!"

Doug: "We couldn't refuse and they are behind the band 100%!"

Tom: "HEY DOUG, LOOK THIS GUY IS BEHIND THE CHICK 100% HA, HA, HA!"

The last time we spoke, you told me that the album will be completely re-recorded now so is that still the case?

Doug: "It's going to be re-recorded, we are waiting for the studio dates!"

Tom: "DOUG, LOOK, LOOK! AT THOSE FUCKING TITS MAN!"

What about the producer? You mentioned a pretty popular name... do you think it will work between you and him?

Doug: "AAAA? With producer? AUM! Mark Berry, he's done work with VOIVOD, TRIUMPH, YES and many others. But I don't know what the hell's going on. I talked to the label and they said they're not sure, that James Jimbo Barton might be our producer...! We think they're all cool. Whatever the label wants us to do we do!"

Tom: "FUCKING! DOUG, MAN! LOOK AT THAT PUSSY! SHAVED! THATS THE WAY A PUSSY SHOULD LOOK LIKE!"

Will the songs you originally recorded for NECROPORNO, be the same as you are going to record now or are there any brandnew tracks you'll use instead of some older tunes?

Doug: "Tom, stop that's disgusting, HA HA HA! MAN, HE'S HAMMERING HER SNAPPER, THIS FLICK RAGES! What was No. 5?"

HA HA! Oh no, we have some new ones that we wrote with Matt our new caveman, I mean drummer! They are..."

Tom: "DOUG, LOOK AT THIS CHICK DOUG! WAIT!... ZOMBIE CHRIST LESSONS, WRITHE IN TEMPTATION and all the others you know! There's also a re-make of your old stuff (demo??)es in the making, so tell us about that!"

Doug: "AHH! Yes ok. It's going to be on LASTWORLDEREC. in the USA and on KOCH/GRINDSY-

NDICATE in Germany and Europe. It will have the FACE demo, the two 7"es MY PRIVATE HELL and GOREMACHINE and a few added surprises all on one cd 'BUY IT!'

What's gonna happen to the original NECROPORNO recording?

Doug: "It will be put on the shelf for who knows how long

Tom: "AND DID YOU KNOW ASS-EATING IS A FINE ART ON ITS OWN?"

Doug: "We're not putting it out because it doesn't represent MASS PSYCHOSIS today! Our style has been modified since we brought Matt into the band and to release our debut cd without him would not do justice at all. The songs have changed for the better!"

When can we expect to see NECROPORNO in the shops and will it be a worldwide release?

Doug: "Well, we don't know the exact date but I figure in April '95 and as far as I know, it will be a worldwide release!"

Tom: "DOUG, BUT NOT AS WIDE AS HER CUNT!"

You recently kicked out Joe, your other guitarist... Why?

Doug: "Joe was a good guy but he wasn't ready to commit his life to this band and that's not what we're about."

Tom: "YEAH AND YOU CAN'T EAT PUSSY WITHOUT A TONGUE!"

Any typical final words or things you'd like to add to the topics above?

Tom: "MAN! OH! LOOK! NOW TH- AT'S A CUM SHOT! DUDE DRIP - PIN OFF HER EYE LIDS COOL! I SHOT ONE LIKE THAT ONCE!"

Doug: "Frank, sorry you weren't here, we tried to give you the blow by blow details of what's up with us. Well, good luck with VOICES and thanks for the support! You're the best! Everyone else, look out for NECROPORNO! If you like DEATH & PORNO, it's for you!"

Tom: "Can't wait to dig up a chick and fuck her on her way home!"

Doug & Tom: "RAGE ON!"

In the last VOICES issue, there's been talk about big trouble with these other PSYCHOSIS (Pussycosis!)... Any news on that? Will you stay with your namechange (MASS PSYCHOSIS)?

Tom: "PUSSYCOSIS ARE THEY STILL AROUND? HEY DOUG, ISN'T THAT THEM ON TV... LOOK AT THAT GUY STICK HIS BIG COCK IN THEM! HA HA HA HA HA!"

Doug: "Tom dude, you're right look at them get fucked! Man ever since we did the last interview, fuck even before

that, we haven't heard shit from them. Anyway, our name is MASS PSYCHOSIS and their name is PUSSYCOSIS, why should they care?"

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Doug & Tom: "RAGE ON!"

If you still dare, write to the band at this address: MASS PSYCHOSIS P.O. Box 267 Keyport, N.J. 07735 U.S.A.

And check out their merchandise... there's plenty of stuff available...

Frank Stöver

ALBUM/EP - REVIEWS



BELPHEGOR
The last supper
(Lethal Rec.)

It has gotten more and more difficult these days to come up with something new within the death/black metal scene as almost everything has already been there in one way or another. I mean, it's easy to incorporate influences from other musical styles & to claim to be original, BUT if you wanna stay with the brutality and sickness that made this music so different, you should at least come up with an album like this one from austrian Belphegor! Apart from the (already censored) silly artwork, this is an interesting album to please the fans of fuckin' extreme music! Belphegor are not new to the scene and you could probably get hold of a cd and 7" if you really watch out for it, but if you are lazy, you could simply go for this full-length! A cool combination of brutal death metal with black metal screaming type vocals thrown in every now and then and some really intense grind influences make THE LAST SUPPER to something worth to check out and to satisfy your needs(?) in a scene full of trendsies, wimps and losers! Good stuff!

Frank Stöver



INCANTATION
Mortal throne of Nazarene
(Relapse Rec.)

I don't know why, but it's always a pleasure to get albums like this, cause in one way or another, I miss the sheer brutality of death metal releases these days. It seems that everyone is into new directions, better productions and more professionalism - but because of that the original idea behind the music is kinda like destroyed! Where is the aggression and where the raw sounding, simple structured song material?? I don't know, if it is the right way to progress & progress & progress... I mean do you really enjoy lots of the never releases of quite popular bands like Obituary, Morgoth, Atrocities, Entombed & all the others? I prefer bands, that live their music & deliver some really brutal shit, instead of trying to write songs that nobody can get into except for the musicians themselves and some trendy assholes... Because of all the mentioned arguments, I always liked INCANTATION! Their 2nd album is exactly what you would expect from them and that's what matters these days... at least in my old-fashioned opinion!

Frank Stöver

CONVULSE
Reflections
(Relapse Rec.)

I never thought of this album to be EVER released anymore! I mean, CONVULSE have been around for such a long time now and the material they wrote after the release of their debut album on THRASH REC. used to be in my collection for years already so it is really a surprise to be able to listen to the finished cd finally! If you

look at the strange cover-artwork (which I think is quite good) and the band picture you'll already be aware of the fact, that CONVULSE is not a typical "I rip your fuckin' head off" type of death metal act. Being located in Finland, they are more in the tradition of 70's influenced acts such as XYSMA or AMORPHIS, although CONVULSE have managed to find a niche on it's own. Maybe some band like Entombed would sound like them, if they would have developed into another direction. This is an outstanding release, although I have doubts that they will find slot of listeners for it, which would be a shame... So, any openminded deather has to give it a try as it's definitely NOT wimpy because of the above mentioned influences!

Frank Stöver

GOREFEST

G O R E F E S T
Fear E.P.

(Nuclear Blast MCD)

Being a "fan" of the 2 demos and the first 2 albums of the dutch GOREFEST, I belonged to those who closed their ears when they first listened to the last longplayer ERASE. Well, and the FEAR E.P. is exactly in that tradition in 16 lame minutes you get 2 versions of their apparent hit FEAR (the album version & a great live-version which doesn't sound live at all!) (how can it be great then?? -Ed.), a new song called RAVEN which could have appeared on ERASE and another cut called HORRORS '94 and this is nothing but a demo-track remake, but the version is really odd! GOREFEST maniacs are asked to pay for FEAR, but I consider their monotonous actual direction and specially the weak vocals as more decisive than the perfect playing and clearest sound! Avoid...

Leif Jensen

BETRAYER
Calamity

(Morbid Noize/NBR CD)

What a killer!! Polish BETRAYER's last news was their appearance on the NBR-compilation SUMMERBLAST and now I can proudly present you their full-length album, which is distributed by NBR in Germany! CALAMITY is a superb death metal album gathering the old and the modern flame of the death metal spirit and I even think to have discovered a massive MORBID ANGEL/DEICIDE feeling somewhere here!! But BETRAYER are own and brutal enough to kill with their personal name, especially the intense musicianship-blast and the great sound know to impress! What a pity this great album doesn't last more than 32 minutes. If you ignore BETRAYER you miss one of the strongest exponents of pure death metal these days! The song BEFORE LONG YOU WILL DIE is more of an industrial-slow-type of intermezzo, but the general slogan here is: SHOW THEM HOW TO PLAY THE DEATH! Better all the clones around listen to the warning...

Leif Jensen

MORBID / MAYHEM
A tribute to the black emperors

This is a really nice & well done bootleg, that recently got released on cd as well. It features the legendary DECEMBER MOON demo of MORBID in a nearly perfect quality &

a couple of MAYHEM tracks w/ Dead on vocals! The main reason for this release is quite obvious: to cash-in on the popularity of MAYHEM within the scene nowadays and to dedicate the whole thing to 2 of the most influential characters in black metal: Euronymous and Dead (for all the young dudes among our readers, the latter one used to sing for MORBID, while the guitarist of that band was no one less than Uffe of ENTOMBED!). So, it would have been a much more interesting release, if it would've gotten released a couple years back... Anyway, nice packaging and still very interesting, so check it out if you can.

Frank Stöver



S L A Y E R
Divine Intervention

(American Rec.)

It's unbelievable! A new SLAYER record isn't able to satisfy the needs of their fans, although it is alot more SLAYER than the band has been on their last two records! It seems, whatever they would have come up with, some people would have found negative aspects about it... For example: SLAYER could also be alot more melodic on DIVINE INTERVENTION, kinda like a continuation of the stuff they already did on SEASONS IN THE ABYSS and of course you would hear everybody grumbling "ahh, they have wiped out" and shit like that, BUT SLAYER haven't (!!) and now alot of people don't like it, because it "sounds oldfashioned" or "they haven't progressed at all"!! Hey c'mon - gimme a break! What do you WANT?? This is a SLAYER record, and probably the most extreme since REIGN IN BLOOD (an album that everybody has considered as a classic!) & I (!!!) LIKE IT (!!!!!!!) Any-one else can simply fuck off and go for the next Megadeth release...

Frank Stöver



B A T H O R Y
Requiem

(Black Mark)

The expectations have been really high as Quorthon announced, that he's gonna continue with BATHORY and that the new album will be pretty much in the old style again! I mean, how many bands already have been influenced by this man's classic releases? It must've been thousands!! So, what do you expect? In my opinion, it was a big mistake to put out this album, cause musically this might be really intense again, but it's heavily lacking of the earlier quality and far more important: the FEELING is totally missing! This new album sounds to me like a joke of a "legend", who just wanted to prove that he's still able to write extreme stuff. Plus, the production isn't the best either... No, I'm sorry - I'm not willing to worship an album just because it has the BATHORY logo

on it! There are many bands around these days, that have already created demos or albums that are much more in the BATHORY tradition than BATHORY themselves... Try again, Quorthon!

