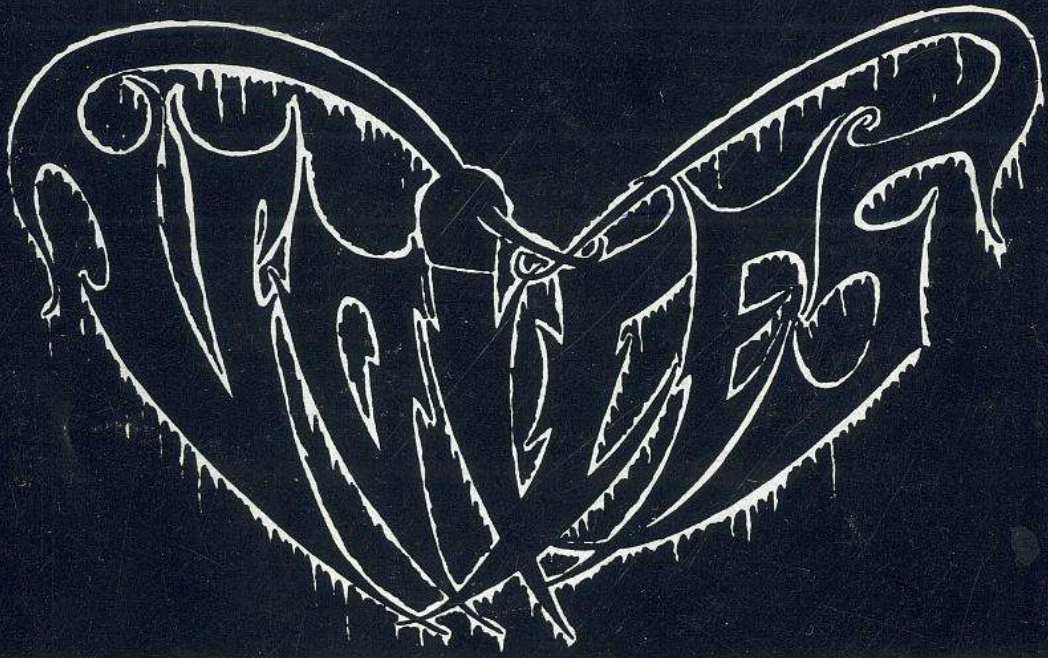


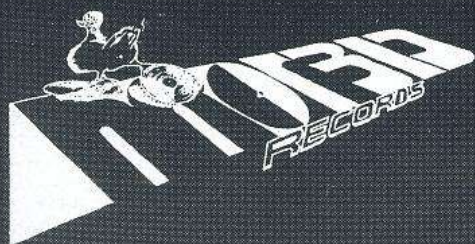
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From The Darkside



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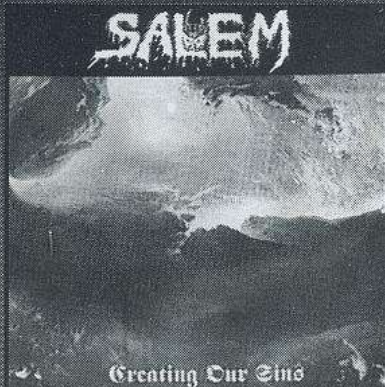
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Intro

Yeah, we did it again ! VOICES # 3 is finished and out earlier than we expected ourselves ! I don't want to waste too much space with my introduction babbling this time, just thanx to everybody who was involved in the making of it ! We hope, that you'll enjoy this issue as much as you enjoyed our previous releases (although there might be more well-known names in here again) and keep bombing us with your letters ! We need you !

Just a short note before I go... We decided to feature some controversial acts in this issue, so feel free to drop us a line, what you think of it and/or if you want more of that kinda stuff, ok ? This zine is for you, and we can promise you lotsa surprises for issue # 4 again... Keep our scene alive !

Yours

Frank

Those we salute...

Leif:

Frank Stöver (The Voice or was it Mr. Razorblade?) & Tina, Tarek, Jörg, Shotte & Patrick/DEW-SENTENCED (for intense metal !), Dirk Schiemann (der Heidetourist), Gunther & sein Lauch, Metalion & SLAYER MAG., Arne & Benny (brothers of steel), Werner Linke, Christian & REMAINS mag., Kim & ULTIMATUM mag. (probably the best girl around...), Marco Gemmet & DARKEN ART, Bull Metal & WARMASTER REC., ROADRUNNER-Nicole, CMR-Jörg, Laurent & PEARDROP mag., HORROR INFERNAL mag.-crew, PEACEVILLE-Andy, Christoph & DARK MILLENNIUM, Patrick & DISHARMONIC ORCHESTRA, ANATHEMA-UK (it's just the beginning), Paul & CYNIC (most impressive work lately !), Barney-heavy metal & NAPALM DEATH, Aaron & MY DYING BRIDE (lotsa time passed), Ola & FEAR MY SOLITUDE (Sweden I'm coming !), Frank & GOREFEST (Doro is perfect, in fact !), Fabian & IMRI (escribe pronto), all in CU-SITH, Sebas & ANESTESIA, ASMO-DIS, JAÏLDOG (a six-pack), MIOZÄN, COLOUR MY SOUL and last but not least: TROUBLE for the best music around...

Frank:

Advin & CENOTAPH REC., Doug & the almighty MASS PSYCHOSIS, Mary Ciullo (as always), Chris & REMAINS, Patrick Wilhelmi (for the great backcover art!), Benjamin Heins (for artwork again!), Olaf & MORBID REC., Martin Gatkiewicz & Pawel Panek (polish underground ruuules !), A.J. & BEYOND BELIEF (thank for the demos, mate !), Andreas Reissnauer & CONCRETE REC., Christian & ADIPOCERE REC. (fuckin' great taste !), Tomas & NO FASHION REC., Andy Siry (Baaaaang !!), Roberto & NOSFERATU REC., Dave & DROWNED PROD., Phil & MALEVOLENT CREATION, Stéphane Bélanger & Stéphane Picard (OBLIVEON kills !), Martin Wickler (what's up ?), Volker Nauman (the MORBIDOMANIAC), Jam from W.-Malaysia (thank for your help !), Herve & OSMOSE PROD., Eric & MANIFEST, Claudia Corsten & all in PUNISHMENT (ju-huuu !), Atze & MDD, Jaime & SEVERANCE (you rule man !), Paul & UNDERGROUND SCENE REPORT (thank for the review !), Troy & SINDROME (I'm sorry for the mega delay !), Alex & GROWEL FOR BOWELS, Björn & BLACK MARK PROD., Andy & PEACEVILLE, Markus, Michael & Carsten of NUCLEAR BLAST, Peter (le) & POSERSLAUGHTER (disco-label, haha!), Torge & Nicole of ROADRUNNER, Jörg & CENTURY MEDIA (Finland suxx, hahaha!), Laurent & LISTENABLE REC. (great taste part II), Michael & LETHAL REC., Stefan & WITCHCRAFT, Wilmar & MIDIAN, Ewald & MASTER OF BRUTALITY, Mike & BLOOD-SHED, Max & FAITH?, Roel & MORTICIAN, Mike & INFESTATION and everyone who sent us stuff for this issue ! Too many to mention !

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MASS PSYCHOSIS

Psychos from Hell

Competition time, boys'n'girls ! Anyone who owns VOICES No.1 and No.2 can simply answer the following question: Which fantastic New Jersey band was featured in all our issues so far ? I'll give you a little clue... The name starts with "M" and ends with "ASS PSYCHOSIS"... Hey c'mon, it ain't that difficult ! And don't let you fool by the "ASS"... (*) They are no asses at all, they are just fuckin' brilliant, that's why we have them in here for the third time !!! Tatatatataaaaa!!!! VOICES FROM THE DARKSIDE proudly presents... the one and only MAAAAAAAAASSSS PSYYYYCHOOOOSISS ! Doug, their guitar player, again answered all our dump questions. Here we go !

FIRST OF ALL, TELL US ALL ABOUT THE NAME CHANGE YOU'VE GONE THRU, FROM "PSYCHOSIS" TO "MASS PSYCHOSIS" !

"This is not a fun question for me (for me neither, Doug... -Ed.) ! I started this band as PSYCHOSIS in Aug. 88 & I worked my ASS(*) off to promote that name world-wide throughout the underground death metal scene and beyond and when we finally entered the studio to record our debut CD/LP "NECROPORNO", I got a letter from a band, saying that they're PSYCHOSIS and they have trademarked the name, so there was nothing we could do about it but to add to the name and make it more than we already had become. Sometimes I get pissed, just thinking that people will get confused with the two bands and buy their stuff, thinking that it was us. So I'm trying my hardest to spread the word - so people don't get stuck with a bag of shit !!"

WHO CAME UP WITH THE NAME "MASS PSYCHOSIS" AND HOW HAVE BEEN THE REACTIONS ON IT SO FAR ?

"Tom, our vocalist... and the reaction has been killer ! All our friends and fans are behind it 100 % !"

WHY HAVE YOU DECIDED NOT TO WORK WITH "CRIMINAL REC." AFTER ALL ?

"The label kinda ran out of money before our project was finished so we had to look elsewhere."

ARE THERE ANY OTHER LABELS INTERESTED IN "MASS PSYCHOSIS" NOW ?

"Sure we shopped the lp around and quite a few labels are talking with us, but SPV/Steamhammer Rec. is the most serious and it looks like we will do something with them." (in the meantime, the

situation has changed quite a bit... it seems that M.P. are not going to sign to them after all ! -Ed.)

YOU ALSO HAD AN OFFER FROM "METAL BLADE REC." WHY HAVEN'T YOU SIGNED TO THEM ?

"I personally think, that they want a band to be stupid and aimlessly follow them, sign any deal for no money for seven albums and suck all the life out of you. And they are not up for some smart ASS(*)-band that knows the deal and knows what the fuck they want, ha!ha! Plus we're cutting edge sicko music and that's NOT TRENDY !"

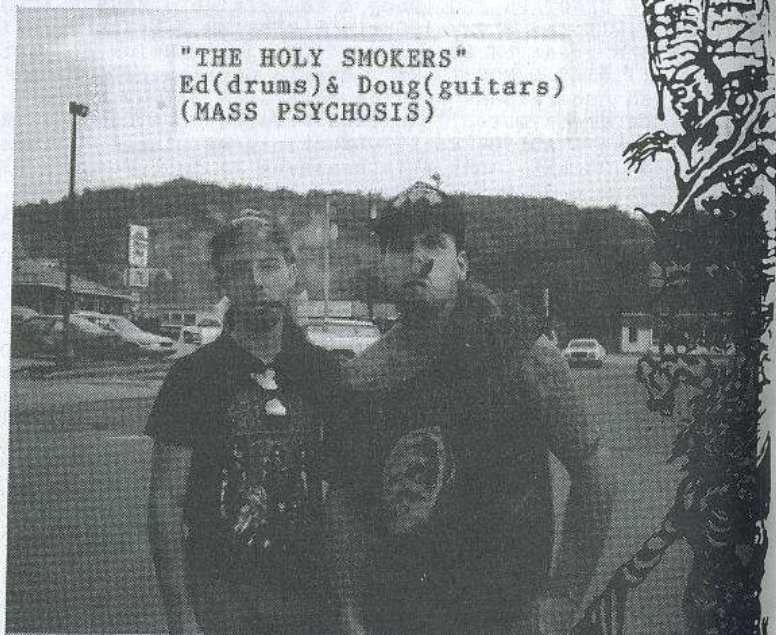
GIVE US SOME DETAILS ABOUT YOUR BRILLIANT FORTHCOMING ALBUM "NECROPORNO" !

"It's our blood, sweat and hatred ! It's music for the people who are looking for some real horror in their lives. It's got 14 songs crammed with the most we could give of ourselves true feel. It's got 4 songs of our "FACE" demo: "FACE", "FLESHEATERS", "TERM OF THE DEAD" and "TERMINATORS". All the rest are new creations !"

WHY HAVE YOU DECIDED TO RELEASE A SPLIT-EP BEFORE THE ALBUM (WITH EXTERMINANCE) AND WILL YOUR SONG "GOREMACHINE" BE ON THE ALBUM AS WELL ?

"The split 7" on "SHREDOMATIC REC" was to really promote our namechange and to let everyone hear a sample of what's to come. But this song does not in any way represent the whole lp because "GOREMACHINE" is our most midpaced tune. But it will be on our lp as well."

"THE HOLY SMOKERS"
Ed (drums) & Doug (guitars)
(MASS PSYCHOSIS)



MIRAN ANANDALE '93

WHAT KIND OF RELATION DO YOU HAVE TO EXTERMINANCE ?

"The band EXTERMINANCE is brilliant. It's very different experience than us, which is good because we sound nothing alike but the response to both bands has been killer !And we get along great as friends and biz associates."

WHEN DID YOU NOTICE THAT YOU COULD NEED A SECOND GUITARIST AND HOW DID YOU GET TOGETHER ?

"When I had to do all the rhythm - parts in the studio behind my solos and accustical stuff, I can't pull off live by myself. I wanted more sound and the only way was to get another guitar player. Joe Lucciola was a student, I was giving guitar lessons and he seemed more interested in MASS PSYCHOSIS' music than anything else. So I asked the guys, how they felt about trying out someone Joe that is and they said sure, so we checked out the band he was in a few times and we all agreed to ask him, if he would be

WHAT KIND OF CHANGES HAVE YOU MADE ON THE DEMO SONGS, THAT APPEAR ON THE ALBUM ?

"When we recorded "FACE", we were together for 4 months and had never played live or in the studio together !Now we are together for 3 1/2 almost 4 years. The seasoning has taken over our band and the musicianship is more smoothe and tight over all. Going on the road is were a band finds out if they are true musicians and we have eveloped !All of this has come out on those songs we did over from the "FACE" demo. It's surely a more polished sound !"

WHICH WAS THE BEST SHOW (FROM YOUR POINT OF VIEW) YOU DID SO FAR AND WHICH ONE WAS THE WORST AND WHY ?

"We played a show in Conneticut and the response from the people was sick, very sick !That was our all around best show, just great feel. Our worst show...oooffff, there's a few, but we're learning



into trying out as a second guitar player and he propped everything at the chance to play with us and he's in the band and working his balls off !"

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN YOU AND HIM AS FAR AS PLAYING GOES ?

"I'm the teacher and he's the student, but a damn good one !"

HAS HE ALREADY CONTRIBUTED SOMETHING TO THE ALBUM ?

"Unfortunately I'd already finished all the guitar trax, but Joe is also a vocalist and his vocals will be on the lp."

YOU HAVE A MANAGEMENT NOW, ALTHOUGH YOU WERE ABLE TO HANDLE MOST OF THE BUSINESS STUFF ON YOUR OWN SO FAR.. HOW DID THAT COME ABOUT ?

"Yeah, and he's laid back, I still do what I want and I will be the band's tourmanager because I know, how to handle ASS(*)holes and I'm used to chaos, but Gordon promotes and books along with me. I hooked up with him through his zine and radio show, "FAITH IN CHAOS" !"

GIVE US SOME DETAILS ABOUT YOUR MERCHANDISE-COMPANY. ARE YOU JUST DOING SHIRTS AND STUFF FOR "MASS PSYCHOSIS" ?

"No! It started that way, but I've grown... I do tees, hats, jackets, sweats & stickers, graphic layouts, designs, artwork and logos etc. for anyone who's in need... Just get in touch !"

from all this. We have a set way to do things and we have to stick to them or we loose it. So when we play live, it's our way or fuck you !Get the picture !Back to



MELAN
MAYNDALE
73

worst, we just played Indianapolis with BLATHERSKYTH... Oh boy, we got cheated... drove 1500 hundred miles (????-Ed.) got put on last and they didn't even tell their fans to check us out, that's cheesy. But live and learn... we still got paid the same, HA!HA!HA!"

ANYTHING ELSE YOU'D LIKE TO MENTION ?

"Frank, all the guys and I would like to thank you for all your help and support. We're going to keep making sick fried music for you ! (hopefully not only for me !-Ed.) Rage on, you are the best, thanks ! Everyone else, support the music you enjoy and listen to Frank's words - he has a clue ! Yeah!"

Wow, what else can I say ? You heard it, brothers and sisters - this band must be heard by E V E R Y O N E out there, so write to them, bomb them with all your requests and order their merchandise !!!!! They ruled in the past, they still rule and they'll rule for-fuckin' E V E R !!!!! Alright ? Here's the address you should write to, if you haven't bought our first or second issue (WHY??) which are still available by the way. Doug is also selling them in the US of A for us, so ask him, if you live there.



CONTACT :

MASS PSYCHOSIS
c/o Doug Grandon
313 Broad Street
Keyport, NJ 07735
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There's a lot more available, just ask them ! If you're going to order one of those items, please add \$ 1.00 for postage each.

FRANK STÖVER

KRABATHOR

This is a really good band from the Czech Republic. They are called KRABATHOR and just released their 2nd album... Everything else you'll hopefully find out in the interview. Answers were given by Bruno and Christopher...

GIVE US A LITTLE HISTORY LESSON ABOUT KRABATHOR !

"KRABATHOR was founded in 1985 by Christopher (voc/gt.) and two of his friends. We made 5 demo-tapes (BREATH OF DEATH-reh. in Aug. '88; TOTAL DESTRUCTION-reh. in Oct. '88; BRUTAL DEATH-reh. in Dec. '88; FEELINGS OF DETHRONISATION-first studio demo czech version in April '91 and the english version in July '91) This last one was our best demo, which we've sent out to many zines and labels. Thanks to Petr Hanzlik (who became our producer) and our manager Petr Hejtmanek we got an offer for one album from the czech label MONITOR REC. and in Nov. '91 we recorded in 7 days our debut - album ONLY OUR DEATH IS WELCOME. We got a lot of good reviews on that one from everywhere, played a lot of gigs (about 30-40 every year) and also started to play outside of the Czechoslovakia. Till now we played in Hungary, Germany, Austria, Belgium and Holland. Our new album COOL MORTIFICATION was recorded in June this year. It contains 8 tracks and should be out by now. Right now we are looking for a new label for our third album outside the Czech Republic, because our contract with MONITOR is over."

TELL US A LITTLE BIT ABOUT YOUR DEMOS...

"The first three demos were recorded at our rehearsal place and had an awful sound quality, but at that time there were only a few brutal metal bands in Czechoslovakia and therefore we became quite popular. A lot of people still have our old demos. Then we were in the military service and KRABATHOR played in a provisional line-up. After we finished the military service, KRABATHOR came back together in a different line-up and recorded the first real studio - demo F.O.D. with 5 death/thrash tracks on it. All 4 demos were in the czech language, but in fact that we wanted to sing in english now, we did another version of our studio demo in english as well, with a much better sound, but only with 3 tracks. The response has mostly been positive."

KRABATHOR

Czech Death Metal

TELL US HOW YOU GOT SIGNED AND ALSO SOME WORDS ABOUT THE COMPANY YOU WERE ON !

"We were quite popular in our country before we got signed, so two guys helped us to get a contract. It was our manager PEDRO, who made us even more famous (mainly because of the live-shows) and Petr Hanzlik who convinced MONITOR REC. to release our debut album. At that time, MONITOR was quite a young label (but quite rich already) and they had the majority of the Czechoslovakian metal bands (for example MASTER'S HAMMER). But all their releases were in the Czech language, so we were the first band to release an album with English lyrics. The album was very successful, we sold about 16.000 copies but unfortunately mostly in our own country. So we weren't that satisfied with them, also they helped us a lot with the distribution, videoclip in official TV, a few times in the top 20 in TV etc. MONITOR became incredible rich (now they are together with EMI RECORDS here) and they make money with more commercial music now. We didn't have any distribution outside of Czechoslovakia also they promised us, so we had to sell most of our albums by ourselves to the people from abroad. They also didn't make any gigs for us, so we are happy, that the deal is over by the end of the year."

YOU'VE GOT A PRETTY PROFESSIONAL PRODUCTION. HAVE YOU GOT A LOT OF GOOD STUDIOS AND PRODUCERS FOR YOUR KIND OF MUSIC ?

"We have studios in the same or similar quality as in the west, but the biggest problem here is to find the producer. Our debut-album was done by Petr Hanzlik and our sound-mixer Petr Ackermann. They never did a death metal production before. We've tried to approach the quality of western standards, but none of our albums can be compared to them, although a lot of people tell us, that they are surprised how good our albums sound...but we have bigger goals."

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO PLAY THIS TYPE OF MUSIC ?

"What ? I really don't know. Everytime we wanted to play hard and brutal music and we never thought about inspirations. We just wanted to play and to be good in our work. KRABATHOR and our music is our meaning of life - the underground is such an amazing thing !"

WHAT DOES KRABATHOR MEAN ?

"KRABATHOR means nothing. It's only a word-game. The name fits to our music and we like it, cause it's mysterious."

TELL US SOMETHING ABOUT YOUR NEW ALBUM. WILL IT BE DIFFERENT FROM THE DEBUT-RELEASE ?

"I think our second album COOL MORTIFICATION sounds much better than the debut-album and we've learned a lot as musicians. This album has a large cover and inner-sleeve and can be ordered from our address for \$16 for the CD (incl. postage) MC and LP

Leif was so kind to give me this little cassette. It comes from VOMITING CORPSES and according to him, it's already their 2nd demo. Pew, I must have been sleeping while they put out the debut-demo, cause this 8-tracker is really amazing ! First of all you've got a highly professional cover - you know, printed

and everything on high-glossy paper, all the lyrics and a band-pic are included as well... Musically it's also very difficult to find any negative aspects here, cause this German four-piece concentrates on a style of death metal, that I still enjoy very much: Mostly very IMMOLATION-like,

will be a bit cheaper. Also our new and old album will be sold at our gigs. If you're interested in some technical things as well, we did the album in 10 days in one of the best Czech studios (PROPAST) on 24 tracks (2 inches tape) and it was mastered in a digital studio in Prague (RUDOLFINUM). It contains the following tracks: FACES UNDER THE ICE, IN THE BLAZING RIVER, EVIL CORNERS OF MIND, THE LOOP, WITHOUT THE FOLLOWING DAWN, FORGET THE GODS, ABSENCE OF LIFE, an instrumental called TEMPORARY BEING OF INSIGNIFICANCY. The CD-version will have an industrial remix of ABSENCE OF LIFE, which is entitled ABSENCE OF MIND."

WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO NEXT ?

"We will be working even harder in the underground, trying to play more outside the Czech Republic... now we are ready to play some gigs in Austria, Germany, Belgium (hello RISING NATION !!) and probably Holland. Also we would like to play in Switzerland and France this or next year. We'll be preparing for some new stuff for our more dark and brutal third album and we'll be trying to find a new label for it, which will be very hard, but we are sure that we will find a good one !

So, that's about it for this time - unfortunately the interview has to be shortened a little bit (sorry Bruno ! - Ed.) due to lacking of space. But we'll keep you updated about this great band, as soon as they are gonna be doing something new in the near future. Check them out, especially all the labels out there should listen to the albums of KRABATHOR... ! It might be the next big thing for ya ! Write to:

KRABATHOR
c/o Bruno Kovarik
Komenského 1726
Staré Město u UH
686 02
Czech Republic

FRANK STÖVER



old-fashioned death metal, which isn't meant in a negative way. It's great !!! Fast music (not grindy at all !) and slow deep vocals on top of it (as I said - just like good ol' Ross Dolan, yeah !)... Whoops, big surprise here on track no. 3, "When doves cry" (no, sadly NOT a PRINCE-cover!)... Their guitarist took over the lead vocals and now everything is more in the DEATH/OBITUARY-vein ! Also cool... Same goes for the opening track of side 2, the titlesong "Cold blood", which is in the same kinda style. Only the female vocals in "Ice-age.." are unnecessary and trendy these days... But you should get it anyway ! Write to: VOMITING CORPSES, c/o Michael Dormann, Wilhelm-Leuschner Str. 4, 26725 Emden, Germany

FRANK STÖVER

SUPURATION

What a progression !I've always liked SUPURATION's previous stuff,but their new album,THE CUBE is something really special! Less death metal influences,but still very brutal.You can hear some VOI VOD kinda stuff here and there,which sounds so good to me !So I decided to contact them for this issue and luckily vocalist/guitarist Ludo get back to us very quickly.Here's the interview that we did...

FIRST AND MOST IMPORTANT QUESTION - WHY HAVE YOU CHANGED YOUR STYLE SO DRASTICLY ?IS IT JUST A NATURAL PROGRESSION OR WAS IT BECAUSE OF THE EXTREME TRENDYNESS OF DEATH METAL THESE DAYS ?

"We didn't like to play brutal death metal anymore and we've been inspired by new-wave music for one or maybe two years now, so..."

IS VOI VOD ONE OF YOUR MAJOR INFLUENCES THESE DAYS ?WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THEIR MUSICAL EVOLUTION OVER THE YEARS ?

"Fantastic !Of course we like Voi Vod.In my opinion NOTHING FACE is their best lp although all their releases are fantastic!"

TELL US SOMETHING ABOUT THE COMPANY,THE CUBE WAS RELEASED ON !
"Reincarnate Records(plus Dance-teria Records) is a really cool company,contracts are honest,it's really really cool..."(cool-Ed.)

IT SEEMS,THAT YOU HAD QUITE A BIG AMOUNT OF MONEY AVAILABLE FOR THE ALBUM,CAUSE THE PRODUCTION AND COVER IS VERY PROFESSIONAL !

"Yes,you're right !In the beginning we didn't think that the result would be as it is now.We were very surprised too! But the amount of money wasn't that high."

LOOKING AT THE ARTWORK ON YOUR NEW ALBUM,IT SEEMS THAT YOU ARE HEAVILY INFLUENCED BY ART IN SOME WAYS.DO YOU AGREE AND ARE THERE ANY FAVES TO MENTION ?

"Yes,Laurent our bass player, who did the artwork,likes these kind of things..."

YOU ALSO CHANGED YOUR LOGO... DON'T YOU WANT TO BE CONNECTED WITH THE DEATH METAL SCENE AT ALL ANYMORE ?

"Yes,our ancient logo was really gory and purulent.Now,with our new logo,we are trying not to be categorized as a death metal band anymore.Our new logo is more futuristic and odd,I think it's better for us."(hopefully !-Ed.)

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE ALL YOUR EARLIER RELEASES(DEMOS,7"es ETC.) FROM YOUR POINT OF VIEW THESE DAYS TO PEOPLE WHO AREN'T FAMILIAR WITH THEM ?

"We are trying not to speak about it anymore,except when we are asked about it(you just were asked hehe-Ed.)So I can tell you,that all our old releases are cool,I like them, but it was really brutal with grind-parts etc.People who aren't familiar with them are asking me,if I would be so kind to record it for them... Sorry guys,I wouldn't !"

BEFORE YOU DID THE ALBUM, YOU RELEASED A 7" ON THE GERMAN LABEL MORBID REC. WHY HAVEN'T YOU SIGNED TO THEM FOR A FULL LENGTH ALBUM INSTEAD OF TRYING SOMETHING NEW AGAIN ?WEREN'T THEY INTERESTED OR HAVEN'T YOU BEEN SATISFIED WITH THEM ?

"We were satisfied with THE CREEPING UNKNOWN 7" EP on Morbid Rec. but at that time,nobody told us about any fucking deal and we were not ready to record a full-length lp anyway... Olaf and Morbid Rec. was for a 7"EP, not for a lp/cd/mc...I love you Olaf! WHO CAME UP WITH THE IDEA OF USING PICTURES FROM VARIOUS YEARS OF YOUR CAREER SO FAR FOR THE ALBUM ?

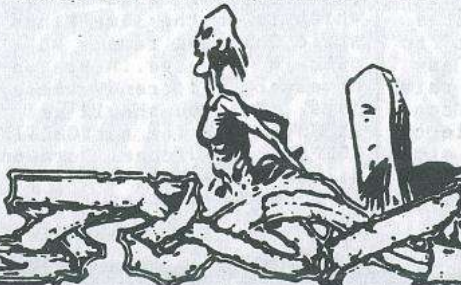
"I did !I think it's cool to see the evolution of a band with the different members.Steph from LOUDBLAST played with us because he wanted to help us. He's cool too !"

WHAT'S YOUR OPINION ABOUT YOUR COUNTRY'S DEATH METAL SCENE AND WHAT DO YOU THINK IS THE REASON THAT THERE ARE ONLY A FEW BANDS WHO MADE IT BIGGER(MASSACRA, LOUDBLAST ETC.) ?

"MERCILESS is a good band too!These bands have many lp's out and their music's different...So they can sell their albums more easily."

ARE YOU INVOLVED IN THE UNDERGROUND BESIDES PLAYING IN SUPURATION ?FOR EXAMPLE, DO YOU PUT OUT A ZINE OR HELP OTHER BANDS OR STUFF LIKE THAT ?

"Yes,I've got my own zine 3 years ago, it was called EXTREME UNCTION and I helped a few bands,which was cool,but now I can't do that anymore because I'm very busy.Maybe one day again,who knows ?"



WHAT WAS THE MAJOR PART IN YOUR CAREER SO FAR, THE BIGGEST SUCCESS ?

"The lp, I think..."

NAME US YOUR 5 TOP ALBUMS OF ALL TIME AND EXPLAIN, WHAT MAKES THEM SO SPECIAL TO YOU !

"DEPECHE MODE-Violator:black, morbid emotional
VOIVOD-Nothing face:experimental, good musicians, good ideas
PARADISE LOST-Gothic:new breath of doom/death, original
IRON MAIDEN-Killers:many good recollections with this lp
KISS-Creatures of the night:I've been listening to KISS since '82(I was 9 years old)"

WHAT ARE YOU DOING BESIDES SUPURATION, IN YOUR SPARETIME, JOBWISE ETC. ?

"I'm still at school(university), the others got jobs. In my sparetime, I like drinking beer with my friends."

ANYTHING ELSE YOU'D LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THIS INTERVIEW ?

"No, it's perfect. Your interview was really interesting, it's the best I've ever answered ! Keep up the great work and thanks a lot Franky ! See ya on tour !"

HOPEFULLY !!! THANK TO YOU AS WELL LUDO..

If you want to get in touch with SUPURATION write to the following address:

SUPURATION
44 rue Edouard Vaillant
59135 Wallers
France

the album THE CUBE was released on

REINCARNATE RECORDS
49 rue Puebla
59000 Lille
France

so if you can't find a copy in your local store, contact them. It's worth to check out !

FRANK STÖVER



"Screams of Anguish"

BRUTALITY

Although BRUTALITY released their debut-album SCREAMS OF ANGUISH a few months ago, they've been around in this scene for quite a while. In 1988 they already put out a demo, simply entitled "Brutality", which was (of course) a little bit different from the stuff they are doing now. After a couple of more releases they finally got signed by Nuclear Blast Records... Time for us, to turn back the time a few years and talk with new mate Brian (or was it Bryan?) about the whole BRUTALITY thing...

COULD YOU FIRST OF ALL GIVE US SOME DETAILS ABOUT THE '88 DEMO?

"It was a homerecording made at the house of one of the members. Musically it was more of a hardcore type of thing and it was called "Brutality"..."

HAVE YOU RE-USED ANY OF THE SONGS, THAT APPEARED ON IT LATER ON?

"No, but we've used parts of some older tracks on our newer material..."

IN 1990 YOU RELEASED THE "DIMENSION DEMENTED" DEMO, COULD YOU TELL US WHERE YOU GOT THE SPOKEN INTRO TO THE TITLE TRACK FROM? IS IT FROM A MOVIE?

"Actually I think it was a woman who was a friend of the band at that time. I think, they recorded that at home and put some effects on it just to try to be a little different..."



WERE YOU SATISFIED WITH THE WAY THE COVERARTWORK TURNED OUT AT THAT TIME?

"I like that cover. We're really happy with it. If you look at the METAMORPHOSIS cover, you can see the eyes from the DIMENSION cover on the left hand side as well..."

YOU WORKED WITH A COMPANY BACK THEN, WHO DID ALL THE ARTWORK FOR YOU, CALLED "MOR-GOR ART PRODUCTIONS"... COULD YOU TELL A BIT MORE ABOUT THEM?

"Our drummer James got in touch with them... it was a friend of the band who did all the artwork for us. He was in a band with James before BRUTALITY called DEAD, that's how they got together..."

THE SONG "WORLD WAR III" SOUNDS QUITE DIFFERENT THEN THE REST OF THE DIMENSION - DEMO. WAS THAT A DIFFERENT RECORDING?

"No, it was recorded at the same place, it was written by Jeff Acres I guess..."

HAS IT HELPED YOU IN ANY WAY THAT GORE RECORDS PUT 3 OF THE SONGS OUT ON A 7" AT THAT TIME?

"Yeah pretty much so. It helped us quite a bit, it helped getting the name BRUTALITY spread out around the world and get us an underground following..."

WHO HAD CHOSEN THE THREE TRACKS FOR THE 7", CAUSE THERE WERE ACTUALLY EIGHT SONGS ON THE DEMO?

"I believe GORE RECORDS chose them. They chose the most brutal songs for the 7" I think. We hope to release some other older songs of ours on some 7"es as well in the near future. WHEN DID YOU GET DON AS A SECOND GUITARIST?

"Jon was in and out of the band from the very beginning of BRUTALITY. He was back in the band right after the DIMENSION tape came out. He actually played drums for the band at one time, but changed to guitar and he thought that it is the instrument for him, so I think he's back since 1990..."

BRUTALITY'S MUSIC HAS CHANGED OVER THE LAST YEARS QUITE A LOT. WAS IT BECAUSE DON RE-JOINED THE BAND OR WAS IT JUST A NATURAL PROGRESSION?

"It was a natural progression. After Larry was out of the band, Jeff started writing the material and then he shared the writing with Don. They both have very different styles... Don does quite a bit of the technical aspect in our music, he has a very much different style than Jeff has..."

DO YOU KNOW WHO INFLUENCED THE BAND IN THE BEGINNING AND WHO LATER ON?

"In the beginning it was definitely POSSESSED...! Later we got our influences from MORBID ANGEL, NOCTURNUS, BOLT THROWER, IMMOLATION... some of our favourite bands... at the moment we all like GOREFEST a lot... great band! But MORBID ANGEL is probably our biggest influence!"

DO YOU CARE, IF YOU'RE GONNA BE COMPARED TO MORBID ANGEL?

"It's not good to be compared to other bands, but you will be compared no matter what, just because people need to have someone to compare you to... so it's okay with me to be compared with MORBID ANGEL, cause they are definitely the best death metal band around! We'd rather be compared to them than anybody else! I guess we have the same roots as they have, but we try to come up with something different. We try to become more technical and orchestrated..."

SO WHAT DO YOU THINK OF VERY TECHNICAL BANDS LIKE ATHEIST? COULD YOU IMAGINE TO GO IN THAT DIRECTION?

"That's one of my bands, that I'm really into also...But we don't wanna get too technical that people don't like us anymore. We try to keep the brutal aspect of the music as well as the technical side as well..."

YOUR METAMORPHOSIS DEMO WAS RE-LEASED AND DISTRIBUTED THROUGH WILD RAGS RECORDS IN THE US. A LOT OF BANDS HAD NEGATIVE EXPERIENCES WITH THAT LABEL AND RICHARD C. IN PARTICULAR, SO WHAT ABOUT YOU ?

"He's been pretty good to us actually. He gave us a certain amount of tapes for the rights to release that. We got a pretty good deal and he hasn't given us any problems about going to Nuclear Blast or anything. So we haven't got any problems with him."

WOULD YOU HAVE DONE THE DEMO AT MORRISOUND, IF HE WOULDN'T BE INTERESTED IN YOU ?

"I believe we would have done it there anyway, cause we needed to come out with some good sound-quality."

SO, IS JEFF SINGING WHOLE SONGS OR JUST PARTS OF IT ?

"Right now, he's just singing parts of it. We're just working on a new song, were both are singing all the way through altogether, cause we thought that might be pretty interesting. But it might be possible that Jeff is singing a whole one as well in the future."

HOW DO YOU GET SCOTT ?

"He was in some local bands and was a friend of the band and as we wanted someone as a frontman he came down to try out and he exceeded our expectations. He's got a great stage presence and his voice is constantly brutal !"

WAS HE IN ANY DEMO BANDS BEFORE ?

"No, he wasn't in any demobands, he was just in garagebands."

THEN YOU ALSO GOT JAY, WHO'S ALREADY OUT OF THE BAND AGAIN...

"Yeah, Jay's out of the band now, replaced by me. He replaced Larry Sapp to fill in for the second guitar position and recorded the album with them, but shortly after that, they decided to go separate ways, because of some things that didn't work out. I've been trying to get into the band for a long time already, since I



YOU ALSO HAVE A PERMANENT MANAGEMENT SINCE THEN. HAS THAT HELPED YOU IN ANY WAY ?