Frank Stöver

HYBERNOID

H Y B E R N O I D
The last day begins?
(Displeased Rec. CD)

What a band! This is an english outfit I never really was interested in, because I thought of them as some useless industrial garbage type of band. SHAME ON ME! HYBERNOID is probably the missing link between the cold musical atmosphere that is created by such acts as FIELDS OF THE NEPHILIM and death metal music in general. If you always thought of dark/wave kinda music as too wimpy, you should check out HYBERNOID, cause they will surely impress you! There's also a couple of EP's out by these dudes, so watch out if you got the taste for it!

Frank Stöver

DEMOLITION HAMMER
Timebomb

(Century Media Rec.)

"Oh yeah, here they come again!" I said to myself, entered the cd into my player, sat back and prepared myself for the usual, devastating to-the-bone metal, but instead of the expected no-mercy-speed-brutality I had to stand up again and play the next title (never heard of a remote control? -Ed.) and then the next and the next and here I am to write about DEMOLITION HAMMER 1994! Two of the guys from the old line - up are still along and again Alex Marquez (SOLSTICE & thousands of other sicko bands) doing some session-drumwork, and TIMEBOMB is their effort. Well, it maybe turn out being a real timebomb sometime, but I'm tired of this PANTERA-type riffing and it confuses me that we've got no real blast-stuff (talking about the speed) here! I understood that most metalheads around still glorify DEMOLITION HAMMER and I also value their excellent playing but this platter couldn't bore me more than it does! Probably a good one nevertheless, but not in MY eyes and ears! Angry vocals, that's the best I can figure out...

Leif Jensen

S A D O K I L L
Album Adv. Tape

Those of you who shouldn't belong to the already informed, listen: SADOKILL is a "project" (?) featuring some members of the godly german death metal band PAVOR and their producer actually! But please don't expect death metal... well, at least not the pure way. This advance contains 8 songs of weird industrial metal with insane vocals and abnormal lyrical contents written down in the german language. GEFINGER and GLANZ DES WAHNES EIN TRAURIGE HÖLLE should explain their different orientation for those who can understand what is meant! If you wish something sick but poetic, hard but not 100% metal, check them out from the PAVOR contact address: Rainer Landfermann, Lärchenweg 17, 53424 Remagen, Germany.

Leif Jensen

A B R U P T U M
In umbra malitiae ambulabo
in aeternum in triumpho te -
braum

(Deathlike Silence)

No !Nooooo !Noooooooooooo !C'mon
if you really(!!!)listen to
an album like this from start
to finish(!!!)and if you
really(!!!)like it,I'm prob-
ably too old for this type
of music !I mean,ABRUPTUM's
demo stuff was really good,
but this is n.o.t.h.i.n.g.!!
Pure noise from start to fi-
nish and only 1(!!!)song on
the whole album that is abou-
t 60min(!!!)long...No way, I
prefer MUSIC !

Frank Stöver

S U F F E R

Structures

(Napalm Rec.)

A new release by swedish thrashers SUFFER !Well,I can't explain why,but they never impressed me and so they do not with this new album !Bands like MERCILESS(R.I.P.)or EPIDEMIC can do it way bet-
ter than this !If you are looking for some aggressive thrash metal these days,have a listen to STRUCTURES... I prefer PLEASURE TO KILL or REIGN IN BLOOD !

Frank Stöver



5 trk.MCD'94

(self-financed)

This ain't death nor black nor doom metal !This is just really heavy music with vocals that remind me alot on the ALICE IN CHAINS type of stuff,but this is way more aggressive !Why we feature it in here,you wanna know ?Well at least there's a connection to "our" scene,cause the bass player used to play in the reformed POSSESSED for a while...If you would like to check it out - write to the following address (no price mentioned)

LEVEL
P.O.Box 725
Berkeley,CA 94701
U.S.A.

Frank Stöver

BRUTAL TRUTH

Need to control

(Earache Rec.)

They simply can't get far enough !The extreme ceased to be the extreme since BRUTAL TRUTH decided to always take it a step further and so does NEED TO CONTROL sound !Total untamed grinding madness !Haha,no way brother no possibility to escape ! And the best is that they mostly play at highest speed but still perform so well , it's unbelievable !I don't really think I could listen to this album like the whole day,but NEED TO CONTROL finally found a method to please me:You drop it in, wait until you are impressed enough(I bet a few seconds give you the kick!),take it off,fill your lung again w/ air and scream out loud: YOU ARE SICK! Simple, isn't it ? (yeah, and not complicated at all !-Ed.)Apart from the typical, but still improved(talking about extremity)BRUTAL TRUTH noisecore mayhem, you will discover here a tribute

cover of the great GERMS w / some backing vocals by EYE HATE GOD-Mike,critical lyrics,a brilliant cover artwork (are you kiddin'????-Ed.)and an outstanding will to crush and they are still in the search of the limits...

Leif Jensen

A N G E R

Miami,FL.

(Armageddon/SPV)

Dennis Munoz(bass)and again Alex Marquez(drums)who used to play together in SOLSTICE (US)are back with a new band called ANGER.The explosive death'n thrash from the SOLSTICE days is forgotten. ANGER stand for aggressive thrash mixed with strong elements,but he really dominates here !Put some typical hc-riffing with technical double-bass drumming (solid as ever)and add some "pissed off" vocals and you get MIAMI,FL. !Well,apart from the monotonous vocals,you should like this angry album, no matter if you are an "open minded" death metal freak or a hc-kid with respect for crossing over with metal elements !A positive fact are the surpasive leads, which are total heavy metal work and sound a little opposition to the general concept, but know to persuade !I just can't stand this "we are so motherfuckin'tough" attitude,but who the fuck am I anyway ?!Some spanish lyrics here as well,motherfuck - er !!Atrevete a compararlo !!

Leif Jensen

BEYOND BELIEF

Rave the Abyss

(Shark Rec.)

Something went wrong with BEYOND BELIEF's 2nd album... Their first one was one of the most promising doom death metal releases back then and was even able to impress someone like me !But the new record is lacking in that particular feeling that the first one had and it's even faster (well,for BEYOND BELIEF that means,the material is mostly mid-tempo stuff now).Nothing wrong with that,but then again,I don't know what the hell A.J. had done to his vocals,as they are also alot more "normal" now...there's even a "ballad type song" on the album where he really tries to sing ! As it's quite difficult these days to make it,I think BEYOND BELIEF will have even more problems now to find their audience with this release...too sad !

Frank Stöver

RAZOR

Exhumed

(Fringe Prod.)

This is NOT a new RAZOR album,but still a great release to bring back some really nice memories !In 1984,a band put out an album entitled EXECUTIONER'S SONG and it simply blew my mind !This canadian four-piece was one of the freshest thrash acts I can remember and it was a really cool alternative to all the bands that were coming out of the S.F.Bay Area. Now,ten years later,the band is already history(the ceased to exist in 1992)but Fringe Records has compiled a double-cd with the best stuff these guys have come up with over the years. Songs like EAST AND LOUD,SPEED HERCANTS,THRASH DANCE,GATE CRASHER or the ultimate RAZOR tune TAKE THIS TORCH are simply great and if you have any feelings for the "old -

school" of this genre - you have to get a copy of this ! Unfortunately the band's quality seemed to disappear over the years,cause their '88 release VIOLENT RESTITUTION had some heavy SLAYER - rip off stuff on it(HELL AW-AITS)and after that,they'd changed the vocalist and went into nothingness...To replace someone like Stace McLaren was just impossible... There are 38(!!!)tracks on this cd,including 2 from the rare first ARMED & DANGEROUS mini album,so you'll get a helluva value for your money don't you think ?!

Frank Stöver

SOLITUDE AETURNUS

Through the darkest hour

(Bullet Proof)

The rumours were luckily fake !In contrary,SOLITUDE AETURNUS haven't disappeared from the scene,but are back and really stronger than ever before !THROUGH THE DARKEST HOUR is not only their third output,but "certainly the best piece of pure(doom) metal since a very long period of time !!Can't help myself,as this CD covers every element I need with such a vast amount of perfection: Best clear vocals(Robert Love still is the grandmaster) excellent guitarwork,strongest production,intense lyrics...I could write a whole magazine with the attractive points from this GOD-album ! (DON'T !!!-Ed.)For sure one of my "favies" at the moment and I totally agree with the theory that if one band can give new life to the BLACK SABBATH roots,then it's certainly SOLITUDE AETURNUS !! Epic and beautiful,58 minutes and it's more than light what I see !Dare a listen,it will let you forget about the rest !!!!

Leif Jensen

SEDUCER

SE D U C E R

Trials and tribulations

(Waggletone Rec. CD)

Never heard of these guys, but according to their infosheet they've been around a really long time already(nine years !!)and put out six releases thus far !!Hmm,the one I got from this North Carolina based 4-piece features 9 tracks,that are musically pretty original,although I can't hear the influences of ROB HALFORD in the vocalist's way of singing...It's more of a NUCLEAR ASSAULT type of high pitched screaming,mixed with good musicianship kinda like an up-speeded version of SABBATH riffs with technical influences as well...weird !! The sound is pretty average, but the cd goes for \$8,so I don't see any reasons to complain about that then... SEDUCER
4625 Murray Hill Road
Charlotte,N.C.28209
U.S.A.

Frank Stöver

M A C A B R E

Behind the wall of sleep

(Nuclear Blast MCD)

In the past I never observed MACABRE as a serious band, because a somehow humouristic veil adorned them. And specially releases like the actual MCD will encourage my opinion !!Maybe I should add that I like them nevertheless for the attempt to be totally different and shocking, and their well-known characteristics are once again the better shades on BEHIND THE WALL OF SLEEP,meaning 3 new and really wild songs. But on the other hand we find the title track,a BLACK

SABBATH coverversion, which totally sucks !I really respect their idea,but wouldn't this world be even worse if every SABBATH-influenced band(80X I assume!!)would release a coverversion of their fave track ?(it WOULD,you just should listen to the awful Barache Tribute album-Ed.)12 minutes minus 4 minutes are 8 minutes (Leif, I never expected you to be that smart !-Ed.),so be careful and don't pay more than necessary !!

Leif Jensen



S L A U G H T E R

Strappado

(Fringe Prod.)

F.I.N.A.L.L.Y.(!!!!)this classic album got released on cd OFFICIALLY !!Forget about the fuckin'bootleg version,cause this one has alot more to offer !If you think of SLAUGHTER as a teenie band from the US,you better go and buy something different, cause STRAPPADO's probably one of the most influential albums of the last decade !! Extremely raw(!!)thrash metal,totally original and obviously with lots of influences from Switzerland's HELLDAMMER,created by one of the best canadian band's ever !They had an ultimate guitar sound,that was so brutal in it's tuning,that no other band EVER was able to recreate it !This official cd-version features the whole album,plus all the additional tracks,that have been released on the MC-version and 7" back then - so it seems that this is A MUST !!! If you wanna know,which band's made this music so enjoyable in the 80's,you couldn't miss out SLAUGHTER !!!

Frank Stöver



D E R A N G E D

Architects of perversion

(Repulse Rec. MCD)

This swedish 4-piece has been around for a couple of years by now and their debut demo came out back in 1992. Over the years they seem to have gotten a few offers,cause there's a 2 7"EP's available and another MCD on it's way through Invasion Records by the time this issue will be released.Can't really understand why,cause to me this band is of course musically pretty talented and they deliver some extreme brutal and wellplayed death metal, but due to the vocals, they become pretty annoying (at least for me personally).The vocalist is one of these "I put my hands around the mike and bark like a dog" type of "singers" and I can't really stand that as it's lacking the REAL brutality !Anyway, Michael Amot(ex-CARNAGE and ex-CARCASS)plays some guest solos on this release,so that might impress some people even more...