"Getting a manager helped us getting a little bit more respect from record companies as we're trying to deal with them professional. That's what we try to be...we don't wanna care about the business, we just wanna be musicians and let our manager deal with the business."

IN THE BEGINNING OF THE BAND, LARRY AND JEFF SHARED THE VOCALS, BUT AFTER LARRY LEFT THE BAND, JEFF ALSO STOPPED SINGING AND YOU GOT SCOTT... WHY ?

"That's not true...Jeff sings on the album also !"
REALLY ?

"Yeah, they trade off. Scott's taking the frontman position cause we wanted to have somebody for that and we wanted to have variations in our vocals. Jeff has changed his vocal style since the Death is just the beginning compilation a lot. He tries to sing a little bit higher but also some low parts as well. He's trying to make it interesting whenever he can. Scott sings more brutal and straight ahead, very low and Jeff puts a higher scream behind it sometimes, very sick...very twisted !"

heard the demo, that got them signed to Nuclear Blast. I became friends of Jeff and as they needed a guitar-player I was given the opportunity to try out and luckily I made it."

HAVE YOU BEEN IN BANDS BEFORE ?

"Yeah, I was in a band called DARKENING and we did a demo but the most important band I was into besides BRUTALITY was definitely INFERNUS. We never made a demo, but James Murphy has members of INFERNUS in his band DISINCARNATE now. Our drummer was also in RESURRECTION for a while... but anyway, I was in BURIAL for a short time too..."

IS IT TRUE THAT THEY'VE SPLIT UP NOW ?

"Yeah, it's a shame, their bass player is in DISINCARNATE now as well."

THE DEMO, THAT GOT YOU SIGNED TO NUCLEAR BLAST WAS NEVER RELEASED OFFICIALLY. WHY ?

"Well, SPAWNED ILLUSION and CRYPTORIUM are both on the album and we've taken riffs out of SADISTIC and changed it to a new song and it's gonna be on the next album. That song is called TRIBE OF THE MASTER now."

THERE WAS ALSO TALK ABOUT A SONG CALLED DROWNING IN BLOOD. DO YOU KNOW WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO THAT ONE ?

"I haven't heard any talk of that song for a while..."

WHY IS THERE NO OLD DEMO-SONG ON THE ALBUM ?

"It just didn't fit with our style anymore. We wanted to get away from it, we think it was good for the time that we did it... Actually there is an old song on the al-

bum, an old METAMORPHOSIS song, that was changed around. It was turned to SEPTICEMIC PLAGUE... it was MAUSOLEUM OF INFANGING EVIL before. We took out the parts, that Larry Sapp wrote, because we were having problems with him. He said that it was his song, but actually Jeff wrote most of it, Larry only wrote one line... we wrote the lyrics and we've changed the guitar-part that he had, so it's a different song now. But if you listen to it, you can see that it is the same song."

WOULD YOU CONSIDER YOURSELF AS A BAND WITH A TYPICAL TAMPA STYLE ?

"No, I don't think so. I don't think, that we fit in with all that same old stuff, we're trying to be different. We are heavy and we're from Tampa, so that people are possibly saying we have a Tampa sound, but we were one of the first, even though we got recently signed, we were one of the first death metal bands from Tampa. I think, if there's a typical Tampa sound, BRUTALITY probably helped create it a little bit. We constantly try to stay away from sounding like other people though, but eventually that's up to the listener to decide what we do sound like, you know..."

HAVE YOU EVER PLAYED ANY COVERSONGS IN THE PAST ?

"Yeah we play a coversong as a matter of fact every show... we do a BLACK SABBATH coversong, which is ELECTRIC FUNERAL. And we're thinking about doing possibly more BLACK SABBATH songs in the future, maybe even a 7" or something... We are thinking about possibly one new song live and maybe two BLACK SABBATH songs."

HOW DO YOU SEE BRUTALITY'S CHANCES TO MAKE IT ON THE DEATH METAL MARKET OF TODAY ? DO YOU THINK THERE IS STILL NEED FOR A BAND LIKE BRUTALITY ?

"Yeah, I think so. We are very aggressive and we have the fast blast-beats and many changes, which is what people like to hear and our lyrical contents is very brutal. I feel that we're something that should be there, that we're forced to be recognized within the future. I definite think there's a need for our type of music still... fast, aggressive and technical !"

DO YOU LIKE THE COVERARTWORK THAT YOU'VE GOT FOR YOUR DEBUT-ALBUM ?

"Yeah, we love it. We definitely trying to be as different as we can and we wouldn't achieved that if we would've used Dan Seagrave for example. He's a great artist and I love the stuff he's done.. but every death metal album has a Dan Seagrave cover. So we found a different artist and the result speaks for itself I guess."

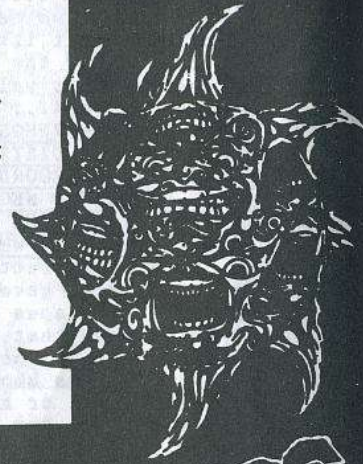
IS THERE A CONCEPT IN YOUR COVERS ? BECAUSE THERE WAS A CONTINUATION FROM THE DEMENSION TO THE METAMORPHOSIS DEMO AND NOW YOU CAN FIND THE COVER OF YOUR 7" IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ALBUM COVER AGAIN!

"Yes, the concept is basically, that the man, who's strapped to the wall is... uhm, we're gonna call the album TORTURE AT ONE TIME but we changed it to SCREAMS OF ANGUISH... the concept is basically that he's trapped by his own evil and he's being surrounded by stuff like that pretty much and you can see in the back, that there are a

couple of other walls with other victims as well. There's pretty much that malevolent being that's got it's victim and drawing the screams of anguish from it... it came out pretty good and hopefully he'll do some more artwork for us in the future. Right now he's doing some artwork for our new shirts that are coming out soon... it's gonna be one of the gargoyles of the 7". We're gonna put them on it somewhere..."

BRUTALITY
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FRANK STÖVER



DOLORES RECORDS

Here's a little interview that we did with Mats, the labelmanager of DOLORES RECORDS, who put out such goodies as GROTESQUE, LIERS IN WAIT or AT THE GATES...

COULD YOU FIRST OF ALL INTRODUCE US TO THE PEOPLE WHO ARE WORKING FOR DOLORES RECORDS ?

"Dolores Records is managed by three individuals, who are working very hard for the label. Isse, the head of our record-shop and Bengt and Rolf, who are responsible for the business side of things. They take care of the mailorder and stuff. We also get some help from two people, who are paid from the government. Right now, they are Tobbe and Anders from AT THE GATES. Myself is responsible for the label... I'm doing the distribution and everything."

WHEN DID YOU START WITH DOLORES RECORDS ?

"The label has been around since 1987, cause since then we moved into a bigger house, so we have more space now. Before that it was just an ordinary record- and comic shop, that has been around since 1978."

WHICH WAS THE FIRST BAND YOU'VE WORKED WITH ?

"Our first release was the GROTESQUE mini-album INCANTATION. From that point on, everything began to roll and today, this release has often been described as a very important death metal release."

HAVE YOU LIMITED YOURSELVES ON DEATH METAL ONLY ?

"We're interested in the release of extreme kinds of metal or hardcore, but we're also open-minded for other musical styles as well. Right now, we've only released the stuff from some of our friends, that's why it is only death metal so far."

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF DOLORES RECORDS ?

"Dolores is punk !"
COULD YOU GIVE US SOME DETAILS, WHY YOU WANTED TO WORK WITH GROTESQUE AND LATER WITH AT THE GATES AND LIERS IN WAIT ?

"They are really nice guys and they were good customers in our shop, that's why we decided to help them. WAS IT HARD FOR YOU, LOSING AT THE GATES TO PEACEVILLE ?

"No. I think it is good for a band, if they get the recognition they deserve. We do the label just for fun, cause it is just a part of our company."

TELL US SOMETHING ABOUT YOUR CONTRACTS. WHAT CAN YOU OFFER THE BANDS AND WHAT DO YOU EXPECT IN RETURN ?

"Our contracts are quite simple, without anything special in them. We try to give the bands a professional release and a good distribution, so they can get the recognition they need. Hopefully they'll get signed by a bigger label and we make a little money out of it as well."

HOW DID YOU GET INTO THIS TYPE OF MUSIC ?

"We all liked extreme music for a long time already..."

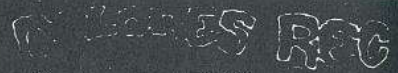
AT THE GATES AND GROTESQUE HAVE ONLY BEEN RELEASED ON VINYL AND LIERS IN WAIT ON CD, SO WILL YOU CONCENTRATE ON VINYL OR CD-RELEASES IN THE FUTURE ?

"We'll put out CD's only from this point on."

ANYTHING ELSE YOU'D LIKE TO MENTION ?

"Right now, we're thinking about some offices in foreign countries to get more known, in Germany SPV is going to distribute our stuff. If anyone wants more infos, write to us, but make sure to enclose an IRC."

Frank Stöver



Drottninggatan 52
S - 411 07 Göteborg, Sweden

BLASPHEMOUS NORTHERN FORCE

EMPEROR

In some of the letters we got, you demanded more black metal interviews/features, which turned out to be a problem...

Cause as you might know, most of these bands are not willing to answer questions, which have been send in by a death metal zine, which I find rather stupid to tell you the truth !Where's the difference, if a band really plays their stuff from the heart, if it's black or death metal, grindcore or doom metal ? I can't see it ! I never will make a difference between any of those styles and as long as I like the music and attitude I'll try to feature the band in our zine !

Because of that, I was very much surprised, that we got an interview with Bård Faust from the norwegian BLACK METAL band EMPEROR ! It's even more strange, when you find out, that he lives together with Euronymus from MAYHEM ! But that interview turned out really interesting and EMPEROR's demo WRATH OF THE TYRANT is definitely worth to check out. But before you write them, read the interview...

DO YOU THINK IT IS NECESSARY FOR A BLACK METAL BAND TO USE CORPSEPAINT AND "NICKNAMES" OR COULD YOU BELIEVE THAT A BLACK METAL MANIAC IS ALSO "TRUE" IN HIS BELIEVES WITH-OUT THAT ?

"It should be up to everyone to decide whether they wanna use corpsepaint or "nicknames" We have choosen to use it, as we wanna make something more than just the music and it's also this way we feel comfortable."

WHEN DID YOU START WEARING THAT KINDA OUTFIT AND WHAT INFLUENCED YOU IN THE DESIGN OF IT ? ESPECIALLY THE FACE-PAINTING...

"With EMPEROR we used it from the beginning(may '91) but we have used such things as corpsepaint and bulletbelts from earlier bands like THOU SHALT SUFFER and STIGMA DIABOLICUM so it was only natural to continue with it in EMPEROR. What influenced the facepainting ? Well, I guess we are influenced by other bands that use it and also

by KISS I think."
WHAT KIND OF STUFF DO YOU USE ? SIMPLE MAKE-UP OR IS IT TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM THAT ?

"I suppose you can call it simple make-up. It's extremely difficult to come up with a painting that haven't been used before, so I guess you can call it simple or whatever. On pictures we also use things as weapons, mantles and other great things."

DO YOU ALSO LIKE THE WAY KING DIAMOND PRESENTS HIMSELF IN THE PUBLIC ?

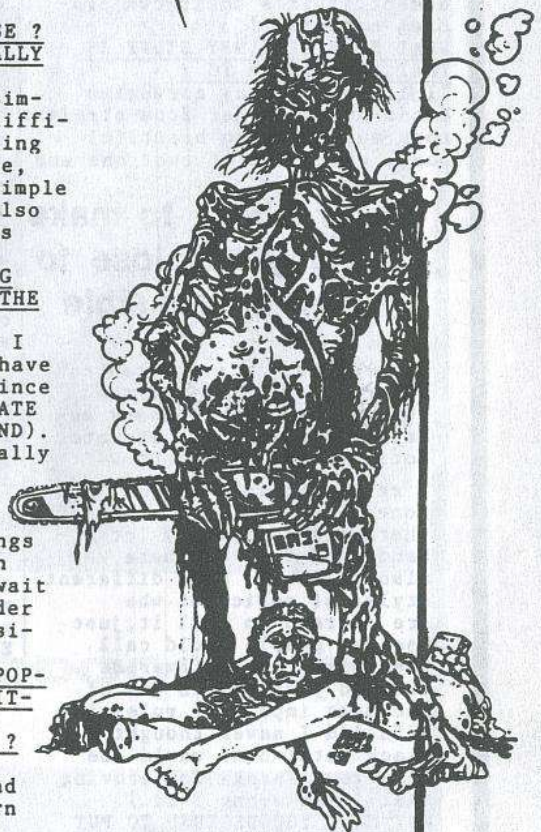
"Yeah, he's doing a great job I think. (think so too ! -Ed.) I have always had respect for him (since the early days in MERCYFUL FATE and till today in KING DIAMOND). I worship his records (especially MERCYFUL FATE's)."

WHAT IS YOUR PHILOSOPHY OF LIFE ?

"To make the best out of things but the supreme happening in my life will be my death. I await it with curiosity and I wonder what awaits me on the other side."

WOULD YOU MIND GETTING MORE POPULAR THAN NOW ? WOULD YOU SPLIT-UP WHEN THE BANDS GETS KINDA LIKE WELLKNOWN IN THE FUTURE ?

"No. None of us has something against getting popular. It had been perfectly alright to earn money on the band and we will



definitely not split-up just because we are getting too popular !"

I WAS VERY SURPRISED TO CATCH YOUR MUSICAL FAVES, WHICH INCLUDED MANOWAR, KISS, JUDAS PRIEST AND TNT !!! WOULD YOU LIKE TO COMMENT SOMETHING TO THAT ?

"Well, I listen to many styles of music and also those you've mentioned, but I wanna add, that it's just the KNIGHTS OF THE NEW THUNDER lp I like from TNT not their new stuff. Anyway, I also listen to lots of other stuff like: Enya, Pink Floyd, Sisters of Mercy, some Techno stuff, The Eagles, Manilla Road, Vicious Rumors, Dream Theater, Dead Can Dance etc. I listen to so-called wimp-stuff too, but I don't care. If people can't accept it, it's their own problem not mine !"

WHAT KIND OF WIMPY STUFF IS THAT, YOU LISTEN TO ?

"I listen to many norwegian bands which differ from straight rock music and to beautiful music with lots of emotions and

We are here to make Norway as close to hell as possible

atmosphere. I also listen to some Disco stuff from the 70's, some ordinary heavy metal, rock'n'roll etc. etc. etc. Lots of stuff you know..."

I really appreciate your honest answers Bård, cause there are definitely lotsa bands and fans outthere, who also listen to many different styles of music, but who are afraid to tell it, just because people could call them wimps or whatever. Be true to yourself is one of the most important rules in life. And I never thought a black metal band would be like you ! Thanks for proving that I was wrong ! -Ed.)

WHY HAVE YOU DECIDED TO PUT OUT YOUR MLP ON CANDLELIGHT RECORDS INSTEAD OF D.S.P. ? DO YOU AGREE WITH THE CANDLELIGHT ACTIVITIES ?

"Well, the MLP on Candlelight is more like a promotion - thing and on the other side there was never any talk about releasing the MLP on D.S.P. There we will probably release our full-length album. And the mini-lp on Candlelight will only make us more known before the lp, so all in all, D.S.P. will gain from the mini-lp (just as us). I guess I agree with the Candlelight activities, but I can't understand why they sign bands like ACHERON and HOVAHEJ (project band of Paul Ledney from PROFANATICA... don't support, send rather dead mouses to him in the mail), but anyway, they can do what they want."

WHY DO YOU HATE PAUL LEDNEY? IT SEEMS THAT A LOT OF NORWEGIAN PEOPLE THINK THE WAY YOU DO (Hi Metalion !!)

"Why everybody hates Paul Ledney ? I don't really know, how it all started, but he has said a lot of things about Norway in mags etc. and some things he has said, is that the norwegian black metal bands can't play and so on. This is total nonsens and besides that, PROFANATICA's music sucks, so we don't really care..."

WHAT DO YOU THINK IS THE REASON THAT MOSTLY EVERY BLACK METAL BAND IS HEAVILY INFLUENCED BY VENOM, HELL - HAMMER AND BATHORY ALTHOUGH NONE OF THEM WAS SERIOUS IN THEIR IMAGE CLAIMED BELIEVES.. AREN'T THEY EVEN MORE FALSE THAN SOME BANDS OF THE DEATH METAL SCENE WHO HAVE SATANIC LYRICS ?

"Bands like BATHORY, VENOM and HELLHAMMER are fundamental reasons for black metal to exist and at the time these bands started, this was something so raw, that you couldn't just call them false or whatever (but they ARE ! -Ed.) Some of these bands also made some of the best black metal lp's ever, so why really bother ?" (this is absolutely true ! -Ed.)

DO YOU SUPPORT THE NORWEGIAN "CIRCLE OF HATE" ACTIVE OR ARE YOU JUST A PART OF IT DUE TO YOUR MUSICAL STYLE ?

"We totally stand behind the norwegian black circle and what actions they have done. Nothing is too raw, extreme or bizarre. We are here to make Norway as close to hell as possible." (good luck... -Ed.)

WOULD YOU AGREE THAT A BLACK METAL BAND IS VERY LIMITED IN IT'S MUSICAL STYLE, CAUSE EVERY LITTLE CHANGE OR BETTER SOUNDING PRODUCTION OR MUSICIANSHIP WILL BE CALLED WIMPY OR TRENDY THESE DAYS. DO YOU HAVE A SOLUTION FOR THAT ?

"Well, I don't really agree. Look at a band like DEICIDE for example. They are one of

PROFANATICA'S

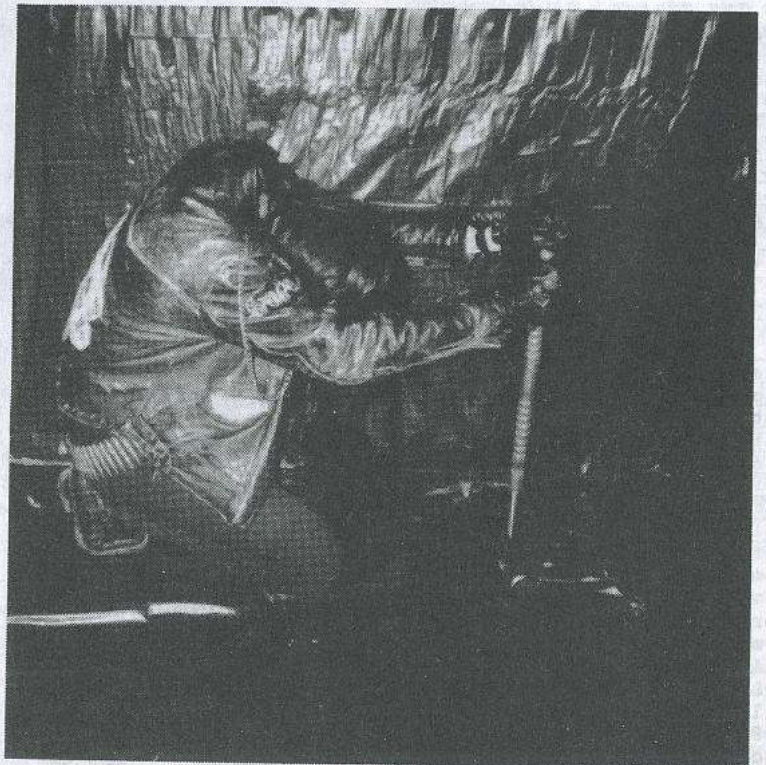
music really

sucks !

the rawest black metal bands today. (According to Glen Benton himself - they are NOT a black metal band, see last issue ! -Ed.) Also ROTTING CHRIST have got an excellent and clean production on their new lp (Thy mighty contract), but that doesn't mean they have wimped-out. It's extremely narrowminded to call people who are great musicians trendy! Just wait for MAYHEM's album DEE MYSTERIIS DOM. SATHANAS... Then you'll probably hear one of metal's best drummers. Believe my words !" (I'm looking forward to that one... Ed.)

DID YOU HAVE SOMETHING SPECIAL IN YOUR MINDS WHILE CHOSING THE NAME "EMPEROR" BACK IN 1991 ?

"Half the reason was because of CELTIC FROST's album EMPEROR'S RETURN and the other half was



because an emperor is a mighty person and can also be looked on as another name for Satan (from our side). And besides that, no one has used that name for a band or a mag before."

WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST PIECE OF SHIT PUT OUT ON VINYL WITHIN THE BLACK/DEATH METAL SCENE IN YOUR OPINION AND WHY ?

"The BESTIAL SUMMONING lp , simply because it was a piece of shit !"

CLOSING WORDS ? I'LL LEAVE THAT UP TO YOU...

"Well we have a lot of merchandise stuff available. First of all our demo (WRATH OF THE TYRANT) is still for sale (6\$ in europe and 7\$ elsewhere) and we have also shirts which costs 18\$ in europe and 20\$ elsewhere. Besides that, WILD RAGS will re-release our demo, together with 2 unreleased tracks and a new intro and the demo will be released on vinyl by Necropolis Records in USA. They will also make shirts. The lp NIGHTSIDE ECLIPSE will be out on DSP ! Praise death and drink blood !"

I hope you enjoyed this little interview. If you like total raw black metal, you should order their demo from the following address - don't support WILD RAGS, get in touch with EMPEROR directly!

EMPEROR HORDE
Postboks 9357
Grønland
0135 Oslo
Norway

FRANK STOVER



Ave....unto thy Fullmoon nights issue number three of the truly black Goathrone zine is in the process of completion. A Black metal feast destined for the Hordes of the True....dedicated to the Black Metal Mafia abroad. Those interested are encouraged to get in contact. No posers, no fakes, no death metal. Interested parties must include one I.R.C. for sure reply. Write:

Goathrone zine
Mikka H.
2154 13th Street
Olivenhain, CA 92024-6801
U.S.A.





How is it possible, that some people are bored of the swedish scene, as long as they come up with bands like DESULTORY? Can't believe it! This four-piece has always delivered really cool death/thrash music and the debut-release INTO ETERNITY sounds sooo fresh to my ears! We hooked up with drummer Thomas who answered all our questions for YOU...

FINALLY A DESULTORY ALBUM... ARE YOU PROUD OF IT OR WOULD YOU LIKE TO CHANGE SOMETHING ON IT ALREADY?

"No, there's nothing on the album, that we want to change and I think we're quite proud to get a quite good record deal and to have our songs on a CD/MC."

WHY HAVE YOU RE-RECORDED ALMOST EVERY SONG FROM YOUR 2ND AND 3RD DEMO (EXCEPT FOR "DEATH UNFOLDS") ALTHOUGH THEY'VE ALREADY BEEN RELEASED ON THE DEMO-ALBUM (CAN'T THINK OF THE NAME RIGHT NOW...) HAVEN'T YOU GOT ENOUGH NEW MATERIAL?

"The mini lp is called "FOREVER GONE" (ahhh, stupid me! -Ed.) and it was only released in Sweden just to spread our name easier. We got new material, but when we entered Sunlight, it was clear that we should record our best demo songs cause they've never been on CD/MC and to be spread almost all over the globe + that we felt that the songs should be freshen'up with a new recording. All bands take their demo songs on their first album."

DON'T YOU LIKE YOUR FIRST DEMO ANYMORE OR WHY HAVEN'T YOU USED SONGS OF THAT ONE THESE DAYS?

"We like our first demo, but the music is to thrashy. We don't play exactly the same music as we did as we did in '89. It's more deathrock now!"

WHAT MADE YOU SIGN TO METAL BLADE?

"They received our 2nd demo "Death unfolds" and they contacted us (they have received the demo from a tape-trader). MB wanted to hear more and we sent "Visions", the 3rd demo and they liked it, so we got our contract."

HOW'S THE SCENE IN AND AROUND RONNINGE? HAVEN'T HEARD OF MANY BANDS FROM THERE...

"Around Rönninge? Not much. Rönninge is a suburb of Stockholm and there're only two bands here: Us and EXCRETION."

HOW DID YOU GET THE IDEA TO LET MATTI DO BACKING VOCALS ON YOUR ALBUM?

"The DISMEMBERS are friends of ours and we thought it would be cool to have Matti singing, cause he's got one of the best voices (from the darkside? -Ed.) around."

DO YOU THINK, DESULTORY HAVE BETTER CHANCES TO SURVIVE THE DEATH METAL BOOM, CAUSE YOU ARE NOT 100% DEATH METAL?

"I don't know, I think so cause we have been playing since '89 and all the bands who come up now maybe started in '91/'92 and they'll disappear very quickly. Their influences are only D.M. bands and I think they cannot survive just on that. You have to expand all the time,

find new different views to carry on like us. We got influences from late 60's music to today's death metal and I think young kids think, that it is cool to play D.M."

YOUR BOOKLET OF THE CD LOOKS VERY GOOD, WHO'S IDEA WAS IT AND ARE YOU MAYBE BORED OF THE TYPICAL "SKULLS 'N' MONSTERS" DESIGNS?

"The layout was made by Metal Blade and no, we're not so bored of typical skulls and monsters. We like them when they are well made."

HAS ANYTHING CHANGED FOR YOU (CONCERNING THE BAND) SINCE YOU GOT THE ALBUM OUT? IS IT EASIER TO GET GIGS MAYBE?

"Yes, we have just been out on a tour in Europe for one month with CANNIBAL CORPSE, FEAR FACTORY and HYPOCRISY."

DO YOU LIKE IT TO BE PART OF THE SWEDISH UNDERGROUND SCENE OR DO YOU HATE IT TO BE MENTIONED AMONG ACTS LIKE ENTOMBED, UNLEASHED, THRON, DISMEMBER etc. etc.?

"We really like it. The swedish un-



derground bands are the best !"
**WHAT WAS THE WEIRDEST REVIEW THAT
 WAS EVER WRITTEN ABOUT YOUR BAND?**

"I have only read one bad review about our debut CD. And the writer at that mag/zine thought, that the pizza delivery was better on guitar than we are!" (wow, sounds like a really cool pizza dude!-Ed.)

**HAVE YOUR INFLUENCES CHANGED
 OVER THE YEARS ?**

"Yes and no. We all got our basic -influences...bands like BLACK SABBATH, RUSH, KISS and IRON MAIDEN, SLAYER and when great new bands come up, like ALICE IN CHAINS, PEARL JAM etc. we get influenced by them as well. But I can say that our basic influences won't be changed - they will never !"

WHAT INSPIRES YOU LYRICALLY ?

"I don't write so many lyrics, it's mostly Kias and Haken who do that, but we have the same direction on our subjects, life/death, the meaning of life, what's life for etc."

**ANYTHING ELSE WHICH HAS HAP -
 PENED LATELY ?**

"We're rehearsing new songs for our next CD. Maybe a tour in a couple of months. Hope to see you soon !"

Yeah, hope so too Thomas... Check out INTO ETERNITY. It has all the elements, that made SLAYER so popular: aggression, speed and brutal vocals ! It's really raw! If you want to get in touch with the band, write to this address:

DESULTORY
 Örnstigen 18
 14444 Rönninge
 Sweden

FRANK STÖVER

Gorgoroth

...from Norway ++

Here we go again ! GORGOROTH is norwegian 3-piece, truly dedicated to the dark and ancient ones. Their debut-demo is entitled A SORCERY WRITTEN IN BLOOD and was recorded in April 1993. It features two tracks and an intro of pure unholyness !! GORGOROTH play black metal and I don't give a damn, if they belong to the "true" people of Norway or not. Fact is, that they look exactly like all the follow black metal hordes and so they sound ! But I have to admit, that they still sound very much unexperienced on this little tape of music, so I'll bet, this is their first band ever. Collectors of today's black metal stuff must have this, cause GORGOROTH will probably be one of the upcoming bands from Norway in the near future. Who knows ?

Write to: **GORGOROTH**
 c/o Goatpervtor
 Box 37
 5942 Hyllestad
 Norway

FRANK STÖVER

Unfortunately I lost the price for it, but \$5 will be ok, I hope.

**HELP THE SCENE!
 BOYCOTT**

JOIN THE ANTI-RIP OFF MOVEMENT

FIRST, IT WAS SERRANIC DECAY, NOW IT'S THE WILD RAGE... THIS FLYER TALKS TO YOU ABOUT THE NO 1 RIP OFF SCUM OF THE USA AND, AS FACTS HAVE PROVED, OF ALL THE WORLD. WE'RE TALKING ABOUT WILD RAGE (GORGOROTH) AND AMERICA'S SMALLEST AND CRUCIALLY LABEL, WILD RAGE.

THERE HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED SEVERAL FLYERS LIKE THIS ALL AROUND THE WORLD FROM NUMEROUS RIPPED OFF PEOPLE. WE ALL HAVE ONE AND ONLY ONE PURPOSE: TO STOP THE DISEASE.

YES, IT IS A DISEASE. WILD RAGE IS A PUBLIC DANGER, A THREAT FOR THE SCENE. A SPECIALIST IN CHERRING PEOPLE, SMILING A "FRIENDLY" AND "HELPFUL" FACE, A SUCKER IS NEEDED.

WHAT HAPPENS WITH THE WILD RAGE?

RICHARD (GORGOROTH) PERSUADES PEOPLE TO SEND HIM AS MANY AS POSSIBLE OF THEIR MATERIAL. HE SELLS IT AT THE HIGHEST PRICES AND HE NEVER SENDS ANY MONEY BACK, THAT'S ALL !!!

OF COURSE, THIS IS THE SIMPLEST WAY TO DESCRIBE THE SITUATION. BUT, THERE ARE NO WORDS TO DESCRIBE THE FUNNY AND POTENTIAL TRICKS THIS SCUM PACKAGES TO PERSUADE YOU THAT:

HE NEVER RECEIVED ANY STUFF FROM YOU (!), HE DOESN'T KNOW YOU (!!!) AND OF COURSE, HE DOESN'T OWE YOU A SINGLE BUCK !!! AND, IF THAT'S NOT ENOUGH, THE BAND DOESN'T WRESTLE TO THREAT (...) THAT HE WILL SCUM US THROUGH HIS CRAP MEMORATIVES (!!!)

COME ON SUCKER, DO IT! THERE ARE 16500 READERS (AS YOU DO MENTION) TO SEE THEMSELVES WHO YOU ARE.

STOP THE DISEASE. JOIN NOW THE INTERNATIONAL ANTI-WILD RAGE MOVEMENT. WHAT WE CAN DO:

- SPREAD THIS FLYER. MAKE COPIES OF IT (OR OF ANY OTHERS MADE FROM OTHER RIPPED OFF PEOPLE IF YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO PRINT COPIES, PLEASE DROP US A LINE AND WE'LL SEND YOU AS MANY AS YOU NEED.

- DO NOT BUY ANY RECORDS (OR OTHER MERCHANDISE) FROM THE WILD RAGE. THERE MIGHT HAVE BEEN SOME COOL STUFF YOU DON'T WANT TO RISK OF YOUR COLLECTION. TAKE IT BUT, DO NOT BUY IT.

- TRY TO PERSUADE ALL PEOPLE (BANDS, ZINES, LABELS ETC) WHO COOPERATE WITH THE WILD RAGE TO END THEIR STUFF BACK. THERE MUST NOT BE EVEN A SINGLE 7inch OR DEMO DISTRIBUTED THIS SCUM.

- THERE MAY HAVE BEEN PEOPLE STILL SUPPORTING THE WILD RAGE. TRY TO CHANGE THEIR MINDS, OTHERWISE BOYCOTT THEM.

OF COURSE, IT'S NOT ONLY THE WILD RAGE, TO MENTION A FEW MORE INTERNATIONAL RIP OFF SCUM LIKE... SERRANIC DECAY, DISTORTED HAPPINESS, TURBO MUSIC, PROPANE EXISTENCE AND MANY MORE WE WILL FURNISH IN OUR NEXT FLYERS.

PLEASE, KEEP US INFORMED FOR ALL THE WORLD'S RIP OFFS. WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT.

THIS IS AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO YOU. BEWARE OR BE SORRY!

STOP THE DISEASE



THE DUTCH DEICIDE ?!

Haven't been so much impressed by a demo tape for a really long time ! Advin of CENOTAPH REC. was so kind to give this demo to me (so all credit goes out to him !) and it blew me away ! Killer inlay and production and the music is ultra brutal death metal, played from a band, that knows how to handle their instruments...!!!

ALTAR is a dutch five-piece and according to Advin, there are ex-members of GOD DE-THRONED within this band ! Musically it is heavily influenced by the Benton gang DEICIDE, but ALTAR still have their own elements in the music, so it's much more than just a simple rip-off ! Unfortunately they seem to be very arrogant, cause they didn't reply on my demo-request nor on my interview, that I sent them long time ago ! Fuck that ! Hopefully they will answer on your demo orders, cause otherwise we better stop those suckers !!!! Write to the following address and ask for the demo (price: 6\$):

Chris Meijdam Management
 Spaanskamp 83
 7771 BN Hardenberg
 Holland

FRANK STÖVER



VADER



WELCOME TO THE DARK AGE

VADER are probably THE leading death metal band from Poland ! After two really successful demos ("Necrolust" and "Morbid Reich") they got signed by EARACHE REC. and released the brilliant debut-album "The ultimate incantation" In support of that album they toured all over Europe for the first time with BOLT THROWER and GRAVE in the beginning of 1993. PAWEL PANEK, our polish contributor hooked up with VADER main-man Peter Wiwczarek when they returned to their homeland... Here's what he found out for us in it's entirety !

HOW DO YOU FEEL AFTER FINISHING YOUR FIRST EUROPEAN-TOUR ?

"Pretty good."

YOU'VE BEEN THE FIRST BAND OUT OF POLAND THAT HAD THE CHANCE TO TOUR OVERTHERE... ANY DETAILS ABOUT THAT ?

"Yeah, VADER was the first band that had a serious tour, which was really good promoted... We have played about 40 shows, mostly in Germany, Holland, France, Denmark, Belgium, Switzerland, Sweden and Poland... It was really surprising to get such a good crowd response..."

AND WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER BANDS ON THE BILL ?

"It was a real pleasure to go on tour with them. We've never had any quarrels and we've learned a lot from them. BOLT THROWER's past is connected to Punk Rock a lot, which has quite a big meaning. I think that was one of the reasons, why we got along that easy and friendly. They've been very honest to us and GRAVE. It was their fourth tour already, so they are pretty experienced... But they shared all that with us and helped us as good as possible !"

IN A PREVIOUS CONVERSATION OF OURS, YOU'VE MENTIONED SOMETHING VERY CRITICAL ABOUT THE NEW COUNTRIES...

"It is really difficult to judge Eastgermany after a single gig. We only had one show there which was in Eisenach and the problem was, that it was one of the last gigs on that tour. We've just parted company with our soundman, who was a really nice guy, so we had to use local guys for the final gigs. The guy in Eisenach didn't had an idea of what he was doing. He fucked up to-

tally and he nearly died, hahaha !"
SO IT WAS ONLY THE TECHNICAL SIDE OF THINGS AND NOT THE FANS ?

"The fans have been great ! We've sold almost the biggest part of our merchandise there and we played in front of 600 people, which is really a lot !

TO FINISH THIS, PLEASE COMPARE THE SHOWS IN POLAND WITH THE SHOWS IN WESTERN EUROPE ?

"Shows are organized a lot better there than in Poland. People really care about the bands, promoters are not only interested in cash, they also care about a good show. The security is much better... people who come to the shows know how to have a nice day. They are pretty quiet, they don't steal or beat each other up. In Poland the crowds are very aggressive and impulsive... which can be good, but they should take care of each other a bit more..."

IN POLAND, VADER ARE REALLY POPULAR ALREADY, BUT IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES THEY ARE ONLY AN UPCOMING NEW BAND, SO MAYBE WE CAN TALK A LITTLE BIT ABOUT VADER'S HISTORY...

"We started in late '85 and we got our first real chance to present us through METALMANIA '86... But although the response from the fans started growing back then, we got stuck in a lot of problems. It took us about four years till I was able to record our first demo "NECROLUST" with Doc on drums. This one really started everything for us as a band. At that time a guy called Mariusz Kmiolek (right now he's doing the THRASH'EM ALL mag, chief of CARNAGE RECORDS and representative of EARACHE RECORDS in Poland) got interested in us, so we signed a contract with him and he financed our second demo "MORBID REICH" (1990). He started to distribute that tape for us and so EARACHE got interested. We signed a deal with them, which includes tour, video, merchandising and of course the album. "THE ULTIMATE INCANTATION" is our debut-album and the beginning for us to get established on the world market."