Frank Stöver



G O R G O R O T H
 Pentagram
 (Embassy Prod.)

Never expected an album like this of Norway's GORGOROTH, cause when I got their demo tape A SORCERY WRITTEN IN BLOOD not long ago, I thought of them as pretty unexperienced and not yet ready for a full-length release. But, THEY PROVED ME WRONG! PENTAGRAM is a tight-played black metal release with all the typical elements of the norwegian scene. Pretty fast, a really high-pitched screamy type vocalist and a production out of the famous Grieghallen Studio. It even has SAMOTH of EMPEROR on session bass, so this is surely a record you should own if you consider yourself a follower of the black metal underground! It goes for 30,-DM from their german distributor: Gerrit Weiber P.O.Box 21 04 08 72027 Tübingen 21 Germany

Frank Stöver



DARKNESS ENSHROUD
 Ancient Kingdoms
 (Moribund Rec.)

"Journey to a kingdom beyond... your soul a collage of ice, blackness and fire. This kingdom is old as darkness, the coldest eternal frost... Join your soul to the ancient kingdoms, and worship the blood! Non-musical occult rituals. Anti-peace, anti-life! What do you expect after reading this quote out of the advertising for DARKNESS ENSHROUD? I don't think it is too difficult to answer and everyone who just shouted something in the vein of black metal is already among the lucky winners! This is a one-man project of Lord Abaddon who was responsible for this collection of morbid symphonies... Most of the stuff doesn't even have a guitar in it, just keyboard-strumming and a suffering, very high pitched screaming voice... If you like it... I prefer black metal in the nordic tradition, pure & simple! Goes for \$13(US) or \$15 (world) and you can obtain a cd from Moribund Records. You will find the address in the WINDHAM HELL review..."

Frank Stöver

C R Y P T O P S Y
 Blasphemy made flesh
 (Invasion Rec.)

Every once in a while there comes a band that has many blast-beats in the music and I STILL admire them! Not very often to be honest, but Canada-based CRYPTOPSY's debut album BLASPHEMY MADE FLESH (don't mess it up with

their demo of the same name) really impressed me! Comparisons with the likes of MONSTROSITY, TERRORIZER or fast MORBID ANGEL stuff might sound a little bit stupid here but no-one else comes to my mind right now and the above mentioned are not so far away from CRYPTOPSY's brutal style! There are some slower parts in their material as well and it sounds fuckin' heavy, but the blasts are just incredible! If you like that kinda stuff and if you don't like influences from other styles of music, you should check it out and INVASION REC. should change their cover-artist, cause it starts to look all the same by now...

Frank Stöver

P S Y C H I C P A W N
 Adv. For Decadent delirium
 (Cacophonous Rec.)

After the release of the incredible debut album from CRADLE OF FILTH, I expected alot more from Cacophonous Records, but with PSYCHIC PAWN they have at least not signed a bad band either... These guys have appeared in a couple of zines already w/ their demo, but I never was interested in them, to be honest, so I don't know what has been written about it. This debut-cd features ten tracks and it sounds to me like a product out of the Florida area, although PSYCHIC PAWN are english if I remember correctly and there's some thrasher influences in the vocals as well. Lots of tempo-changes, ordinary death metal structured song material, played pretty much perfect, but nothing special either... I don't know what to tell... Check it out if you like, it's a good release no matter what, but didn't really move me.

Frank Stöver

I N F E S T E R
 To the depths in degradation
 (Moribund Rec.)

Ooooooooooh, I can't believe what kind of crap comes out these days... I mean, there is so much potential in alot of new acts who put out excellent demos, that I don't see the need in releasing albums of bands like INFESTER! This is a complete waste of money in every way... First of all for the label and at last FOR YOU, cause these guys deliver probably the most boring death/grind I've ever heard! The production is shitty and the vocals are the most disgusting you can imagine... To call it "dogbark-ing" would be a compliment! No, sorry this is NOTHING!!!

Frank Stöver



T H E R I O N
 The beauty in black
 (Nuclear Blast)

WHAT A STRONG ONE! I mean it ain't a secret that I always liked THERION's material, but this NBR-debut cd is more than just impressing! It has got a pretty dark atmospheric cover, although it "only" features the picture of a nice lady and features the

sopran vocals of Claudia-Maria Mokri, who could already be heard on CELTIC FROST's INTO THE PANDEMONIUM album, and even a bass-barryton vocalist by the name of Hans Groning! So it's quite symphonic stuff on this excellent release and not comparable to any other THERION album! Unfortunately I do not really like Chris' new style of singing that much, as he's going more and more in the hardcore-groving direction, but the music's still K.I.L.L.E.R.! Can't wait for the full-length!!!!

Frank Stöver



C H R I S T A G O N Y
 Daemoonseth Act II
 (Carnage Rec.)

It's time to wake up people! I can't stand the prejudice concerning the polish underground scene anymore. I mean, just listen to ARMAGEDON, VADER, VIOLENT DIRGE, PANDEMONIUM, GRAVELAND, BEHEMOTH or CHRIST AGONY!!! Those bands deliver some high-quality releases and nobody seems to care really... Having mentioned all the bands in VOICES already, it's time to tell you something about CHRIST AGONY (again...). Their latest output is a 4 song ep (with 2 intros as well) that WOULD be a massive seller, if this band WOULD be from a west-european country, I'll bet my ass on that! CHRIST AGONY have to be considered as a black metal band, although it seems that they try to strengthen the boundaries of that musical genre quite a bit. They DON'T use corpse-paint (a moody dark atmospheric picture looks even as "evil" as that), they DON'T play the ordinary way with shrieky vocals, one guitar and fast drumming... NO! This tape has got a massive production, the band plays around with alot of emotions, there are some slower parts with acoustic guitar-pieces (most of their material is midpaced) and the vocalist tries to deliver a really dark atmosphere through his way of singing and the lyrics! Just amazing! They once have been influenced so heavily by SAMAEAL, but managed to get away from that almost totally! Excellent!! Even the cover looks fantastic! Get yourself a copy, but maybe you should wait for the ADIPOCERE release, cause this french-based label will release it on cd!! Good decision!!

Frank Stöver

W I N D H A M H E L L
 South facing epitaph
 (Moribund Rec.)

Never heard of these lads so far, but this album is quite interesting. Ok, the production is horrible, but that might be due to lack of money. Musically WINDHAM HELL is a helluva weird outfit with great potential and highly exciting musicianship! Just listen to the guitar work!! There's tons and more tons of ideas on this album, a unique songwriting and unfortunately... a lame vocalist. He delivers some kinda whispering growls and you'll also hear some melodic/melancholic harmony vocals, but it would be better to work

on that. The overall style seems to be a little bit influenced by horror movie soundtracks and the guitar is pretty much "jamming" through the material (at least it all sounds very fresh): good stuff! Give these guys a better vocalist and a decent budget and combine all that with a massive promo campaign and WINDHAM HELL could be HUGE! It goes for \$13 in the U.S. and \$15 (rest of the world); same as INFESTER just in case you wanna know. Write to this address: MORIBUND RECORDS P.O.Box 77314 Seattle, WA 98177-0314 U.S.A.

Frank Stöver



H A D E S
 ...Again Shall be
 (Full Moon Productions)

It's good to see how the quality of today's black metal releases is getting better & better! HADES from Norway is one perfect example of musicians that really know what they are doing, cause their debut album consists of good musicianship and a perfect production for this type of music! I'm not going to tell you any details about 'em as we had them in issue # 5 already, but I'd like you to check out... AGAIN SHALL BE! Musically this four-piece is more on the midtempo side of things (although they change for some faster parts every once in a while) and this is what they do best!! It often reminds me on a soundtrack to some warrior movie like CONAN THE BARBARIAN or similar stuff cause HADES have incorporated some of the typical elements of that era, like middle age type of melodies or choir vocals of armed warriors on their way into battle! Lyrically HADES are also more in the ENSLAVED direction, and stuff like nordic mythology is often reflected in their great lyrics! Probably one of the finest debut releases in black metal, although there's only one demo track featured here...

Frank Stöver

Psychotic Waltz

PSYCHOTIC WALTZ
 Mosquito
 (Bullet Proof)

I will tend to run out of words trying to explain you how much I love MOSQUITO, the third masterpiece by PSYCHOTIC WALTZ!! If you weren't able to catch the intensity of one of the orgasmic PW-shows, I can't tell you enough how much you've missed, but MOSQUITO being lots catchier than the albums before should give anyone the chance to go deeper with these maniacs! I don't even want to try to classify this album as it breaks down quite a big amount of barriers. Sentimental vocals with intense lyrics and amazing guitar harmonies make of MOSQUITO a really outstanding album, second to none in this form. LOVESTONE BLIND, HAZE DOWN (God!), ALL THE VOICES & the spacy INDSONG prove that metal isn't necessarily limited in its possibilities of expression! I just hope PSYCHOTIC WALTZ solve the problematic times they seem to have actually and return to Europe, the sooner, the better!! I'm out of words again, truly a treasure!!

Leif Jensen

ATROCITY

Blut

(Massacre Rec.)

It was in the air, that feeling that BLUT, the latest output by german oldtimer - deathers ATROCITY, would be going to be a strange and kind of controversial release !! I should open by telling you that BLUT owns a giant digi-pack, great production (soundwise) and I also think that a concept album about Dracula and Transilvania in general is really original, but the songs certainly do have something 2-faced to me personally! You should at first forget about the old ATROCITY, as they are not to be found on BLUT. Instead you get normal metal, like industrial, hc-riffs and some heavier death metal aspects. LAND BEYOND THE FOREST is a really emotional kinda ballad, which I adore !! I also love the DEAD CAN DANCE affected CALLING THE RAIN and the poem called LEICHENFIEBER but out of the actual metal songs I could only get into the songs which already appeared on the '93 promodemo plus GODDESS IN BLACK and BEGOTTEN SON (OF WRATH)... for the rest... well, sounds cool for an experiment but it's necessary to work on this idea to obtain the required maturity. The hc-influences on some riffing is disgusting, and also the vocals sound kind of dull or miss on power from time to time. For an experiment to show new boundaries, the album is worth to admire ! The lyrics, sound, packaging, musicianship and the outtake songs justify buying BLUT ! I bet their old fans will loose their teeth on the new ATROCITY!?? 65 surpressive minutes with these german fellows! The soundtrack for the next Transilvania trip !

Leif Jensen

Celestial Season

CELESTIAL SEASON
Solar lovers

(Displeased Rec. CD)

These dutch doomsters have something special in all of their compositions, cause I remember myself praising the debut album of them in VOICES # 3 already and usually most doom acts bore me to death... But CELESTIAL SEASON once again offer a very (!!!) moody album with a depressing atmosphere, lotsa sadness in the songs, excellent violin parts and really brutal vocals. Kinda like, if you would pick up the best parts of each MY DYING BRIDE album, though they are still very unique ! I can't find any negative aspects here, so doom maniacs should go out and buy it immediately ! Good one !

Frank Stöver

F E S T E R
Silence

(Lethal Rec.)

Ahh, norwegian FESTER finally come up with their follow up album to the WINTER OF SIN release on No Fashion. As you might have noticed in my review for the debut album in issue # 3, I didn't get into the annoying vocals then... Well, they have luckily changed to the better on this one, although they are still pretty strange... Kinda whispering type of stuff and the music is mostly basic metal with some dark influences, so that makes them to something "out of the ordinary" here, but... I still do NOT like it...