YOUR LAST DEMO GOT VERY GOOD RESPONSE IN WESTERN EUROPE AND YOU GOT SOME REALLY GOOD OFFERS FOR AN ALBUM IN FACT OF THAT... BUT WHY HAVE YOU CHOSEN EARACHE RECORDS ? BECAUSE THEY ARE TRENDY ?

"No. EARACHE is a great label to be on just look at all the bands, they've signed and how they promote them. We had offers from Peaceville, Wild Rags, Invention Rec., Thrash Rec., Turbo Music and a couple of other independent

labels. I think everyone would have chosen EARACHE at that time...

They have great bands on their label and they only sign the best or those bands who are really popular in the underground scene. Dig Pearson, the owner of EARACHE, only signs bands that he personally likes and he offers you the best promotion you can get. Just look at companies such as NUCLEAR BLAST or CENTURY MEDIA... they don't organize tours & you can hardly see any of their bands on MTV..." (this is a little bit far away from the truth, cause both companies have often done killer tours overhere and in the US and there are also a couple of videos from their bands, which have been shown on MTV already-Frank)

MTV AND EARACHE RECORDS ARE BOTH BASED IN ENGLAND... MAYBE IT HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH THAT...

"Yeah probably, although it is a bit unfair, cause all bands, that are on german labels get really good reviews in the german press... We, as a polish band, have problems with them..."
?!?!?!?

"Okay, ROCK HARD was pretty fair to us, but what I wanna say is, we got a very strong following in the underground press, but if it comes to bigger mags like METAL HAMMER, we are pretty much lost. They don't like us and so they don't feature us..."

YOUR FIRST RECORDING SESSION IN SWEDEN WASN'T THAT SATISFYING. WAS TOMAS SKOGSBERG THE REASON FOR THAT MAYBE ?

"No. Tomas is a really nice guy. The major problem we got, was with the drums... The equipment in that studio is excellent, if you play a kind of slow and heavy type of music. And most of the swedish bands can bring along their own drumkit. But for us it was a problem, cause Doc plays really fast and tight, so everthing would've sounded unreal. Also our music differs a lot from the other bands, cause we don't tune so low and our guitars are pretty tight played as well. Another problem is, that Sunlight only has 16 tracks available, so for us it meant, two tracks were missing. So we decided to record our debut-album in RHYTHM STUDIO in England. Tomas is really experienced and he's really into what he's doing while recording

an album there. Although he's not a real death metal fan - he's more into U2 and stuff like that."
YOU'VE GOT A VERY GOOD SUPPORT FROM A LOT OF SWEDISH MUSICIANS WHILE YOU'VE BEEN THERE, DON'T YOU ?

"Yeeaaaah ! We kinda like met the whole swedish scene. We lived at PIOTR WAW-RZENIUK's place (THERION), met Lars of ENTOMBED, a really cool guy and had a really good time with DESULTORY, who we already knew from their polish dates. GRAVE and DISMEMBER have also already been good friends of ours, cause we've been in touch by letter for a very long time with them..."
GIVE US A COUPLE OF DETAILS ABOUT YOUR DEBUT-ALBUM !

"Musically the album was created by the whole band and how the songs sound like is just because of this line-up. Most of the songs have been written by myself, but Doc contributes a lot as well, especially when it comes to the drum-arrangements. In the past I had to do most of the stuff on my own, which was really heavy, but these days all members in the band are contributing their parts to the music. I'm still the band-leader, cause otherwise it would turn into chaos, if everyone would do, whatever he would like to... but I don't dictate the other members. We discuss all ideas and the best parts will be used for our songs. The lyrics have mostly been written by Adrian from DETHRONER ZINE. He's a maniac and he's really into magic and philosophy. He's kinda like the same feelings as me, that's why I decided to use his lyrics. His english is also very good, so I hope we can work together for a very long time. The problem was, on the album-cover, his name wasn't printed. It wasn't our fault, we didn't had an influence on it at all. We don't act like stars or moneyhungry idiots. It all was caused due to the hurry and a lot of misunderstandings with the record company."

THE COVERARTWORK FOR THE "MORBID REICH" DEMO WAS DONE BY AN ART-STUDENT OF THE MUNICH ART-ACADEMY, ROBERT GAN-CZARSKI. WHY HAVEN'T YOU WORKED WITH HIM THIS TIME ?

"We are not in contact any longer, which is really sad. He lives somewhere in Germany and what he did on the MORBID REICH cover was excellent. We would have loved to use him for the album cover as well, but unfortunately we don't know, where he is now."

SO DAN SEAGRAVE ISN'T WORKING FOR ALL THE EARACHE BANDS EXCLUSIVELY ?

"Something like that doesn't exist ! Dan is 23 years old and he's totally crazy in what he's doing. He creates all his covers while he's listening to the music. EARACHE offered us to use him and we agreed, cause we like what he's doing. We didn't want a comic-cover, we wanted something like on the MORBID REICH demo, drawings that grab your attention and make you think about the meaning of it."

YOU CAN'T COMPLAIN ABOUT PROMOTION THESE DAYS, CAUSE YOU'VE GOT YOUR VIDEO SHOWN ON MTV, THEY ALSO SHOWED A TOUR-REPORT AND THE EARACHE LOGO ON THE ALBUM KINDA LIKE SPEAKS FOR ITSELF... SO HOW'S THE ALBUM DOING IN EUROPE AND USA ?

"We don't have heard anything concrete these days but I guess the album sells really good. In the first two weeks after the release we already sold more items than MORBID ANGEL back then and the promotion



for them was much better. Our video wasn't out at that time and we haven't been on the road back then."

LET'S TALK A LITTLE BIT ABOUT YOUR VIDEO. IS THIS YOUR VISION OF THE FUTURE OF POLAND WITH ALL THE DIRT, SMOKE AND CHIMNEYS ? WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS WHITE CREATURE IN FRONT OF ALL THAT ?

"You better ask Tanja and Kim from the DOUBLE VISION company about that, cause they did this video with us here in Poland. They had their own vision, their own concept about that song and they offered us this scenery, which we accepted, cause it is quite original for this kinda music. They are from Finland and live in England these days and they are heavily into saving the nature. With these pictures they presented the real world. You don't get apocalyptic visions, this is reality, a hell on earth!"

By the time this issue will be out, VADER will have completed their first american tour with DEICIDE, so Pawel asked Peter about DEICIDE's controversial frontman, Glen Benton...
PETER, YOU ARE A BIG FAN OF DEICIDE, BUT ALSO A REALLY GOOD FRIEND OF GLEN BENTON. WHAT'S YOUR OPINION ABOUT HIM PERSONALLY ?

"I used to write with Glen in the past already and we first met, when DEICIDE came to Warschau together with GOREFEST and ATROCITY. I was very much suprised in a positive way, cause I was a bit afraid of this meeting. I heard so much negative things about him, but he's only someone, who's going it's own way. A lot of people who won't see that, treat him like a negative kind of guy, like a dark strange being... That is far away from the truth ! He's a really nice guy, really likeable and if you'll be treated like he is, you can't blame him for being strange some times. Everyone



has the right to be tired, excited or angry some days...He's really impulsive and a lot of people can't handle with that, so they think he's bigheaded or stuff like that, but that isn't the truth!"

VADER HAS KINDA LIKE OPENED THE DOORS FOR UPCOMING POLISH BANDS IN WESTERN EUROPE NOW, BUT AREN'T YOU AFRAID THAT OTHER ACTS COULD BECOME EVEN MORE POPULAR THAN VADER ? I'M THINKING OF ARMAGEDON FOR EXAMPLE, WHO GOT MUCH BETTER REVIEWS ON THEIR "DEAD CONDEMNATION" DEMO THAN YOU GOT ON "MORBID REICH"...

"I wish 'em all the best ! Hopefully we can open the eyes and ears of western promoters and I don't think that we own a monopoly on the success. Poland does not only mean VADER, there are a lot of other great bands around as well. Hopefully the world will notice that in the future !"

HOW WOULD YOU PROMOTE THE POLISH UNDERGROUND SCENE... DO YOU THINK THAT THERE'S A CHANCE TO GET ANOTHER BREEDING PLACE LIKE IN FLORIDA OR SCANDINAVIA MAYBE ?

"Scandinavia and Florida have become a bit boring over the last years, cause most of the bands sounded too much alike. But these days there are great new bands coming up like SEANCE for example, who play a lot different. Probably because they got a very own style and sound, which wasn't recorded at the usual studios. But 80% of the swedish scene is still like in the old days. You had ENTOMBED and DISMEMBER, maybe a couple more but that's it and nothing's changed. In Poland mostly every new band has a different style. They are really original, but in fact that they come from here, they don't get the recognition in western europe. They don't get a lot of promotion there and the studios are mostly very poor too. so fans are not so much interested then. But compared to the german scene, ours is much better, although they have much better conditions over there."

THE END OF A CENTURY BRINGS A LOT OF FEARS FOR MANY PEOPLE. FRUSTRATION, PSYCHICAL DOWNS AND SIGNS OF DECA-



DENCE ARE OFTEN MENTIONED BY A LOT OF AUTHORS... IS DEATH METAL A SIGN FOR MODERN DECADENCE MAYBE ?

"In a way, yes ! You've touched a very interesting theme here and you got it mostly perfect ! Yeah, this music kinda like reflects what's gonna happen on this world, maybe the self-destruction ! It is the only musical style, that noticed that and presents it in a very brutal way. Also the meaning of this style of music is so apocalyptic, so decadent... we try to wake up people and show them what they are doing !"

YOU'VE ONCE NOTICED IN A POLISH MAGAZINE THREE POLISH POLITICIANS AND AN INSTITUTION THAT YOU ARE REALLY HATE... AREN'T YOU AFRAID THAT YOU COULD GET IN TROUBLE WITH THE POLISH CHURCH IN FACT OF THAT? CAUSE THEY HAVE A LOT OF POWER EVERYWHERE...

"If our state is democratic and tolerates all peoples opinions, why should I be afraid then ? I only said my personal thoughts about some people who are in the government, which I am allowed to ! In my opinion it is much better to say what you think, instead of sitting at home and doing nothing, like most people do. I'm really shocked, that those people can rule over our land. How can the church deal with politics ? Maybe it was possible in old Egypt, were priests had a lot of power, but Egypt wasn't a democratic country back then."

SO WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS CONCERNING THE BAND NOW ?

"There should have been a live-tape available, but due to some technical problems that is delayed a bit. Then we have an US-tour coming up (done by now-Frank) and we would like to say hi to everybody who showed up on our gigs. Hopefully we will be back soon ! All the best to the bands, zine-editors and all death metal maniacs outthere!"

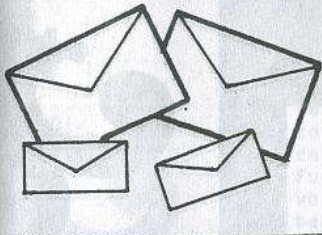
If you want to get in touch with Peter and VADER directly, feel free to write to the following address:

Peter Wivczarek
Gietkowska 7/1
10-170 Olsztyn
Poland

Interview: Pawel Panek
Translation & Intro: Frank Stöver



LETTERS / OPINIONS



"...this is too great not be heard of...the zine was printed, so the pics are looking really good..." Alex Hillmann, GROWEL FOR BOWELS-ZINE(Germany)

"...I liked your first issue, cause the layout and contents was really good...perfect mixture of known and unknown bands..." Claus Vollmar(Germany)

"Thanks for the great VOICES mag ! It's actually one of the best current zines I have read so far - very cool, informative, well done !" Roberto(NOSFERATU REC.) (Italy)

"...I liked VOICES No.2 a lot... you find something in your zine which I'll miss in bigger mags like Rock Hard...objectivity !" Maik Kalkmann(MALKUTH DISTR.) (Germany)

"...it's a very very good mag, I like it a lot, tons of interesting stuff to read !" Dave Rotten(DROWNED PROD.)(Spain)

"...again I like VOICES a lot ! But I didn't expect something different - Go on ! Hopefully you'll make it within the jungle of zines !" Andreas Reissnauer(CONCRETE REC.) (Germany)

"...great stuff, very professional !" Lee(CANDLELIGHT REC.) England

"...No.1 was definitely (not only for me) the best underground zine I've ever got ahold of ! Congratulations !" Sigi Hagenauer(Austria)

"really cool layout, small type-writing...20 interviews...about 50 reviews, but too much stuff of known bands...a bit simple, but good english...no mistakes, cool underground layout...Get it !" Stefan Löns(WITCHCRAFT ZINE) (Germany)

"...your first issue was really well done !" Emilio Barrantes(Switzerland)

"...the layout and contents has become much better...one of the few underground zines, that is really underground and still a fanzine ! Also the DEICIDE-Int. blew me away !" Christian Biegert(REMAINS)(Germany)

"thanks for sending me the 2nd issue of your killer mag! You bastard, you did it again ! Excellent!! Your mag has become one of my favourite ones, maybe it is my favourite -I'm not just saying it to please you. A nice layout, good reviews and interesting interviews makes this zine again a masterpiece of death ! I'm looking forward to your next issue which I'll buy for sure !" Barry(PHLEBOTOMIZED)(Holland)
I'M SPEECHLESS...Frank

"...it sure is a perfect follow-up to the first issue. I again really like it, so many killer bands interviewed like AMORPHIS, INCANTATION, THE GATHERING, PYOGENESIS etc. (of course also CONCRETE SLEEP and PHLEBOTOMIZED !) I also think, the printing and the layout has improved quite a lot ! Yep Frank, another issue to be proud of and now all we have to do, is to wait for the 3rd one !" Adwin(CENOTAPH REC.)(Holland)
HERE YOU HAVE IT ! -Frank

"...there's nothing to complain about the layout, the interview-questions are asked in an intelligent way, not the usual crap...bands are ok as well, although bands like UNHOLY, THE GATHERING, ROTTING CHRIST, DARK MILLENNIUM or TIAMAT are missing, more unknown features would be cool as well..." Daniel Friedrich(Germany)
(AS FOR THE BANDS, SOME OF THEM ALREADY APPEARED IN NO.2 AND WE ALSO HAD SOME MORE UNKNOWN ACTS IN IT AS WELL, WE'LL TRY TO FEATURE AS MUCH BANDS AS POSSIBLE IN UPCOMING ISSUES, KNOWN OR UNKNOWN...Frank)

"...I love the look of your zine, you ask perceptive questions and give these bands ample opportunity for exposure..." Matt Coe(U.S.A.)

"...your first issue was really good, so send me the 2nd..." John Grumtmann(Germany)

"...I'm really impressed...it's well made and so full of different upcoming bands...GREAT STUFF !" Eric(MANIFEST) (Holland)

"...on 64 A5 pages you'll get almost every death metal band...good mag, good printing but a little bit too concise but still clear layout..." Stefan Glas(METAL HAMMER 2/93) (Germany)

"...one of the better zines in A5-size, most of the others are pretty shitty...stay with your concept - more infos, less artwork !" Martin Nagel(Germany)
(WE TRY TO SATISFY EVERYONE, SO WE'LL ALSO STAY W/ THE ART-WORK AS WELL - Frank)

"...after getting your first issue, which was really great, I HAVE to order the 2nd one as well..." Peter Neise(Germany)

MORE LETTERS

concerning:

DEICIDE-interview in VOICES # 2

"The Benton interview is SHOCKING !! His personality is quite extreme, there's a lot of persons like that, they are only searching the bad points in anything. The rest of his answers reminds me somebody, I'm managing Necronomicon, a local band and the vocalist is exactly like that, he spits on everything, no band is great, he always find something to higher his own band just like Benton. He's also the kind of guy to say... I live where 90% of all serial killers have lived at one time!!! More than once he told me things on the phone, "well I'll let you go now 'coz I have to go to the cemetery to do some incantations"!!! But that was months ago, now that I know him personally, he's no more like that with me, so like in the Benton case, I think they both play a game (...which is stupid) I'm sure in private he's a total normal guy. I'm a DEICIDE fan and I think Benton can say anything he wants, but he'd have to face the consequences. I just think he's funny... One thing for sure: without VENOM, Mr. Benton, DEICIDE would only be one of the thousands words in the dictionary and you would probably be a shoe salesman somewhere in Tampa !! Why hide behind such a silly character. About his racists and homophobic statements... all of that sucks !! He'll influence some of your younger readers and it's bad !"

Denis Cote (Montréal, Québec, Canada)

concerning:

DEICIDE-interview(II)

"Prime Evil did a gig with DEICIDE a while back and I met him then. Aside from being a little arrogant a regular guy. I saw him the day he was recording the vocals for "Legion" at Morrisound and when he took a break, we talked for a minute. A regular guy. I saw him again, this May at L'Amour on the DEICIDE/DISMEMBER/VADER tour, we talked a little while outside - he was real friendly this time cause he was in a better mood and had more spare time. A regular guy. I think he's just very much more intense about a few subjects than the next person, that's all. He can't stand animals, fine. I kill every insect I see, that's the truth !! I'd like to kill whichever dog pisses on my car's tires, whichever cat leaves muddy pawprints on my car's roof and trunk and any bird that craps on my car - usually about 10 minutes after I finish washing it !! In a way I can almost identify with Glen's quest for privacy. Too many people are making a big deal out of his beliefs, I think. Give him a boatload of credit for speaking his mind and honesty, to boot !! If he's extreme in some ways, then fine - let him be. Ross Dolan showed me a short video with Dave

Vincent appearing on a local talk show. Here Dave said he didn't mind violence to a point. He said he believed in survival of the fittest, it tends to improve the breed. I suppose that's fine if we were talking about show dogs but we're not ! No one on this planet has any more right to be here than the next, be it buddy or buffoon. You may not happen to like fucking everybody - but deal with it, we have to share the place! I don't dislike Dave, cause I've met him and talked to him too, but often times (usually in a public situation) I find him to be a little pretentious. I don't know... what do I know anyway. I'd be happy if the whole world was one big record store with racetracks for streets!"

Mary Ciullo (Ex-PRIME EVIL, New York)

BABYLON SAD

concerning:

BABYLON SAD-interview in VOICES # 2

"I totally agree with you, that the interview was really boring, but in my opinion it is pretty much natural that you are not always in a good mood. You've had a really bad timing doing it... Especially by the end of last year, the situation for BABYLON SAD was really frustrating. Everyone promised us features in zines or radio-airplay, but nothing happened. Plus, we were just in the process of putting together a stable line-up etc.

But I can't really understand, who spreads rumors, that we are big-headed rockstars... anyway, who cares ?"

Dan Raes (BABYLON SAD, Switzerland)

Dear Dan,

It is right, that you aren't in a good mood all the time, but if you do interviews, you should separate your personal feelings and problems from the interview you are just doing, cause otherwise you'll get probably an even worse reputation. And I guess, nobody in your band really wants that, right ?

Ed.

concerning:DEICIDE-Int.(III)

"...this dude has to be a fool !Can't believe the shit he was talking about, just to sell a few more records !Seriously,as I saw DEICIDE live for the very first time,Glen reminded me more on Louis De Funes as on an "evil devil - worshipper"!He's a joke !The best was his statement about his relation to animals:I love to kill them and I hate to find more!Can't be real.Just because of that,he should've been to court-martial!It's a pity,that people like him are allowed to live in freedom ! Although if he only might be a talker instead of someone who's really doing it(at least I think he is),it's really sad to get those kinda ideas. He might influence some fellow "Louis De Funes" who go out and kill every cat etc. in the neighbourhood...But, strong are the weakminded,because they don't know,how stupid they really are !"

Michael Piesch(Lethal Rec./Austria)



PLAYLIST



1. CYNIC(US)-Focus(lp)
2. PENTAGRAM(US)-Relentless(lp)
3. TROUBLE(US)-all
4. MY DYING BRIDE(UK)-all
5. BALVAZ(NOR)-Phlegmous fusion EP(RIP)
6. EUROPE(SWE)-The final countdown lp
7. ORACLE(US)-Nightmares(Adv.track)
8. SENTENCED(FIN)-North from here(lp)
9. CONFESSOR(US)-3rd demo,12" & Condemned(lp)
10. CROWBAR(US)-Obedience thru suffering(lp)



1. MASS PSYCHOSIS(US)-all
2. CRYPT OF KERBEROS(SWE)-World of myths(Adv.'93)
3. CYNIC(US)-Focus(lp)
4. SENTENCED(FIN)-North from here(lp)
5. SADIST(I)-Above the light(lp)
6. OBLIVEON(CAN)-Nemesis(lp)
7. ETHERIAL WINDS(NL)-Promotape'93
8. THERION(SWE)-Ho drakon ho megas(lp)
9. ALTAR(NL)-And god created satan...(Demo)
10. PANDEMONIUM(POL)-Devilri(Demo)





It was about time to have them in our zine, cause DISMEMBER are definitely one of the best Swedish death metal bands around these days. Their new album entitled "Indescent and obscene" has been released a couple of months ago by Nuclear Blast Records and it is surely a masterpiece again! We were lucky to get ahold of drummer Fred Estby shortly before the band took off for their first American tour w/ DEICIDE and VADER and it was nice talking to him...as always.

"After we finished our European tour with NAPALM DEATH and OBITUARY we wrote some new songs and went into the Sunlight Studio to record our second album, which is called INDESCENT AND OBSCENE" says Fred, asking me, if I've already heard the album and what I think about it. I explain him, that I had some problems to get into the album this time, but that this matter has already changed by now and that I like it very much these days. He replies that he also had a couple of problems to get used to the new stuff, cause they left out their old material completely this time. No old demo-tracks have been re-done for INDESCENT AND OBSCENE.

But before we talk about the album more in-depth, I asked Fred about the trouble DISMEMBER had in July in England because of the lyrics of SKIN HER ALIVE... "A shipment from Nuclear Blast to the UK has been examined because of drugs but they didn't find any" explains the drummer, "they just found our picture 7" of SKIN HER ALIVE, then they saw the album and the lyrics and so they sued us. But PLASTIC HEAD, the distribution for NUCLEAR BLAST in the UK went to court and won the case."

So DISMEMBER have been sued due to their lyrics of SKIN HER ALIVE, which is rather funny, cause this song is kinda like harmless, compared to the lyrics of DISMEMBERED, BLEED FOR ME or SICKENING ART. Isn't that ridiculous?

"Yeah, but they also claimed that DISMEMBERED and BLEED FOR ME are bad for the English youth and that we wanted to make people violent

with that kinda lyrics. But I think it was more because of the title SKIN HER ALIVE..."

The band also had some problems getting their first video for SOON TO BE DEAD played on MTV... They were forced to re-cut it because of the blasphemous scenes and all the blood and stuff... Fred agrees: "Yeah, but we put a lot of money in that video, so we HAD to re-cut it for MTV and other TV-stations cause otherwise it wouldn't have been played."

While talking about that video and the song SOON TO BE DEAD, I asked Fred about the lyrics. The song is about someone who has been crucified to the cross, just like Jesus, but he thinks about how it is going to be in hell... So from which point of view was SOON TO BE DEAD written then? Definitely not Jesus Christ, right?

"SOON TO BE DEAD is about a fictional person... it is very hard for me to explain that, cause Matti wrote the lyrics for that song, but you're right, it's not about Jesus Christ..." Most of the lyrics on DISMEMBER's debut-album have been about mass-murderers and psychopaths... Is the band fascinated by those people and what's going on in their minds in any way?

"Well, I don't like the way they think, but I watched a couple of TV-shows from the United States about cold blooded killers recently and I think it's a very interesting subject to write about how a man can do such terrible things... But on the other hand I get sick and disgusted by the way they tormented and hacked... I always get really upset about it!"

At the time when this interview took place, DISMEMBER's new album wasn't in the stores, so I wanted to know from Fred, if the new lyrics are again in the same kinda style like on the previous releases...

"We have changed a little bit", he explains, "it's different from song to song. EVISCERATED (BITCH) for example was written because of the SKIN HER ALIVE thing. I wanted to write an even worse song, with worse lyrics", he continues, "just to make a little joke about how far you can press that stuff and how much you can upset people. Then we have CASE NO. OBSCENE, which is for the free speech and against censorship and DREAMING IN RED is about the questioning of death-penalty..."

Skinning alive song 'not obscene'

BY RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE explicit lyrics of a song that mentions skinning a prostitute alive are not obscene, magistrates ruled yesterday in an important case for the music industry.

They reached their decision after listening to a 40-minute recording by Dismember, a band apparently less outrageous than many others in the "death metal" cult with names such as Obituary and Cannibal Corpse. One of the songs, entitled Skin Her Alive, featured the lyrics: "I slaughtered the whore, skin her alive. I did it for the thrill. I had never dreamed it was nice to kill." Counsel for the distributors of the recording said that it had been played on Radio 1, had sold 2,500 copies in England and more than 20,000 worldwide.

Andrew Nicol, QC, for Plastic Head Music Distribution, challenged the seizure by customs of 800 CDs, tapes and LPs of the band's album *Like an Ever Flowing Stream*. Magistrates at Great Yarmouth were asked to decide in a civil action whether the lyrics could deprave or corrupt. It was the first time under the 1876 Customs Consolidation Act that customs officials had applied for seizure of music because they believed it was pornographic, obscene or indecent. Magistrates awarded costs of £7,500 to the defence.

Mr Nicol said that Skin Her Alive had been written as a result of a real killing in a flat below one lived in by Matti Karki, 19, the band's lead singer. "It was not his [Mr Karki's] intention to inspire people to do anything similar."

After the hearing Mr Karki said that the magistrates' decision was a victory for free speech. Helen Darbyshire, of Article 19, the anti-censorship organisation, said there was no convincing evidence that such records depraved or corrupted. "The best way to address these issues is not to suppress them... but to bring them into the open so they can be discussed."

SICK BIZARRE DEFACED CREATIONS

As Fred mentioned the lyrics to EVISCERATED(BITCH),I asked him if he would agree,that people could again get very upset while reading those lyrics,in other words - isn't he afraid,that the same shit could happen to DISMEMBER again ?

"Probably yes,but I don't think that it'll be in England this time,because the court overthere realized,that it can't hurt people.But other countries,who didn't get involved with the 1st album might think,that we've gone too far this time.But we have the opinion that we can write and say what we want,so we take that risk,you know..."

Looking at the cover of INDESCENT AND OBSCENE you first of all just notice a very bloody piece with the DISMEMBER logo in it, but as Fred explained,there's a bit more behind that...

"We wanted to do something again in the vein of the PIECES cover,cause we all thought,that it turned out really good.And Henrik ,who did the make-up for the foto of the EP came up with the idea...We had some belt - buckles made by an artist in Sweden so I thought we could put it in the wound,so we didn't have to put a logo on the cover."

We didn't slow down, the new songs are even faster !

And we wanted to make a little joke out of a very famous Jim Morrison pose,were he is standing in front of a white background and spreading his arms like Jesus...we wanted to do something similar to that... kinda like,if you open up your torso,maybe you'll find something like that inside."(laughs)

While joking around,I decided to ask a very silly question next...Why has Richard changed his lastname/stagename DAEMON back to his(I guess it's his) real name Cabeza ?

"Don't ask me",answered Fred, breaking into the next laughter.

"He didn't like his real name and wanted to change it for the name he had on the first album,but he couldn't change it,so he took the old one back.His real name is spanish and means "head" in english and he doesn't like that..."

Well...back to more serious stuff.There's no old song on the new album this time,although there are still a couple of demo-tracks avail-



able.Why haven't they used some of their classic-songs again ?

"We decided to use only fresh songs this time,cause it's so boring to re-do old stuff all the time.I mean we used DEATHEVOICATION for the CARNAGE album and for the debut...that's boring.We talked about new versions of some songs from the PIECES EP,cause we weren't happy the way the production turned out on that one,but in the end,we all decided only to use brand new stuff.Two of the new songs have already been finished while we toured with NAPALM DEATH and OBITUARY. The rest was completed after that tour."

When there's talk about DISMEMBER's past,you never read something about the very first demo anymore.Doesn't the band like that anymore ?

"No we don't like that one at all ! I think David is still into that SUBSTANTIALLY DEAD song.He wanted us to put it out sometime as a bonus - track or something like that...But we don't like that..."



Listening to the new stuff,I think I'll share Fred's opinion,cause DISMEMBER have plenty of great new songs available,some of them with very melodic guitar solos...

"David has progressed as a musician very much and he really developed into a leadguitarist,so I guess he wanted to prove that on the new album.I think it sounds really good to have these very heavy parts combined with melodic solos..."

Mattis vocal-style is also different from the old material,he sounds much more aggressive and less death metal nowadays.Are the members of DISMEMBER bored of death metal these days maybe ?

"No,it's just that he thought that the new style fits better to the new material.We didn't slow down,the new songs are even faster than on the first album,so I guess the new vocals fit perfect.Matti wanted to make some hysteric vocals this time and we like it that way."

In fact that Fred was also a member of CARNAGE in the old days,I wanted to know,if he heard something about a reunion of CARNAGE ?

"Oh really,no I haven't heard of that, but it would be cool though..."

Rumors said,that Michael Amott will put together the original line-up and stuff."

"Well,I haven't spoken to Michael for a couple of months now cause he's always busy with CARCASS,so I don't know.But if he made that idea,I'd like to do it just for fun !"

DISMEMBER put out some very controversial pictures in their career,for example the one on the backcover of the debut-album or the "Pieces" EP-sleeve...So I was wondering how serious the band deals with that subject... Why haven't they added stuff like that to their live-shows then ?

We had buckets with blood that we threw out on the audience

"Well,actually we did,but it is so expensive !In Sweden we did a few shows,were we had explosions on stage and a nun coming up.Then a leatherface man was ripping up her stomach so that all the intestinals are coming out on the audience and we had buckets with blood that we threw out on the audience and stuff like that,but it costs a lot of money.Maybe we will be able to bring all that with us when we go out on tour the next time in Europe."

Fred continued,that they might use that as a major - part of their live-shows,as soon as they will have the financial possibilities for it..."It worked out really good the few times we did it and I really like to see stage-shows myself.It has become really expensive to go to a concert these days so I'd like to give the people something extra for the money they paid !"

Talking of touring brings me to the point,that DISMEMBER will support DEICIDE on their US-tour for about two months(the tour is over by the time you'll read this of course...).GOREFEST and ATROCITY had some major problems,while supporting them on their european-dates so aren't the DISMEMBER-guys afraid,that they also might get attacked by religious organisations maybe ?

"Probably yes",the drummer agrees,"but it can always happen to you.If you are afraid of something like that,you shouldn't go out on tour anyway !"

On the european part of their tour,DISMEMBER will share the stage with UK's BENEDICTION , as a double headlining show... So there isn't much time left for answering fan mail these days..."Well,we all have very little time these days.We rehearse four or five hours each day and I personally haven't answered fan mail for a long long time,cause I have a family now,I live together with a girl and she has a daughter,so I'm the stepfather right now and besides that I'm working in Sunlight Studios.The only

members in the band, that would have time to answer letters are David and Robert, but they feel embarrassed to write in english cause they think they don't speak it so well, so.... But we have a manager now and a fan club, so if everything is organized, things will be better again, I can promise that much!" One day after this interview took place DISMEMBER were going to shoot another video for the song DREAMING IN RED, which should already been broadcasted by the release of this issue... "We have to calm down a little bit with this new video", closes Fred the conversation, "cause it costs us even twice as much as the first video, so we are not able to put out something like SOON TO BE DEAD once again."

Frank Stöver



SINDROME

SINDROME ain't death metal, but I have a lot of respect for this dudes. And their two demos INTO THE HALLS OF EXTERMINATION and VAULT OF INNER CONSCIENCE are one of the most popular tapes around, so I decided that we should feature them in our zine as well. Mainman TROY DIXLER answered our questions...

WHAT MADE YOU RE-RELEASE / RE-MASTER THE "INTO THE HALLS.." DEMO ?

"We'll always be proud of HALLS and what it has done for us. It's built us a die hard following that any band would be happy with. We decided to re-master it because we felt that there was a lot of things in the mix that had gotten buried at the time. We also wanted to keep our first release available and give it the best sound possible. HALLS was a great tape for the time it was released, of course it is not what SINDROME is all about nowadays but it is still SINDROME. As long as we are around so should all of the music

we record." WHY HAVE YOU CHOSEN DIFFERENT ARTWORK FOR "HALLS" THIS TIME ?

"It's not a different cover, but it is an upgraded version of the same cover. Firstly the old cover was cool, but it was hard to distinguish what the cover was a picture of. This is kind of a closer up version of the same picture with a lot more detail. We just figured that since we were re-mastering it we minus well give it a never look as well. We also included old live photos in the layout and overall gave it a more current boost."

IT TOOK YOU QUITE A WHILE TO GET BACK INTO THE MEDIA WITH YOUR NEW DEMO. DO YOU THINK IT WAS NECESSARY TO PUT SO MUCH TIME, MONEY ETC. INTO THE NEW TAPE ?

"Any album that gets released out to the world requires a lot of promotion. That's what gets people aware of the release. We haven't spent anything compared to what a label would spend on a major album re-

lease. Most importantly is that HALLS built SINDROME a good reputation and we wanted to take everything to the next level with VAULT. The sooner a band doesn't grow with their music is the sooner their ego's take over and they are replaced by another band with more fire behind them. If we're not confident enough to believe in ourselves then who will be confident enough to believe in us ?"

DO YOU BELIEVE THAT YOUR DEMOS WOULD HAVE GOTTEN LESS INTEREST IF THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN RELEASED WITH XEROXED BLACK AND WHITE COVERS ?

"In all honesty of course having professional artwork and layouts make our cassette look way more professional. If that wasn't the case you'd see a lot of major releases from labels with b/w covers. I think that the production is a lot more important than the artwork though. If you think about it, one of the first things that turns someone

on to a band they aren't familiar with is the visual representation of the music. When I see artwork, that looks cool, I usually take a closer look at an album ion't you think? (unfortunately that's the case, yeah! -Ed.) But there is nothing worse than a band that has a great cover and the music is completely and mindlessly thrown together."

WHY HAVE YOU DECIDED TO RECORD THE "VAULT" DEMO AT MORRISOUND THIS TIME?

"I know, that everytime the name Morrisound is brought up there are 50% of the people that are totally into the studio and then the other half that consider it to be the most trendy studio of all to record at. When I think of the issue of Morrisound I understand both sides of the argument. When a band is about to enter into the studio it's a real important decision where you're going to go and who to work with. With us we decided to work at Morrisound not for the reason of following a trend, but because we felt that they have had so many thrash/death metal bands work with them that they had a hands on start to where we were at with our sound. In Chicago there are a lot of studios but almost all of them really don't have a understandable idea of the sound SINDROME is looking for. I think that a lot of the bands that go into the Morrisound don't have an idea of what their sound is yet and they simply get thrown into the same mold as those before them. The "Morrisound" has been cloned so many times due to lack of bands fully understanding the entire big picture of recording an album. With SINDROME we had very concrete ideas when we were there and Tom Morris worked to help us put them to tape. I think that anyone who listens to VAULT will easily see that there is quite a difference between it and the majority of albums that have been through there."

WHY HAVE YOU CHOSEN TOM MORRIS INSTEAD OF SCOTT BURNS FOR THE PRODUCTION-SIDE?

"We decided to work with Tom Morris because we liked a lot of the albums that he had done in the past. When I talked with him over the phone he seemed to be very smart and easy to talk to. I don't think any of your readers would know Tom Morris if he was standing right next to them. He doesn't fit into the stereotypical cliché look that everyone thinks he does. He is extremely intelligent and doesn't talk just for the sake of opening his mouth."

WHY HAVE YOU CHANGED GUITARISTS FOR THE RELEASE OF "VAULT"? WHAT ARE THE EX-MEMBERS DOING NOW?

"Since the release of HALLS we had a number of guitar-players come through SINDROME. It gets difficult to find members that we feel have the dedication. I'm sure that there are a lot of bands, that can relate to going through line-up changes. Practically every band has to find their own identity and that requires a lot of work. Whenever we would bring someone into the band things would work out great in the beginning. You never know who is gonna deviate for one particular reason or another, but all you can do is watch them stand the test of time. With a few of our past guitar-players each one had a particular reason why they didn't work out. Each one of them worked their hardest to contribute to SINDROME, but in the end our views were different and resulted in them leaving. Instead of going into depth about why each member had to leave, I'd rather talk more about the positive parts they left with us and the current members in SINDROME. None of us are the type to talk about negatively about ex-members of SINDROME."



WHERE DID YOU GET IN TOUCH WITH MICK VEGA AND KEN SAVICH?

"Mick was a local musician in the Chicago area. When we were holding auditions a few years ago he came down to gave his all. He just seemed to have a lot more conviction than most everyone preceding him. He also had a very serious attitude and everything seemed to work together. Ken was an entirely different story. We were out visiting Craig from FORBIDDEN (long time close friend), and knew we were coming into another line-up change. His roommate was Ken and we slowly started talking with him. Not only did we get along as people real well, but his musical background and future directions were in perfect alignment with where SINDROME was going. He relocated to Chicago and basically started a whole new life with us."

WHY HAVEN'T YOU SIGNED A RECORD DEAL AFTER "HALLS" CAME OUT?

"Back in 1987 we had a number of labels that were writing to us. The main reason for holding out to signing with a particular company back then was more or less SINDROME finding where we were going. Any company that would have signed us for the material we were writing on HALLS would have had a surprise when the material for VAULT was released. I think more than anything it was us putting everything together for the bigger picture. I've seen too many bands come up, sign with an independent label, tour a few times and fall right into the mould of the thousands of other bands on the circuit. We just have been building a much different idea for SINDROME. It's taken a while with all of the bullshit we've gone through, but I'm confident that we will finish negotiating by the end of '93. The sooner we can put a full length album out where everyone can buy it in the stores is the sooner we get out and tour to make up for the people that have been patiently waiting for us since '87."

WHAT KIND OF EXPECTATIONS DO YOU HAVE FROM A COMPANY AND WHAT DO YOU EXPECT FROM YOUR CONTRACT?

"I don't think that our expectations are drastically out of line from what most bands are looking for. I just think a lot of the bands nowadays are desperate to sign when the offers first come in. I've talked to countless bands that are completely unhappy with the labels they are currently with. We just aren't anxious to walk into a deal that we will regret in the future. We've been around for quite a long time and I'm sure that things will work out to our benefit. We'll be going through all of the politics of decision making this year and I'm sure that when we finalize everything there will be plenty of press releases to back

it up."

YOUR MUSIC IS VERY THRASHY, BUT YOU'VE OFTEN BEEN FEATURED IN DEATH METAL ZINES. DO YOU SEE A CONNECTION BETWEEN SINDROME AND DEATH METAL ?

"Yeah, I completely understand where your question is headed. I personally think that it's great. SINDROME doesn't get lumped in one style or another. It's like everyone that listens to thrash metal and extreme death metal gets into our music. I think that our music is a lot more thrashy, has a lot of precision riffing and my voice is completely understandable to appeal to thrashers, but then it has the heaviness and conviction that appeals to death metallers. I'm so sick of labels put on particular bands. We just want SINDROME to appeal the largest audience possible. I'm not caught up in some image conscious decision making bullshit if one riff will appeal to one crowd or another. As long as we are happy as writers that comes first and foremost."

I'VE NEVER NOTICED ANY LIVE REPORTS/LIVE RECORDINGS IN THE UNDERGROUND SCENE, SO HOW OFTEN DO YOU PLAY LIVE ?

"To be honest with you SINDROME hasn't played out often in the last few years. Back when HALLS was released we went out on two tours to support it. Now we look at playing live in a much different light. Firstly SINDROME isn't signed to a label currently and we have an extremely large live production. If we were to haul everything out onto a tour, and consistently turn audiences on to us, our main intention is to increase album sales. You see, if a kid comes out to the show and wants to tell his friends about us, he won't be able to pick up our material in a store right now. More importantly than playing live is finishing up the negotiations for an album contract. After we release a full-length album or have both of our EP's released worldwide and getting full promotion you can bet, you will be seeing SINDROME live quite a lot not to mention our live shows on a lot of audio/video tape trading lists."

IS THE LYRICAL SIDE OF YOUR MUSIC VERY IMPORTANT? WHAT IS THE CONCEPT BEHIND "VAULT" ?

"In my eyes there are two types of people that listen to music. There are the ones that listen to the musician-ship overall and grade on that scale. Then there are the others that really want to look into the lyrics and



see what type of message is being said to support the music. When I was writing the lyrics for VAULT I wanted to put together a concept that would challenge the mind of the reader. Basically it's about someone who is having constantly re-occurring dreams of the future. At first he tries to dismiss them, but they constantly keep returning. Instead of fighting off the dreams he sort of drifts with them and realizes that he is being channeled by a spirit. The spirit communicates that he has been chosen to see visions of prophecies. He separates his soul from his body and sees the coming of the antichrist, disease and starvation that is coming to the future of the world. He then feels that it is his destiny to change the course of our predetermined future by spreading the foresight he knows. Everyone dismisses him as a reborn again christian and he realizes that he is alone with these visions and finally separates his soul from his body so that he may live immune to the impact that is soon to face the world."

WHY DIDN'T YOU SEND OUT A LOT OF PICTURES ALONG WITH "HALLS" ?

"I really don't know why you are asking that because we sent out tons of pictures with the HALLS release. Actually we were in a lot of zines back then with photos. (strange, I got so many of them, but there's no SINDROME feature with a picture among them...Ed.) HALLS got traded so much that a lot of the magazines that were reviewing it weren't even writing to us. We probably didn't even get to see 1/2 the reviews on HALLS. Anyone who wrote to us for an interview etc... we sent out pictures always. I think you'll be seeing plenty of pictures with this release." (yeah, just look at this feature...Ed.)

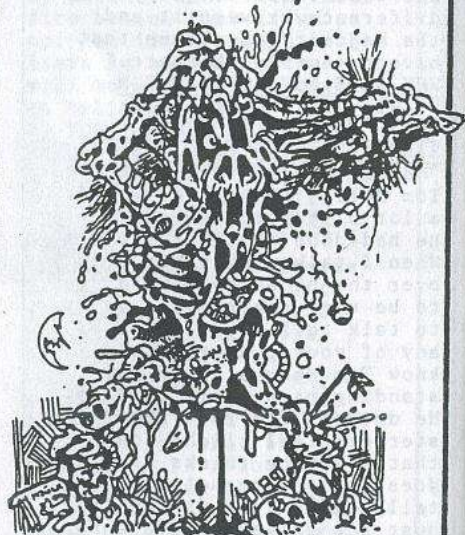
WHAT CAN SINDROME OFFER OUR READERS MERCHANDISE WISE ? ANY LAST WORDS ?

"Thanks a lot to you Frank Stöver for featuring SINDROME (no problem Troy, thank to you as well for all these long answers !-Ed.) We have a lot of merchandise that we have offered through MIDWEST MANAGEMENT EXCHANGE... (oh boy, they really have, just ask for their list, you won't believe it !!!-Ed.) Rather than going in depth with each of the designs (that would take ages-Ed.) just write to the address below and we'll send out our list. It was done in full color so you can exactly see what each of the designs look like. Both HALLS and VAULT are each available for \$6 + \$1.50 for US and \$2.50 foreign postage. Also HALLS was recently remastered at Morrisound with a new layout, pictures etc. (it sounds way better)."

Write to SINDROME at:

MIDWEST MANAGEMENT EXCHANGE
P.O. Box 2112
Highland Park, IL 60035-8112
U.S.A.

FRANK STÖVER



BATHORY

Hell yeah !Have you ever asked yourself,how this scene would have looked and sounded like, if there wouldn't be a band called BATHORY ?They were (and to some - they still are !)definitely one of the few most influential bands of all time, especially to all the black metal lunatics out there ! We had the opportunity to talk to the man behind all that !Yeah, we talked to the almighty and legendary QUORTHON himself !So sit down,relax and read what he had to tell...

WHAT HAVE BEEN THE REASONS TO PUT OUT 2 BATHORY-COMPILATIONS AT ONE TIME ?

"Well,the reason was,that we first of all formed the band ten years ago and I think that is a very good reason enough ! And the reason why it was two, was because we were moving from one type of music to another,you know,speed metal or whatever you wanna call it to what we're doing today.And we wanted to be able to cover every kind of aspect of what we have done on our records in these past ten years..."

DON'T YOU THINK,THAT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN MUCH BETTER,JUST TO PUT OUT A SINGLE ALBUM,WITH A COUPLE OF UNRELEASED SONGS,RE-MIXED STUFF ETC. INSTEAD OF 2 ALBUMS ?IT WOULD HAVE BEEN MUCH CHEAPER FOR THE KIDS !

"Yeah of course,but that's the priority...if you want to have the history of BATHORY on record,you go and buy one of the two JUBILEUM-CD's,or you can buy SATAN'S PENIS MUSIC or something like that.And also some of the songs on our albums last about ten minutes,so if you want to put some of those down,you were only able to come up with seven or eight tracks."

ARE THERE ANY SONGS LEFT FROM THE BATHORY-HISTORY,THAT HAVE NOT BEEN COVERED ON ONE OF THE TWO ALBUMS?UNRELEASED STUFF ?

"Yes,there's about ten or something.The reason why we have not released them was simply because that material was heavily combined with a sort of a theme or they belonged to an album itself and they wouldn't do good on their own.And also,once you've left some material behind you or you have headed in a certain direction you don't...ehh..it's kinda like you pick-up your diary,trying to re-live your days.It doesn't work,you know.You have to move on,both musically and lyrically...you don't wanna look back."

WERE THE TWO TRACKS FROM THE FIRST "SCANDINAVIAN METAL ATTACK"-COMPILATION,THE FIRST BATHORY TRACKS ON VINYL ?

"Ehh...yes,in January 1984..."



SO,WHAT ABOUT THE RUMORS,THAT BATHORY WAS ONLY A PROJECT OF YOURS,THAT YOU'VE DONE EVERYTHING ON YOUR OWN IN THE PAST?

"Everytime I was telling, that this isn't the case,people refused to believe that in one way or another - since autumn of 1984 !That was never the intention...The intention was to DO have a band together ! Once you realize,how the musical situation was back in those days in Sweden,it was hard enough to try to find one,who wanted to play rough heavy metal...and also they had to look very good (????-Ed.),they had to be totally dedicated ,you know,they had to be into the dark side of life and everything and also be able to contribute to the songwriting. But back in those days ,you weren't able to find guys like that in Sweden.They came down to the rehearsal place,heard the music and said:Ok, don't call me - I'll call you ! They looked like POPIes you know,so it wasn't the easiest thing... One day I called up Christian from SODOM,he tried to do some work with me,but it didn't turn out and I had a lot of other people coming up as well. From Malmo,from the United States and everywhere,but it did not work out.When the early albums have been finished,none of the guys,who did it,were in the band anymore,so there was no reason to put their names or photos on it,cause it would have confused the fans all the time."

WHY HAS CHRIS NOT WORKED OUT ?

"He was up here for a month or something and the reason was I had a tour lined-up in the United States in the end of '86 beginning of '87,so I talked to him about that and he was very positive about that,cause SODOM wasn't too active at that time,and we had some great ideas combined...so he came up here,we rehearsed for a month, but then he had to go back to Germany,cause they had to record some of the stuff for one of their albums at that

time,I don't know,if that was true or not,but anyway...So we discussed the whole thing once again and came to the point... both of our fans could be confused in the end and also,SODOM and BATHORY are the two bands,that received the most shit because we sound the way we do and we were very early and we started this whole death metal thing,but we were not having those huge organizations behind us,like many other bands have,so we are still in the underground,both of us..."

WAS IT A KIND OF PLEASURE FOR YOU TO WORK WITH CHRIS,CAUSE I DO REMEMBER,THAT YOU'VE BEEN A BIG FAN OF SODOM AND DESTRUCTION IN THE EARLY DAYS ?

"Oh,nonono !No way !Certainly not DESTRUCTION anyway...! (funny - I do remember some letters of yours,telling the opposite in 1984/85 !-Ed.)No, that was not the case at all ! When I started making interviews back in 1984,SODOM also started making interviews and the underground-scene was much bigger(???-Ed.)and better(!!!-Ed.),it was more fanatic in those days,it was more like,hey-this is our thing !And there were no big heavy metal magazines around(c'mon - what about KERRANG!,METAL FORCES,ENFER,AARDSCHOK etc.-Ed.)The BATHORY and SODOM stories were lined together in the same magazines all the time,so of course you read a lot about eachother and it seems that our careers were going hand in hand more or less.But there was no real fan-situation... of course not !I'm a couple of years older than those guys,there's respect of course... YOUR EARLY STUFF WAS HEAVILY INFLUENCED BY VENOM,EVEN YOUR BANDNAME WAS,BUT YOU ALWAYS DENIED YOUR ROOTS IN THE PAST. WHY ?

"Well,they were the first, of



course, if you want to get rid of MOTORHEAD and ANGEL WITCH and all those bands, but they never preceived any of the attention those Newcastle guys did. But nevertheless, that does not have to mean that you have to be a fan! What it needed is a kick and someone to do something that makes you realize, yes, you can do this. And unless you did not want to do this before, prior 5 or 6 years before I formed the band that was really what you wanted to do, but it was a very big problem to persuade a lot of guys, drummers and bass-players of this kinda music... What happened was, when WELCOME TO HELL and BLACK METAL came out, you could provide these people with proof, that yes, you can actually do this... But there was never any fan-situation! If there's only one type of beer to drink and you drink beer, it doesn't mean you like beer(???-Ed.), I mean, who have asked fishes, if they like water or not...? They have to be in the water. And at that time the only thing around, at least for a year or some-thing, until some small bands came out, was VENOM - of course! Although the name didn't come from the song, it came from the countess herself. I read a story about her, when I was eleven or twelve years old. We were called SATAN, DEATH, NOSFERATU and everything and three weeks later we changed the name to BATHORY !"

BUT DON'T YOU THINK, THAT BATHORY WOULD HAVE SOUNDED QUITE DIFFERENT, IF THERE WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN A BAND CALLED VENOM?

"If there wouldn't be the band VENOM, there wouldn't be any underground movement that would turn to death or black metal anyway ! The people who are doing those magazines and the people who are playing in bands today, were young kids, thirteen, fourteen years old, into VENOM in that age, so of course you have to give a big respect to them for having started it, but they didn't treat people very nicely and they turned out to be dick-heads in the end anyway. There have been hundreds of bands that have influenced death metal in millions of new directions since them, so you have to look forward. Of course they were the first, they've been the pioneers, but..."

HOW DID YOU GET THE IDEA FOR YOUR "NICKNAME" QUORTHON THEN ?

"There's a list in the black bible and one of those guys was called QUORTHON. It was a joke to begin with, cause anybody had a nickname, you know, OZZY OSBOURNE, GENE SIMMONS, LEMMY or NIKKI SIXX or whoever. So it was just a joke, cause in Sweden we don't have the "th" (just like in Germany-Ed.), and they would have huge difficulties to pronounce the name. We never had the intention to become the greatest band in the world so at least we had a laugh for ourselves."

HAVE YOU EVER SEEN BATHORY AS A BLACK METAL BAND ?

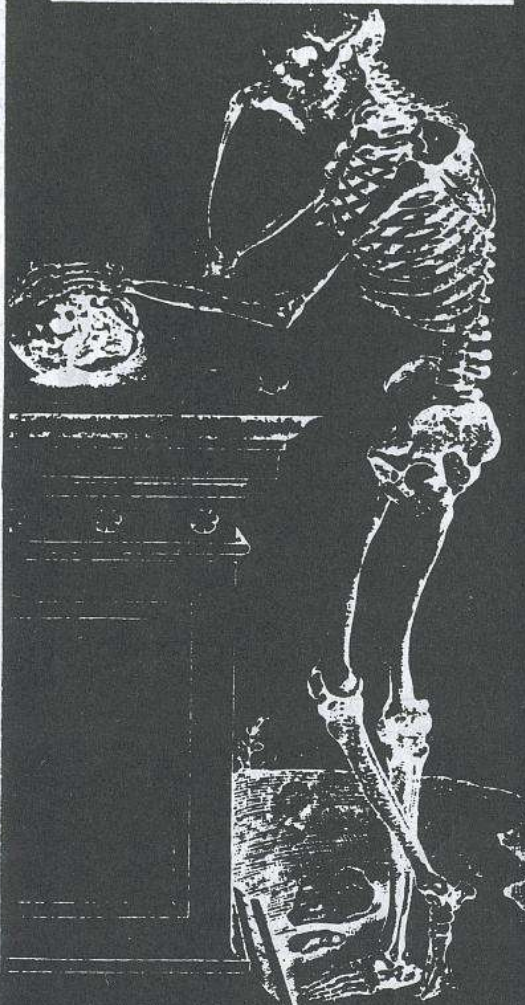
"I don't know. When the whole thing escalated in San Francisco, everyone called their own music for something different... Black Metal, Speed Metal, Thrash Metal, Crossover, Hardcore, anything you know. Today you have millions of terms for it... bands are also changing their styles from one album to another. If you look at the evolution of our music, you can see, that it wasn't an overnight change... we built something over the years and it's hard to put a label on, that lasts ten years..."

ARE YOU STILL INTERESTED IN THE BLACK METAL SCENE OF TODAY?

"I think, Black Metal itself is more close to my heart, cause that's what the whole thing started. Today, bands concentrate too much on playing a little bit too fast and sounding alike. I know a handful of these black metal bands, but I can never separate them from each other and I've never been in touch with them personally. But it's good though, cause once in a while they give a little credit to us."

WHAT DO YOU THINK IS THE REASON THAT YOU'VE BECOME SUCH A BIG INFLUENCE ON THE BLACK METAL SCENE OF TODAY ?

"I guess the first thing is, that we're swedish, that we haven't to go in the same direction as american, german or english bands. The second reason was possibly, that there were no pictures around and the third thing was, that there



were a lot of rumors going around in interviews, that made us more interesting and we were very early. We put out our first stuff on vinyl in January 1984 when most of those guys were still in junior school. The fifth reason was that people couldn't grasp us, cause we've always changed our style from one album to the next and we were courageous enough to try different sounds as on the third album, where we used synthesizers and we were trying acoustic guitars and stuff like that."

COULD YOU IMAGINE, THAT ALL THAT MADE BATHORY A KIND OF A CULT-BAND TO SOME PEOPLE ?

"Yeah, I mean that's the whole thing. There's nothing more than a cult thing, but that's nothing you can put on your bread... you can't live from cult (unless your band is called THE CULT-Ed.) It's just a way, people look at you, the way they treat you and your music. That can make a band, that didn't tour, that put out an album every twenty months survive..."

HAVE YOU EVER PLAYED LIVE ?

"We did at our rehearsal place in Stockholm, but that's of course not in front of a paying audience..."

WHEN DID YOU GET YOUR FIRST REAL LINE-UP TOGETHER AND HOW HAS THE BAND DEVELOPED FROM THEN ?

"The very very first line-up, eh.. I was putting an add in a Stockholm musicpaper telling, that I wanted to combine the energy and speed of MOTORHEAD with the evil sound and heaviness of BLACK SABBATH and that I wanted a drummer who's able to play very fast double-bass and a very heavy bass player. The only answer I got on that, besides some who called just for fun, were two guys, who already knew each other from a hobbyband. They had a rehearsal place and a lot of equipment, so I thought, it might be a good idea to meet and exchange some ideas. So we met in the first week of march in 1983 at their rehearsal place in Stockholm and played some coversongs... Then I started to touch a little bit about writing stuff for this band, we were talking in which direction we wanted to go and then I started writing three or four songs, I believe SACRIFICE was one of them and the whole thing went on, but only for about one year. We had a lead-guitar player coming down to the rehearsal place and he stayed for three minutes... And after seven months, we had a vocalist coming down, cause the other guys did not like my style of singing and he stayed with the band for three weeks, then I gave him the boots a couple of hours before we went into the studio to record the tracks for the compilation album. As we received a lot of fanmail on the sampler, I decided, that I wanted to go in that direction and that I wanted new members..."

WHY HAVE YOU CHANGED THE TYPICAL BATHORY STYLE FROM THE BLACK METAL STUFF TO A MORE FANTASY TYPE OF THING ?

"If you write songs and play an instrument and you're interested in coming up with some lyrics, you can not define that yourself as long as it's a natural behaviour or something. And also, if you eat Pizza everyday, you'll get tired of Pizza and you'll be looking for something different from one day to another. It is not a challenge anymore. If you play songs with threehundred beats per minute for two or three years you're not interested in it anymore... you have to grow with your music !"

THERE WAS ONE SONG ON THE ALBUM "UNDER THE SIGN OF THE BLACK MARK", CALLED "OF DOOM", WHICH YOU DEDICATED TO ALL LOYAL FANS AROUND THE WORLD... DO YOU THINK THAT YOU STILL HAVE THE SAME FOLLOWING AS IN THE BEGINNING OR HAVE YOUR FANS CHANGED WITH YOU ?

"I don't know... In the beginning I read a lot of fan-letters from very loyal fans, who were very enthusiastic, who bought all the records and magazines and all that and they were totally into the lyrics and stuff, but I don't know, if those kids are still sticking to the band these days..."

THE TWO DEMO-TRACKS ON THE COMPILATION ALBUMS, WERE THEY THE ONLY DEMO-SONGS FROM BATHORY ?

"That was not correctly labeled on the albums, cause those tracks were never intended or recorded to be used as a demo. The reason why we used the term "demo" on the album, was because we didn't wanna confuse the people. Actually it's just a rehearsal recording, that I did with the second BATHORY line-up. It was recorded at our rehearsal-place basically in a live situation on two tracks. We only added the vocals and lead-guitar to it. If we would have used the term rehearsal it also could have been from 1990 or something. We have remixed it a bit, what we can remix, cause it was just on a cassette, but we thought it would be a good idea for the JUBILEUM CD's."

HAVE YOU EVER PUT OUT AN OFFICIAL BATHORY DEMO IN 1983/1984, THAT YOU'VE SEND OUT TO LABELS AND MAGS ?

"No - never ! The only official release back then, were the two compilation tracks."

CAN YOU ALREADY TELL US SOMETHING ABOUT THE NEXT BATHORY ALBUM ? WILL THERE BE A NEW ALBUM ?

"Probably not ! We have decided, that we should take an

enormously long break... We already have since the TWILIGHT OF THE GODS album, but it's very difficult to come up with something new right now. If you've released an album like TWILIGHT, you can't go back and write some simple speed metal tracks, you know. So we really painted ourselves into a corner and we can't get out of that anymore... But I have a project, that I'm working on right now, that'll feature some music, which won't fit under the BATHORY-umbrella, so to speak. It'll be released under the name QUORTHON !"

This album will be out by now, so you can make up your own minds, if you'll like it or not. Fact is, that BATHORY have made it's mark in our scene and they will definitely influence a lot more bands to come - but if you'd like to hear the originals, grab their albums !

Frank Stöver



BATHORY



Devilri

This three - piece has already been around for quite a while. They are hailing from Poland and this tape is already their 2nd release. And it has got a nice little packing made by CARNAGE REC. and some really great music inside ! PANDEMONIUM is one of the few bands these days, that do not just jump on a bandwaggon and clone some trendy shit. They deliver us some cool death metal in the mood of the ancient days.

Musically they

remind me quite a lot on the old CELLTIC FROST stuff, cause PANDEMONIUM's songs are also composed in a very simple, but moody way. You won't find any blastbeats here - just great, slow death metal with excellent vocals, that have some similarities to Ross Dolan of the one and only IMMOLATION. Write to CARNAGE or contact the band directly at:

Peter, 91-469 ŁÓDŹ
Kochanowskiego
13/56
POLAND

Frank



ZINE

REVIEWS

OUT NOW



REMAINS # 4

germ. / 76 pages / A4 / DM 5,-

Oooooouuh, what a change ! This is the 4th issue of REMAINS magazine and it's the first one in german (unfortunately). As far as the quality goes, this has to be the best release of them so far (although there's still some quality lacking in the printing here and there). Most of the interviews are really interesting to read and the reviews are honest as well. But personally I have a lot of problems with the featured stuff, cause Christian changed into the power metal direction quite a lot (nothing against this type of music, it's great !) and so are the bands: GENETIC WISDOM, DEPRESSIVE AGE, UNCLE SLAM, BIOHAZARD, LIFE ARTIST, WALTARI, TROUBLE, OLIVER MAGNUM, COC, DREAM THEATER, ANNIHILATOR, RUBICON, KREATOR etc. etc. So most of the stuff isn't very dedicated to "our" scene anymore. There are still quite a few bands in there anyway, but I guess, he's bored of the trendiness of death metal... It is written in a very humorous way and reminds me very often of the legendary HERETIC zine, which is kinda like a big compliment ! Write to: Christian Biegert
Hauptstr. 26
73550 Waldstetten
Germany

FRANK STÖVER



MASTER OF BRUTALITY # 4

engl. / 40 pages / A4 / \$5

Another great dutch zine that I got here and it's already their 4th issue ! MASTER OF BRUTALITY it is called and probably already known to some of you. They did a really good job with this one and deliver us a high quality zine with lotsa cool bands in

it (wow, I never thought, that I would write so much bull - shit in a row) Anyway, the layout is pretty simple, but it looks ok to me, so are the featured bands. To name just a few (they concentrated more on the underground stuff) : DISEMBOWEL, DAMONACY, MONUMENTUM, AGATHOCLES, PHLEBOTOMIZED (Yeah ! - Ed.) and tons more ! You've also got two posters of ORDER FROM CHAOS and AS-TRAL RISING which I find a little bit unnecessary, cause nobody really cares for posters in fanzines, don't we ? But because of that, you don't have less pages to read... they just throw them in the zine as a kind of bonus, so it is okay, I guess. Write to:

Ewald Provoost
Schuitvlotstraat 37
4373 AJ Biggekerke
Holland

FRANK STÖVER



WITCHCRAFT # 1

engl. / 48 pages / A4 / \$3

This is a pretty new zine from Germany, dedicated to black and doom metal, but also openminded to other styles as well.

So, as far as the featured bands go, it will satisfy most of you, cause SAMAE, UNHOLY, EMPEROR, IMMORTAL, IMPALED NAZARENE, ANCIENT RITES, MARTYRIUM among some others is quite an interesting list, isn't it ? The layout is ok, but it could be better in some ways, for example smaller typing and longer reviews of demos etc. But it is ok for a debut-release and I'll bet, the next issue will show us quite a lot of improvement. Some more interesting borders would probably help them as well. Just an idea... Check it out, cause musically it's not boring at all. Write to:

Stefan Löns
Maximinstr. 26a
56072 Rübenaach
Germany

FRANK STÖVER

DARKNESS # 2

engl. / 84 pages / A4 / \$5

The review of this german mag, who's debut issue was one of the biggest deceptions lately was supposed to appear in our last, second VOICES release, but as it's already known today, there weren't any presentations from the un - stopable growing zine front. Anyway, here we go (Hope it's not too late !) # 2 is really better than the cheesy first edition, this is fat... to be concrete, it's FAT ! 84 DINA4 pages with 53 (!) interviews and everything else needed running under the title "a music fanzine", quite confusing... it's limited to black, death metal and grindcore. Worst point about it is that the whole thing suffers from the wellknown syndrome "quantity doesn't mean quality", because most of the interviews are boring and standard stuff, except the over the top ones with DISHARMONIC ORCHESTRA and AGATHOCLES. Good to read again about NECROSCHIZMA, REGURGIGATE and MERCILESS(S). Quite a lot of questions must be cleared about this zine, might be possible that the editors pick up a more critical attitude for # 3 and shock all of us. English written and the price is 4 or 5 \$, dunno. Write to: Enrico Schlieder
Aachenerstr. 4
72250 Freudenstadt
Germany

LEIF JENSEN

SOUNDS OF DEATH # 2

engl. / 50 pages / A4 / \$3

Highly professional mag and a development of 100 % compared to issue 1 ! These are facts ! You've got a full - colour cover, feat. an exclusive piece of killer art by Dan Seagrave ! Haven't seen something brilliant from him since the legendary LEFT HAND PATH-cover... Anyway, this is more of a magazine, than a fanzine, cause all the stuff was done on a PC and so the layout looks pretty normal, for most of you maybe even boring. You've got more or less interesting/boring interviews with "biggies" like CANNIBAL CORPSE, LIVING SACRIFICE, DEMOLITION HAMMER,

classic-METALLICA(!) and of course DAN SEAGRAVE him - self. But that's about it ! The rest of the mag is to- tally filled with reviews of mostly every known death metal album, that came out on the more popular-labels, demos and 7"EP's... So no- thing new really. If you collect pro-done mags, no matter what they feature, get this ! If you are more into the deep underground- scene - waste your money on something different ! I'll bet you have to add 1\$ more if you order from outside the US...

SOUNDS OF DEATH
1069 Pinegate Drive
Kirkwood, MO 63122
U.S.A.

FRANK STÖVER

music, you won't believe it ! Normally, a mag in A4-size with 88pages(!!!!!) is done in a very crappy way, but ISTEEN sure- ly is NOT ! This is the absolu- tely GOD-MAG of all time ! One of the best, if not THE best artwork/layout type of thing you'll ever see in a FANzine and sooooo great interviews ! Very long and with lotsa con- tents(not the usually crap !) I can't find the right words to describe this, so you' ll better order your own copy ! You definitely won't regret it'in any way ! Compared to ISTEEN, SLAYER MAG. is average (sorry Metalion !-Ed.)!!!!!! Get it !!!!!!! A surely master- piece of a zine !

Mikko Mattila
Peltolamminkatu 6 A 17
33840 Tampere
Finland

FAITH?

FAITH? # 1

FRANK STÖVER engl. / 52 pages / A4 / \$5

BLOOD-SHED

BLOOD-SHED # 4

engl. / 44 pages / A4 / \$5

This zine is already around for quite a long time and it's really good, according to the issue # 4 that I got ahold of recently... Pro - fessional printed, mostly small typing and really cool contents: MORGUE, HETSHEADS, PROFANATICA, DEICIDE, ACHERON, AT THE GATES, AFFLICTED, UN- LEASHED, GOD MACABRE, DESUL- TORY, BEHERIT, SADNESS, CORPSE MOLESTATION, UTUMNO, HORRI- FIED and AFFLICTED ! What else do you need ? Well, of course you'll find lotsa reviews in it as well, but that's the only negative point I have to tell you about - they look really boring. 134 reviews on 9 pages with absolutely NO layout at all ! Just review after review... If Mike will work on that, this would be a killer zine, no doubts about it ! But he's got a great taste, when it comes to the music ! Check it out !

Mike Minicucci
14 Linden Ave.
Westfield, MA 01085
U.S.A.

FRANK STÖVER

Hortician Magazine

HORTICIAN MAGAZINE # 3

engl. / 52 pages / A4 / \$5

Oh, how I love this zine ! It was so disappointing to see their first issue in the dutch language - luckily they decided to change it into english shortly after that ! The one, I got here for you is # 3 and they made it again !! Totally professional done zine, clear layout, great printing-quali- ty and created on a PC (once again). But besides all that, you've got 100% underground- stuff in it ! Millions of honest reviews of everything you can think of and lotsa killer bands like CONCRETE SLEEP, UNHOLY, EMPEROR, EXPUL- SION, NUM SKULL, MIDIAN, LOBO- TOMY, DECOLLATION, NOCTURNAL RITES, FESTER, MASTER'S HAMMER etc. etc. This is a surely M U S T for every lover of the death metal underground and I hope, they'll be around for a fuckin' loooong time ! GET THIS IMMEDIATELY !!!!!!!

Roel van Reijmersdal
Tafelberg 71
3328 SR Dordrecht
The Netherlands

FRANK STÖVER

This is a new mag from France - and it's really well done ! It's professional printed with high quality pics and PC - typing. It was compiled by three guys, who seem to be to- tally dedicated to power and progressive metal, but openminded enough to fea- ture death metal as well . One of them (Luc) used to do the POULETS BASQUAISE zine some years ago, so you' ll know, that they are not on- ly doing it , because of trendy reasons. It's very enjoyable to read , cause every feature has a lot of humorous moments which helps you reading even the articles on bands you normally not like ! The inter- views are mostly very long and interesting, so you' ll find out a lot more about AT THE GATES, MASS PSYCHOS- IS, LIERS IN WAIT, ANATHEMA, DOOMSTONE, SECRECY, KINGS - BANE, GARDEN OF SILENCE , PONTIUS PROPHET and most of all LEUKEMIA ! A really good idea is a section they called THE MOST RE - DICULOUS PICTURES EVER ! I guess, the title speaks for itself. Really cool ! Haha!! They'll probably give you a fair review, if you are gonna send them your stuff unless your play in a black metal band... They boycott this style of music totally ! Anyway, if you want a copy, write to:
Max Michiels
44 av. du 18 Juin 1940
93360 Neuilly-Plaisance
FRANCE

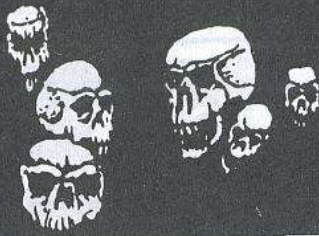
FRANK STÖVER

ISTEEN

ISTEEN # 6

engl. / 88 pages / A4 / \$5

To complete a zine like this, must take you ages !!!!!!! It's so goddamn wonderful and dedicated to this kind of



DEICIDE

It is fast, heavy and most of all brutal

I don't know, why so much people dislike SUFFOCATION and it's even harder to understand, if the same kinda guys totally freak out about CANNIBAL CORPSE. To me, SUFFOCATION have always been the better band and I think their current album BREEDING THE SPAWN is a great one ! So c'mon, and check out, what guitarist Terrance had to tell us and you...
YOU'VE FINISHED A TOUR ACROSS THE UNITED STATES RECENTLY, SO COULD YOU GIVE US SOME DETAILS ABOUT THAT AT FIRST ?

"The tour for us started on the 26th of June and we toured with VADER from Poland and DISMEMBER from Sweden... We did about twenty-something dates all over here, you know, the west coast and Canada and stuff like that... it was pretty good."

SO, YOU'VE TAKEN OVER THE HEADLINE POSITION OF DEICIDE ?

"Yeah, DEICIDE left the tour and we took over the rest of it..."

HOW HAS CHRIS BEEN DOING SINCE HE JOINED SUFFOCATION ?

"Oh, he's been doing fine you know, it's been working out rather well between us. Right now we are trying to do some new stuff, that we're putting out sooner or later, you know..."

WASN'T IT DIFFICULT FOR HIM TO GET USED TO YOUR VERY FAST MATERIAL COMPARED TO THE SLOW STUFF HE'S BEEN PLAYING IN APPARITION ?

"No, cause he always wanted to be in a band like ours you know, he wanted to be in a real death metal band, playing stuff like we are playing... now he's already writing some stuff for us, it's good... cause in the beginning he had to learn all our material, you know..."

ARE YOU STILL IN CONTACT WITH YOUR OLD BASS PLAYER JOSH ?

"Actually yeah, Josh was doing the sound for us on the tour. After he departed AUTOPSY he came back home and had nothing to do, so he said to us, if we would pay him such and such money, he would like to come with us, doing the sound for us. And we said, alright man, so he was with us the whole tour. If someone needs a soundguy, he's definitely the person to talk to."

WHY IS HE OUT OF AUTOPSY ?

"I don't know. For some reasons they didn't get along, I don't know, I have no clue... you should ask Josh about that..."

WHAT IS THE REASON THAT YOU ARE CHANGING STUDIOS WITH EVERY RELEASE ?

"Yeah, you see, were we did our first release, we did this release(???)-Ed.) So, for our first album, we went to Morrisound to get that really care production and we're gonna go back there, but for some reasons, Roadrunner didn't want us to deal with Scotty Burns again. So we went out to a studio out here which we weren't happy with



cause we don't like our production... So right know we're thinking about our next release and we wanna work with someone like Harris Johns or Scott Burns, cause the way the new album sounds, doesn't really portrait us, we need a brutal production and they know the way it should sound like you know. But otherwise I like the songs on the new album more than the stuff we did before..."

TO ME IT SOUNDS, THAT YOU'VE CONCENTRATED MORE ON THE SONGWRITING FOR "BREEDING THE SPAWN", THAT YOU WORKED HARDER ON THE VOCALS FOR EXAMPLE AND ON REAL SONGS AND NOT ONLY ON A COUPLE OF BLAST BEATS...

"Right! Everybody categorizes you as a death metal or grindcore band only! We wanted something more, we wanted to be known for our musical style as well, so we had to concentrate more on every instrument you know, like on the drums, the guitars, the bass and the vocals. We had to become a little bit more lead oriented or musical oriented, a little bit grindy here and a little bit heavier there... To concentrate on the things that we already had done, just to make 'em a little bit better! But the thing that drives me so mad is that the production is so bad that it doesn't really get it's fair chance. If you would've come seeing us live, you would've seen the whole difference!"

HAVE YOU MAYBE FELT LIMITED SOMETIMES IN THE SUFFOCATION STYLE?