Frank Stöver



D.S.F.A. VI - Comp.
Paradise of the underground
(Displeased Rec. CD)

Every now and then, Anthony v/d Berg from the dutch edition of Metal Hammer/Aard - schok magazine puts together a compilation of the best dutch underground acts at that particular time and by now, this is already the 6th edition ! As usual, the quality of the selected bands is way above average, and because of that, I'd like to go a little bit more in-depth here. There are 9 bands on this cd (12 trax) and it starts off with ORPHANAGE, a really promising new band, that will be the first to release a full-length album on DSFA RECORDS so watch out for it ! As we also have their latest demo in this issue, you can get all necessary infos about them there. Just let me tell you, that the 2 featured trax here are unreleased, so... Next band is already quite popular in the underground and we already featured them in our first issue: ACROSTICHON ! There are 2 brandnew songs of them on this comp., recorded after the release of their debut album and it's still pretty much in the same musical direction. Coriane's vocals are really extreme as usual, but it seems to me that she doesn't go for the really deep growls anymore. It's way better to understand now what she's singing ! POLLUTED INHERITANCE are also quite known and they are on here with 1 song, featuring technical death w/ excellent drumming, lotsa tempo changes and pretty raw vocals. The biggest surprise has to be THE GATHERING ! Being heavily disappointed by the direction they were going to on their 2nd album, this is alot more promising again ! The featured cut is very moody, with excellent keyboards and female vocals ONLY ! This is NO death at all, but if you dig the atmospheric tunes of IN FLAMES or DARK TRANQUILITY, this is surely a song you're gonna be into ! Next comes our old buddies from PENTACLE with a song you won't find on their highly praised WINDS OF THE FALL demo - basic traditional death metal in the good old tradition for lovers of forgotten times (like me!). I feel a little bit reminded on ASPHYX' older material, but don't ask me why ! The next band was already praised by Leif in our last issue and they are featured with 2 of their songs here: EXCISION ! I'm still not so much into their stuff, although I have to admit, that their technical death/trash is way above average.

Industrial music's not my cup of coffee, that's why I'm not into HOER. They used some sampled riffings out of SLAYER's material and the usual effects & programming... If you dig it, it might be something for ya... I think I don't have to tell you how much I'm impressed by HANI - FEST ! We featured them in issue No.2 and we're also handling their german demo distribution, so there must be something about 'em ! This is a brandnew song, and next to PENTACLE the longest one on this compilation. It could be described as excellent techno death with a heavy trash influence of older CYNIC stuff ! Curious ? Well you should also check out their demo, which is still available for DM 12,- from our address ! Go for it before it's too late ! The last band on here is THE CIRCLE, and they offer some great atmospheric stuff, pretty doom, but with intense emotions, acoustic parts and on the second song you'll hear female vocals the whole way through ! So, to me this is one of the best compilations to date and you could go out and buy it ! NOW !!

Frank Stöver

Silent is the Raven ...

FESTER
«SILENCE»
SUPREME NORWEGIAN
ATMOSPHERIC
EXTREME METAL



SCHWERE, KILLENDE RIFFS, ERGREIFENDE MELODIEN UND HERRLICHE LEADS ...
SILENCE IST EIN 9 PUNKTE ALBUM, DAS MAN EINFACH HABEN MUSS. ROCK HARD/KAI WENDEL



ACHERON
«LEX TALIONIS»
ULTRA SATANIC BLACK METAL THE ANCIENT WAY...

Satans elite are taking what's theirs 666 and mark we all bare black magic is used for our needs while on the cross the useless one bleeds



KAUM EINER BAND IST BISHER EINE DERARTIG GUTE UND EXTREME SYMBIOSE AUS HEFTIGEM GRIND-CORE MÄCHTIGEN DEATH UND AGGRESSIVEN BLACK METAL GELUNGEN. ROCK HARD/KAI WENDEL/8 PUNKTE

BELPHEGOR
«THE LAST SUPPER»



UPCOMING: TRIFIXION «THE FIRST AND THE LAST COMMANDMENT» · GRAVELAND «TENTHOUSAND SWORDS» · FUNERAL WINDS «GODSLAYER XUL» · PERVERTUM «CREATURE OF UNGOD»

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DIVINATION

DIVINATION

Too many tears...for you MCD
TOO MANY TEARS...FOR YOU is another self-financed MCD, this time by DIVINATION from Austria, a band formed in '91 and which is told to have "found an innovative style of mixing power metal and death metal"(taken from the info)So far,so good but it's only the shine that remains, coz I hear nothing but average metal !The opening track **MANIPULATION** is a loser through and through,the others are acceptable but not special at all,so what ?The vocals are not only lame , but also disgusting when they get clear and high,the drumming is lacking of power and the sound is too thin ! "Why should I buy this MCD then?" you may ask yourself... and personally,I can just point out the solid guitar & bass work,but they don't deserve 18,- german marks! Probably some practising to be done and arranging to be learnt , although I have to add that the last song **EVERLASTING SOLITUDE** is pretty cool ! I better forget about the rest **EVIL MESSAGE DISTRIBUTION**
 c/o Andreas Allendörfer
 Wiederholdstr.39
 34613 Schwalmstadt 2
 Germany

Leif Jensen

HAVOHEJ

HAVOHEJ
 Black Perversion 12"EP
 (JCS Records)

I never understood,what many people had against HAVOHEJ , cause I really liked their debut-album **DETHRONE THE SON OF GOD**,but this ep is just crap !The stuff on this 12" (vinyl only !)was recorded with a drum-machine and sounds like some shitty industrial project and is heavily lacking of power.I hope this is NOT gonna be the band's NEW musical direction...Anyone into it,should look out for the label's flyer somewhere else in this issue....

Frank Stöver

ANCIENT RITES / ENTHRONED
 Picture Split-EP

(After Dark Rec.)

I'm sure the black metal freaks will like this release. **ANCIENT RITES** should be familiar to anyone who's seriously involved in the black metal underground.On this ep they play the old classic - track **LONGING FOR THE ANCIENT KINGDOM**.This is probably one of the few black metal bands that I still respect and which defines "true black metal" to me.This song starts with a slow doomy part,before it gets faster (well,not really that fast either).It's heavy,but still somewhat melodic and well-played.Gone are the days of the harmonizer,now the vocals are some sort of whispers which really fit into this music.It's just a shame that the track isn't longer. That's the first time that I heard **ENTHRONED** and I can tell you that this is a promising band.They kick off w/ fast,melodic guitarlicks before they get into a part which sounds alot like **ANCIENT RITES**(pure coincidence ? One of the members is wearing an **ANCIENT RITES** shirt on the coverphoto).This track is up-tempo and heavier than many other black metal tracks,while the vocals stay 100% in the realm of black metal.It's obvious that the-

se guys can play their instruments and if you are into black metal,then this should be one more band to pay attention to.Great stuff.Well , as this ep also has a very decent sound,I recommend it to all black metal fans. \$7 to:

AFTER DARK RECORDS
 P.O.Box 1
 2330 Merksplas
 Belgium

Werner "Nyar"Linke



LUCIFERION
 Demonication
 (Listenable Rec.)

I've praised them before and won't stop easily !The interview I've sent out to them didn't return in time so that you'll have to wait until the next VOICES issue... but in the meantime,I can proudly announce that the new masters of pure death from Sweden,**LUCIFERION** are supposed to have their debut-cd released by now through Listenable Rec. !**DEMONICATION** contains the 2 giant tunes from the promo,but unfortunately doesn't have any titles on the adv.tape,so that I can just tell you that the other tracks rage as well !Of course,you could accuse them to be too much on **DEICIDE**'s or **MORBID ANGEL**'s line, but they still manage to sound so fuckin'powerful and blast away all negative comments ! Oh,the 3rd track on the tape is an excellent coverversion of **BLASPHEMER**(**SODOM**) and the sound is more than wonderful !In case you believe in death metal,go for **LUCIFERION**(feat.the former **LIERS IN WAIT** drummer by the way !)go for **DEMONICATION** and go for the long interview,hopefully included in **VOICES** # 7!! A masterpiece of death you seldom get !!

Leif Jensen



SILENT DEATH
 Stone cold

(Massacre Rec.)

CRASH BANG WALLOP !Yeah,finally Switzerland's Death / Thrash gods **SILENT DEATH** got the opportunity to do a mini album after all those years! Gee,how I used to worship their **INFINITE ANSWER** demo back then but...nothing happened !They had some lineup difficulties but now they got ahold of **BRET HOFFMANN**, the frontman from Florida's **MALEVOLENT CREATION** to fill in on this release and it turned out pretty amazing ! Intense & tight production, **MALEVOLENT**-like high speed-death/thrash and brilliant, totally aggressive songs that make you forget about the disappointing third **MALEVOLENT** album...Buy this five-tracker and pray for a full-length album !!!

Frank Stöver

EDGE OF SANITY
 Purgatory Afterglow
 (Black Mark)

Will these guys NEVER write a BAD song ??????Can't believe it !!!This is once again a big step ahead for Sweden's **EDGE OF SANITY** cause **PURGATORY AFTERGLOW** is probably their best release to date even though they got more aggressive again ! The

album kicks off with a moody **MARILLION** type musical piece and turns into **TWILIGHT**, already one of the highlights of this 10-track album. I'm also heavily impressed by the likes of **BLOOD-COLORED**, **VELVET DREAMS** and **BLACK TEARS** !This band is able to write material that consists of a wall of brutal riffing, excellent memorable melodies and incredible variety ! Dan changes his vocal-style all the time and I think they'll have lotsa problems to come up with a follow-up release, that's gonna make you forget about this godly record !Even the cover artwork looks highly professional and we don't have to discuss the production side of things , huh ?One helluva album !!!!!

Frank Stöver



BLOOD
 Impulse to destroy re-release & Mental conflicts
 (Morbid Rec.)

Another double-review,but a heavier one because I'm talking about the german veterans **BLOOD** here !Originally released by the rip-off label Wild Rags,their first lp **IMPULSE TO DESTROY** has now thankfully been re-released by **MORBID** w/ a couple of extra tracks, but

the sound is as terrible as before and the songs seemed weak to me back then in '89 & my opinion hasn't changed . Then we find a fresh new album entitled **MENTAL CONFLICTS** which really caused mental conflicts to me because usually if a band sticks to their musical roots it's more than fine to me...and well,I respect **BLOOD** for their important position within the noise/grind/deathcore or whatever underground scene,but I simply can't help myself:this is lame,dull and doesn't give you any benefits from listening !Shit,I really made a listening of the whole cd , but I don't think I'll risk it again...I'm just not sure yet what the most superfluous here is:the album or my review!Let's forget both of them !! I finally have a reason to admit it in public : **I AM A WIMP** !!Shit happens !

Leif Jensen

PYOGENESIS

PYOGENESIS
 Sweet X-rated nothings

(Nuclear Blast)

"Quantity or quality" must be the main question here ? Times are changing and so are our german fellows **PYOGENESIS**,or should I paint it as progressing ?What do you think Frank ??(whatabout a progressive change,huh ?-Ed) I don't want to decide myself yet,but pointing out as a selling argument that the album "fits into the actual times" only forces me to sm-



DEATH

is just the beginning

PART III

Limited Edition Boxset
 (Nuclear Blast Rec.)