"No, I don't feel that limited. There's just little things... a lot is worse when you're going 900 miles an hour you know... you are losing the melody and the leads and the ability to get the two guitar harmony thing going on... That's something we've concentrated more on this album... the melody to be heard! On the last album, the EFFIGY OF THE FORGOTTEN it was more straight forward grind..."

THERE'S ONE THING I'M ALWAYS WONDERING ABOUT. A BAND LIKE CANNIBAL CORPSE FOR EXAMPLE, WHO ARE MUCH NOISIER AND WORSE THAN YOU ARE, ALWAYS GET GOOD REVIEWS IN BIGGER MAGS, BUT WHEN IT COMES TO SUFFOCATION THERE'S ALWAYS TALK ABOUT PURE NOISE, CRAP OR YOU COULD HARDLY FIND SOME... COULD YOU IMAGINE WHY?

"Oh yeah, that's true. I don't know, people have the tendency to pick up on bands like CANNIBAL CORPSE and stuff and the scene gets so flattered on those bands... there are hundreds and hundreds of bands out there and I think the one you hear first, you always give the better reviews. Bands such as MORBID ANGEL are doing so well because of the fact that they were out so much earlier than all the other bands, you know..."

WHAT IS THE REASON THAT THERE ARE NOT MUCH SUFFOCATION INTERVIEWS AROUND IN ZINES?

"I'm not really sure. It could be our record label not doing the right thing or it could be just us, I don't know. As much interviews as I can do I'd like to do, so that people know what's going on with us."

IS THERE A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN AND THE US-RELEASE OF THE "HUMAN WASTE" EP BECAUSE ON THE INNERSLEEVE IS MENTIONED: PHOTOS BY JASON FLIGMAN, BUT THERE ARE NO ON IT...

"Human waste was just a test-release to get us known and it was kind of an inexpensive recording, so we were not able to put photos or lyrics in

it. Nuclear Blast just wanted to put it out and as long as people can hear the music I don't care about the cover or the fuckin' inside you know..."

SO IT WAS JUST A MISTAKE, THAT IT WAS PRINTED THERE?

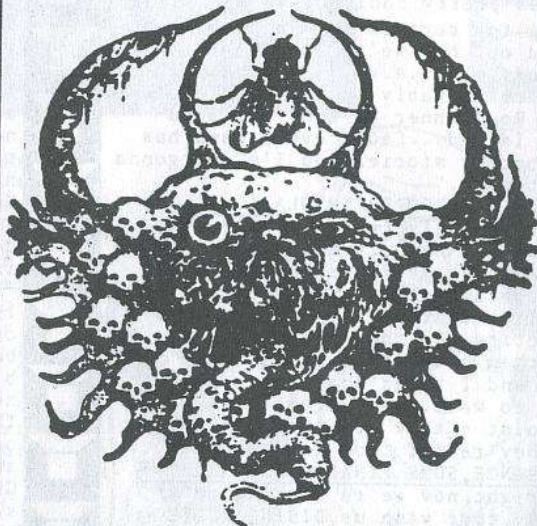
"Yeah, it was a mistake..."

DAN SEAGRAVE ONCE SAID, THAT HIS FAVOURITE PIECE OF ART WAS THE COVER HE DID FOR YOUR "EFFIGY..." ALBUM! DO YOU AGREE WITH THAT AND DOES IT MAKE YOU PROUD IN ANY WAY?

"That's definitely my favourite piece of art from Dan as well. I like a couple of other artists personally by myself, but what Dan did on that album cover was the greatest thing and I was kinda disappointed when I saw what he did on this cover, because it is not as detailed as the last cover and we wanted a continuation of the first cover... he just went his own direction."

DO YOU THINK IT IS STILL IMPORTANT TO HAVE DETAILED COVERS WHEN YOU ONLY CAN GET CD'S AND CASSETTES? I MEAN BOTH ARE VERY SMALL...

"Yeah, but I want a detailed picture, no matter what. When you buy an album and you got a great detailed cover you have something to look at. If you buy an album with a weak co-



ver, don't you hate it? (sometimes, yeah but the music always comes first and if the music's great, I don't care about the album cover so much... -Ed.) The cover of BREEDING doesn't compare to the EFFIGY cover, at least not from my point of view..."

I LIKE THE NEW COVER BETTER!

"Do yooooouuuu ??? That's cool! I mean it's still great, but I prefer detailed stuff... this one's a really dark cover" WHAT KIND OF RELATION DO YOU HAVE TO GORGUTS? CAUSE DOUG MENTIONED LUC IN THE SPECIAL THANKS LIST OF THE NEW ALBUM...

"They are just good friends of ours from up in Canada. They came down to visit us and we became good friends with Luc and we played a couple of shows with them together. They are some really cool scene supporters and fans. All in all nice guys."

DO YOU STILL ENJOY BEING PART OF A SCENE THAT'S GETTING SICKER EVERY DAY WITH ALL THE VIOLENCE OF SATANIC BANDS AND STUFF?

"I enjoy being part of this scene because it's a whole musical form you know and it's not only about the pure satanism and all that shit! The reason why we play it is because it's the

most extreme form of music. Anything else like the satanic stuff is nothing more like a gimmick you know ?"
BUT DON'T YOU THINK THAT THOSE BANDS COULD DESTROY THE WHOLE SCENE BY THEIR ACTIVITIES ?

"Well, I think, that people are coming to the shows because of the music and that they shouldn't turn around because of those bands. It's not about violence and worshipping Satan, it's the music that matters and hopefully people will notice that not all bands are that sick, you know... It's all about having a good time, it's a release and it's not meant for the crap that's going on !"

ARE THERE ANY GREAT NEW BANDS COMING OUT OF YOUR AREA IN THE NEAR FUTURE ?

"Yeah, there's this band called PYREXIA, they put out an album on DROWNED, they are really good. Before I was in SUFFOCATION I used to jam with their bass player quite often and they are very much in the SUFFOCATION style ! And anything you can find overthere by the band HUMAN REMAINS from New Jersey - Get it !!! I think they are working on an album right now, so stay tuned for them, cause their music is just unreal ! I'm really into them a lot !"

ARE YOU STILL SATISFIED WITH ROADRACER RECORDS ?

"Well, at the moment, they are definitely have helped us getting out on the road. That was pretty cool, but we are still waiting for certain things from them, to find out how we're exactly doing and stuff (m.o.n.e.y. ?? -Ed.) Right now we're probably in the middle of saying Roadrunner is good and Roadrunner is bad... Cause every band has their horror stories and I'm not gonna get into 'em."

BUT THEY'VE DROPPED IMMOLATION !

"Yeah, I recently talked to the guys... But, when our new album was already recorded, they still had no new material, because they have jobs and stuff like that and it's kinda hard to practice for them I think. So it takes them a while to get out material and I think Roadrunner didn't wanted to wait... But from there standpoint - they are really happy, that they're off from Roadrunner !"

OK TERRANCE, SOME FINAL WORDS MAYBE ?

"Yeah, right now we're working on a european tour with us, DISINCARNATE and SACRIFICE and hopefully everybody is diggin' the new album. Take care !"

SUFFOCATION

c/o Jason Fligman
10 Yellowstone Ct.
Coram, NY 11727
U.S.A.

FRANK STÖVER



YOU'D BETTER
GET
READY FOR...



"I feel guilty ! Just because 9 out of 10 doom bands did not impress me at all (it's absolutely not my style of music), I never paid a lot of attention to BEYOND BELIEF from the Netherlands . BIG MISTAKE ! After getting their debut-album "TOWARDS THE DIABOLICAL EXPERIMENT " I found out, what I have ignored all those years. Great and original death metal , played in a very slow and moody way, with (believe it or not) TWO (!!) bass players and some accordeon-parts (!!) here and there ! You have to check them out, if you haven't already ! Guitarist/ Vocalist A.J. van Drenth called us up the other day to give me a little lesson in history..."

"I formed BEYOND BELIEF in 1986 with the intention to create some doom music. But back then, it was a big problem, cause most people were heavily into bands like ANTHRAX, DEATH ANGEL, TESTAMENT or stuff like that. Although there have been MESSIAH and CELTIC FROST, who played a slower type of music, you couldn't find musicians for it in our area. We always had problems finding a drummer. But to make a long story short, I got some people, who recorded a couple of songs with me that I wrote and that tape I gave to Robbie, the guitar player of DEAD-HEAD... He liked the stuff, but then we had some drummer problems again and couldn't do anything for a while. After we finally got a stable drummer, Robbie got more and more interested in the band. So we dropped the idea of being just a project and became a real band..."

You mentioned CELTIC FROST and MESSIAH... So I guess, you've never seen BEYOND BELIEF as "just" a doom metal band, but more of a doom/death metal band from the beginning. Is that right?

"At that time, we didn't think about it, to be honest. We were just a metal band and we were not looking for a new trend to follow. We just

wanted to make the kind of music that we like. Of course I also liked the Bay Area bands back then, but I wanted something more extreme, cause I always liked extreme music..."

To get to your first demotape... Was Robbie already a member of BEYOND BELIEF when you did it ?

"Yes he was. After we found Jacko, our drummer, who is still with us, we had to practice for a while, to show him all the songs we had so far and then we did our first demo in our rehearsal room. It was recorded on four tracks only and the sound isn't that good, but it sounds really heavy! We recorded seven songs..."

Have you re-used some of them for your album ?

"Yeah, two of the songs from our first demo are also appearing on our debut album but with a much better sound of course !"

You also appeared on compilation albums, don't you?

"After we put out our first demo, we got an offer from Anthony van den Berg, who wanted us to be part of his D.S.F.A. compilation album, so we recorded two new songs in a professional studio... We also already recorded the drum tracks for two other songs, so that we only had to add the guitars and vocals to it later on... We used the two compilation tracks and the two others for our second demo, which was entitled "STRANDED". That demo got us signed to Shark Records."

There was also talk of a BEYOND BELIEF 7" on Cenotaph Records (Hi Adwin ! -Ed.)...

"Oh yeah, that will be released as well (by the time this zine comes out, you will probably have it in every mailorder list already ! -Ed.) It might be a vinyl 7", but there's also the possibility that

it will be a CD-single." (In fact, that Adwin already told me, that he's not going to put out vinyl anymore, I guess it'll be a CD-Ed.)

So far, you only mentioned Robbie, who's also a member of DEADHEAD, but as far as I know, Ronnie is also a member of BEYOND BELIEF, isn't he?

"That's right. Ronnie who plays guitar in DEADHEAD is playing bass for BEYOND BELIEF..."

How long is he in the band then?

"As I said earlier, we had to take some time off, because of the drummer-problem and we started again in 1990. Ronnie and Robbie have since been members of BEYOND BELIEF, but when we made our new start again, we added Artino as a second bass player to the band."

How did you get the idea to work with two bass players?

"Well, Artino is a good friend of ours and he was already a member of BEYOND BELIEF in the very beginning... So when we started again, he asked me, if he could re-join us cause he wanted to be in a band again. We thought about it and get used to the idea to work with two bass-players, cause it is quite original and the sound is much heavier. But live it is really difficult to work with two basses, it's kinda like chaos then, so one of them has to play a little bit more quiet..."

But you still play live with both of them?

"Yes. But sometimes it is a kind of problem, cause I do remember one show we did, there was the stage that small, that Ronnie has to play his stuff in the audience..."

You also used an accordeon, which is even more untypical for such a musical style. To me accordeon-music is mostly very happy music, but doom or death metal isn't very happy in my opinion...

"Oh no !! I've heard some french records, that sounded very dark and depressive although they used accordeons for the music. And that's what we wanted too. But it's too sad, that so many bands are using different types of instruments now, that it ain't that original anymore. A lot of them use keyboards, flutes, violines and stuff like that. So probably we won't do

that anymore in the future." (hey, c'mon - don't care what other trendies do, just continue what you've always done ! Most people will hopefully recognize who's doing it for the love of music and who's doing it just for fashion ! -Ed.)

Who plays the accordeon? Do you have additional musicians on stage for it?

"Robbie did it on the album, but it was really hard for him. Luckily it turned out really good... Live we don't use the accordeon, it was just for the album..." (too sad, really -Ed.)



Your record deal with SHARK is about three albums - will you also get tour support from them?

"We haven't talked about that in detail so far. They might try something, but that's not for sure, but our manager will hopefully get something for us in the near future..."

And would you prefer to tour with another doom band or would you also like to hit the road with a "normal" death metal act?

"In my opinion it would be much better for us to go on tour with bands like MY DYING BRIDE, ANATHEMA or CATHEDRAL, cause their audience will probably be our audience as well. I don't think, that it would be a good idea to go on tour with a death metal band, cause slow music and fast music together won't work out that well in my opinion." (why not? -Ed.)

To get back to your Cenotaph EP... Will you record some new songs for it or is it old material?

"We'll use the other two demo tracks, that weren't on the D.S.F.A. compilation. But we will be featured on another compilation album from Germany, entitled "Tears of sadness" with one of the demo-songs as well. That should be out by now."

NOW!!



So, do you still sell your demos then ?

"We have a few copies of our second demo left, but the first one is sold out and we won't sell it anymore. People should buy the CD, cause the sound is much better. If someone is totally interested in our demos, I'll record them if I'll get a blank tape - no problem. But it should be a 90min tape, cause both together are really long !"

Isn't it a problem for you to release an album after such a long time, to hit the market just when doom has become a trend ? A lot of people could call you trendy if they haven't heard of you before and didn't know that you've been around for seven years now...

"Yeah maybe, but we've built a small following in the underground already and all the others will hopefully read about us in interviews so they'll find out what's going on..."

Are your lyrics also in a very sad and depressive way, like most doom bands write them ?

"In a way... but we concentrate on more realistic stuff. For example the song "The nameless" is about the plane accident, that happened here in Holland a few years ago, were a plane crashed in a house. I had a friend there and it is only 100km away from us. We'll maybe write about some occult topics in the future as well, but not about satanic stuff..."

That's about it so far - hopefully we got you interested in BEYOND BELIEF with this little interview. Check out their CD or write to Cenotaph Records for the EP. The address is:

Cenotaph Records
Zuidelijke Achterweg 42
4424 CT Wemeldinge
HOLLAND

For more information about BEYOND BELIEF contact the band at:

BEYOND BELIEF
P.O. Box 390
8260 A.J. Kampen
HOLLAND

FRANK STÖVER



ASTAROTH



When I first heard the name ASTAROTH, I thought of a silly band from Italy with an image of roman soldiers, who put out a mini-album in the beginning of the eighties. But - I'm glad this new act has nothing in common with them. These guys are coming from Tampa/Florida and they are fronted by a guy called Larry Sapp, who used to play with BRUTALITY for ages. In Nov. 91 he formed ASTAROTH and in less than a year, they put out their debut demo DROWNING IN BLOOD. In fact, that the titletrack also appeared on that tape, you'll know why Brian of BRUTALITY hasn't heard talk of that song for quite a while" (see BRUTALITY-Int. in this issue for further details-Ed.). Now they have a new demo out, which is entitled LOST STATE OF DREAMS and Christian interviewed Larry and Bryan Winton (the band's bass player) for us...
WHAT ARE THE NEWS IN THE ASTAROTH CAMP, LARRY ?

"Well we got another guitar player, Mike Garrett, he's playing guitars now, cause I wasn't able to perform the way I'd like to, holding a guitar, so I decided to pretty much drop the guitar for stage. I still be doing the guitar in the studio as far as putting together the projects and everything. I haven't just dropped guitar altogether... Other news - we got new T-shirts coming up, we got two labels, that we're kinda negotiating with, but we can't really say anything yet, because nothing is definite."

WHY DID TOMMY VIATOR LEAVE THE BAND TO JOIN DISINCARNATE ?

"Basically Tommy was just looking out for himself and we can't blame him for that. He was pretty much got offered to part and he liked the DISINCARNATE stuff, so he went ahead with it and it proved to be ok for him. We're happy for him and he lives across the street from us, so we see him all the time. We're still friends, no problems, no bad feelings or anything, you know. We've always wished each other all the greatness."

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT DISINCARNATE ?

Brian: "They're pretty cool. You know, they got their own style, but to me they're kinda average really... I don't know, how do you feel, Larry?"
Larry: "About the same... the last song is extremely killer, lot of feeling, but it's pretty much typical you

know... it's good, but it's not great."
WHAT DO YOU EXPECT OF YOUR SECOND DEMO ? A DEAL ?

"In simple terms, yeah quite plain. We're hoping that we do get a deal with it, there's a lot of speculation that we will... not only us, but a lot of people outside of our own little camp here have told us, if we don't get signed, there's something wrong with the whole scene (there DEFINITELY IS, Larry! - Ed.)!"

WHAT DO YOU EXPECT FROM THE WHOLE DEATH METAL SCENE IN THE FUTURE ?

Brian: "I hope it keeps goin"
Larry: "It should get much better in the future. It seems that the way the world is going, your music is taking over alternative. It's just getting bigger. MORBID ANGEL's been signed to a major label, ENTOMBED has got signed to Columbia, so I don't think death metal's gotta go anymore for quite a while. It's always had the black sheep image and a lot of people just like it because of that."

WHO CAME UP WITH THE STATEMENT, "DEPRESSION WITH CLASS" ?

"Pretty much I did. The whole band sinners around both of those adjectives if you will. Depression mainly because I'm writing about true feelings that have happened and I've always wanted to be in a classy band, I don't like being in your ripped shirt and jeans and fuckin' dirty of the street, you know, metal band. We're not rich, but we wanna look like it on stage, there's nothing wrong with it !"



WHAT ARE YOU DOING BESIDES THE BAND ?

Larry: "I am now, uncontently an electrician, I have been for quite some time, I don't like my job, I don't think I ever have... I like certain aspects of my job, but I don't like my employer and I don't enjoy working. I like my band and that's pretty much it. I love my son and that's what I do. I do my son and do the kid thing and hang out with him, go to gameroomes and the Disney movies with him and do whatever I have to with my son. I don't neglect my son in any way and I don't neglect my band in any way."

Brian: "I'm employed as a baker, I work there for two and a half years. I used to work with Larry at the same company but got a better offer from where I'm working now, so I moved up from the payscale a little bit."

DO YOUR LYRICS HAVE ANY RELIGIOUS CONTENTS ?

Brian: "One does. The song SCRIPTURES deals with the satanic bible... That's the only song we have, that deals with any type of religion at this time. Future songs may or may not consist of that subject. We don't wanna be labeled as a satanic band."

Larry: "I want add also, even though we have the one satanic song, it does not represent a pro or a non-pro objective in the song. It just states the facts. That was written by me about the satanic bible from the satanic bible, so it's only facts and not an opinionated statement in any way. Most of our material centers around, like I said before, depression and real life happenings and right now the real life happening is depression and that's what's going on. So that's what's being written about."

WHAT'S YOUR PERSONAL RELIGIOUS ATTITUDE ?

"Quite simply, mine... I have none. Religion sucks !"

Brian: "To me it really does not matter. That's not what the band's about."

WHAT DO YOU THINK, WHEN YOU LOOK INTO THE MIRROR ?

Brian: "It depends. Sometimes I think, man... another day and sometimes I'm trying to see if my hair's getting longer, cause I've been trying to grow my hair... shit like that."



Larry: "Sometimes I see a dude, that just woke-up and looks pretty crappy and doesn't fuckin' wanna go to work and really hates life. Othertimes I see a guy who really wants to be, were he's trying to go and just can't get there and I see that a lot. Hopefully one day I'll look in the mirror and see somebody that's happy with were he is and what he is doing."

HAVE YOU GOT ANY PHILOSOPHY OF LIFE ?

Larry: "On boy, ok - here we go. Pretty much, yeah... do whatever the hell you wanna do as long as you don't hurt anybody or use anybody on the way. There's no excuse for fucking other people just to get what you want. That's unacceptable and it's bullshit ! Be who you wanna be."

ARE YOU HAPPY WITH THE GOVERNMENT IN PAKISTAN ?

"Well, as long as they don't have an effect on what I'm doing, I guess, because I have no idea what's going on in Pakistan, dude to tell you the truth. Have we ever got a letter from Pakistan ? No, I don't think we've ever received a letter..."

ASTAROTH IS A NEW GAME FOR LITTLE KIDS. WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THIS REDICULOUS MONIKER ?

"We're hanging in the clubs, man, and whenever you wanna transcribe it and let us know what the fuck you are talking about we'll be happy to answer the fuckin' question. Send us a copy of the game, man... I'd like to see it, man. Is it like the "Kiss on tour game" or something? That was a real stupid game that I had when I was a kid."

ANY FINAL COMMENTS ?

"Well, we hope that this interview attracts your attention, we hope that everybody buys our merchandise or at least writes to us, so we can send you a free

sticker and let you know what's up..."
Brian: "Keep the underground alive and thanks to everybody outthere that supports us."

If you want to get in touch with ASTAROTH, write to the following address:

ASTAROTH
P.O.Box 8552
Tampa, FL 33674-8552
U.S.A.

Interview: Christian Biegert
Intro: F. Stöver



CERBERUS

CERBERUS is a New Jersey three-piece, who put out a quite impressing 3-trk. demo this year. The professional packed tape is entitled INFERNAL CREATIONS and is very similar to the stuff that INCANTATION is doing. Raw, brutal, american death metal. The copy that I got from Mary Ciullo (thanx!) is unfortunately only on one channel of my stereo, but I guess, that's just a recording mistake. Get your own copy from: Andy Markert, 515 Filmore St, Riverside, NJ 08075, USA

FRANK STÖVER

FINAL SOLUTION

"Free Barabas" is the debut(??)3-tracker from the Brooklyn 4-piece FINAL SOLUTION and they are fronted by Kathy Morgan, who's responsible for the guitar and vocals. Pretty rough sounding stuff, comparable to no-one I can think of right now. In a way, her voice reminds me a bit of Gen from GENI-TORTURERS, but musically this is more brutal ! Get it from: FINAL SOLUTION, 1034-67th St, Brooklyn, NY 11219, USA

FRANK STÖVER

DEATH SQUAD

7" SPLIT



Dirty rhymes and psychotronic beats
(Nuclear Blast Records)

As I supposed Frank would hate it, (I DO !-Ed.) I preferred to do the review by myself coz it wouldn't be justified to put them down, just because it's too freaky and apart from that... I ABSOLUTELY DIG THIS ! It's even my opinion that it's by far their best release until now ! (BEEN CAUGHT BUTTERING RUUUUULES !-Ed.) Their new mini-album contains two coversongs, from french rockers WARNING and the notorious MENTORS, two new versions of their older trk. "Blood, pus and gastric juice" which are really interesting and two new songs... PUNGENT STENCH incorporate more groove into the songs making them sound like a mixture between rock'n'roll and death metal. Killer! Specially "Horny little piggy bank" knows to open my heart, fabulous song ! Everything else is also present ! They also got a step further on extreme covers (but perfect art-idea) and direct and hell of funny lyrics. A must for open-minded metallers or even HC-people. WORLD'S GROOVIER BRUTALIZING BAND ! I guess Frank wouldn't mind to include an intie in VOICES # 4, so watch out for them. GOD !

LEIF JENSEN

PSYCHO BITCH

Puking blood

(Ever Rat Records)

Again Ever Rat Recs, but this is really a misrated release ! Really disgusting ! PSYCHO BITCH should be the band with the worst cliché moniker ever and the whole record has a sexist edge, refering on cover, lyrics, etc. That's for sure, the lyrics are one of the worst and superfluous I've read in the last months but let's come to the music. Chaotic and dirty thrash and HC even some punk (yes!!!) included with a bad harmonizer distorted voice plus the fact that the sound is also of negative quality, I guess I must advice you to avoid this bad release. But if you've bought it nevertheless please listen 3 or 4 times stopping to it and you'll get to feel what a hard-time reviewer like me used to have ! Sorry...

LEIF JENSEN

DEATH SQUAD

Split you at the seams
(Ever Rat Records)

So what's my opinion about this one I've got to review here ? I never ever heard about the label, same goes for the band and the release of this album already should have taken place two years ago. I don't give a damn, so I'll put my effort on the music (finally !-Ed.) which is quite interesting (bay area) thrash (uugh...-Ed.) although they are not from that famous place, in a nearly perfect sounding quality, really though ! The album lives from the outstanding guitar and bass work because the vocals are not really hot. They remind me of good old FUNERAL NATION from time to time. Musically, this is interesting for older thrashers (Do NOT even DARE to include a message here, Leif !!-Ed.) but I doubt that it will be acclaimed by any death metallers of these days. Too bad. Unknown price !

EVER RAT RECORDS
P.O. Box 99284
Seattle, WA 98199
U.S.A.

LEIF JENSEN

P.S.: EVER RAT RECORDS are distributed by MDD here in Germany, if I remember correctly... So the releases will be available for 15,-DM at the following address:
MDD, Am Meelfeld 2, 38547 Calberlah, Germany - BUT ASK BEFORE ORDERING ! -Ed.



Diabolical summoning
(Nuclear Blast Records)

"Straight-forward" death metal is still alive! Did you really expect something different from dutch SINISTER ? Their second release was announced as even more brutal, but in my opinion, it came out on the same brutality-level as their great "Cross the styx" debut and that's ok. The only difference is that they seem times more compact and faster now. A big aspect I have to mind is the running time of about 33min, which if you look at it means that you pay 1 german mark for each minute of music... sick ! The album was produced by Colin Richardson and has a great sound, what else ? Although there's nothing extraordinary about this platter, it should be buyable for people into straight and heavy death metal! Read the interview and eat flowers !

LEIF JENSEN



Pictures of heaven
(B.T.R. Productions)

I'll bet, that these guys are known by mostly all of you by now, cause I've rarely seen a mag without a feature on 'em so far ! Unfortunately they've worked with Wild Rags in the past, so they were in a quite difficult situation with their demo-stuff. But, they managed to put out an album on a different label (congratulations!) which is really good to listen to. I'm not so sure how they label themselves, but I'd put them in the death/thrash genre, which must be the case while listening to the eight track-release. It has got a really rough production, some flesh-cutting guitar-riffing and raw vocal-delivery from Jeff Riddle. Some of the tracks are a little bit boring after a while, but most of the material is impressive ! Normally not my type of music, I'd take with me to an island in the sun, but still very much enjoyable. You can order a copy of the cassette or CD (15DM/25DM) in Germany from:

CONCRETE RECORDS
c/o Andreas Reissnauer
P.O. Box 1421
77845 Achern

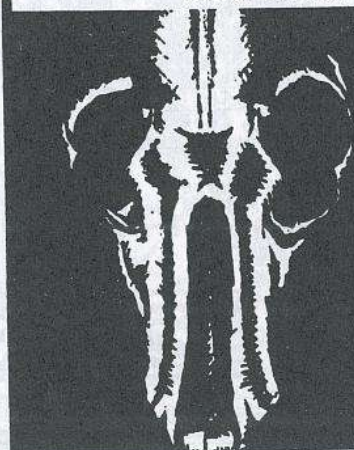
If you live in the US, try it at the bands company directly:

B.T.R. Productions
3953 Jefferson Davis Hwy.
Stafford, VA 22554

USA

(don't know the price, but it'll be the regular prices I guess...)

FRANK STÖVER



SUFFER

Adv. Tape for MLP
(Napalm Records)

SUFFER from Sweden is another example of an underground act, that has been around for quite a while. After two demos (if I remember correctly), they finally got the chance to do a mini-album

on the new austrian label NAPALM RECORDS. And it's a heavy dose of brutal thrash with some death metal influences as well. The production is pretty rough and fits perfectly to the aggressive music. Some similarities to older KREATOR stuff can be heard, but they don't copy them all the way through! For all of you, who sadly miss the good ol' days of thrash metal, this

is the perfect release! It should be out by the time you read this, so get yourself a copy... Or order it from the label directly:
NAPALM RECORDS
Fichtenstr.34
3790 Eisenerz
Austria

FRANK STÖVER

GLADIATOR

Dreadful dreams

(WHIPLASH REC.)

If this lp is digitally mixed, I'm gonna start tomorrow free-climbing on the screen of my PC...my god, then I really prefer a dirty sound or something like this. Even a rehearsal-demo would beat the quality of the sound of this lp(?). Being reviewer of products coming from the deepest underground does really hurt (ouch!). Thrash Metal with a little HC-remains is what we've got here. Not that bad, although the musician-ship is not extraordinary. There's also a cover-version of the most well-known rock songs in history of music, "Sunshine of your love", but nothing can help. The sound is so terrible that you'll find no way to enjoy this platter.

LEIF JENSEN

SENTENCED

North from here

(Century Media Rec.)

Wow, never expected something like this from SENTENCED !!! Their debut-release SHADOWS OF THE PAST (on Thrash Rec.) was great, but compared to this new release, it was just average death metal! SENTENCED turned into something really special and the music is along the lines of late DEATH-albums or sometimes early ATHEIST kinda stuff! Sounds great, huh? IT IS !!! Besides the higher quality of the songs themselves, there's another change to be recognized: Bassplayer Taneli took over the leadvocals and so SENTENCED turned into a more aggressive type of band, instead of a deep-growling simple death metal outfit. If you call yourself a critical music lover, you should get at least this album, cause it's one of the biggest surprises this year!

FRANK STÖVER

PESTILENCE

Spheres

(Roadrunner Rec.)

This is a really difficult one... Ok, everyone knows that PESTILENCE never repeated themselves with an album-release, but I guess this time, they've gone a little too far. If your favourite album was CONSUMING IMPULSE, you'd better read another review now, cause these dutchmen have turned into a heavy technical machine with SPHERES! It is very hard to get into this new stuff, cause they've lost almost every little piece of catchyness and the material has some jazzy influences as well... Brilliant musician-ship, no doubt about that, but this is more for other musicians or people who wake-up at 5:00 in the morning and put the latest ATHEIST album on, to get into a good mood... I personally prefer their older albums, cause they've been HEAVY !!!

FRANK STÖVER



Nookleptia

(Morbid Records)

Yeah, I remember these guys pretty well. They did a demo, entitled SWALLOW THE SYMMETRIC SWAP a while ago and now they are back with the first "official" release! This finnish foursome could easily be described as a band, that definitely already has heard of CARCASS, but it would not be fair, to categorize them next to britains "genital grinders", cause LUBRICANT have much more to offer! They took the lyrical side of CARCASS and maybe the vocal-style here and there as well, but musically, they are DIFFERENT! Sounds pretty much like old-heavy metal stuff to me, kinda like old-fashioned riffing in the SABBATH-sound, played in a very simple style. Combined with the vocals and some blast-beats, this became an highly recommendable release! Their songtitles are probably THE ULTIMATE NIGHTMARE for all radio-DJ's outside english-speaking countries, hohoho!! Available (hopefully) everywhere or at least at this address:

MORBID RECORDS
Postfach 3
03114 Drebkau
Germany

FRANK STÖVER

DEAD WORLD

Collusion

(RELAPSE REC.)

It's actually a long time since this record was released, why do we receive it now ?? But as you know, better late than never! That's true, because I would have missed DEAD WORLD alot! So did you notice that I tried to hide the message, that I like "Collusion", in the last sentence ??? (yeeees Leif, we diiiiid notice, that you like 'em-Ed.) Yes, I do... (what a surprise, you mentioned it just one sentence ago-Ed.) It's a difficult disc, but after I finally could get deeper into the meaning of their work, I found the signification of the whole stuff. NBR promoted DEAD WORLD as a mixture between BLACK SABBATH and GODFLESH, which is not that wrong, although here are much more samples featured and their guitarwork reminds me of PITCHSHIFTER attending to the created emotions, great! Please be warned that this record is cold and difficult to get into. It's long and will probably produce a war of nerves for most of the listeners the first time they get to experience it! Interesting combination of machanic sadness and burning monotony - quite a good one!

LEIF JENSEN

DECOLLATION

Cursed lands (Mini-CD)

(Listenable Rec.)

Good old Laurent did it again! This dude seems to have the ultimate taste of brutal music, cause all of his releases have been fantastic so far! Some goes for his newest output, a ltd. edition CD of Swedens DECOLLATION, that features 4 songs (playing time: 26min approx.) of the weirdest music ever to be released out of that country! Don't get fooled by something like "produced at Sunlight by Tomas Skogsberg", cause THIS IS TOTALLY DIFFERENT! Atmospheric and incredible strange death metal, composed by a band with a high musical potential and a vocalist, that sounds dark, but WITHOUT using ANY DEATH GRUNTS! Can you stand that? It's strange in the first place, but listen to it more times and you'll easily get used to it! DECOLLATION might just have created a brandnew style, that will be copied quite often in the near future, so get the original NOW! Ask Laurent, if he still has some copies left at:
LISTENABLE RECORDS
18 Quai Duguay Trouin
62480 Le Portel
France

FRANK STÖVER

PENTAGRAM
Relentless

(Peaceville Records)

Yeah! Here it finally is, yeah! Hail Peaceville recs is what I'd like to express as a symbol of gratitude for the re-release of the cult-songs of the legendary american PENTAGRAM (not to be mistaken for the also great PENTAGRAM from Chile, what about them?) Hell, it must be about 8 years that this godly stuff was released and as someone with a perfect musical taste from that english label loves them, we are finally lucky to have them back for our ears and souls. They still have a few but strong followers in the underground, as f.e. the coverversion featured on the '90 CATHEDRAL demo underlines. What can I tell you. I'm just too excited... name PENTAGRAM on one sentence along with BLACK SABBATH (c'mon Leif, wake up... that sounds like blasphemy to me... -Ed.) as they are the nearest comparisson I can give you. Crunchiest doom, the melodic way, this one rocks! And the vocalist is so unbelievable SUPREME! I'm waiting for more! (you have already been heard Leify - there's more stuff around from your heroes! -Ed.)

LEIF JENSEN

DEATH

Individual thought patterns

(Roadrunner Rec.)

So many rumors around before this release, but nevertheless... the "founder" of death metal Chuck Schuldiner is back and stronger than ever, putting an ear on the musical side of the fifth output of the legendary Florida-based band. But you shouldn't compare their new material to older stuff, even with "Human" this seems to be from a different band. Could be perhaps due to the new musicians (is Chuck gonna change them each time as if they were his underwear? is the question you get to hear quite often...) EX-DARK ANGEL, KING DIAMOND and SADUS-Steve made a masterpiece of platter, specially the basswork is incredible. God! Listen, poor world: This guy deserves a GRAMMY! Ok, back to DEATH. They left their roots and walk more and more on the technical side of things and very melodic! And that's the point, it just isn't catchy enough, brutality misses, somehow not a problem for me personally. So go for it, although I prefer ragers CYNIC! Yo! Oh yes, please notice the mixture of heavy metal and death metal riffs caused by new guitarist Andy who is really marvelous! Just listen to his solos! God!

LEIF JENSEN

VIOLENT DIRGE

Elapse

(Carnage Rec.)

Wroooooommmmm! What a band!!!!!! This is for sure one of the best and most brutal bands out of Poland and luckily they finally made it on an album! ELAPSE is a rager from start to finish, bringing back a lot of good memories from the glorious days of death metal! You could hear influences from early POSSESSED, NECROVORE, IMMOLATION and those kinda gods! VIOLENT DIRGE are able to blow away the already fantastic VADER-debut with this killer-album!!! They have the ability to bring us back glorious music of ancient times, so support these new gods! Buy this album and ask for their demo as well - it might still be available through Carnage Rec. Address see CRYPTIC TALES review. Takkatakkatakka-wroooooom-uuaaarr! Still can't believe it!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

FRANK STÖVER

AFTERLIFE
Surreality

(Grindcore Rec.)

This is the perfect example of what I was talking about in the MORGUE review... Who fuckin' needs a band like AFTERLIFE?? Grindcore Records did it again - they signed them right away and the result is an album, that sounds very much like an average CANNIBAL CORPSE - clone! If your faves are CC and you can't wait 'till their next release - check out AFTERLIFE.... I don't get it!

FRANK STÖVER

REVIEWS

REVIEWS

BRUTALITY

Screams of anguish

(Nuclear Blast Records)

I'm conscious about the fact that I also belong to those, who prefer the alternative ways in the actual death metal generation, but BRUTALITY really proved my theory wrong that just death metal isn't enough at all in these hard times. Wow, this must be the most intense and aesthetic dm-album within the last couple of months (along with the 2nd SENTENCED output!) and that, although it has a Morrisound - production. But if you knew BRUTALITY before, this is gonna be familiar to you. Sure you can't deny the influential MORBID ANGEL-structures, but BRUTALITY are more on the technical and even progressive side of things, mixed up with really fast and brutal stuff plus two brilliant kind of vocals, which complete each other perfectly. Considering that this is the debut lp from these underground heroes, I can just add, that they are one of the strongest newcomers around. Death metallers are gonna be able to fall from grace again after a long time of waiting!!!