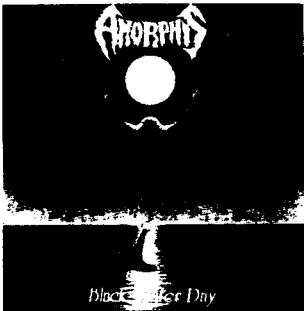
I always thought of this compilation series as one of the best,cause it features lots of known and new bands together with previously released and unreleased stuff! This is already the 3rd edition and probably the best to date.The cd in this boxset comes as a double digi-pack cd(also available outside this deluxe package)and has almost every important **NUCLEAR BLAST/RELAPSE** band on it,like the "biggies" **GOREPEST**,**BENEDICTION**,**AMORPHIS**,**SINISTER**,**PUNGENT STENCH**(with an unreleased track),**HYPOCRISY**(with the bonus track from their latest album)or **PYOGENESIS** on disc one.BUT,the far more interesting acts are without doubt the new signings,like the godly **DISSECTION**(with a track of their latest promotape),**THERION** (even more weird)or **THE AB**

YSS(new black metal act)plus the underground heroes on disc two:**DIVINE EVE**,**EMINENZ**,**CRADLE OF FILTH**,**ACHERON** or **CONVULSE**(just to name my personal faves)!There's 36 tracks(17 unreleased ones) on this compilation and it's really interesting,for all of you to get an overview on today's releases/bands. The video unfortunately is not as good as I expected it to be,cause most of the featured clips are already known due to it's airplay on **MTV**(or **VIVA**,if you live in Germany),but at least it is something worth for all of you who didn't get the chance to see those clips so far and I've never seen **KONKHRA**,**SINISTER**,**THERION** or **DEAD WORLD** myself,so...The remaining stuff is like the "who is who" of Nuclear Blast:**DISMEMBER**(2x),**AMORPHIS**,**BENEDICTION**(2x),**GOREPEST**,**HYPOCRISY** 82x),**PUNGENT STENCH** and **MORTIFICATION** !The running time is 75min and it's also sold separately,so if you can't afford this boxset...go for the single release, although it looks really nice and it is ltd.(3000 units)with a (useless) huge poster of the coverartwork,which was done by Kristian Wahlin once again,by the way...Decide for yourself,it's a good release,no matter what !

Frank Stöver

ile a little shit. Is that meant to be a goal for a devoted musician? I don't agree, but I like about PYOGENESIS that they search for an own identity. The death metal days they used to live through are forgotten and they are at the step to the so-called "alternative" cage of music! Happier TYPE O NEGATIVE stuff, I thought at first... but nope, they have a special style, a special kind of lyrics, a special kind of humor and a special concept and that makes SWEET X-RATED NOTHING'S enjoyable, although you feel the urge to ask yourself from time to time if you aren't listening to an unfinished idea! Lots of hits and lots of tits here, but it has to be said, that at the alteration of the cd-running time with foolish, joking stuff is a pretty old idea... Let me finish: PYOGENESIS are now at the crossroad at last so you better do it next time, best of luck! Hopefuls here, nevertheless! 59:07 minutes, which means 44:34 minutes of different alternative metal-core...

Leif Jensen



AMORPHIS
Tales from the... Digipack CD
& Black winter day MCD
(Nuclear Blast)

One of the most acclaiming bands these days must be the finnish AMORPHIS and now it's up to me to give away some words about their two last releases: TALES FROM... which was euphorically received by almost every magazine around (VOICES # 5 is not an exception!) has now been released as digipack but it's not really worth your money, as the only notorious difference is the bonus cover track LIGHT MY FIRE, originally by the weirdos THE DOORS. This cover-tune was a brilliant idea for sure but AMORPHIS with their possibilities (keyboards and clear vocals) could have done far better in my opinion. BLACK WINTER DAY is their actual release and it offers the title track, which appears in the same version on the full-length album and then three new tracks from which one is like an instrumental intro (FOLK OF THE NORTH) and the others are in the exactly same tradition we know from the album, without any sincere surprises as they date from the same recording session! AMORPHIS servants will praise these 15 minutes, I close my eyes and wait for a complete release!!

Leif Jensen

Serenity

SERENITY
Then came silence
(Holy Rec.)

Dear mirror, is doom sweeping over to become the next trend? Time shall tell, but I've spoken my warning! Having lots of similar hints with MY DYING BRIDE, Holy Rec.'s new signing at least differs musically from those acclaimed doomheads. Oh well, the talk is about SERENITY, before we totally leave that name out! They prefer the heavy metal way of doom with

clear vocals and harmonic - guitar riffing and know to please generally! It could be worked on the vocals because I imagine them having a SOLITUDE AETURNUS-kind-of-strong-vocals would raise them to the top. Meanwhile we give these youngsters some time to develop. Lovely cover and lyrics by the way and a nice short ballad entitled CHANGE included! We cross the fingers and doom on...

Leif Jensen



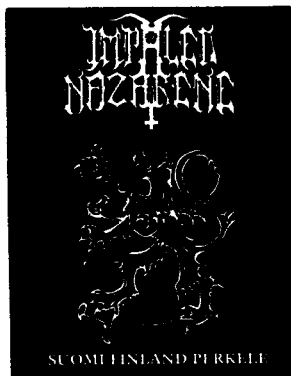
BRUTALITY
When the sky turns black
(Nuclear Blast)

What a heavy album!! Now!! BRUTALITY's one fault is that they are probably not spectacular enough because I give my pants away for that these guys deserve more attention!! Frank told me that WHEN THE SKY TURNS BLACK sounds average to him... well, it does not to me!! BRUTALITY are one of the few bands around which is able to combine ectasical technical parts with sheer aggression without sounding uncoherent or weak! BRUTALITY know how to arrange and specially how to perform their constructions. Great musicianship, a really heavy remake of SABBATH's ELECTRIC FUNERAL (and I thought SABBATH songs have to sound pathetic as death metal!) and one of the most pleasant deep death metal vocalists existing and I dig the cover artwork; in other words: You've got no excuse, if you call yourself a death metal fan, not to get this album! No revelation but pure BRUTALITY... and that's more than enough here!

Leif Jensen

In other words: A boring remake of the first album which already was a remake of typical Florida death...

Frank Stöver



IMPALED NAZARENE
Suomi Finland perkele
(Osmose Prod.)

I don't know what I have done wrong, that Herve is not willing to send us any releases, even though he praised our last issue quite heavily... Strange, as you can find Osmose stuff in almost every shitty zine these days and I doubt that they all go out and BUY it! Anyway, we will review the stuff, even if WE paid for it this time but I'm not sure if I will be doing so in the future... I was pretty much disappointed when I heard the third IMPALED NAZARENE album, cause not even that they have calmed down in most of the tunes, they also managed to get themselves into some kind of "one-way" with the style... You still hear, that this is the same band that recorded



PAVOR
A pale debilitating autumn
(Imperator Music)

I had to sit back, calm down and divert my thoughts not to come up with any possible superlatives for this review here, but it's still a tough one, cause I'm SO FUCKING IMPRESSED!! I mean, it never was a secret that Leif and I admired the work of the german five-piece PAVOR quite heavily and we already gave them lots of exposure, but this first self-financed full-length album is just like a slap in the face for every so-called death metal label out there, cause PAVOR have come-up with one of the most brutal, most honest and most dedicated PURE DEATH METAL albums for a really long time! And I totally support their slogan that is printed in the booklet: "To all wimps, dilettantes, children, fakes and other lowlives out there that try to be evil and brutal: STAY AT HOME AND PRACTISE!!" If that sounds bragging to you, you should listen to the 8 tracks on A PALE DEBILITATING AU-

TUMN and figure out for your selves that these guys know what they are talking about and that they are allowed to talk that way, cause all of them are superb musicians! There's 3 (out of 5) demo tunes on the album and the rest is new(?) material which ain't less brutal than the already known stuff. And PAVOR don't incorporate any other influences in their material (although I noticed some weird bass lines in the title track) to make their songs more special or unique.. They are out for perfect musicianship and straight ahead aggression! Death Metal can still be so intense and even the vocals and production will leave your mouth wide open! B.R.U.T.A.L.!!!! The overall packaging is far more professional than the usual self-financed albums, yeah it can even stand the competition with established labels. And if quality will still impress people, Imperator Music could be one of the most important labels to come, so watch out for it!!! So, before this is gonna be the longest review ever, I will finish here with the advice to get yourself a copy of PAVOR's debut album if you consider yourself as a fan of the most brutal form of pure death metal! The cd goes for 30,- DM/\$22 (Europe) \$26 (world, via air mail), \$22 (world, surface) and can be ordered from this address: IMPERATOR MUSIC Lärchenweg 17 53424 Remagen Germany

Frank Stöver



SALEM
Kaddish
(Morbid Rec.)

Hell, SALEM are still around! I still remember their previous demo attempts including the hit "Fucking maniac" and have to admit that SALEM made an unexpected (by me!) step forward with KADDISH. Black death metal in the old and crude way still marks their recipe and they seem to have established already within their possibilities! (yeah, even MTV broadcasted a video of them! -Ed.) Adding atmospheric elements to the songs is undoubtedly a good idea, but still the israelic music roots mixed with death metal philosophies have been better focused by their country mates of ORPHANED LAND, if you ask me! SALEM are far away from being unique, but still should be taken seriously with their aims and KADDISH (as their best release so far) should be the material on which to relate to SALEM if you wish to find out about them! Personally KADDISH made no big impact on me, but it's certainly worth a try!!

Leif Jensen

HOLY MOSES
No matter what's the cause
(Steamhammer)

Sounding like a modern bastard of PUNGENT STENCH and BRUTAL TRUTH, HOLY MOSES are surely far away from the FINISHED WITH THE DOGS mood I happened to enjoy! The cover versions BOMBER by MOTORHEAD and the classic HATE IS JUST A 4 LETTER WORD are remarkable, but don't save the record! Sabina is no lon-

the TOL CORNPT NORZ NORZ NORZ album, but the energy and aggression seems to go nowhere by now! And their sense of "humor" isn't my taste either, so I don't know... It sounds silly, but IMPALED have pretty much wiped out w/ this release and that's not what we expect from those sickos... You better go back to your roots, cause that's what you deliver more impressive than this experimental stuff, boys! Nice digi-pack by the way...

Frank Stöver



NIGHTFALL
Eons aura MCD
(Holy Rec.)

I kinda ignored or missed the previous NIGHTFALL releases, as my first impression didn't give me a feeling of revelation of their musical style, and that was what they were attempting to achieve! But EONS AURA in its 20 minutes fondly invites me to get into NIGHTFALL personally, which makes me more than glad because they finally succeeded in arranging their creations in a way of letting them really express something! Good to notice that they didn't skip fast parts at all and this mixture of: monumental slow parts and insane, wilder passages seems to me the exciting offer in this case! Additionally I must say that NIGHTFALL have the key to the "how" to incorporate keyboards and samples into the doom death style. The greeks know to impress once again. Thumbs up for HOLY and check out this army of and for the chosen ones!

Leif Jensen

ger on lead-vocals, Dan Lilker did the bass work and I just noticed that my review is turning to come out longer than I wanted, specially if you consider that I only wanted to make public that this sucks !Trendy brutal-core, monotonous and dry !See you !

Leif Jensen



DAEMONIUM

Dark opera of the ancient war spirit (or search the light)

(Adipocere Rec.)

That's a weird one. There's only one song on this mini-cd which lasts some 26 minutes (yes nearly as long as the weird title). This cd is supposedly based on the story of a warrior who had dedicated his life to Satan, but then later turned to God and was rescued by him... or something like that. I couldn't say that this christian-nonsense means much to me, but what the fuck. Let's go into the music. And this is WEIRD ! It starts with a very long intro (half of the cd seems to be occupied by intros/midtros etc. which are all based on synths and keyboards and which do sound fucking dark and great). The first song (I am not sure if this intro is not supposed to be a proper song) is basically fast black metal with this typical screaming vocals and some bombastical or -chestral parts thrown in for good measure. Quite simple material, but put together very effectively, especially those orchestra parts. After yet another intro the second song sounds like a strange mixture of gothic death and greek black metal, yes an unusual mixture, but it works for DAEMONIUM. After that there's a mysterious intro (yes another one) which consists of kettle drums and synths providing the musical background for people chanting AVE ! all the time. Just to make it a bit more original, an acoustic guitar pops up etc. etc. Well, this material is a) fucking original and b) fucking great. It might be a tiny bit too weird for some of us, but I am sure that black metal heads will simply love it, as it sounds 1000 times darker than most of these pathetic black metal bands today. Not that DAEMONIUM necessarily play black metal, but what the hell. If you can imagine the french answer to MASTER'S HAMMER, than you know what DAEMONIUM sound like.

Werner 'Nyar' Linke

EXIT-13

EXIT-13

Ethos music

(Relapse Rec.)

It's nearly incredible to see how EXIT-13 have made themselves a status through the whole underground, considering that they are really extreme and don't fit exactly inbetween "indispensable" (heard the irony ?) cages that are set. ETHOS MUSICK being their I-have-no-idea-which-number album needed some time to be finally released and features again the BRUTAL TRUTH sickos dominating their sticky fingers into it. As the title mentions, sick music is included, certainly extremely weird grindcore, but I wouldn't name it industrial, grind, blues & jazzrock fusion like done in the bio !active lyrics and

definitely engaged subjects here and don't forget the excellent cd-artwork, which drives me crazy with it's colours !28 minutes out of the 75 of the whole album are just disgusting noise faking, so feel warned about the last song !These guys really smoke, I tell ya !!

Leif Jensen

BEYOND DAWN

Longing for scarlet days

(Adipocere Rec.)

The first time I came across this band when I heard one of their demo tapes. Well I can't say that I was very impressed by it. Ha, and I could not say that I am very impressed by this mini cd, either. It is quite obvious, that BEYOND DAWN try to be different from the rest, which is actually a nice thing, but their musical effort is not (yet) convincing. Drawing musical influences from styles such as doom and death (vocals mainly), BEYOND DAWN compose heavy but still melodic music, but somehow it's neither fish nor flesh. Not bad, no way, but nothing special either.

Werner 'Nyar' Linke



OVERDOSE

Progress of decadence

(Bullet Proof Rec.)

Yo chicos, you remember OVERDOSE from the legendary split lp with SEPULTURA back in 1985 ?! You got it, and they are still around, and weren't devoured by the distance and isolation their country Brazil meant for an international success! The modern styles of heavier music meanwhile have also caught OVERDOSE resulting in the fact that PROGRESS OF DECADENCE (or was it DECADENCE OF PROGRESS ?!) reminds me really often of PANTERA at the glorious COWBOYS FROM HELL days with the difference that OVERDOSE expand the matter with lotsa samples and similar stuff. Can you imagine a PANTERA-like guitar-riffing with a PANTERA/CROWBAR type of vocal -ist and the feeling build up in that wellknown HELMET & HOUSE OF PAIN project, plus a certain brazilian touch (which came to my mind probably due to the partly brazilian lyrics and kind of samples!) all together melting into an own sound ?! In case you can't, OVERDOSE are around to try to give you an answer !

Leif Jensen

THE PENTAGRAM

Trail blazer

(Nuclear Blast)

A totally different product from Nuclear Blast is TRAIL BLAZER by PENTAGRAM, but here we are talking about the turkish THE PENTAGRAM ! I sadly lack of enough information to give you a detailed view about them, but at least I can let you know that THE PENTAGRAM are a pure thrash band, reminding me sometimes even of old TESTAMENT basics with a bigger addition of typical heavy metal structures ! If you can stand such music and further on have a bonus for bands from underdog metal countries, then you should be the one they want to reach ! Sound is lacking of power but still does and as a bonus two songs from the album appear as live cuts at the end ! It feels like going back in time !

Leif Jensen

FORBIDDEN

DISTORTION

FORBIDDEN

Distortion

(GUN Rec.)

The masters of pure thrash are finally back ! Times have been hard enough lately for FORBIDDEN, so please listen to my advice and scream it out loud: DISTORTION ! What a killer release, back with a revenge you could say ! They just showed on tour w/ GOREFEST that they are one of the most powerful live acts around these days and DISTORTION is to me one of the most powerful releases lately ! (yeah, and x-times better than crap like Machine Head ! -Ed.) Although a somehow fresh and modern touch is discoverable on DISTORTION, they still groove their thrash - thing and with incredible class ! Best musicianship, best vocals, giant album, but where's their great ballad SO DARK ?! Get yourself the digipack cd for the godly RIPRIIDE cover of VENOM and better artwork ! Total highlight ! ACE !

Leif Jensen

PENANCE

Parallel corners

(Century Media)

Right in time with the sunset arrives PENANCE's second album PARALLEL CORNERS, a soundtrack for the slower daytimes, no doubts !! Being DREAM DEATH, one of the most important bands in the doom history, PENANCE (who formed out of the ashes of the just mentioned old masters) certainly have an opinion to be respected ! Anyhow, slower, yet sometimes rocky and melodic doom is the affair and this case and it's really understandable that PENANCE know to pass the word. It might appear partly monotonous but PENANCE surely deserve more attention than most of the comparable doom bands ! Various line-up changes explain the different way of sounding of PARALLEL CORNERS compared to the debut, which I like better, and the constant work will pay off one day or the next...

Leif Jensen

NEVERMORE

Nevermore

(Century Media)

I'm nearly sure that some never-to-be-satisfied persons will disagree with my opinion (isn't music somethin' really subjective, anyway ?!) but I still consider NEVERMORE's debut album as a giant power metal opus !! And hey, there is life after SANCTUARY, because NEVERMORE feature former vocalist Warrel Dane and former bass player Jim Sheppard of that sadly defunct underrated band and they still know how to rock !! Apart from the very charismatic vocals, you should better forget SANCTUARY, because NEVERMORE follow their own patterns ! Patterns ? Well, so many different shades on "Nevermore" disqualify that definition and if somebody should think this is lame, I'd rather prefer to name it relaxed ! The godly guitarwork (this guy used to play in a death metal band before!) and the excellent cover idea let me claim NEVERMORE as midtempo power-metal with class and future ! I spoke !!

Leif Jensen

WINTER

Eternal frost MCD

(Nuclear Blast)

As far as I'm informed, WINTER are dead, but in their testament they seemingly mentioned that NBR should release this mini-cd for their strongest followers. WINTER were a really own band, there was nothing else but adoring or detesting them and I had chosen to unite to the ones who took the first option ! ETERNAL FROST includes the title track and SERVANTS OF THE WARMEN (which were taken from their first and last album INTO DARKNESS) in remastered versions plus the unreleased WINTER and BLACK WHOLE. The last track being only guitar-buzzin'-effects, can't be counted as a real song anyway and those two "new" (still ancient) date from the lp-recording session ! So well, nothing new, nothing worth to buy for an outsider but yet a last present for the WINTER maniacs and a really slow and dark one... ! Rest in peace, my dear WINTER !

Leif Jensen

FEAR OF GOD

Toxic voodoo

(Bullet Proof Rec)

The special charm of the nearly "innocent", possessing aura made me love FEAR OF GOD's first masterpiece WITHIN THE VEIL so much back then, but these aspects can only rarely be found on their new attempt TOXIC VOODOO ! Don't let me sound negative, and we shouldn't forget that we were so lucky they didn't split-up due to the hard times they went through, but personally, I was expecting a little bit more, like an intensification of the direction they had hit with their debut ! Seems to me that Dawn is crawling back to her thrash roots and don't trust me too much, but I discovered a SLAYER riffing here and there ! A solid release anyway as thrash always does and Dawn's lyrics and vocals still have such an outstanding and seducing feeling. Perhaps the description from the info will help you to risk a listening: "Thrash, doom, grunge, industrial and death metal mixed to the brutal power metal for the 90's !" I bet it doesn't and I still cry a silent tear...

Leif Jensen



TIAMAT

Wildhoney

(Century Media)

Every possible word and glorification for WILDHONEY has already been expressed, so what's my job then ?! Who knows !! Ha, just wanted to let you know that although TIAMAT are no longer on the death metal side of tracks, they still succeed in capturing such an obscure blaze in their compositions, so in case you call yourself a music lover, you have no choice than going down on your knees. WILDHONEY might sound



STEPPING ON ANGELS...BEFORE DAWN CD
(Repulse Records)

I really like the idea of the Resurrexseries from REPULSE REC. and after a great release of HETSHEADS demomaterial, New York's finest IMMOLATION are next with a cd that can stand almost every competition!! Starting with the coverartwork...This is the original painting which was supposed to be the cover for DAWN OF POSSESSION back then, but then some guy called Andreas Marshall came up with a better one, so this never saw the light of day, until NOW! The booklet itself features tons of old bandshots (live & promos), reviews out of several zines, demo-covers, logos, flyers and artwork pieces...yeah even the letters from EARACHE REC and ROADRACER REC. have been published in which they offer the band a recording contract!! I really like the pic of an old DEATH-show (you can see Rick Rozz and Chuck together on ONE stage!) where

someone (a diver maybe?) is on stage, showing his RIGOR MORTIS shirt quite proudly! Good one! As far as the music goes, this is something for the IMMOLATION die hard fans, cause it has everything on it, that those guys have recorded pre-DAWN OF POSSESSION! And that means even the two RIGOR MORTIS demos, both IMMOLATION demos and an unreleased version of DESPONDENT SOULS which was supposed to be on the compilation album AT DEATH'S DOOR but never made it due to the release date of that album. The cd is completed with a couple of live tracks from IMMOLATION shows in '88/'89 and you'll also get some surprise tracks as well, cause the last song (#16) not only is the mentioned DAWN OF POSSESSION, it also has some of the cover-tunes IMMOLATION used to play back then, like MORBID VISIONS and CHARRIED REMAINS! If you like IMMOLATION, this is a MUST for you, even if you have the demos, cause it was done so nicely (with some comments of the band) and it ain't a bootleg...these are the original versions!! Get it for \$16 from REPULSE REC. (address see feature in this issue) or 30,-DM from us directly. Price includes postage and packing for Germany only! ORDER NOW!!!

Frank Stöver

brews, these doomsters managed to create a rocky, vivid and moody doom album, full of vibes, positive vibes! I don't think I go too far if I mention that ACRIMONY should be one of the outstanding and leading doomrock acts these days. Real hippie-force and so it's my turn to pass the message: come dance the wild flower!! HYMNS TO THE STONED it should be..