LEIF JENSEN

Der Tod

2 Song EP '91/'92

I guess this single arrived at the VOICES-office just because Franky looks very much like one of the guys who constantly visit all regional discothecs and if the rumors are true, he has one of the most beloved and popular beat-shaking bodies around! What a man!!! Hehe... (where the fuck did you got thaaaat from, Leify? From your good ol' mate John Travolta? By the way, he asked me, if you'll be around again next weekend! So let him know, ok? -Ed.) Anyway, their moniker is an abstraction from EIN-STÜRZENDE NEUBAUTEN's work and DER TOD from Italy are also abstract and weird. They describe their music as a mix between techno dark and hardcore metal. Well, I think everything is present, even rock and melodic/depressive sides with a great sounding quality. I just don't know if any metal maniac is able to get into this (I personally admit to like it!!) ARPHIA from the same country are wonderful and also abstract, I guess Metalion would love this too. He would at least go out for the girl's vocals... yargh... DIFFERENT!

DER TOD
c/o Balbo Fausto
C.P. Aperta 12075
Garessio (C.N.)
Italy

LEIF JENSEN



Eroded thoughts
(Grindcore Rec.)

To be honest...I didn't expect something special from this album, cause to me it seems, that this label signs almost every american death metal act that got no deal else - where. Anyway, I WAS WRONG! At least with the album from MORGUE, which is a fantastic one ! I guess the only bad thing about it might be the playing time of only 30min... But these minutes DO KICK ASS! MORGUE have all the elements, that made a band like MORBID ANGEL that popular: they are brutal, they are great musicians, there's a lot of variety in the songwriting - sometimes grinding, sometimes a little bit technical and their vocalist is nearly perfect for this musical genre !! What else do you want ? A great production ? YOU GOT IT !!! So, if you are bored of bands, that play 100mph every song, or if you can't stand doom or industrial and if you have been disappointed by all the trendies, that came out of the wellknown Tampa studio, you have to check out ERODED THOUGHTS ! KILLER !!!

FRANK STÖVER

ICONOCLAST
The unmutated revelation(7")
(Drowned Productions)

Something new from Italy's ICONOCLAST we've got here. This is a two-track 7", which was released by Drowned Productions from Spain and it is a quite good one ! Side 1 features APOCRYPHAL SLEEP GETHSEMANE, a brutal mostly straight forward death metal track with vocals, that remind me a bit on John Tardy from Obituary. Good musicianship, tempochanges and raw heavyness is everything I can tell you about it - not the most original song in the world, but still good to listen to. Side 2 is much more interesting, but unfortunately also not as long as the track on side 1. IMPURITY NINE is a pretty weird sounding piece of music with whispering vocals and strange guitar-pieces! Sounds interesting and would perfectly fit to a horror - movie ! If the band would go in that direction more and more, we'd have something really fresh and original in our scene again ! Good stuff...

FRANK STÖVER

DISMEMBER
Indecent and obscene
(Nuclear Blast)

This is sheer aggression ! DISMEMBER have always been THE perfect example of godly swedish Death Metal, but their latest album proves even more than that! After being disappointed, while listening to this 9-tracker for the first time, I managed to get used to it and by now, I LOVE THIS ALBUM ! Instead of becoming trendy or more commercial or whatever, DISMEMBER decided to become even more extreme on this 2nd full-length ! Hatti's vocals have changed to a more aggressive growling and the songs are mostly pretty fast and totally rough !! The guitar-riffing could easily be used to cut someones throat and the leads on the other hand are more melodic this time, which makes them even more enjoyable ! All of the songs are brandnew and among them is my personal highlight, entitled after their final demo: REBORN IN BLASPHEMY ! Get this masterpiece TODAY and don't waste your money on all the useless ENTOMBED clones out there !

FRANK STÖVER

INVOCATOR
Weave the apocalypse
(Black Mark)

A couple of years ago, this album would have got brilliant reviews. But times have changed and thrash metal isn't that popular anymore, so danish four-piece INVOCATOR will have to go through some really tough times. Ten brandnew tracks have been recorded, including all three of the bands latest promo-tape . Musically they still sound very much DARK ANGEL influenced, although INVOCATOR are not that fast anymore. Luckily they managed to write some really great, heavy tunes with incredible guitarwork and killer drumming . Biggest similarity to DARK ANGEL is definitely Jacob's voice. The sound/production fits perfect and if you still enjoy technical thrash metal, get a copy of WEAVE THE APOCALYPSE ! You won't be disappointed !

FRANK STÖVER

BEYOND BELIEF
Towards the diabolical experiment.
(Shark Records)

It has become nearly impossible to know every band out there, so maybe you'll forgive me, that I wasn't familiar with the dutch doom/death-act BEYOND BELIEF . I never was a doom-fan, but there have been a couple of bands , that impressed me anyway with this kind of music. BEYOND BELIEF is one of those positive surprises ! Anyone who knows , that these DEADHEAD in their lineup will probably be even more surprised, cause BEYOND BELIEF sounds much more serious than DEADHEAD ever has ! Slowmotion heavy riffing and guttural vocals with lotsa feelings have been combined to an interesting mixture of doom/death. They don't copy PARADISE LOST like a big bunch of other bands these days, which is so good to find out ! They also haven't used any of the "trendy" instruments to sound more original (I'm talking of violins and stuff)-BEYOND BELIEF managed to create a dark atmosphere just with very simple instrumentation and that makes them so enjoyable !

FRANK STÖVER



Nemesis
(self-financed)

I'm really getting pissed-off, seeing a band like OBLIVEON from Canada, putting out their second album on their own. This brilliant act lost the deal with ACTIVE("In - Active ???)RECORDS after the release of their great debut-effort FROM THIS DAY FORWARD, but luckily didn't give up ! Maybe some of you got hold of their '91 four-track demo through tape - trading, so you'll already know 50% of the material on this new album of them. All the songs have been re-recorded for NEMESIS and so musically nothing's really changed. OBLIVEON managed to stick to their guns, which is the best thing they could do. Technical, verrrrrrry original OBLIVEON metal with brutal vocals, awesome songwriting, a killer production and a brilliant highly professional booklet makes this album more than just enjoyable ! Get a copy of the CD or cassette (14\$ or 10\$) from their contact address directly. Support bands like them, they need you !

OBLIVEON
c/o Stéphane Bélanger
P.O. Box 100, Succ. C
Montréal, Québec
Canada, H2L-4J7

FRANK STÖVER



Member of immortal damnation
(Drowned Productions)

PURTENANCE is another band from Finland, who put out their debut-album recently on the spanish Drowned label. Although I was already familiar with the name of this five-piece, I've never heard their previous demo or 7"... Anyway, this first full-length album features 8 songs, an short instrumental and an intro and outro. Musically they deliver us straight-ahead brutal as fuck kinda Death Metal with some heavy BOLT THROWER-influences here'n'there ! The drummer seems to be very much impressed by the rhythm-section of BOLT THROWER's "Cenotaph", cause in most of the songs he plays that type of style as well. Production-wise this album turned out really good, which again proves , that you don't need to go to Stockholm or Tampa. Cover-artwork comes from C. Høyen who already did quite a few 7"es (DERKETA, INCANTATION, MORTICIAN blablaba). Decide for yourself, this is an incredible brutal but not outstanding album...

FRANK STÖVER

NECROSANCT

Desolate

(Black Mark)

I really can't explain, why I dislike NECROSANCT's albums. They put out extreme stuff, which easily could be compared to the most brutal american acts and their sound is also perfect. Just take their new album DESOLATE, which has an almost live sounding production, which is great ! I'll bet, if someone would have played me a single song of their album, I would definitely have liked it ! But after some songs it already gets boring, cause NECROSANCT are not able to write something you could remember. There is no riff or vocal-line that gets your attention and makes the listening more enjoyable. If they will do so in the future, it might be a real pleasure to review their albums again. So far... nothing really new, except for brutality !

FRANK STÖVER

ALTAR / CARTILAGE
Split-Album

(Drowned Productions)

I must have been sleeping for quite a while, cause these two bands are also new for me... The only thing I was able to find out about CARTILAGE is that they released a demo in 1991, which was called "In godly flesh" and that they are also from Finland again (hopefully this scene will deliver us more great bands in the future, cause everyone seems to have it's own style overthere, which is great !!!). But let's start with ALTAR. Their part of this split-album was recorded in Gorysound Studio, so nobody outthere will be surprised, that Dan Swanö of EDGE OF SANITY helped them out with Keyboards and back-up vocals. Looking at their names and because of the fact that they recorded in Sweden, I guess, ALTAR is a swedish 3-piece (don't quote me on that) Their style could easily be described as technical Death Metal with some cool piano-parts. Sound is a bit weak on this recording, which is too sad, cause Fredrik seems to be a very talented drummer. Best tracks for me are the two extra songs on this CD, "Severed on the attic" and "No flesh.." so you'll better get this one on CD, hah ! CARTILAGE didn't impress me too much, cause they don't have songs that either made me freak out or are full of variety. Just ordinary Death Metal with some brutal vocals and great drumming. Nothing less and nothing more... But at least their sound is much better, so feel free to check'em out.

FRANK STÖVER

C E M E T A R Y

Godless beauty

(Black Mark)

This is definitely one of the biggest surprises for me personally... I NEVER liked the previous stuff of Swedens CEMETARY and always thought of them as an unnecessary, typical boring newcomer out of the ENTOMBED area. BUT... surprise surprise, they developed into something really interesting ! GODLESS BEAUTY is an album with lots of emotions and atmosphere. Vocal-wise CEMETARY changed almost the same as PARADISE LOST did on their latest album and musically this is something special in between TIAMAT and PARADISE LOST (as well). Really dark music with great melodies (!!)... unbelievable ! If their third album will be in the same kinda mood, they'll have good chances to make it really big ! CHECK 'EM OUT !!!!!

FRANK STÖVER

T H E R I O N

Symphony masses-Ho drakon ho megas

(Megarock Records)

THERION has always been a band that tried not to stagnate within their musical category. And their 2nd full length album BEYOND SANCTORUM already showed a big step forward, but the new album SYMPHONY MASSES is surely ONE OF THE BEST RELEASES OF 1993 !! Never heard such a great, untypical production for ages and the music is so fresh and un-typical swedish, you won't believe it ! Most of the ten tracks are very symphonic and there's only one, which reminds me on the bands previous stuff (POWERDANCE). A BLACK ROSE for example shows some heavy industrial influences and comes across in the mood of MEATHOOK SEED ! THE RITUAL-DANCE OF THE YEZIDIS offers us some arabian guitarparts and PROCREATION OF ETERNITY could easily be described as strong influenced by old MAIDEN-stuff (KILLERS-period) ! The vocals are still very dark and brutal, but not the typical deathgrunts anymore. The whole album has a very moody atmosphere and shows brilliant musicianship especially of new mate Piotr on drums ! Incredible ! BUY !

FRANK STÖVER

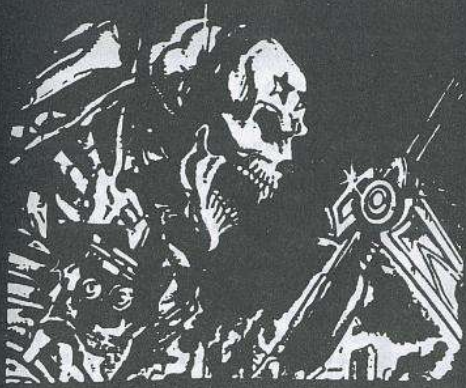
MEATHOOK
S E E D

Embedded

(Earache)

Bored of your heroes ? Bored of the latest albums by NAPALM DEATH and OBITUARY ? Then you have to check out something completely different ! MEATHOOK SEED is kind of a new project by Mitch Harris and Shane Enbury of N.D. and Trevor Perez and Donald Tardy of OBITUARY ! This debut-effort is twice as heavy as their original bands together ! AND they've created totally fresh sounding material, which could be described as some kind of industrial death/grind or something like that... But instead of looking for a description for this new monster of an album, you better take a LISTEN !!!!! Never thought that "evil" Trevor would have such a voice... Lotsa programming and sampling on the album, but it makes it sound fuckin' brutal ! If there ever will be a tour coming up... put them together with FEAR FACTORY ! That would be the ULTIMATE !!!

FRANK STÖVER



ABSORBED

Abstract absurdity
(Adv. for 7"EP)

Spanish ABSORBED are back again and even better than at the (also good) times of their "Unreal overflows" demo, reviewed in VOICES, the 2nd. These 3 trks + intro are planned to be out through Seraphic Decay, so let's see if everything comes out as imagined with the dubious US-label. But let's concentrate on ABSORBED ! They left back their thrash metal edge and now on a nearly total death metal path that should be interesting for most of the metallers coz it's perfectly played and has an extraordinary (swedish) sound, impressive. Yes, I like it a lot, I'm just waiting for the EP. Check it out, they might be releasing another EP soon... let's see, if they go a step further and vary the vocals a bit more, then ABSORBED will be a name everybody must (!) have heard about. Go ahead and write to Javier (who by the way seems to like us, cause he sent us two letters and two packages with same content... good idea!) Oye Javier, qué significa "Fco.", acaso Federico ? O no tengo razón ??? (?????????-Ed.)

ABSORBED

Fco. Javier Zarco
c/ Betanzos N° 38
Santiago de Compostela 15703
(La Coruna)
Spain

LEIF JENSEN

OVERTHRASH Reality in black(EP)

(WHIPLASH REC.)

Oh my god, I know this particular riff, where is it from ? Hm... ha ! Hell, I finally got it... does someone outthere still remember the great RECIPIENTS OF DEATH ? OVERTHRASH are not exactly like them, but there exist some very little similarities. Anything else to comment ? Yes, this EP has a very full and heavy sound, far better than the sound of the other WHIPLASH releases. This single seems to have no highlight, but it's on a constant good level... not really a long EP, talking about the duration. Anyway, the best out of this column (from the brazilian at least).

LEIF JENSEN

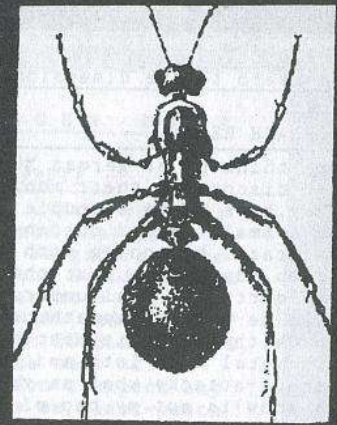
SPONTANEOUS COMBUSTION

Suffering cries 7"

(Drowned Productions)

What an amount of deathers exist in Spain nowadays ? To difficult for me, ask DROWNED, they should know to answer you, as they also released this EP by young SPONTANEOUS COMBUSTION. And I'm here to give my comment on it and because my review could signify some copies more or less sold, I'll gather my whole concentration on the 3 songs. What do you expect from me ? I can just tell you, that it is death-thrash with various grindy passages played in a surprisingly good and clever way, plus a monotonous growler, but unfortunately nothing really hot ! A clear sound, very strange double bass sound... did I say clear ? Too clear I think... The B-side has the best song on it: "Virus" If you are into EP's you won't miss the money you are gonna pay for this. So travel to Spain and buy it or order it through DROWNED PRODUCTIONS, Gran Via 69, 28013 Madrid, Spain. (4\$)

LEIF JENSEN



CATACOMB

In the maze of Kadath(7")

(Drowned Prod.)

This is a message for CREMATORY from Germany: Before you jump on a bandwagon and play keyboard-orientated death metal, listen to bands who really FEEL this kind of music ! Get yourself a copy of CATACOMB's 7" and obey the real masters of moody-horror-atmospheric death metal ! This is how keyboards should be used in our music ! Musically CATACOMB have also much more to offer, sometimes they even remind me of older NOCTURNUS (before they became too spacy), which isn't easy as most of you probably know !! I totally dig this 7" and I hope a lot of you outthere will also ! Make an album with these guys (and girly) Dave !!!!! They deserve it !

FRANK STÖVER

NECROPHOBIC The nocturnal silence

(Black Mark Prod.)

F.I.N.A.L.L.Y. someone was so nice to pick'em up ! NECROPHOBIC (the swedish version) have been around for such a long time now and always put out great stuff in the past ! Their first full-length album features 50% of that (2 songs from their '91 demo and both tracks of the EP), so you can imagine, that this is godly stuff ! In some ways, the album reminds me a bit of COMECON's debut-release, don't know way... maybe they have some similar great riffs or something. Check it out ! In times were mostly everyone tries to find new ways of death metal it's really cool to hear some traditional stuff again ! Brutal swedish-style... you know what I'm talking about, don't you ? Don't get confused while looking for this release - they have a new excellent logo, but still the pentagram-type of symbol, which already was featured on the 7" and UNHOLY PROPHECIES demo. Get it !

FRANK STÖVER

CREMATORY Transmigration

(Massacre Records)

Massacre are next to Peaceville my actual fave label for putting out ageless releases which differ from trends and that must be supported by every true metal follower, so good luck for the future ! But hey, these are german CREMATORY again. After a not exciting demo review in VOICES # 2 now their debut-album and they are still not the real thing in my eyes. I have to admit that they progressed a lot and kind of changed their style; they are actually sounding like a crossover between THE GATHERING (for the leading keys) PARADISE LOST and normal death metal bands. (in other words - totally boring, trendy shit! - Ed.) Man, it's really melodic and brutal, depressive and aggressive at the same time. I like it, but I have to point out, that it's far from "unique" (as their label claims them to be!) to have such a gothic touch, anyway an impressive step forward !

LEIF JENSEN

Dark and evil just like it was
meant to be...

MARBUK

Debut album out now

"Dark Endless"

LP \$15 CD \$18

Cash only. No coins.

No Fashion Records
P.O. Box 217
645 23 STRANNAS
SWEDEN

Distributors write for
wholesale prices.

MORDETH

More death to the dimension of death
(EP '92)

(WHIPLASH REC.)

I was thinking of german MORGOTH when I first discovered their moniker. Well, anyway, here comes a couple of reviews from a small record company WHIPLASH from Brazil, beginning with MORDETH. I have to advice you, that the sound is quite dirty but real undergrounders should be used to something in this vein. Ok, the music is mostly speedy death metal with lots and lots of grindy snare-attacks, what (as you should perhaps know) is not my cup of tea. Specially if they are not interesting and even not that well done. Plus the fact, that the vocals are also mediocre. I guess this is one release of thousands... Nothing special, perhaps for freaks ??

LEIF JENSEN

NEPHASTUS

Tortuous ways

(WHIPLASH REC.)

"Tortuous ways" is the first of the WHIPLASH releases with an acceptable sound, meanwhile the cover is rediculous, honestly... Blood-freezing artwork! But let the music do the talking and what we've got here is old-school thrash metal making me remember older SEPULTURA days, specially because of the vocals, differing from just named countrymates in the fact that this lp contains more variety. On one hand the dominant thrash riffs but on the other hand also some melodic passages. Nothing new considering that the music had it's highlight in the middle of the 80's but if some of you still gets mad for such stuff (and knows about south-american products) NEPHASTUS should be one of the better bands to look forward to...

LEIF JENSEN

WHIPLASH ATTACK VOL. 1

Compilation LP

(WHIPLASH REC.)

I guess this was the first release of this little label, a compilation lp, featuring 4 regional bands (from Brazil) and as each band has an own sound etc. I'll better start describing one by one. First are CROSKILL donating melodic power-thrash metal to the metal world with high vocals and a curious bass-sound. The voice has been mixed in the background, do you know why? Next are HAMMERON with a somehow typical old KREATOR-thrash sound, quite rough but not really new nor fresh enough. Raw speed, if some of you should care... AUSCHWITZ are the following. Apart from their stupid moniker, they offer thrash, what else? Old thrash, also quite impressed by old-SEPULTURA-material, not bad. Closing, DEADLY FATE which are more in the IRON MAIDEN (old) vein, of course not perfect but at least from the sound aspect the best on this sampler. Write to:

WHIPLASH RECORDS
Av-Sen. Salgado Filho
1621-Natal-RN
CEP 59050
Brasil

LEIF JENSEN



O AGIOS PETHANE

(LMF RECORDS)

Third album of these german grindmongers and in fact that I still haven't heard their Wild Rags debut, I have to tell you, that they've become much stronger, compared to their CHRISTBAIT album! This is honest, non-trendy grindcore, with ultra brutal vocals and a killer production (really rough, but not shitty or trendy at all!!) You've got 20 songs and the playing time of this release is approx. 32min, which means, there are a couple of very short tracks (about half a minute) and some "longer" tunes (2 and a half minutes) on it - a simply MUST for grindlunatics!

FRANK STÖVER

ENTOMBED

Wolverine blues

(Sarache Records)

Hahahaha, that is indeed the most funny idea, I've ever seen in death metal history! You are asking yourself, what I am talking about? Well, ENTOMBED seem to jump on the "satanic" bandwaggon, cause they've managed to manipulate everyone's CD-player with this new album. You'll get a total amount of songs of 66 and a playing time of 60:00 minutes... If you add that after each other, you've got the legendary 6 6 6... Hahahaha! But unfortunately it's just a joke, cause there are only 10 songs on it and you'll already know two of them from their HOLLOWMAN mini-album (WOLVERINE BLUES and HOLLOW MAN). Nothing has changed really, they still enjoy playing their new created type of sound, which means, it sounds much more hardcore-like, but with the typical ENTOMBED-elements! If you liked HOLLOW MAN, get yourself a copy of WOLVERINE BLUES - it's in the same mood! Stupid new logo, by the way...

FRANK STÖVER



Pathological performances

(Poserslaughter Rec.)

Yeah I know, that this one was already reviewed in VOICES # 2, but it is just to remember you about it. Back then, I reviewed the advance tape and now it's out in the stores!! As I already told you, this is killer stuff, in the vein of BOLT THROWER/CARCASS, so you'd better grasp it! While babbling about this release, I can also tell you the brandnew address of their label:

POSERSLAUGHTER RECORDS
P.O. Box 41
10205 Berlin
Germany

Write, write, write!

FRANK STÖVER

GENERAL SURGERY

Necrology

(Relapse Records)

Originally released on a 7" in '91, this masterpiece of CARCASS-influenced kinda music is now available on CD for the very first time! For all who didn't know, this was a project consisting of members from DISMEMBER, CREMATORY (the swedish), EXIT-13 and AFFLICTED! If you missed the EP, get it now!!! Nice harmonized vocals, ha!

FRANK STÖVER

WHIPLASH



WARPATH

Massive

(Steamhammer Rec.)

Whoooooops...big surprise ! I remember WARPATH as a boring german power/thrash band who did a cover of the VENOM-tune "Black Metal" on the first album,with CRONOS himself on vocals - that's about it...Their 2nd album "Massive" is indeed a massive release !They changed their style to something which recently become very trendy, but what the heck ?If you deliver something good like them,we can live with it, can't we ?Yeah,WARPATH have turned into something you'd probably only find in the N.Y./Brooklyn area - really aggressive stuff with some similarities to old CARNIVORE(2nd album)...HATE you can hear and feel in their songs and they also managed to do an excellent job with their version of the CARNIVORE song "Race war" !!!!! Whatelse do you want ? Go and grasp you a copy in your local store,if you can stand this type of music as well.

FRANK STÖVER



Odiun

(Century Media)

I never thought of an album like this from MORGOTH cause I didn't like any of their previous releases ! But ODIUM is an incredible record,which proves,that this german five-piece can do a lot more than just steal ideas from DEATH and OBITUARY.MORGOTH have finally developed into something original with this 8-tracker.It is definitely less death metal than on their older releases,but it also combines much more aggression !The guitar-riffs are almost as brutal as on SLAYER's REIGN IN BLOOD and if I remember correctly, there are no real solos in the songs this time.Everything seems to be more industrial/hatecore influenced this time,but it fits perfect to the new material ! The only bad thing about ODIUM is WAR INSIDE,one of the final cuts,which is absolutely nervewrecking and monotonous...plus some of the faster parts sound too much alike,but besides that,this album kills !Production is great as well !Get your copy!

FRANK STÖVER



Deathcrush

(Deathlike Silence Productions)

There's not much to tell you about this classic...Finally six years after it's original release,MAYHEM's DEATHCRUSH is re-released on CD !And it's still great !Just listen to the VENOM-cover WITCHING HOUR and you'll know,what this music originally should have sounded like !Black Metal for all those,who can't stand the new breed of boring death metal ! A must for all non-trendies !

FRANK STÖVER

SADIST

Above the light

(Nosferatu Records)

Another masterpiece in this issue is the long awaited debut-album from italy's premier death metal band SADIST !I'll bet,that some of you already get mad,that I called them "death metal", cause they are A LOT MORE than just typical death !!! All of the eight tracks are very long with lotsa instrumental parts,guitar-pickings, melodic or classical pieces. This is an album you should LISTEN to,before you start banging your head...I'm still speechless about the playing ability of guitarist Tommy ! This guy is unbelievable !! But besides the high 'quality of the songs,there's still a lot of aggression in it , so don't expect an album from musicians for musicians !SADIST is the perfect example of high quality music YOU HAVE TO HEAR !!!!!

FRANK STÖVER

Hellhammer Satanic Rites

Ten years ago,this demo got me into the underground scene! Together with DESTRUCTION's BESTIAL INVASION OF HELL,this was one of my most played demos of all time !And I still enjoy it very much !Simple,dark and brutal black/death from one of the best bands of this musical form in existance ! For all the young dudes out - there and for all grandpas(like me)this is available on CD now. Unfortunately not with the original cover artwork,but what the fuck - it's the music that matters !Get it !

FRANK STÖVER

BUBBLEGUM RIDE La La La !

(Dino Music/SPV)

Hohohohoho...!Have you ever asked yourself what kind of music Tomas Skogsberg, the man behind the SUNLIGHT-deak is doing,when he's not producing ENTOMBED(and clones)? The answer is:BUBBLEGUM RIDE, or better the name of his band...BUT,don't expect any death growls or blast-beats or low-tuned guitars here... this is just simple "Beat-Music",comparable to the legendary boys from the Liverpool area,who had their biggest success in the 60ies (does anybody remember the name of that band ?Can't think of it right now...)Anyway , this is music for the open - openminded people outthere , or for anyone who's interested in Tomas'voice and guitar - playing...Funny ha !Lalalala...

FRANK STÖVER



Winter of sin

(No Fashion Records)

This is a tough one !What can I tell you about this norwegian four-piece ?Hm, this is their first album, after they built an underground following through their demo-stuff over the last years...But it is nothing special, isn't it? Nearly every band puts out demos before their debut album...So whatelse ? Their music is quite simple - somewhere between old death metal,black metal and ordinary metal.The cover pic on the album looks very occultish to me and the frontcover-painting is nothing like a bad joke. Almost as "brilliant" as BELIAL's "Wisdom of darkness"...I remember doing stuff like that,when I was in school...1st or 2nd class...but the most annoying thing about FESTER are for sure the vocals ! Haven't heard anything like that for a loooooong time,so maybe that even makes FESTER to something special for some of you... But I can't stand it ! It took me a few times to get through the whole album , and I'll bet,I won't try it again.Sorry,but that's definitely not my cup of tea at all...

Available from:
NO FASHION RECORDS
Finnigevägen 58a
64542 Strängnes
Sweden

FRANK STÖVER



MARDUK

Dark endless

(No Fashion Records)

Yep !This is a hell of an album !I don't give a fuck, if some of you might find out,that MARDUK are NOT true in their believes or stupid crap like that. I don't fuckin'care,as long as they deliver such in - credible music !Yes,they paint their faces and they also have an upside-down cross and the "666" in their logo,so they seem to be in - to the darker side of life (honest or false) - but they are NOT from Norway!They are hailing from Sweden,and if I remember correctly they had a demo out called FUCK ME JESUS(don't quote me)... This debut-album of theirs is the perfect combination of swedish brutality and norwegian blackness in other words:HELLISH !They deliver some great produced,well - played black metal tunes for all the lovers of this type of underground music.Get your - self a copy from NO FASHION RECORDS(lp \$15/CD \$18).You won't regret it !

Address see FESTER-review.
FRANK STÖVER

HYPOCRISY

Osculum obscenum

(Nuclear Blast Rec.)

2nd album from HYPOCRISY and 1st disappointment ! I really liked their debut-album and I was also into the follow-up promo tape they did,but this album simply suxx !Why ? Well,HYPOCRISY have become more grindy now, which isn't the problem, cause all four demo-tracks appear on this release, and I was aware of almost 50% of their new material. But they didn't produce it in a way they should have done it...The vocals (the main problem of the band in my opinion)are too much up-front and it sounds kinda like embarrassing that way !Plus they did a really stupid cover of VENOM's "Black Metal",which you'd better not listen to...WARPATH did a much better version of that song on their weak debut-album !It's a shame - I hope they'll make less mistakes next time...

FRANK STÖVER

CRYPTIC TALES

Anathema

(Carnage Rec.)

I'm not really sure about this release...It could be a mlp - but otherwise it is also possible that this is another example of the high-quality releases of Carnage Rec. when it comes to demos ! Anyway,the cover is first class,full-colour and printed on high glossy paper(like every Carnage release)and reminds me a lot of the legendary first ANGEL WITCH album-cover artwork !Great ! Musically this is even stronger than the cover ! CRYPTIC TALES is pure death metal,sounding like a more brutal version of classic CARNAGE meets IMMOLATION !!!Can you stand a mixture like that ? Incredible cool production here as well and some moody keyboards used in some very little parts...I would like to tell you the following:If you don't buy this demo,you never really liked death metal the way it was meant to be !!!Orders to: CARNAGE RECORDS
05-119 Legionowo 5
P.O.Box 50
Poland

FRANK STÖVER

Pentagram



Day of reckoning
(Peaceville Rec.)

Leif will already have praised the re-release of PENTAGRAM's debut - album somewhere else on this pages,so I can cut it short with this one. Peaceville have also re-issued the follow-up album of 1987,DAY OF RE - CONING and will put out a brand-new record of these doom heroes in the beginning of 1994,entitled SHOW'EM HOW,which will feature the original band line-up !If you enjoy doom metal(NOT doom death(!)metal)you should pick-up these releases, they are sounding very much SABBATH-like with the original "old - fashioned" sound and melodic,clear vocals... NUFF SAID !

FRANK STÖVER

CARCASS

Peel sessions

(Dutch East India Trading)

Nothing new from the gods of grind(ha,what a stupid intro...),but at least their legendary Peel sessions on CD now !For all of you, who are not familiar with it (can't believe it...),let me tell ya,that CARCASS recorded 4 songs for BBC's radio one on Dec.13,1988,which were transmitted on Jan.2,1989 and later on released on vinyl as well.Don't know,if this is an official CD-release or just a bootleg-version,but who cares ?The songs are wellknown to every CARCASS-maniac,cause they were re-recorded for their second album in July/August of '89. The titles are:CREPITATING BOWEL EROSION,SLASH DEMENTIA, CADAVERIC INCUBATOR OF ENDO PARASITES and (of course)REEK OF PUTREFACTION !Get it !

FRANK STÖVER

AT THE GATES

With fear I kiss the burning darkness
(Peaceville Rec.)

This is the long awaited 2nd album of Gothenburgs very own AT THE GATES and it's a sad one to be honest !Production wise this is pretty weak and the songs themselves can't compete with their previous stuff.It was already very sad to see GROTESQUE split - up a couple of years ago,but after getting AT THE GATES' debut mlp GARDENS OF GRIEF most of the sadness had gone. And there was even more hope with the brilliant first full-length THE RED IN THE SKY IS OURS last year,sounding so fresh in every way! But this one is annoying... The vocals turned out to become shrieky most of the time and the songs are lacking in memorable parts - even the violins,that made the debut so interesting,have disappeared again...What can I say ?I have still hope,that AT THE GATES might become a very important force in the swedish scene,but they DO have to come up with something stronger than this to prove it !

FRANK STÖVER

BRUJERIA

Brujeria

(Roadrunner)

Hahahaha,very funny...Try it again boys,but with a less stupid image and cover (tasteless !).Collectors of rubbish like this,watch out, the "legendary" 7" of this project is on the CD as well. Oh boy,we are ve going to with crap like this...

FRANK STÖVER

CARPATHIAN FULL MOON

Adv. of 7"

(Adipocere Rec.)

According to Christian of Adipocere Recs, these guys used to be called PENDULUM in the past and they are hailing from Norway !So, what do you expect ?? I'm not quite sure, but I guess you can be right, cause the vocals are heavily in the typical norwegian black metal style, but the music has much more to offer than the average black metal band. You've got really original music, with driving drumbeats, keyboards and there's also a timbal to be heard on the 2nd song KETZERBLUT if I remember correctly !So anyone who thought of black metal as a ltd. form of music, should check out CARPATHIAN FULL MOON ! Really impressive !

FRANK STÖVER



World of Myths(Adv. Tape)

(Adipocere Records)

The price for the finest releases of all time definitely goes out to Christian and his label ADIPOCERE RECORDS !!!!! What a dude !He sent me soooo godly advance tapes, I still cannot believe it... Starting with the longawaited(at least longawaited by Leif and myself)debut-album from Swedens CRYPT OF KERBEROS !! This album has to be the finest to be reviewed in this issue, believe me !What can I tell you about it...well, these guys created kinda like a moody orchestral type of brutal death metal with surely the best musician-ship out of Sweden !! The guitarist would easily get an offer to record an instrumental album for Shrapnel Rec. (just listen to the instrumental song THE SLEEPING GODS !Killer!) and blows away every written song within this kind of music over the last year !They are using deep growling vocals, as well as keyboards to create certain atmospheres and in fact of the guitars, you'll get some heavily oriental and/or classical type of music, combined with sheer aggression of bulldozers like SLAYER for example... If any band out of the death metal genre will still have a chance to have a major breakthrough, I'll bet my ass - it has to be CRYPT OF KERBEROS !!!!!

FRANK STÖVER

All ADIPOCERE releases are available from this address:

ADIPOCERE RECORDS
152, rue des Acacias
01700 Miribel
France

for the regular prices.

CELESTIAL SEASON

Forever scarlet passion(Adv. Tape)

(Adipocere Rec.)

I can already hear you scream: This is blasphemy !!! This fuckin' idiot does not know, what he's talking about etc. But seriously, in my opinion, CELESTIAL SEASON from the Netherlands are much better than highly praised MY DYING BRIDE ! You will already be able to know, that CELESTIAL SEASON are also very much based in the doom metal genre and they are also using depressing sounding violins, BUT: They don't lose the brutality because of that and they are not afraid of faster parts in the songs as well, so it never gets boring to listen to this album ! Really interesting songwriting with some heavy original ideas and a great production ! This is something, MY DYING BRIDE should've come up with after the release of their godly EP ! Buy !!

FRANK STÖVER



Adv. for 7"

(Adipocere Rec.)

Huuuu, another norwegian act here and they have one of the most original vocalists I've ever heard. He changes his style of singing quite often, which means you get ordinary dark vocals as well as some death grunts or shrieking screaming stuff (most of the time) in the mood of today's black metal bands. Musically this is even more weird... If you can stand a mixture of slow AFFLICTED (album-period) and experimental CELTIC FROST, you'll probably have a clue what's going on here... Give me more of those bands ! Cool stuff !

FRANK STÖVER

WINGS

Adv. of 7"

(Adipocere Rec.)

No, this ain't a new 7" of Paul McCartney's classic outfit, this is a project of Karri, the guitarist/vocalist of CARTILAGE from Finland. This goes back to the glorious days of death metal, cause the 2 tracks are very simple, with just one guitar and no effects at all. Just brutal vocals and cool music... haven't heard something like this for a long time, but it's still very much enjoyable !

FRANK STÖVER

PURULENCE/AMAYNON

(Adv. for Split CD)

(Adipocere Rec.)

If the rumors are true, PURULENCE have sadly split-up, because some of their members joined GORGUTS, but I'm not really sure about that... Having not heard their final demo, but I'd say, their side of this split-CD could be that tape, at least the title track IN HARMONY WITH THE DECEASED is among those four songs. Musically you get some rough produced, good sounding death metal in the vein of SUFFOCATION/MORBID ANGEL and similar acts. So anyone into those should check this out. The other band on this CD comes from France (at least I think they do, cause Christian himself plays in this band) and to be honest, they don't deliver something really new. Mostly extreme fast death metal, with weird breaks and an excellent drummer. Really underground sounding and definitely promising, but I guess we'll have to wait for further releases to see how they will progress. Anyway, this is still a good item to have in the collection...

FRANK STÖVER

DEPRAVITY

Silence of the centuries

(Adv. Tape)

(Adipocere Rec.)