Leif Jensen



SAVATAGE
Sirens, The dungeons are calling & lost SAVATAGE tracks

(Music For Nations)
Handful of rain
(Bullet Proof)

Any reader into SAVATAGE, huh? In case you should wonder, Frank and me are and that should explain this double feature! The first cd to be reviewed includes SIRENS and THE DUNGEONS ARE CALLING re-released finally on one cd for the 2nd time already - Frank! plus some special tracks, namely THE MESSAGE and FIGHTING FOR YOUR LOVE (previously unreleased and still with the godfather Jon "Shrieks of terror" Oliva on vocals!), SIRENS as live-version and the majestic LADY IN DISGUISE. Apparently a tribute to the sadly defunct Criss Oliva and surely a total masterpiece, which shouldn't be missing in your true-metal collection! Total classic! On the other hand we have the actual SAVATAGE album HANDFUL OF RAIN that sticks to the direction already announced on EDGE OF THORNS and knows to impress once more! Ex-TESTAMENT Alex Skolnick delivers giant guitar work here and the underrated Zachary Stevens completes this great metal album with his solid and charming vocals. Highlights must be the title track, which really tears me along with its lyrics. Furthermore STARE INTO THE SUN, CASTLES BURNING with its traditional construction the desperate WATCHING YOU FALL and the dramatic ALONE YOU BREATHE (dedicated to Criss!). SAVATAGE have chosen the ballad-to-midtempo side of tracks and within this genre they deserve to be respected. They are here to show you the way! (But I still prefer DR. BUTCHER... I know, I shouldn't compare 'em)

Leif Jensen



EMPEROR
In the nightside eclipse
(Candlelight Rec.)

EMPEROR's first full-length album is probably THE ultimate release in black metal history since Dead was singing in MAYHEM! No other album was so long awaited than IN THE NIGHTSIDE ECLIPSE and the pre-sales are tremendous if my informations were correct!! Luckily it reached us a few days before deadline, so I can express my feelings about it here! I had really high expectations on this and to my surprise it turned out EVEN BETTER THAN EXPECTED!! No other black metal release is so full of hate, perfect and full of atmosphere and emotions like this! There's tons of synths used to create special morbid atmospheres and especially that fact make this album to

something of a "black metal meets classical music" release!! I doubt that the band will be able to ever top it, but if they do, they might be Norways No.1 band FOR SURE! If you are familiar with the movie trilogy THE OMEN and if you know the music of it you will have a clue about the eviwness that was created on this album! I'm quite sorry to tell that, but IN THE NIGHTSIDE ECLIPSE is THE album MAYHEM never made!!!! Absolutely OVER THE TOP!!!!

Frank Stöver

SACRIVERSUM
The shadow of the golden fire
(Baron Rec.)

Aaaaand another polish four-some with great potential!! This must be an album, although I got a cassette version of it, but there's 8 tracks & it was released by BARON RECORDS, so... Anyway, their music could be described as atmospheric death with a great feel for sadness and emotions! Intense and unique keyboard/piano & acoustic parts go hand in hand with an "ok" type voice - nothing special kinda like more in the growling style of grunting(!?!). Don't know the price, nor do I have the label's address, but the band can be reached: Remo Mielczarek ul. Popieluszk 3/70 94-052 Łódź Poland

Frank Stöver



PANDEMONIUM
The ancient catatonia
(Baron Music)

I don't think I have to introduce Poland's PANDEMONIUM to the readers of VOICES as we had them twice in our zine already (review & interview) so just let me focus on this first full-length album that I recently got from my polish pal Pawel (cheers, man!). It's quite obvious that the band has progressed alot since their latest (and greatest) demo, although I would still consider them as a band who's major inspirations come from Switzerland's very own SAMAEL. THE ANCIENT CATATONIA features 7 songs that are alot more in the HEAVY metal direction, although the vocals are still really dark and occult sounding. The feeling is very much present in each of the tracks and the production fits like a glove so it's worth to check out!

Frank Stöver

DORSAL ATLANTICA
Alea jacta est
(Cogumelo Rec.)

DORSAL ATLANTICA is probably THE most underrated band from Brazil. Although they already released a lot of albums in their own country, they are hardly known over here due to lack of promotion! Sad but true! Musically they are not worse than their country-men (and friends)

KATAKLYSM

KATAKLYSM
Sorcery

(Nuclear Blast)

Do you miss the times when NAPALM DEATH were really grinding the shit out of their stuff? Do you miss the fluctuation of deep growlings & high hysterical screams? Are you bored to listen to BRUTAL TRUTH all the time? If you can answer all those questions quite easily with a simple "yes", then you should check out KATAKLYSM's new release SORCERY! These canadian master blasters will probably satisfy your needs! To me it's a little bit too much of all the above mentioned (yeah, I'm wimpy!) and I prefer their landmates of CRYPTOPSY as they have more death metal influences in their hyperspeed material... But if you like it faster than the speed of light, go and check it out!

Frank Stöver



E.L.E.N.D.
Lecons de Ténèbres

(Holy Rec.)

With ELEN.D the french HOLY REC. attained to release something quite unique within the underground scene nowadays! ELEN.D is a project which focused on total classical music, without the slightest metal hint in their music! ELEN.D's music is dominated by atmospheric keyboards violins and synths, adding 3 types of vocals to their sonic creations: a deep sung male vocal, a female soprano, and an insane, black metal type of screamer! Sounds weird? It actually IS!! Lyrically the transcription to John Milton's PARADISE LOST & musically a DEAD CAN DANCE version of classical music! The underground became open-minded and I'm really curious how ELEN.D will do; certainly an experiment which

deserves to be honoured! But I have to speak a warning again: no guitars, no bass, no drums... no METAL, but immense atmosphere and depth! Like it!

Leif Jensen

PATRICIA MORRISON

Reflect on this

(SPV)

Who the fuck is PATRICIA MORRISON?? I can hear you mumbling! 'Haha, of course, she is no death metal pussy' cat... she used to be involved in GUN CLUB and SISTERS OF MERCY and is now hailing her own creations! Dark wave and obscure guitar rock with undressing female vocals is what she can offer and it should be up to you to take it or leave it, as this album really puzzles me: Basically I am really into the simple straight music with the mechanical drumming and nice vocal harmonies, but then again I see more impact possible, than on REFLECT ON THIS. It's like a decisive step: back means fatal and forward means to attain her goal! We'll see... oh, and in case REFLECT ON THIS should cost more than a mc (half price stuff), better wait for a real next album... ah, wait... her voice is worth it's price! All in all, still much too monotonous and slow with the "kick" but I can see the light!

Leif Jensen



ACRIMONY
Hymns to the stone

(Godhead / Rough Trade)

Oh yeah, I still remember these stoned heads from the ep they have released on SHIVER REC. some time ago and HYMNS TO THE STONE doesn't depreciate the nice memories I had when listening to ACRIMONY from Wales! Doom is the drug here once again but more in the KYUSS vein, although it seems obvious, that BLACK SABBATH were the sponsor here! Probably due to be standing under the influence of fermented apple-

an expected to DEFLESHED! To- from the-bones death, away from trendy influences and atmos- tly demolishing ! Probably these 18 min of pure death with the rough sound & devil- ish growling could be cri- ticized for being nothing spectacular nor amazingly different, but you should al- ways have in mind that these are the DEADLY sleeping pi- lls ! Don't burn your fingers as this is hot and has got a little sense of humor !

Leif Jensen



BEYOND NORTH
The dark is my father
(Imperator Music)

It seems that Imperator Mu- sic is gonna blow me away with every release, cause the quality is nearly perfect !! BEYOND NORTH is the second release of this young label and once again it is connected to FAVOR. This time due to the fact that Michael Pe- lkowski, FAVOR's drummer, had come up with a solo- project which is dedicated to the darker side of life ! BEYOND NORTH is a fantastic release and has nothing to do with ordinary black metal nor has it something to do with the northern mythology ! This is a great combination of clas- sic thrash, atmospheric music and even black metal, but in a extremely unique way !! The material is intense, full of perfection and will satisfy the needs of all who are in- to experimental blackness w/ lots of aggression and mus- ical abilities that are way above the usual nordic rele- ases ! If you are looking for something over the top, get yourself a copy of THE DARK IS MY FATHER. Prices are the same as FAVOR's cd !

Frank Stöver



IMMORTAL
Battles in the north
(Osmose Prod.)

This album is probably the last review to fit in this issue as I just got a copy of it from Demonaz (thnx mate !) and it's worth to get reviewed, I can tell you !!!! IMMORTAL have come up with their strongest and heaviest production to date, incorpo- rating a more brutal approach into their northern black metal sound. The vocals of ABBATH are still very unique and you'll be able to recog- nize him among the hordes of new upcoming acts quite ea- sily ! Really powerful, with high quality musicianship & dedicated attitude ! No fakes here, just awesome improved black metal in the IMMORTAL- style ! Get it !

Frank Stöver

DISGRACE
Vacuum horror, horror vacuum
(Crawfish Rec.)

After all there's a new re- lease of Finland's DISGRACE ! This is a 6-track mcd being released by the band them- self and its got a totally

new musical direction to offer ! DISGRACE managed to get away from the similarities, that they had with UK's grind- ers CARCASS in the past, a fact I really dislike a little bit, but on the other hand their new stuff is so aggressive, that it doesn't really matter anymore. The basic sound (new sound I should say) is really rough, yet groovy metal with influ- ences from death/thrash and hardcore, yeah even some hints of 70's stuff can be heard, while the vocals have changed into some really aggr- essive growling, sometimes it even sounds industrial -like to me. The 6 tracks have lots of energy and have been produced quite nice, so if you like it really raw, get this mcd from the following address:

CRAWFISH RECORDINGS
Humalistonkatu 4
20100 Turku
Finland

Unfortunately I mailed out all their flyers, so I don't really remember what the actual price is, but you can also get a copy through our distro for 20,- (Germany) .

Frank Stöver



MARDUK
Opus nocturne
& Fuck me Jesus(mcd)
(Osmose Prod.)

Old and new stuff from Swe- den most important black souls here ! FUCK ME JESUS is the re-release of the legendar- y first demo of the band on cd for the first time and it features material that was also on their DARK END- LESS release, but in the original versions ! OPUS NOCTUR- NE is the brandnew album and the most matured so far. It seems to me that MARDUK fi- nally have found their own direction within the black metal genre and that they're trying to incorporate more different ideas nowadays, so it makes the material even more enjoyable ! Hateful but well done stuff ! I really enjoy the titletrack for its moodiness and hope that they will do some more of that in the future ! Good stuff any- way ...

Frank Stöver



ENSLAVED
Frost
(Osmose Prod.)

After experiencing these nor- wegian warriors live a couple weeks ago, I was even more impressed by their mate- rial ! VIKING METAL is the game here and to me ENSLAVED are without any doubts the masters of the game ! FROST is the second full-length - album (after a split mlp w/ EMPEROR) and they've become more matured and profession- al once again ! Starting with the excellent cover idea (you get the logo on the cd - box not on the booklet) it is sur- ely a masterpiece ! On their last album they were into all these long epic hymn type songs, that last about 10 min each and this time it's the ordinary length and there- fore more easy to get into them ! Great variety from pretty fast to groovy midtempo

stuff and killer production ! I only wish that they will record MAYHEM's FREEZING MO- ON on their upcoming third album, as it turned out ama- zing when they did it live ! May Thor's hammer crush all other fake viking metal ban- ds, only ENSLAVED is real !!!

Frank Stöver

GRIP INC.