In issue # 2 I reviewed the 7" of this finnish outfit and I was talking about, that they are one of the best releases of this label... Hmm, I'm not sure if I was stoned that day, or if they became less interesting or whatever... Fact is, that DEPRAVITY are cool in what they are doing, but in days like this, you have to come up with something more special to survive and in my opinion they don't ! So compared to labelmates CRYPT OF KERBEROS or CELESTIAL SEASON (just to name those two) they are not that exciting... Ordinary death metal for collectors only !

FRANK STÖVER

REVIEWS

HELLWITCH

Terrasymmetry (EP)

(Lethal Records)

It finally became reality ! Can't believe it... This EP must've been recorded almost a year ago, cause I do remember that Pat sent me the adv. tape back then. Ok, due to some problems with their former label, Wild Rags, HELLWITCH signed a new deal with austrian LETHAL REC. and now it is out ! 3 tracks are on it (2 newer tunes, one oldie) and if you liked HELLWITCH in the past, you'll still love 'em ! They slowed down quite a bit, but the songs are intense as always ! Great one!

FRANK STOVER



COVENANT

(Earache Rec.)

I heavily disagree with those who express that MORBID ANGEL are constantly becoming worse and worse and in my ears even the sound has a very original and pleasant side. Sure, they are standing in the centre because they belong to one of the in actual times most famous and influential death metal bands, so what else than criticize them ? Bullshit ! I admit that they have a dubious image, so I'll better use my words to inform you about the music, nothing more. Would you believe me, if I'd tell you, that they are both, faster and slower than before ? It's true, brutalizing and fresh ultra-speed but also crushing slow parts. MA have an own sound, much too own perhaps. The new one sounds like a mixture of ALTARS and BLESSED just the vocals got deeper and more powerful. The drum-work is so unbelievable impressive, a thriller ! Extra-ordinary points are ANGEL OF DISEASE being featured between the totally different new trax, but it's ok with me because I always loved that eery rock'n'roll principal-riff ! And GOD OF EMPTINESS is a strange melodic and partly dark wave song. Interesting. Massive lp !

LEIF JENSEN



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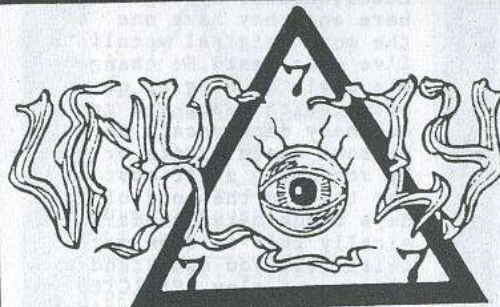
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From the shadows

(Lethal Records)

This one's a little older by now, but that's no reason to ignore it. UNHOLY are a finnish fourpiece and they play doomy, death metal or should I say, doomy black metal ? Well, they totally look like a black metal band with their painted faces, but the music is more deathy. The vocals remind me sometimes on a sicker version of John Tardy and the songs are really brutal and slow ! You got 9 pieces of music and a playing time of approx. 60min !! Value for money ! So, if you like it slow and heavy, give this one a try.

FRANK STOVER

BLACK CRUCIFIXION Promethean gift (EP)

(Lethal Records)

Uuuuuuuuuuuuuuu... This is a really depressing one. Sounds heavily like old Black Sabbath to me, at least the riffing is in that old style and the vocals are not deathy at all. So I'll bet this is more or less a must for all fans of PENTAGRAM (US) or (as I said) BLACK SABBATH. Pretty slow as well... Sounds more like an EP which would have been interesting for good ol' Leafy-Boy...

FRANK STOVER

SANCTUM

Raped of your religion

(Lethal Records)

SANCTUM is one of these bands, who deliver great music with a horrible production... It can really be a pain in the ass to listen to this 8-tracker, while the guitars sound thin (like in the rehearsal room) without any power and the drums are totally upfront. Maybe these guys should have saved some of the tracks and released a mini-album or EP instead (like they already did in the past) with better quality ! For all of you, who don't give a fuck, SANCTUM are originally from Austria, but they are located in the UK now and their style is pretty much straight-forward death-thrash with some technical pieces thrown in here and there... It's a pity ! So I have to look forward to their next release, which hopefully will have a better quality when it comes to the production side of things.

By the way, all LETHAL releases can be ordered from this address (just in case you won't find them in your area)

LETHAL RECORDS
P.O. Box 3-6
A-1011 Vienna
Austria

FRANK STOVER

ALCHEMIST

Jar of kingdom

(Lethal Records)

Another release from Lethal Rec. here (pretty busy dude!). ALCHEMIST has to be the highlight of this very young label, that's for sure ! They are hailing from Australia and their music sounds like a cross between brutal death metal, PINK FLOYD and some jazzy influences as well !! But don't be afraid, ALCHEMIST are much more brutal than PESTILENCE on their current release. This is a must for lovers of innovative death metal ! Great musicianship !

FRANK STOVER





WEIRDCORE ?

Swedens CARBONIZED have returned with a second album, which is even more weird than everything else they've done before !The album is entitled "DISHARMONIZATION" and was released on the dutch Foundation 2000 label.Guitarist Christofer spoke to us about it.

It seems, that they've managed to find a stable line-up after all the years of changing, cause "DISHARMONIZATION" was recorded with the same members as their debut-album "FOR THE SECURITY", which means:Christofer-guitar/vocals; Lars-bass/vocals and Piotr-drums/vocals.

Chris totally agreed, that this line-up was responsible for the change of the musical direction. "The current line-up is totally responsible for the weirdness of "FOR THE SECURITY" and the ten times more weird "DISHARMONIZATION" album", was his short but precise answer.

In fact of the drastic change from typical swedish sounding grinding death metal towards very VOIVOD influenced kinda stuff, I asked Chris about his opinion about the previous releases of the band...His answers were kinda like foreseeable... "The AU-TO-LAFE Demo from 1988 was a piece of crap in my opinion, the NO CANONIZATION 7" was better, an almost good sound, better vocals plus a better version of the song AU-TO-DAFE...STATUES was also a quite good song, but still I have to say, that the guitars and the drums were awfully bad played. The RECARBONIZED Demo from 1990 was good. Piotr had joined the band and so the drums were wellplayed and interesting. The vocals were ok, but not the best and the worst one of the two guitarists had luckily been fired. The remaining one was unfortunately not too good either... Brilliant songs, but the sound sucks a lot !Lars and Piotr may be extremely good musicians, but their ability to produce a recording is unfortunately quite limited. Not even the Sunlight Studio could help up the bad guitar sound... The FOR THE SECURITY album was the first recording which featured me. After they had kicked out the old guitarist, I said several times to Lars that he should hurry up finding a new one because I was really looking forward to hear an album with their new good songs. As they didn't find one after some time of searching, Lars asked me if I wanted to join as a session-member on the album. I said ok, even though it was a piece of hard work (I had to learn

and rehearse 10 songs in only 12 rehearsals). Then Richard from DISMEMBER, who was supposed to handle the vocals, changed his mind. So Lars and I had to do all the vocals too, which we were not prepared for at all. The vocals sounded ok, but could have been much better. I also think the production was ok, not the usual Sunlight-sound. The guitar-playing wasn't as good as I wanted it to be, as I had too little time to practice the riffs. And the whole album was recorded and mixed in only 3 DAYS (!) in total. So I'm not satisfied with the album. It is a grind/weirdcore album with a little death metal in it and was really underground. I don't think the listeners noticed the mistakes too much. I got a permanent member of CARBONIZED after the recordings. Look out for the new album DISHARMONIZATION !"

THRASH REC. can't even spell the word legal !

After the release of the first album, nothing really happened, neither lotsa adds nor a tour or stuff like that, so the sales might not have been the best... Will the band or the new company change something about this situation on the new album ? Chris: "The sales were ok for being a grindcore band with an album with an ugly cover, released on a small underground label. They couldn't afford adds in bigger mags. There was no tour, because CARBONIZED is a studio band and we've never played live. The last time CARBONIZED have played live, is almost 3 years ago when "NO CANONIZATION" was a new release. We won't play live in the future unless we don't sell something like 100.000 copies and can do a big headline-tour. There is no use of wasting time on small gigs with a second band, when I can spend that time with THERION. CARBONIZED will probably remain as a studio band..."

In fact that all the members play in other bands as well (ENTOMBED and THERION), I was wondering, if they see CARBONIZED just as a project, consisting of swedish musicians who can't use their weird songs for something else... Chris had a different opinion on that. "No, we are serious about what we are doing. All of the songs are written exclusively for CARBONIZED - it is not old "too weird" THERION material ! CARBONIZED is a very good entertainment for me and releases a lot of creative spheres from my mind." While mentioning the old label

THRASH RECORDS, I must have opened old wounds of Chris, cause he seemed not too lucky about that label...

"Absolutely not ! I even wasn't in the band when they signed the deal with THRASH RECORDS. I would never had agreed to it. The new album was released by Foundation 2000 and it is only available on CD !"

In fact, that we've mentioned the new album that often, I asked Chris about some details about it, cause it wasn't even released while we did this interview...

"There are almost no grindcore parts on it at all this time. It is only the weirdest music you can think of. People who fancy VOIVOD (Killing.. and Dimension..), old SONIC YOUTH and the worst of BLACK FLAG will love the album for sure ! There's a lot of psychedelic stuff in it. So it will be a good one for people who are tired of the now dying trend of copy-death metal bands !"

Asking something about old stuff from CARBONIZED wasn't a good idea as well... I just wanted to know, if they could imagine to re-record the old-demo tunes, who didn't appear on the first album in a 1993-version and Chris freaked out...

"NOOOOOO! ABSOLUTELY NOT ONE OF THEM ! I personally think, that most of them suck (except for the RECARBONIZED songs, but most of them are on FOR THE SECURITY) But it is possible that we'll release all shit recorded from the beginning until before FOR THE SECURITY (including the whole RECARBONIZED demo) as bonus tracks on a new edition of the FOR THE SECURITY CD !" (yeah, that would be a killer idea ! - Ed.)

I find it rather strange that all swedish bands like to go to Sunlight Studio and all US-bands seem to like Morrisound

You can't go around and kill people



(except for million bands who are looking for something original !-Ed.). But I've never heard of a swedish band, that recorded in Morri-sound or an US band, that went to Sunlight... Wouldn't that be a cool alternative idea to get a brand new sound maybe ?

"That wouldn't be something for CARBONIZED or THERION, but maybe a good idea for any other swedish bands..."

Lyricwise CARBONIZED must have changed as well over the years in fact of all the members who were in the band so far... So who is responsible for them these days and have their contents changed maybe ?

"We all write lyrics , cause we are all leadvocalists now(haha). Piotr sings like the BEACH BOYS, but more melodic and soft(??????-Ed.), I change between the usual growls and sad depressive vocals in the vein of Tom G. Warrior on

Even some swedish black metal bands are beginning to get tired of them. It's ridiculous to believe that you can go around and kill people with a knife. If you want to spend a lot of time in jail it might be worth trying, but otherwise not.

DEICIDE are true satanists as well and we got along very well with them when we supported them in Stockholm. Glen was my kinda person, absolutely. Unfortunately some stupid

fuckhead blowed off a bomb, so DEICIDE only could play three songs before the police was interrupting. FUCK OUR POLICE!"

Besides THERION and CARBONIZED, Chris is also involved in some other projects, for example

LIARS IN WAIT... Chris handled the vocals on their mini CD SPIRITUALLY CONTROLLED ART...

"Kristian is an old friend of mine since the old times when we played a gig along with GROTESQUE(RIP). He asked me to

Well, uuhm, back to serious stuff. The THERION MLP was only released on vinyl back then - would Chris mind, if someone would like to put it out on CD as well these days ?

"Not as a single release, but I would agree to release it as a bonus on a new edition of the OF DARKNESS album..." (which would be a good idea as well !-Ed.)

Does the band have a good relation to other bigger swedish acts, such as ENTOMBED, DISMEMBER or UNLEASHED ?

"Our relations are good to ENTOMBED and DISMEMBER, but we hardly know any of the guys of UNLEASHED !"



After so much babbling, I offered Chris to come to the end of this interview, which he had nothing against...

"Why not ? My hand is tired anyway... (????-what has he done while doing this interview all the time ?-Ed.) If anyone wants a THERION "Beyond Sanctorum" T-Shirt, send 18\$(Europe) or 19\$(overseas)25,-DM is ok too. The shirt is full-coloured double-sided and available in: M, L, XL or XXL (these must be the one-man-tents!-Ed.) Price includes postage and package. That's all Frank, I hope you'll enjoy both the new CARBONIZED and THERION. Take care !"

Well about my opinion on the albums just check out the reviews in this issue...

If you want to know more about Chris, THERION or CARBONIZED, write to the following address (IRC will be cool):

Christofer Johnson
Hästhagsv. 27
19452 Uppl. Väsby
Sweden

Frank Stöver

the INTO THE PANDEMONIUM album and Lars sounds like Lemmy (of MOTORHEAD) when Lemmy is really angry. The lyrics have changed a lot !"

When you do an interview with Chris you can't miss out the trouble he had with the norwegian black metal bands... So what's going on these days ?

"I haven't heard anything from them for half a year now... And to all people who believe, that my house was burned down by them, I can tell the truth ! They only tried to set fire to it, but they only damaged about ONE INCH of one plank, that's all. I don't know, why people always have to spread a lot of lies..."

(it helps selling the crappy mags Chris...-Ed.) They have threatened us, yes, but we're not afraid of them. Why should we ? We can defend ourselves and 99% of all people in the swedish scene support the idea, that the norwegian black metal bands should mind their own business. I don't give a shit of whatever they are doing, so why should they care about what I'm doing ?

do the vocals as a session - member and I did. I had free hands to do what I wanted with the vocals in most of the songs."

Any legal problems with all the involved labels (ACTIVE, DOLORES and THRASH REC.) maybe ?

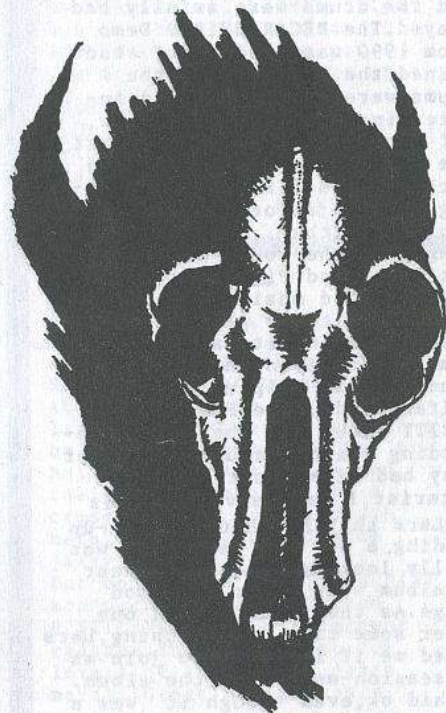
"ACTIVE is a great label which never causes any problems as long as we don't misbehave ourselves against them. THRASH RECORDS can't even spell the word legal and DOLORES is just a record shop."

So, what about some news about Chris' main band THERION ?

"Our new album is out and Piotr is a member of THERION now as well..."

Normally interviews include a couple of stupid questions as well, but this seems to leave them out - does Chris have an answer for that ?

"There's a stupid question enclosed", he mentioned, "this question !"





DIABOLICAL SUMMONING

Yes, the SINISTER guys are back in business with a second output called DIABOLICAL SUMMONING. I think they really did ascend into the very first group of dutch death metal bands and keep being the heaviest! For further infos to the lp-review you should read the phone-conversation we had with really more than niceguy Mike. Don't know, whether my questions were not brilliant or Mike was a little tired (I think it should be the first one), but it became quite a shorty and in contrast to my promises, we even had to sum it up a little bit. But you are gonna enjoy going through the lines anyhow (are you sure? -Ed.)... and as gods PENTAGRAM say it: "You have to listen to the SINISTER TALES!" YEAH! HAVE YOU ALREADY GIVEN ANY INTERVIEWS TODAY?

"No, two days ago I did one."
SO I HOPE YOU ARE NOT STRESSED OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT...

"No, no, nono!"

THEN LET'S START STRAIGHT ON. WHAT ABOUT THE EUROPEAN TOUR YOU FINISHED SOME DAYS BACK WITH DEICIDE?

"Yeah, some shows were cancelled so the tour was short and there wasn't as many people as expected. The most shows were in Germany, but also in Holland and in Belgium and that was the whole tour. (sounds quite boring! -Leif)

AND HOW DID YOU GET ALONG WITH GLEN BEN-TON, WHO'S ALWAYS DESCRIBED AS A WEIRD PERSON?

"We didn't have any problems with him at all, he was as nice as everybody else to us, it was cool."

YOU RECENTLY RECORDED YOUR SECOND ALBUM "DIABOLICAL SUMMONING", SO DO YOU WANT TO TELL US SOMETHING ABOUT THE WAY YOU THINK IT CAME OUT?

"Eh, I think our new album, compared to the first one, it's more brutal and intense and the songs are better and stick more into your mind. The blast beats are even faster and we used to have more double bass and of course the production is much better!"

TALKING ABOUT THE PRODUCTION, YOUR DEBUT WAS PRODUCED BY ALEX FROM ATROCITY (SALUTATIONS BY THE WAY!) AND YOU PLANNED TO USE THE FAMOUS MORRISOUND STUDIO FOR THE FOLLOW-UP RELEASE, BUT YOU FINALLY DID IT WITH COLIN RICHARDSON...

"Hm, Morrisound would have been too expensive and was also booked in that period. Colin was free, so we took him and enjoyed working with him."

BUT HE ALSO USES TO CREATE A SOMEHOW TYPICAL BRITISH SOUND...

"Yes, that's what we noticed, but I think, we changed that. I think on a lot of Colin's productions there are like a lot of guitars and the snare

sound is not that good, but we changed that on our album, because we have a loud snare, well not that loud, everything is equal. He was able to do what we want, so that's good!"

I HEARD THE RUMOUR SOME DAYS AGO THAT YOUR FIRST LP SOLD ABOUT THE GIANT SUM OF 60.000, IS THAT RIGHT?

"Nope. It sold about 26.000, which is very good for a debut-album. (I think it's more than just "very good" -Leif) I wish we had sold 60.000, but perhaps with our second one, who knows?"

COMING TO THE CONCERTS, OF WHICH SINISTER HAVE BEEN DOING QUITE NUMEROUS...
"It's very important to promote the CD, like the CANNIBAL CORPSE tour, there was a lot of people at the gigs who never heard about SINISTER and for example in Germany, we sold like 300/400 copies of our album a month after the tour and before it, it was about 50 copies."

AND BETWEEN ALL THAT GIGS IN THE PAST, DO YOU STILL REMEMBER A REALLY SPECIAL ONE?

"Ah, for me, I still remember the show in Czechoslovakia. We played in an ice-hockey stadium and there were like 3000 people and most of them knew our album. That was great, it was for me, one of the best shows we ever had."

AFTER THE FIRST LITTLE INTERRUPTION, I WANTED TO KNOW, WHICH ARE/WERE THE 3 FAVE LP'S FROM MIKE, THAT WERE RELEASED WITHIN THE LAST 2 YEARS, APPARENTLY A HARDER QUESTION THAN I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE...

"Haaa... my favourite albums from that time, hehe... that's a good question! (I got you man, hehe! -Leif) Ah, then I have to think back... let's say from the last three years? Yes, of course the LEGION-album of DEICIDE, I don't know if SUFFOCATION... yeah, it's also from that time, SUFFOCATION'S EFFIGY OF THE FORGOTTEN and... hehehe... it's a hard one!"

ONE MISSES... ANYWAY, SO YOU DON'T REALLY GET INFLUENCED BY ABSTRACT AND DIFFERENT KINDS OF MUSIC, JUST BY THE BRUTAL AND EXTREME STUFF?

"We don't plan to get influenced by any kind of music, of course it's hard because I know that all of us listen to SUFFOCATION or DEICIDE and other hard bands, but we try to stick to our own sound, that's the best to do, like also we all listen to our new album lots and lots of times to know the songs and because we enjoy it, but also to get in some way influenced by our own music."

THAT'S INTERESTING... SOMETHING DIFFERENT BUT THE SAME, LISTENING TO YOUR NEW ALBUM (AND THAT WAS A BIG AMOUNT OF TIMES) I THINK I DISCOVERED A LOT OF COINCIDENCE TO THE FIRST ONE, SO WHERE DO YOU SEE THE PROGRESSION OF SINISTER? SURE, YOU GOT EVEN MORE BRUTAL, BUT PROGRESSION?

"Yeah, I think on the first album, the songs were written for the guitars and the second album got better drum parts, more drum-breaks and also the vocal-lines are different, that's the progression we had. Probably the next one will change again because our bass player wrote a couple of parts for the second album, but not that much. But now, he told me, that he already has a new song finished, so for the next album the material will be written by everybody, by the whole band and not like in the past by our guitar player. Everybody gets involved now, so that's also where we progressed."

HAVE YOU CHANGED YOUR STYLE, TALKING ABOUT WRITING LYRICS? I MEAN HAVE YOU EXTENDED THE STUFF YOU SING ABOUT?

"Oh a bit, yeah! No, I stayed in the life after death stuff; there are three

different kind of lyric things on the album, "TRIBES OF THE MOON" is about a movie, "NIGHTBREED" by Clive Barker, the other one is about a massmurderer where you can see on the last sentence that the guy is schizophrenic, so he probably can be someone's neighbour. As you know, in America are a lot of guys like that walking around what nobody knows until they get arrested. "MYSTICAL ILLUSION" is about depressed people, how can I say it best...there happened something in the past which they came depressed by and they are not looking forward to the future anymore to come out that sort of depression. They are only sticking to themselves and get depressed, depressed and depressed (Yes, I know that...-Leif) The other songs are more in the life-after-death vein."

DO YOU REALLY STILL ENJOY TO GIVE INTERVIEWS ?

"Oh yes, sure. I've not been doing that much interviews yet for our new album, only a couple. I always enjoyed to do interviews, yes !"

ARE YOU STILL NERVOUS BEFORE AN INTERVIEW ?

"No, I'm not nervous at all, I don't know why I should ? Hm ! (You give the answers...hehe-Leif) At the beginning of the band, but now I've been giving so many interviews, it's a normal thing now, I have to do next to practising or playing gigs."

RIGHT...IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING INTERESTING TO TELL US TO CLOSE THIS INTERVIEW, DON'T HESITATE !

"Yeah, 1st of September we do a tour in Holland, like 20 gigs but in November we probably do a headlining tour through all of Europe. We hope that we can do it with INCANTATION and BRUTALITY, we'll



see. (thaaaaat would be a killlllll package by the way !-Frank) They both have never been to Holland, I like both bands and they do the same kind of death metal we do... And I wanna thank you for doing the interview and thank everybody who is gonna buy our album because I know, it's hard times. People hardly don't have any money to buy CD's that are coming out in a month, so I hope to buy our CD ! Ohh, think about saying hello to Frank (Mike, crucify me, I forgot it !! Just a joke... Hello Frank! -Leif)... ok, see you, bye !"
(Cheers to you as well, Mike !-Frank)

LEIF JENSEN

MALEVOLENT CREATION

Is there really anyone out there, who needs an introduction to this band ? C'mon you must be kiddin' ! We're talking about the almighty MALEVOLENT CREATION here ! And I won't give away any more secrets... Just read an really updated interview, that we got from Phil, their guitar-player...

TELL US ABOUT YOUR LATEST LINE-UP CHANGE !

"Well, right now the only thing that has changed is that Jon Rubin re-joined our band on guitar, replacing Rob Barrett."

WHAT MADE HIM RE-JOIN M.C. AND QUIT MONSTROSITY ?

"He wasn't happy with MONSTROSITY and he did not want to relocate from Ft. Lauderdale to Tampa. So he contacted me and we started jamming again !"

YOU DID QUITE A LOT OF TOURING OVER THE LAST YEAR... COULD YOU TELL US SOMETHING ABOUT THAT ?

"Well, we toured with OBITUARY, AGNOSTIC FRONT and CANNIBAL CORPSE for two months.

Then another headlining tour with SUFFOCATION and EPIDEMIC. Both went well. We were supposed to tour Europe with DECIDE, but we cancelled because Roadrunner screwed us out of some money they owed us, so we refused to tour and make them more money. We really wanted to do the tour though."

TELL US MORE ABOUT THAT...

"They fucked us on our merchandise money and they did not pay the tourbus company all the money, so we got stranded in ARIZONA and had to pay to get home with our own money ! Nice record company, huh !" (Oh boy, sounds really mean to me, but I'm glad you refused to come over here, so you might've been able to fuck them as well ! Cool...-Ed.)

THE LAST TIME WE SPOKE, YOU MENTIONED, THAT YOU'VE RECORDED TWO EXTRA SONGS DURING THE "RETRIBUTION"-SESSION... ONE WAS ALREADY RELEASED ON THE RR-COMPILATION "AT DEATH'S DOOR II", BUT WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER ONE ?

"It was a song called SEIZURE from our '89 demo. We made it

a lot faster and heavier but we never released it and probably never will. It was just for fun !" (this ain't fair, we wanna hear that as well man ! -Ed.)

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE M.C.-EP THAT WAS ANNOUNCED ?

"Well, it's been out for a while. It can be obtained from us and FLESHFEST DISTRIBUTION. 5 live songs and a cover of PIECE BY PIECE by SLAYER !"

TELL US MORE ABOUT THAT FLESHFEST DISTRIBUTION COMPANY AND WHAT IS YOUR PART AT IT ?

"Me and my friend Mark distribute and sell demos and EP's from bands that we feel we can help promote. We sell their product through the mail and in local record shops in South Florida. They always sell fast ! All bands that are interested should contact us."

WHAT MADE YOU RE-RELEASE YOUR 1990 DEMO AND IS IT DIFFERENT IN ANY WAY (COVER...) FROM THE ORIGINAL RELEASE ?

"People always ask about it and if it's available, so we released it again. Same cover and songs..."

TELL US ABOUT YOUR TIME WITH PETER TADGREN FROM HYPOCRISY!

"He used to live here in Ft. Lauderdale and I turned him on to my band and death metal. He really liked it and after a few years he quit playing poser rock and play real music. He's a really cool friend of our's. What's up swedy?!"

WHAT KIND OF EP IS THAT YOU RELEASED OF HYPOCRISY?

"It is their second demo that Peter sent to me and we made a different cover from what he sent. It's really raw sounding, I really like it! Unfortunately we don't sell hardly any of them. They are not to popular around here I guess."

CAN'T THINK OF ANY OTHER QUESTION RIGHT NOW, SO IT'S UP TO YOU PHIL, TO END HERE OR TO ADD SOMETHING...

"Thanks for the interview and look for our 3rd lp "STILLBORN" out in October. It kill's! And we will be in Europe sometime in October or November, we're ready to kill!!! Thank for your support!"

You heard it, if you want to get in touch with Phil or FLESHFEST DISTRIBUTION, write to these addresses:

MALEVOLENT CREATION
P.O. Box 23519
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33307
U.S.A.

or

FLESHFEST DISTRIBUTION
c/o Mark Douglas
P.O. Box 63-8833
Margate, FL 33063
U.S.A.

FRANK STÖVER



OBLIVEON

I always enjoyed OBLIVEON's material and I was really happy, when Active Records signed them and put out the debut-album FROM THIS DAY FORWARD. But unfortunately this label turned out to be just a bunch of wankers, who didn't know how to promote an innovative band! Now, a couple of years later, OBLIVEON have returned to the scene with a second, self-financed album, entitled NEMESIS and we decided to let them talk about all their problems in the past and their views on the future... Answers were given by Stéphane Picard (Bass/Vocals). YOUR DEBUT ALBUM TOTALLY GOT LOST DUE TO ACTIVE RECORDS' LACKING OF PROMOTION. WASN'T IT FRUSTRATING TO HAVE AN ALBUM OUT FINALLY THAT NOBODY REALLY CARED FOR?

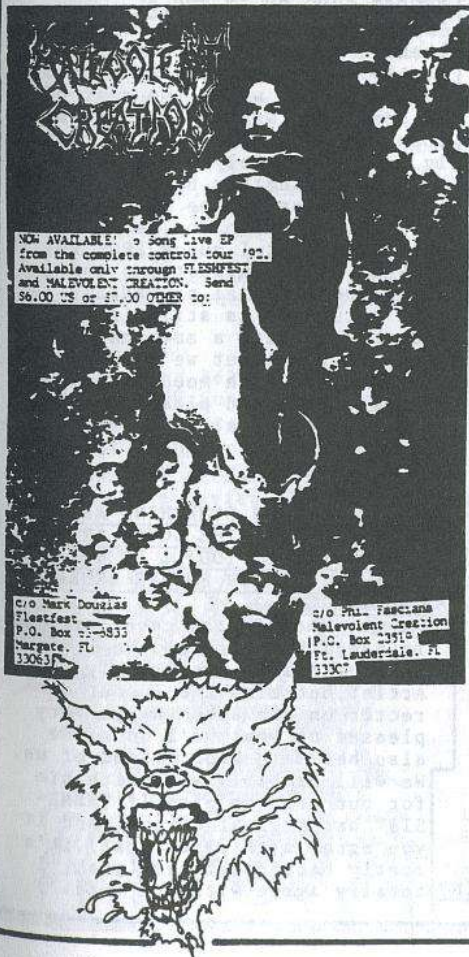
"It has been frustrating for a little while because we think that album should have gotten more exposure than it did and it has never been distributed domestically in North America or elsewhere than Europe. Considering the small budget we had to do it I think "FROM THIS DAY FORWARD" was a good album. It deserved more than it got. Anyway, it hasn't totally got lost. We got a certain amount of new fans because of that album. It helped us to get a bit more known than we were. Despite the fact that things didn't exactly turn the way we wanted, that album was better than nothing at all. We received many positive letters from fans from everywhere and had great response

from crowds at our shows, so we didn't fall into despair (even if we had some little hard times) and decided to go further. I don't want to sound prententious, but I know there is a good potency in this band." (there definitely is, that doesn't sound prententious at all to me! -Ed.) HAVE YOU TRIED TO PROMOTE THE ALBUM-RELEASE ON YOUR IN ANY WAY IN CANADA?

"At the beginning we ordered CD's on a regular basis from Active so we could sell them at our shows. Some places had it as an import, but those were expensive. CARGO RECORDS also started to distribute it in Canada until we parted ways with Active. We spoke a lot about the album in fanzines too. We did the best we could to promote it, but it's hard to promote something that is rarely available. The real power was in the hands of Active, but it turned out to be what you know."

WHEN DID YOU NOTICE THAT ACTIVE RECORDS WAS THE WRONG CHOICE AND WHAT DID YOU DO AT FIRST THEN?

"It didn't take too long to notice that ACTIVE was not so active (haha, I'm glad you haven't lost your humorous side of things because of all that! -Ed.). During the very first months, we've seen some magazines talking about it, mostly in Europe, but after that it went dead. It looks like they never really tried anything to get a vast distribution of it. We were waiting and waiting while some possibilities appeared some times, but finally nothing



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Fleshfest
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Margate, FL
33063

c/o Phil Fasciana
Malevolent Creation
P.O. Box 23519
Ft. Lauderdale, FL
33307

happened about it. Also we received some papers from Active showing us how many albums we had sold and where they were sold but that thing didn't last too long. We've never been paid anyway and we finally don't really know how many albums we have sold. It was also really hard to communicate with Active. Some clauses were simply not respected by Active so we decided to break the contract."

IN 1991 YOU DID A BRAND-NEW 4-TRACK DEMO. WAS IT JUST FOR RECORD COMPANIES OR DID YOU SELL THAT AS WELL AT THAT TIME?

"First, it was only for record-companies, but we realized that we needed something to show we were still alive, so we decided to record it to the fans, willing to send us blank tapes to get a copy of it. That demo is not available anymore since our new "NEMESIS" album is out."

HOW WERE THE REACTIONS ON IT FROM THE LABELS, WHAT KIND OF REASONS DID THEY HAVE NOT(!) TO SIGN YOU?

"Some were impressed, but they needed a more trendy band. If we were playing "pure" death metal or grindcore or maybe some more catchy cheezy thrash metal, we would have probably been signed, but we wanted to do what we really liked to do. A company told us that the fans would not be ready for it. I don't believe it. (I do not either! -Ed.) I think, if a caring and supportive company would take a chance with us and do a descent work for the promotion it would work well. We have many fans convinced about it in the underground scene, wondering why we're not signed. Some companies are scared to take that chance. Anyway we're not giving up!" (luckily, you don't! -Ed.)

SINCE WHEN DID YOU HAVE THE IDEA TO PUT OUT A SELF-FINANCED ALBUM AND HOW DID EVERYTHING DEVELOP FROM THAT POINT ON?

"We simply didn't receive any acceptable offers. Instead of rotting while waiting or getting discouraged, we decided to do it on our own. Then we finished other songs to get enough stuff for a full-length album, went into the studio, did the best we could, produced it ourselves (Pierre was the engineer) and paid for everything. We're glad we did it."

YOU GOT AN INCREDIBLE PRODUCTION AND PACKAGING ON THE NEW ALBUM, SO IT MIGHT HAVE COSTED YOU A LOT OF MONEY... DO YOU THINK IT'LL HELP THE BAND TO FIND A NEW LABEL?

"It is self-produced, but it is the best thing we have recorded yet. (I totally agree -Ed.) The layout is great too. We spent a lot of money on it and believe me, we're not rich. It should help us to find a new label."

WILL YOU PROBABLY GET THE MONEY BACK YOU INVESTED IN "NEMESIS", IF YOU'LL SELL A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF CD'S AND CASSETTES?

"Yes. In fact it's like if we were the company and we have our hands and eyes on it. We're getting close of having that money back, if it's not done yet, but we invest it in T-shirts, long-sleeves, musical utilities and some other things (women? - just a joke. -Ed.) We'll do a self-financed video pretty soon, so it's an important amount of money to spend again. When we're on the road, we take some of that money for eating and other needs, but we don't go crazy spending it for nothing. When everything will be paid, we will probably keep more of it in our pockets but we're maniacs and we'll surely spend it for new instruments or amps instead. Anyway, we have jobs or ways to get money to live (as well as we can) besides our musical activities. It would be great to live exclusively from music one day, but isn't that every serious musician's goal? Of course we do it, because we like it is the main thing."

IS "NEMESIS" JUST A LTD. EDITION RELEASE? HOW MANY COPIES HAVE BEEN MADE?

"It is not a ltd. edition. We'll make new copies of it as long as there's a demand for it."

DO YOU HAVE ALL THE RIGHTS ON YOUR DEBUT-ALBUM, CAUSE THERE'S TALK ABOUT A RE-RELEASE WITH A DIFFERENT PACKAGING...?

"The contract is broken and Active has nothing more to do with the album. It is true that we would like to re-release "FROM THIS DAY FORWARD" with possibly a new packaging as soon as possible (we feel the original sleeve wasn't too attractive) because we don't want that debut-album to get lost. Right now we concentrate on promoting "NEMESIS".

WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO, IF THIS NEW ALBUM WON'T DO AS GOOD AS YOU HOPE IT WILL DO - IN OTHER WORDS, WOULD YOU SPLIT-UP SOMEDAY IF YOU WOULDN'T FIND A COMPANY THAT WILL PICK YOU UP AGAIN?



"How could I know if we will split-up someday? We have fun doing what we do right now. There are some hard times sometimes, but we always get over them. Right now, we feel that if we don't get signed with or by this album, we'll just do another one by our own (give these guys a tremendous applause! -Ed.) We have goals but we have to take them day by day. We know that we have a certain amount of fans. Some of them would be really deceived if we give it up now. Anyway, like I said, we mostly do it because we like to do it!"

TELL US SOMETHING ABOUT THE MATERIAL ON "NEMESIS" WHEN DID YOU START WRITING IT, WHICH IS THE NEWEST SONG ON IT ETC.?

"We've started writing for it, when we've started writing for the 1991 demo. After that we slowly started to write the rest of it. Sometimes we've worked on more than one song at a time, we rarely just completely write one song after another. Because of that, it's hard to be accurate for telling which one is the newest song on it. I guess FROSTED AWOWALS is the newest one and I think the material on NEMESIS is more mature. It is still intense and aroused with a somewhat progressive touch, but we've also played a lot with moods and ambiances. It should please death metal, thrash metal, progressive and other kinds of music fans, but we just did, what we were up to."

CAN YOU TELL US SOMETHING ABOUT THE GUY WHO DID THE COVER ARTWORK? I SUPPOSE YOU'LL BE WORKING WITH HIM FOR FUTURE RELEASES AS WELL, RIGHT?