The power of inner strength
(SPV)

Drumgod Dave Lombardo has returned with a really intense album and band by the name of GRIP INC. ! He managed to get some HEATHEN dude involved as well as Waldemar (ex-DESPAIR, VOODOOCULT, TIA - MAT-producer etc.) for it and THE POWER OF INNER STRENGTH is kinda like a mixture of all the above mentioned in- dividuals. Which means you'll hear some SLAYER drumming / riffing as well as some ty- pical Waldemar guitar pieces and a really hateful voice ! This dude is more in the old punk/hardcore direction but he still managed to impress me because of the fact that it fits perfect and doesn't sound oldfashioned at all ! The production is really (!) powerful and so are the songs ! If you like music that is played heavy (!!!) no matter what style, check it out ! Great comeback dude !

Frank Stöver

BOLT THROWER
...for victory
(Earache Rec.)

You'll get enough to read about BOLT THROWER in this issue already, so I'll keep this short. FOR VICTORY is unfortunately the final al- bum of BOLT THROWER's popu- lar line-up, so we'll have to see how things will develop in the future, but at least it is the most catchiest one and it's still heavy as a death metal release should be ! Karl's vocals have be- come more understandable and the riffs are more memorable yet they are extremely pow- erful and not wimpy at all ! Musically this is along the same lines as the previous - releases, so you won't be disappointed in any way ! Get this album as it's one of the last death metal relea- ses that are always a plea- sure to listen to !

Frank Stöver



ANCIENT
Svartaalvheim
(Listenable Rec.)
Det glemte riket 7"
(self financed)

Two releases here from nor- wegians ANCIENT and the quality is really high ! The 7" features rough-mix versions of the tracks DET GLEMTE RI- KET (the band's best tune in my insignificant opinion !) and HULDRADANS, both appear also on their debut album . The cover is really gloomy and mystical looking and it still features the bands old logo. It can be ordered for \$6 from the band or 12DM at our place (for the german re- aders). Get it, as it's limi- ted and will be a collectors item pretty soon ! The full-length album came out on LISTENABLE RECORDS & features all the tracks the band has written so far, in- cluding all their demo tunes so it is worth your money . ANCIENT is a black metal act that plays around with alot of acoustic stuff as well &

in some way that makes them pretty unique. I enjoy it and you will also, but don't forget to read the interview...

Frank Stöver

HETSHEADS

H E T S H E A D S
We hail the possessed...
(Repulse Rec.)

Ha, I remember these guys ! Back in the early days they used to be called HETSHEADS WITH HETSPACES AND THE FUCK- FACES OF DEATH and played some kind of hardcore before they switched their name and style into a more serious direction ! Nowadays HETSHEADS is history already and some (??) of the members have put together a new band by the name of BLACKSHINE... So, why a review then ? Well, this is a classic cd, which featur- es both of the HETSHEADS - demos from 1991 (I still re- member that the first one was called REMONSTRATING THE PRESERVER, don't know about the other one) and they are worth to get honoured this way. Brutal death metal, which never really sounded swedish but really straight forward, rough and unique ! There 's 8 tracks on here, the cd has got a great coverartwork and it came out in the Resurrec- series from REPULSE. Hopeful- ly there's more to come ! Oh, in case this will make you buy a copy, vocalist Atte has helped out NECROPHOBIC (also on their album) ! Cool, eh ?

Frank Stöver



ORPHANED LAND
Sahara
(Holy Rec.)

One of my absolutely fave - releases at this very moment is the debut SAHARA by ORPH- ANED LAND from the holy land Israel. SAHARA is a total mas- terpiece because it proves that death metal has nearly got no limits ! ORPHANED - LAND combine really well-pl- ayed death with atmospheric elements and furthermore w/ their native, traditional way of israelic music and the result is more than pleasant Great musicianship and out- standing performers of isra- elic influences make this debut to a real experience ! Sound, artwork, lyrics are brilliant and even the guys look great ! They even got a hit-track with the SAHARA'S STORM and are so far HOLY 's best release ! An indispensa- ble record in your openmin - ded death metal collection . Excellent ! A 60min. trip !

Leif Jensen

THE WHORES OF BABYLON
Metropolis
(Candlelight Rec.)

THE WHORES OF BABYLON shou- ldn't be new to the VOICES - readers anymore as we had them in issue # 4 already w/ a small feature. This time you get an interview some - where else in this edition & a review of their longawai - ted debut album METROPOLIS ! The album features all their classic tunes from the demo days plus some new ones w- hich are either more metallic or more weird. The overall sound of the band is still connected to the dark wave scene, but they also incorpo-

rate elements of metal and techno music as well. But they are always pretty unique! Approx. 70min of cool music for all you openminded dark souls outthere... Check out the interview to find out a little more about 'em!

Frank Stöver



DARKSEED

Romantic tales mcd
(Invasion Rec.)

German romantic death metal heads DARKSEED are step by step, constantly moving apart from the massive death influence they used to possess. ROMANTIC TALES, their actual 4-trk. mcd doesn't have the best production but still should appear on your shopping list in case you want german death but also abnormal elements (ha, there's a vocal sample which sounds like Michael Jackson and that's ace!) and abundant melody! "Avantgarde" some describe it.. I choose to say that I like DARKSEED and really enjoy their romantic tales! One of the most outstanding and promising german bands!!

Leif Jensen

MISANTHROPE

Miracles : Totem Taboo
(Holy Rec.)

Can avantgarde be a sin? In my ears, the answer has to be "of course"! French MISANTHROPE after changing constantly their style (progress

ing?) claim now to fabricate higher art and I agree with the fact that their 2nd full-length album is weird & full of different moods, which break down every single death metal wall, but then again there is NO catchiness at all here! Additionally I also don't like one of the featured vocal styles namely the mourning one! Probably I'm nothing but low intelligence and unable to follow MISANTHROPE's thoughts, but my first listening was like "wow", but then I was totally pissed and view no necessity of playing the album again and again. Sound is not the best either... I admire them for having ideas but they still have to work on how to transmit them fluently! Don't take yourselves too seriously... death was, art is!!

Leif Jensen



BELMEZ

Berserker
(Napalm Rec.)

BELMEZ is the new project of ex-EMINENZ guitarist Karsten 'Zwerg' Breitung. After 2 demo releases, this is his first step into the album market. BERSERKER is a weird offering of dark depressing metal with german lyrics! If you like the doomier side of life and if you can stand black metal type of vocals, this might be something for you, cause BELMEZ is (at least musically) a perfect combi-

nation of both styles. All music and lyrics have been created by Zwerg himself (except for the drumcomputer) and he offers a lot of his own twisted mind in the nine compositions! Pretty interesting stuff, if you can stand it...

Frank Stöver

MARTYRIUM

L.V.X. Occulta

(Merciless Rec.)

This album is out for a while already, but due to the fact that we haven't honoured it and that MARTYRIUM is one of the fastest rising german black metal acts (next to UNGOD) will do it this time finally! Some of you will know MARTYRIUM due to their 2 demos already and so you will be aware of the fact that this is not the ordinary scandinavian sounding type of black metal. This is unique stuff with pretty technical drumming in parts, a strange guitar sound (musically probably their weakest point), lots of occultism and mysticism and really spheric, but cool sounding vocal effects! The spoken intros do not really impress me that much as they sound not really serious enough, but what do I (!) know! A good and original release nevertheless! Get a copy from MERCILESS - REC. (address & price see flyer!).

Frank Stöver

SIGIH

Scorn defeat

(Voices of Wonder/DSP)

It was tough to get back to reality after listening to SCORN DEFEAT by SIGH from Japan! No other album these days had carried my

in such an incredible way!! SIGH have managed to mix old thrash metal elements with black metal and some over the top piano playing!! This is just amazing! So atmospheric, so emotional, yet this old feeling captured, simply the best! I bet, if this album would've been released in the early 80's, SIGH would have become almost as popular as DESTRUCTION, SODOM, BATHORY or MAYHEM (just to name a few)! If you miss this masterpiece and still consider yourself a true fan of this music, you are lost!

Frank Stöver

PENTAGRAM

Be forewarned

(Peaceville/MFN)

After the re-releases of their rare two first albums, one of the originators and representors of timeless melodic - doom - metal - PENTAGRAM (scream it out really loud!) are back with the 1st "up-to-date" release since a decade or so! BE FOREWARNED (and not like planned SHOW 'EM HOW) is a truly, tough & through doom-classic, which lives from the pure and virginal vibes this music used to have and from the overwhelmingly gracious vocals by Bobby Liebling! Music, lyrics, the excellent artwork... highlight this fascinating comeback album to one of the best releases which ever saw the light out of this genre. Deepest respect to these BLACK SABBATH lovers and is your chance to say (like ABBA once!) "Thank you for the music!" by buying this album and supporting one of the most underrated bands around! You'll be surely petrified! 59 slow and rocky minutes!

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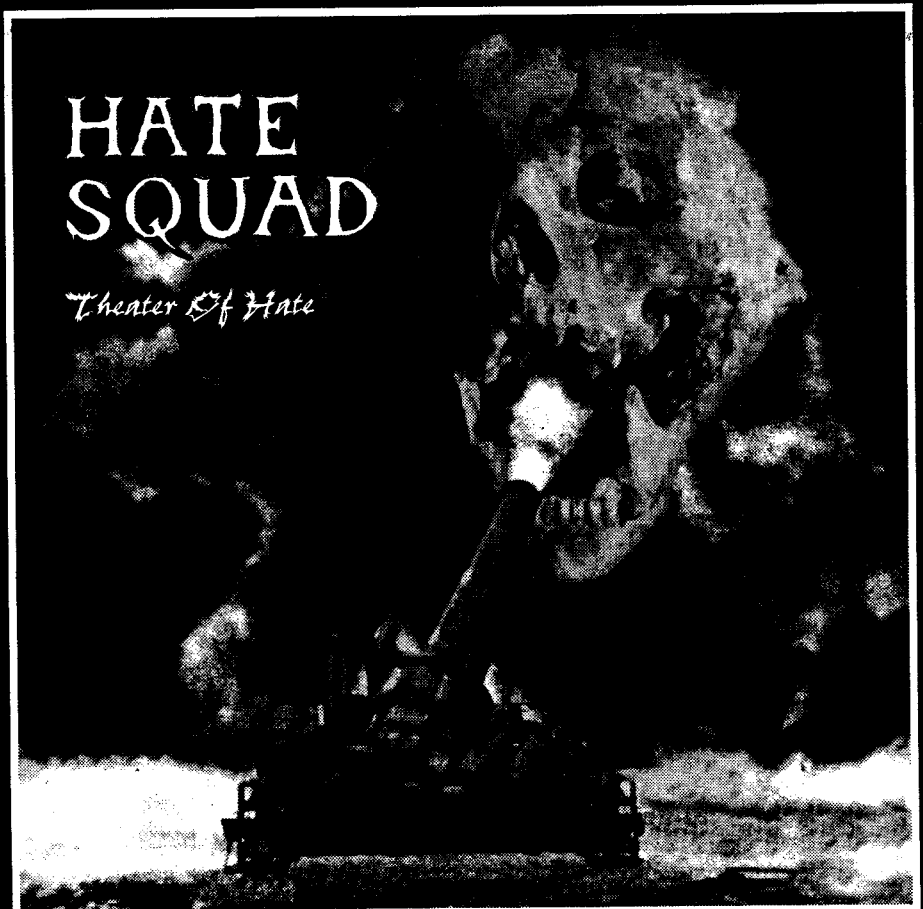
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