"The guy who did the cover-artwork is named S.V. Bell and he lives in Montréal. He wasn't only the artist, but also the layout director on the album. We're very pleased of what he's done. He also became a good friend of us. We will probably work with him for our next release. If "NEMESIS" has a great layout (and if you agree with us on that), it's mostly because of him. (yeah, I totally agree with you! -Ed.)"

WITCHCRAFT MAGAZINE

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...is the way to the other dimension!

The photos were taken by Michel Roy, one of his friends and he also did a great job."

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE IN BETWEEN THE RELEASES OF YOUR TWO ALBUMS BESIDES DOING THE DEMO IN 1991 ?

"We did shows, we've parted ways with Active, we've worked on personal things, stayed quiet for a little while and then composed material for "NEMESIS".

TELL US ABOUT THE SHOWS YOU DID!

"We've played almost everywhere in the province of Québec and a bit elsewhere. Most of them were cool shows, we got along and had a good time with most of the Québec's bands we've played with. The shows we've done in Montréal are always cool to remember. We have a very great deal of fun when we go up north to play in a small town called Vald'or. It's a very big party everytime we play up there. If you wanna know some bands' names we played with... (yeah, tell us ! -Ed.): DEATH, ATHEIST, GORGUTS, D.B.C., CYNIC as well as many more bands mostly from eastern Canada. On the third of July 1993 we made the official launch of "NEMESIS" at Les Foufounes Electriques in Montréal and the crowd response was very great ! We also played almost everywhere else in Québec since the release of NEMESIS !"

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR THE NEAR FUTURE AND IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WOULD LIKE TO MENTION AT THE END OF THIS INTERVIEW ?

"We want to make more gigs and we're working on our first video which should be ready in September. We'll promote NEMESIS as well as we can and we'll work for an extended distribution of it. There are plans for a canadian or eventually a more extended tour, but nothing is official yet, so I won't talk about it too much. We also have already started to compose new material. Finally thank you Frank for this interview and thank to those who support us. We hope to play in your area soon. Take care and remember... "NEMESIS" is available ! If you can't find it in your area, you can write to our contact address. The CD is \$14(US) (\$16 CAN) and cassette is \$10(US) (\$11 CAN). All prices include postage and handling. Send cash or a money order made-up to Stéphane Bélanger to:

OBLIVEON
c/o Stéphane Bélanger
P.O. Box 100, Succ. C
Montréal, Québec
CANADA, H2L 4J7

For further details about the album, see the review-section in this issue...

FRANK STÖVER



TIME AFTER TIME

SAMAEL

SAMAEL should be one of the bands that are known by (nearly) everybody in the underground. Well, time passed by things changed, but I'll better let Vorpalack explain that to you. So no long introduction, just the advice to check them out on tour, coz they are a unique and atmospheric live band and really friendly persons...

YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO SUPPORT DEICIDE ON THEIR LAST EUROPEAN TOUR, WHAT HAPPENED ?

"I don't know. I don't know really. It's not the fact that we didn't want to do it, I've never been informed. I heard it was planned but nobody called our management, so if it was for us, it was never planned to play with DEICIDE."

LOOKING BACK AT THE TOUR WITH UNLEASHED AND TIAMAT, HOW DID THAT TURN OUT FROM YOUR POINT OF VIEW?

"It was quite ok. It was the first time that we did a real tour and it was a kind of Century Media - package, so... we already played with TIAMAT before."

I'VE BEEN READING THAT YOU'VE ONCE PLAYED A GIG WITH TYPE O NEGATIVE, WOULD BE VERY INTERESTING FOR ME TO KNOW, HOW IT WENT ?

"No, it was cancelled too, because a big part of their tour was cancelled because of some problems with fighting, I don't know. It was planned to be in Belgium, but we never did it really !"

AND NOW YOU ARE FINALLY BACK AGAIN WITH GOREFEST ON TOUR...

"We played yesterday in Denmark and it was like shit, today it was rather good, yeah ! I mean, January was the first time we really played in Germany and we really enjoyed it."

YOUR SECOND LP "BLOOD RITUAL" WAS RELEASED THROUGH CENTURY MEDIA AND NOT THROUGH YOUR INITIAL LABEL OSMOSE PROD., HOW CAME THAT EXCHANGE?

"About Osmose, we didn't really sign a contract with them. You know, we recorded the lp and we were looking for somebody to pay the recordings and it just happened at that time that Herbaut wanted to start his label and we just took the risk, both parts, and we did it but it was never planned to release anything else on that label. I mean, when he started, we were his first band, he wasn't able to do any promotion. We didn't go on tour, just did a few gigs, so now it seems to be more professional... although it's still an independent label."

BUT ISN'T IT A KIND OF CONTRAST, HAVING "ANTI-COMMERCIAL BLACK METAL" ON ONE HAND AND CENTURY MEDIA ON THE OTHER ?

"Well, I don't give a shit ! We do not want to go into the "black metal getto", we've played this type of music since the beginning and we have nothing to prove anyone ! I don't want to take part of the scene. I mean, we just play,

what we like and don't give a shit about the rest !"

AND YOUR COMMENTS ABOUT THE ACTUAL BLACK METAL SCENE, YOU DON'T SEEM TO CARE ?

"No, not really. There's a few bands I got interest in, but not a lot."

AND THAT FIGHTING STUFF OUT THERE?

"Yeah, I know that Euronymous is dead now. I can't really say anything because I don't know what has happened. But our bassplayer used to be in Norway one year ago and told me, that there's only little kids trying to play black metal, trying to sound like BATHORY and VENOM, not bringing anything new to the music, just screaming around that they are the most evil bands... whatever. I don't care about that shit !"

BUT YOU USED TO BE HEAVILY INVOLVED IN THE BLACK METAL SCENE !

"I mean... ok ! People can say, that we played black metal. Yeah, we played that kind of music, but I don't wanna be part of the scene. There's nothing interesting for us. We do, what we like... like I told you, in the new songs there's a lot of keyboard parts and something more atmospheric."

IS THERE SOMETHING ELSE YOU CAN TELL US ABOUT YOUR 2ND LP ?

"Oh, this time we got a real producer, yes we are quite happy with the sound, you know, it's heavy... it's maybe less aggressive, but let's just wait for the next one."

YOU JUST RELEASED A NEW EP WITH "AFTER THE SEPULTURE" AND VENOM'S "MANITOU"...

"Fuck that, hehe ! It was planned to release that in April. We got almost 100 orders and we still haven't got the copies. I hope we will get them, when we come home to Switzerland after this tour. It's still not released, in fact !"

AND WHAT DOES YOUR LABEL THINK ABOUT THAT SINGLE ?

"They proposed to make it. You know, first we recorded the cover-version for a kind of tribute to VENOM and it should have been released on a really underground label in Sweden, but the whole project was cancelled, so we didn't do anything with that version. So they just proposed to release the 7" (which is gonna be totally ltd. to 666 copies by the way - Leif) I guess it's quite a good idea, because "AFTER THE SEPULTURE" will be played in the future in that new version, with keyboards, so it's just a good occasion to re-release the same song."

DURING YOUR LIVE-PERFORMANCES YOU USE TO HAVE A REALLY DIRTY SOUND, WHICH IS VERY INTERESTING AND ORIGINAL. IS THAT NORMAL OR DOES THAT EVEN FORM A KIND OF A CONCEPT OF SAMAEL ?

"No way, no way ! I guess it's be-

cause of the fact that we didn't have soundchecks the times you are speaking about, just line-checks. No, it's not usual for us, but it happens often. We like to have a sound as good as possible, as powerful as possible. With the keyboard in the future we must have a soundcheck, we can't just play like that, there must be a balance."

DO YOU HAVE SOME SPECIAL EXPECTATIONS ON THIS TOUR, WHAT COULD IT MEAN TO YOU ?

"After this tour ? Nothing special. We'll continue to work on the new songs, we are almost finished composing them. I hope to record them in January... maybe we'll be playing again in October, but it's still not confirmed, so I don't want to say anything about it. We don't fix any possible goal. I like to go as far as possible. We just like to do what we like. It's probably the most enjoyable thing when you can reach people by what you really like, not kind of going in a trend. You really share yourself with the people and that's cool !"

SORRY, BUT WE HAVE TO COME BACK TO THE BLACK METAL THING. YOU ONCE SAID IN AN INTERVIEW "FIGHT FOR THE REACTUALISATION OF BLACK METAL" !

"Yeah, it was in the past that I said that, you know, we were very close with MAYHEM, with some bands like that, but not with the new ones, so I'm not interested anymore. At the beginning, we were writing and helping each other, but it's not that way now. I will not help anybody who spits down on my face, you know what I mean? So fuck them !"



SO YOU CHANGED YOUR VIEW ON THINGS ?

"Yeah, it's quite normal, I guess, hehe. With the time you have to change, specially if people change, you have to change !"

ANY CLOSING COMMENTS ?

"Thank you !"

Short, but enough. Thanx to you !

LEIF JENSEN

HELLHAMMER



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1701 SARPSBORG
NORWAY



MORBID ANIMAL

2. 1993

The second issue of the MORBID ANGEL Fan-mag. is finished! It features Interviews with Pete, David and Richard ('bout his future as musician.) Also it includes some liverreviews from 1992, COVENANT LP critics and some more morbid stuff! Everybody who's interested in MORBID ANGEL can order this for 4 DM/3 \$. There is also a rest from the first Issue 1992, it costs 5 DM/4 \$.

write to: MORBIDOMANIC
c/o Volker Naumann
Bahnhofstr. 3
35116 Reddighausen
GERMANY



REVIEWS

CYNIC

Focus
(Roadrunner Rec.)

I always considered CYNIC for being a different band from the masses, but their finally released debut goes far beyond ! It's really unbelievable, I mean, they were easily compared to ATHEIST or DEATH (the HUMAN-aera, don't know why, hehe...) and although I never agreed, they are now out to change the penny's side. It's so impressive, that I'm about to run out of expressions. Sure, I could talk about FOCUS as complicated, freaky, abnormal, emotional, but this would make no sense at all. CYNIC are simply more expensive than categories. Don't really think it is a band to label as followers of a certain style, this is everything ! Better you forget older CYNIC stuff, not even the redone 2 demotracks sound like they used to do. I could just put them on one step with f.s. CONFESSOR, not for the music, but for the fact of being different and unlimited. I hope they get the success, they deserve. I can't stop listening to it (and writing about it ! - Ed.) It is a jazzy-metal masterpiece, in my eyes one of the three best releases this year. I should better express you clearer for those among you, who haven't had the enlightenment to listen to them: CYNIC are deeper than thoughts. BRILLIANT !! ACE !!

LEIF JENSEN

COLOUR TRIP
Colour Trip
(Nassacre Rec.)

I totally disagree ! The sticker on this CD says something about "industrial death", but the only REAL industrial influence on COLOUR TRIP's selftitled debut-album can be heard in the main song "Balance", that closes the album. And even that one is a really boring one ! I'll bet, it would've sounded a lot more intense, with half of the playing time ! The rest on this album is death metal mixed with some alternative/hardcore or whatever influences, in some ways quite interesting, but most of the time, the vocals annoy me completely ! Sorry Leif, but I won't share your opinion about Nassacre Rec. cause besides DARK MILLENNIUM, I can't find anything interesting on this label so far...

FRANK STÖVER

THE SPUDMONSTERS
Stop the madness
(Nassacre Rec.)

We don't review stuff like this in VOICES...

FRANK STÖVER



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STÅLGATAN 40
302 51 HALMSTAD
SWEDEN**

ETHERIAL WINDS
Promotape '93

The best underground-scene at the moment has to be the dutch, there's no doubt about it ! This country has erupted so many new killer bands over the last year - it's unbelievable ! One of the best bands of today is **ETHERIAL WINDS**. Their '93 promotape contains three excellent produced cuts of keyboardorientated brutal death metal, somewhere between **THE GATHERING** and **PHLEBOTOMIZED** ! Boy, this is so goddamn brutal and catchy, you definitely will play it again and again and again and...until you have to order another copy of it ! If you thought, **THE GATHERING** are too poppy or wimpy or whatever and **PHLEBOTOMIZED** too grindy or brutal, this is the ultimate for you ! The perfect connection of both bands ! You HAVE TO order your copy from the german distributor for 12,-DM right now !

CONCRETE RECORDS
c/o Andreas Reissnauer
P.O.Box 1421
77845 Achern
Germany

if you'd like to get in touch with the band directly, write to:

Benno Kamerman
Julianalaan 87
7711 KL Nieuwleusen
The Netherlands

BUT...DOOOO IT !!!!!!!!!!!!!

FRANK STÖVER

A P O L L G O N
End (Demo '93)

Let's clear something up in the beginning. Although these guys are located in Sweden, they DON'T sound like any of their country-mates at all. This has to be a plus, if you'd ask me (but I guess, you won't !) so we can expect something original here. Looking at the photo on the inlay of their colour cover, I'd thought of something like **DEICIDE** or at least something black metal-ish, but the music proves me wrong. This has to be death metal with deep growling vocals and a pretty simple instrumentation (too simple in my opinion, cause they are not even pretty brutal...). There are 3 original songs on the tape, a short instrumental, an intro and a cover of an **IMPETIGO**-song (Boneyard), which I've never heard of, because I don't like **IMPETIGO** at all... Anyway, they seem to be into the satanic type of things,

cause a song like **HELL - POSSESSED** and painted faces and upside-down crosses speak for themselves, don't they ? I'm not so sure, if I should recommend this demo or not... I wouldn't buy it on my own, let's say it that way. So decide for yourself... It'll be yours for 6\$ (or 6\$ + IIRC outside of Europe) and can be ordered from this address:
Björn Magalhaes
Kungsmarksv 57
37144 Karlskrona
Sweden

FRANK STÖVER

PUNISHMENT

DEMO # 1 ('93)

I'm out! Really, I try as hard as ever possible, but I can't find any appropriate introduction to this debut-demo review for the city-mates of Frank, **PUNISHMENT** (not that perfect name for a band in my opinion), but unconsciously I got to avoid my trouble! Yes right, these guys are on the death metal side of things and they even made it possible to let me speak about this tape as great, although not really much new ideas are included. Starting with a clear but quite powerful sound, here you can have 30min, 6 songs, of midpaced death metal with no grinds at all. I tell you everything you want: if you'll like acoustic-passages, you'll find them, same goes for (short) female vocals. Excellent musicianship !! That's the best aspect, but like I already mentioned, you get the impression very often, that you already know some of the riffs. That's no excuse not to hurry up and order this brilliant demo. And another positive side: also thrashers would have pleasure listening to **PUNISHMENT**. Yeah, hopefullies!

6\$ or 10,-DM to:
Julia Prahm
Kasseler Str. 60
28215 Bremen
Germany

LEIF JENSEN

B A Y E R N - E X P R E S S
(Bavarian compilation-tape)

This is quite an interesting thing... A compilation-tape with 11 bands out of the bavarian area of Germany and ONLY from there ! Most of the featured acts are on it with two tracks and most of them were already featured in our last issue (**INSURMOUNTABLE OBSTACLE, SCUM**) or issue # 1

(**FLESHCRAWL, DINAS EMRYS**), so there's not much to add to this one, cause all the tracks are taken from the reviewed stuff. The rest of the bands are more or less in the same kinda mood, which means, you will get more of a grind-orientated compilation here with some aggressive thrash/hardcorish influenced acts as well. For death metal die hard maniacs, this won't do it, but pure underground-lovers or people who are not sure what to order, should check it out. For only 5,-DM (+3,-postage) or 4\$ (+1 I.R.C.) you can order a 90min tape with a booklet, that covers all the infos you need about the bands. Or if you have something on your own (demo, zine, EP etc.) you can also trade here. Write to:
Michael Bayer
Kolpingstr. 10
95508 Kulmain
Germany

FRANK STÖVER



Angel Kill

Garden of crosses (Demo III '93)

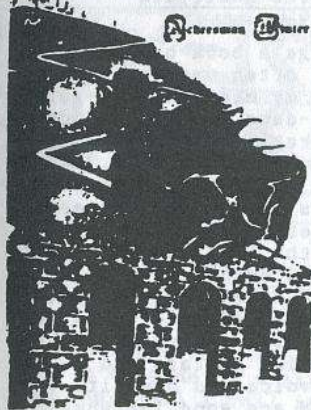
What kind of music would you expect, if you would see flyers with scary artwork of skulls 'n' skeletons on it ? What would you expect of a band, who's monicker is **ANGELKILL** ? And last but not least what would you expect of a demo, entitled **GARDEN OF CROSSES** ??? Well, I don't know about you, but I thought of a really brutal and sick death metal band from the USA... Listening to this 9 song effort (with full-colour cover) I got shocked quite a bit, cause the vocals are really different from the everage bands of today. This is in the mood of King Diamond, you know, changing from deep raw sounding vocals to highpit - ched screaming and even some melodic parts !! Musically the band delivers some kinda raw thrash type of music with incredible grooving rhythms and cool lead-guitarwork in some of the songs. But I have to admit, that I disagree with the band's opinion, that this demo has a great production - it surely has NOT ! It is ok to listen to, but compared to the high class quality of a lot of tapes of today, this is an average sounding recording, sorry dudes ! Anyway, if you like original raw thrash music, get yourself a copy for \$6 from this address:

ANGELKILL, Box 371, LeClaire, IA
52753, USA

FRANK STÖVER

Eve Of Mourning

Acheronian Winter



EVE OF MOURNING Acheronian winter (Demo '93)

They really earn more than just a simple review, so I will better introduce you to the depths of this pretty young american band. As they started, back in late 1991 playing slow death metal, turning later into the fundamental doom metal direction, they had giant problems while they were on search for a drummer. So they had to use a session-member to record "Acheronian winter". I just hope that this fact won't affect and hinder them anymore in the future, would be too sad! The most similar band to EVE OF MOURNING (or inverted) must be CATHEDRAL at their demo '90 and debut-lp time with the extension that EOM even incorporate total acoustic songs to their work. But for my ears, even some PARADISE LOST guitar passages as well as some ancient CELTIC FROST reflections seem to be present in the material, like these bands were mentioned as some of their inspirations. "Acheronian winter" being their first output, is an unstoppable eruption of dark sentiments, so profound and intense. Real doom metallers will praise it! A really special note is the way their vocalist Scott brings the monumental and god-like lyrics with his deep, but clear voice over his lips, this has class! All in all 6 songs with a duration of 45min in a rough but clean sound and copied b/w inlay-cards for \$6 USA or \$7 rest. Something you can't miss if your heart gets crazy for doom! They plan to release an EP soon and they might be featured on some compilations. Wow, they announced to become much heavier, darker and slower in the future, so you better check them out now to compare with the next releases you are gonna buy. A really heavy band, you'll read read again 'bout them

in VOICES, as me and Frank are damned children of doom (yeah, I'm damned and you are a child, hahaha! -Ed.) Write slowly the following lines on an envelope (Hey, S L O W L Y !):

EVE OF MOURNING
P.O. Box 306
Palos Heights, IL 60463
USA

LEIF JENSEN



Demo '93

The moniker is already known as an underground label from Spain or from the title of the Swedish NIHILIST-EP from '89, but both thoughts were wrong readers, this is a very new band from Berlin/Germany formed in summer of 1992 and showing their work through a debut demo with 20min of cool sounding music. Any further informations needed? This "music" is a groovy mixture of thrash-black metal in the SAMAEEL vein and deep vocals and as they stress gods GROTESQUE as an influence, that's positive. The result is heavily melodic and eery at the same time, the only thing is, that you must get used to the clear sound and the little monotonous growler. Anyway, a very impressing work considering it's their debut. A band to put an eye on. 10,-DM/6\$ for the tape, the satanic tape...

DROWNED
c/o Tilmann Benninghaus
Heerstr. 131
14055 Berlin
Germany

LEIF JENSEN

NECROPHOBIC No more life (Demo '92)

I got excited after I discovered a new release from NECROPHOBIC between all these new tapes...but hey, stop it, I was really heavily wrong because I accidentally thought at once of the Swedish monsters (although Jocke doesn't remember me anymore! ? You broke my heart brother!) this is NECROPHOBIC from Poland. So just let me tell you guys, that the time has come to go in search of a new moniker coz your Swedish twins are out to conquer the world! But better back to this tape. It was released through CARNAGE REC and has a godly coverdesign in full dark colours, great picture and a perfect and blasting sound. Meanwhile the music is more thrash metal than everything else and not even bad. Of course you may have to think about older bands while listening to some of their songs and riffs but this rages anyhow. Really well done, some -

where between specially SACRED REICH or also SEPULTURA (moderate) and stuff like that, so if there are still thrash metal underground freaks, they should go for it, you won't mind to be the owner. Although the lyrics partly suck, especially "I like bitches" (fun-song?). No price neither further infos, write to CARNAGE Rec. or to the band:

Piotr Sobaszek
44-217 Rybnik
Zebrzydowska 174
Poland

LEIF JENSEN

COMPUS MENTIS

COMPUS MENTIS Demo '93

Shit, this ain't real anymore... Another demo from the Netherlands! We'd better made a Dutch special with all those tapes, that we got from there... Any way, COMPUS MENTIS is a pretty new band and their 6-track demo was recorded in January '93. The quality of it is (once again) quite impressive! There must be a hell lot of great studios and/or producers for this kind of music in their country. Musically, they named ENTOMBED, SUFFOCATION, CANNIBAL CORPSE, DISMEMBER, CARCASS and GOREFEST as their main influences and believe it or not: you'll find something from all of them in COMPUS MENTIS music, which makes it easy for me, ha! The only thing I dislike a little bit, are the vocals. They are pretty much like dogbarking you know, in that typical SUFFOCATION/CANNIBAL CORPSE kinda style... But besides that, this is heeaaaaavvvvyy! Get it for only \$6 from:

Marcq van der Meer
Beatrixstraat 119
2685 BJ Poeldijk
Holland

FRANK STÖVER



Abstract absurdity (Adv. for 7" EP)

Spanish ABSORBED are back again and even better than at the (also good) times of their "Unreal overflows" demo, reviewed in VOICES, the 2nd. These 3 trks + intro are planned to be out through Seraphic Decay, so let's see if everything comes out as imagined with the dubious US-label. But let's concentrate on ABSORBED! They left back their thrash metal edge and now on a nearly total death metal path that should be interesting for most of the metallers coz it's perfectly played and has an extraordinary (Swedish) sound, impressive. Yes, I like it a lot, I'm just waiting for the EP. Check it out, they might be

releasing another EP soon...let's see,if they go a step further and vary the vocals a bit more,then ABSORBED will be a name every-body must(!)have heard about. Go ahead and write to Javier(who by the way seems to like us,cause he sent us two letters and two packages with same content...good idea!)Oye Javier,qué significa "Fco.",acaso Federico ?O no tengo razón ??? (?????????-Ed.)

ABSORBED

Fco.Javier Zarco
c/ Betanzos N° 38
Santiago de Compostela 15703
(La Coruna)
Spain

LEIF JENSEN



DISMAL(Demo'93)

Yep,this is another example of the fantastic Florida - scene when it comes to death metal !EULOGY,a Tampa-based five-piece released an outstanding three-song release entitled DISMAL,which goes kinda like hand in hand with the stuff of earlier MORBID ANGEL,MONSTROSITY or never BRUTALTY !In other words,not the most original band in the world,but killer musicians and extreme brutal,little bit technical death metal at it's best !Production has been handled by Tom Morris himself,so if you are into this kinda stuff,get yourself a copy for \$6 or a shirt for \$12 from this address:

EULOGY
13224 Moran Dr.
Tampa,FL 33618
U.S.A.

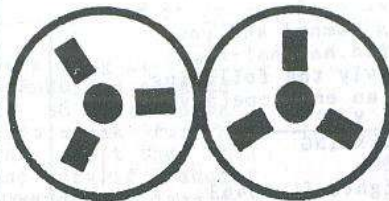
They've just been picked-up by CENOTAPH REC for the release of an EP,so watch out for that as well !

FRANK STÖVER

BETHLEHEM
Promotape 3/'93

One of the best newcomers around are back with a promotape featuring 2 songs to be released on a 7"EP as soon as possible,so you might call this an advance tape.I don't know,on which label it will be out or if it's self-produced,but I guess you'll hear about it,at least if you read the interview with BETHLEHEM hopefully included in this issue.What else ?One song was already published on their debut demo and I must admit to prefer the older version.Meanwhile the first song is very much in the MY DYING BRIDE vein,the second is faster and straight,but still somehow impressed by gods MDB.The sound is very good and everything apart you should be informed about is included in the interview,so search for it.Address with the interview !

LEIF JENSEN



MARTYRIUM
In the region of night
Demo II'92

This one seemed to be interesting,but I guess this thought was never more than my own wish."Shadow" is the man called who runs this solo project and as nearly usual one-man-bands are unable to reach mediocre quality-levels,boring drummachine, a bad harmonizer-voice plus some female screams.It's different from the masses,but not really worth the fuckin'money,specially considering the not special sound and poor inlay and layout.This is 30min of slow drumcomputer,harmonizer(horrible!)with nearly no guitarsounds.The girl shreds,but why do I have to think of Quorthon the whole time ? No relation!10,-DM/5-6 \$

MARTYRIUM
c/o Heiko Hahn
Plattenthal Nr.9
09488
Germany

LEIF JENSEN

P.S.:Don't mess them up with the other band of the same name,hopefully be featured in this issue as well !-Ed.

SOUL DRAIN

The innocent shall die
Demo # I'93

Never judge a book by it's cover !This often used phrase came into my mind,when I got the debut-demo from UK's SOUL DRAIN,a pretty new band,which was formed in January'93.Their cover and inlay didn't look too promising to me,but does this matter anyway ?Nope... So,I put the tape into my stereo and listened to the things to come...Uuuuuh,what an awful sound - this definitely has to be a rehearsal-recording.Pretty weak sounding guitars and a dominant voice and drumkit... SOUL DRAIN are good for what they're doing,if you remember that they are only playing together for almost half a year. But why is it a problem for a lot of bands to wait a little longer ?This could have turned out a lot better,recorded in a more professional way,cause SOUL DRAIN are probably going in the CYNIC/DEATH/PESTILENCE direction with their upcoming material,which sounds really interesting to me !But they wasted their time and money on something like this...It might become a collectors item in the future,but I wouldn't be proud of it,if I would be a member of the band...I miss a lot of power in this recording.Sorry! If you want to check it out, send \$ 3.50 to this address :
SOUL DRAIN
c/o Kev Peach
66 Huxley Street
Castle,Northwich
Cheshire,CW8 1DD
England

FRANK STÖVER



PROTON BURST

Stone (Proto '93)

Hey, their second appearance in our mag, so for more infos you should check out VOICES # 1 (Yeah! hehe!) although it might not help because they don't sound as shitty as back then. Shall I call it development? Dunno, but it's totally different. A strange sounding tape (somehow dirty!) with mostly slow, industrial music with sound effects and collages. The deep vocals may let it stay interesting for metal maniacs but not even this fact is constant, also whis - perings outspoken and melo - dically sung passages. I appreciate the experimental touch of this frenchies, a mental voyage, a kind of musical train coming along with weird lyrics; the second song "Borderline" annoys me utmostly, bleargh! "Stone metal"?? Another cage is born, but which audience do they want to reach? Ask them! Price 6\$...

Proton Management
A. Kriloff
25 av. PV Couturier
94110 Arcueil
France

LEIF JENSEN

ABSORB The call (Demo II '92)

Right, these guys are the same, that already had the pleasure to appear in our first VOICES edition and to be sincere to you, they got a review for the same tape I'm going to review right now, with the difference that those times the songs were announced as "promotion tape" on a normal blank tape without cover. So, just to warn every - body who believed me back then and wrote to get more informations; I think a new review has to be written, specially because the sound is not the same, it's clearer now, as if it had been mixed again. Good thing, sounds good (how tired I am!) Just to repeat it, ABSORB play a good quality straight-forward death metal with some thrashy accentuations and you can listen to the tape without problems while having to finish other things, like I am actually writing poems. They are willing to record their debut lp soon (probably!) so hurry up for a copy... and they have a manager... send 10,-DM to OTTO...

Otto Raab
Franckenstraße 13
91052 Erlangen
Germany

LEIF JENSEN

(Do you miss anything, Leif? -Ed.)



WAR BEYOND THE FLESH Demo '93

This is really cool stuff! MIDIAN consists of ex-members of the legendary DE - LIRIUM and HEXENHAMMER!!! So you can expect some really great music and listening to this 5-track demo. I have no more doubts, that they'll sign a contract real soon! WAR BEYOND THE FLESH contains timeless death metal, very raw and fuckin' brutal - packed in a great killer production! The cover artwork features a little drawing, which was done by Charles Manson!! They managed to keep away from any new trends within the scene, which is really nice, cause you'll enjoy them this way even more (I hope!).

Write to:
Wilmar Taal
Dodonaeusstraat 117
1504 KG Zaandam
Holland
Price: \$6

FRANK STÖVER



Sharing the grave (Demo I '92)

Another young german band, which began in 1992 and because of this fact, I must admit, their debut demo impressed me in a surprisive big way, beginning with a strange but clear and powerful sound and very aggressive tunes. Yeah, I like this mixture of doom, thrash and old wave death metal adding very melodic (Ye!) riffs, accoustic passages and synths, also I must disagree and constate that their lyrics are still usual for death metal bands as they see it differently. Not really a negative aspect and all in all a really heavy debut demo which keeps us waiting for future releases, so obey and take a pencil if you are into new, hopeful bands. 10,-DM to:

Stefan Hertrich
Sommerstr. 6
82140 Olching
Germany

LEIF JENSEN

P.S.: They are right, the last song "Of the end" is heavily PARADISE LOSTY, it rages! Gimme more babe!

forsaken

Requiem (Demo '92) & Adv. for 7" EP

I'm excited! FORSAKEN are based in Malta and sent us two tapes to review, so that is it... what about the music? Hell yeah, it's my brother DOOM again, but meanwhile their debut demo Requiem has a very poor sound and still offers some faster thrash riffs and permanent keyboards, they now are on the right way, namely the advance tracks for the upcoming EP, which are great. Including a new version of a demo song and a completely new one, it made me think of another band because now you can really distinguish between what is music and the noise created by the tape... good sound and traditional doom stuff. I say "traditional" because it's more the old doom metal school. The melodic side with clear vocals, although their vocalist even added some death grunts here and there. Plus very good lyrics, so I think, you should go for this EP as it rules! Should be out on ARKHAM PROD. (???) in France but you can also write to the band. Remember that you are supporting a hopeful band from an underdog county with your money. Their debut-lp is planned to come soon...

FORSAKEN
c/o Albert Bell
Norvix HSE
Cottonera Ave.
Fgura Pla 17
Malta (Europe)

LEIF JENSEN

ICONOCLAST Promotape '92

The italian metalscene was a kind of blank point in my memory, just NECRODEATH knew how to do it (and they really knew, hell!), plus the great THANATOGRAPHY mag (hello, hello!) and in fact ICONOCLAST (ex-UPCOMING GRAVE) seem to have a certain relation to this nice zine. Their promotape '92 includes two own songs and "The old coffin spirit" by greek dark-side-members ROTTING CHRIST which are also not far away from ICONOCLAST's sound, talking about the devilish and gloomy atmosphere created. The really rough and brutal sound makes this mixture of slow black metal and actual death metal very enjoyable. Italy's hopefullies together with SADIST and good old SCHIZO. Don't know, if this tape is still available, look out for new stuff... write them and ask: (new 7" reviewed somewhere else in this issue! -Ed.)

Andrea Zanetti
V. Donati, 87/2
41100 Modena
Italy

LEIF JENSEN

FEAR FACTORY

This bunch is without doubt one of the fastest upcoming bands, talking about gaining popularity !!! Fortunately I got the chance to meet them on their tour with CANNIBAL CORPSE, although I must add that it was a kind of misrated night because nearly everything concerning the promises of the organization of the interview went wrong ! What else you still don't know from other mags ? Quite interesting bands played that night... SLEEP (the coolest), PENANCE, DESULTORY and ragers CATHEDRAL plus that FEAR FACTORY are a five-piece band now, who totally improved on stage. What a killer gig !! Finally a little bit of gratitude to the FF tour manager who made it all possible nevertheless and to Dinoguy for the long space of time he offered me. I enjoyed it utmostly, so did you, right ? Hell, me and the german girls (consored! Just a joke) are looking forward for the next time. Support experimental bands in times of trends and hypes and boring rip-offs and especially if they stay true to themselves and don't care about anything. Yes, I'm talking about FEAR FACTORY, read on... you won't regret it.

SO, WOULD YOU LIKE TO INTRODUCE THE INTERVIEW ?

Dino: "Ah, just that... expect something new from FEAR FACTORY early next year (maybe like march) It's gonna be a mixture of everything from industrial to the grind stuff and techno."

SORRY, GRIND STUFF ???

"Yeah, grind ! Some techno and stuff like that. I can't really say it's gonna be grindcore, but it's gonna have some heavy elements of grindcore, you know what I'm saying and very heavy elements of techno, but the music is still gonna be heavy. Heavy guitars and different types of vocals."

FITS PERFECT TO MY NEXT QUESTION: YOUR DEBUT LP WAS PROMOTED AS A MIXTURE BETWEEN DEATH METAL AND INDUSTRIAL. THAT'S A DRASTICALLY LIMITED DESCRIPTION TO ME !

"I don't really think it's death metal. We don't sing anything about death metal at all. We don't sing about darkness and sickness you know (A usual cliché ! -Leif) It's kind of hard to say what we are. I just think there is two kinds of music: good and bad, and to me personally I think that my music is good for me and I hope that other people can enjoy the music as much as I do."

THEN DINO COMMENTS ON TOURING...

"We are touring now for six months, first we went down to Mexico for some shows, then we started the tour in Europe with BRUTAL TRUTH and right after that month we went home to tour the United States with SICK OF IT ALL and BIOHAZARD and a second US-tour with OBITUARY, a very good tour ! And actually again with CANNIBAL CORPSE."

AND WHAT ABOUT YOUR SPARE-TIME ?

"I don't have much right now. After this tour with CANNIBAL CORPSE we are going to Australia for 2 weeks and when we come home we write the new songs and come back to our daily life. But to tell you the truth - this is my life! (to sit under a tree, looking after every two long legs with a half drunken german fucker ??? -Leif) I like touring."

A STATION OF THIS TOUR WAS THE INCREDIBLE DYNAMO FESTIVAL THIS YEAR. WHAT WAS THAT TO YOU AS A YOUNG BAND ?

"It was a big dream come true ! Cause when I was a kid I had always read on books: DYNAMO - wow ! I'd love to play at the DYNAMO ! I've always seen CD's of bands they put out from the DYNAMO like TESTAMENT, SACRED REICH etc. I was thinking, oh my god, I'd love to play there and now in my life I got to play, it was like a dream come true (nice-man Dino also = repetition Dino ? -Leif)

It's kind of hard to express. I was completely excited, I was overwhelmed, I don't know, I shit my pants, hahaha... Like it was not real."

AND THE ATMOSPHERE AT THE FESTIVAL..

"It was very hectic first of all, they had so many bands, everything had to go very fast etc. Once you get out on stage and look at all those people you feel numb, you didn't feel your body. And when you hear the first note, you just get crazy, you get totally excited... a rush... adrenalin... and just have a good time. You feel really good, because you see all those people who like your stuff. Did you see that I jumped into the audience after we played ?" (Yes. -Leif)

A
NEW
AGE
HAS
JUST
BEGUN

I DON'T KNOW IF I SHOULD TRY TO ASK YOU 'BOUT...

"Hahaha, I know what you'll say, but go ahead!"

NO WAY, IF YOU ALREADY KNOW, THEN YOU SHOULD GO ON!"

"Does it start with a (censored)? (I just nod...-Leif) I don't talk about that!"
NOT EVEN ON SPANISH TO MAKE IT EXCLUSIVE?

"Hahahahahahahahaha!"
(the next questions are superflous, so just the answers...-Leif)

"No comment!"

"No comment!"

"Not on tape!"

HM, TIME FOR A BREAK... WHAT WOULD BE A COOL TOUR FOR FEAR FACTORY?

"A good tour for me would be FAITH NO MORE, SEPULTURA or PRODIGY, a great techno band... look at tonight, CATHE-DRAL etc. all different bands. I personally like most SLEEP from the bands tonight, because they don't care what people say and think, just go their way. Think for your -self, hear it for yourself!!"

NEXT THING... AS YOU ARE A YOUNG BAND, YOU MUST HAVE INTERESTING VIEWS ON THE BUSINESS...

"I see a lot of bands going through music business hard. They don't make no money, nothing, get treated like shit, blablabla. But we had to go that way too, but everybody has it's time, we went through that shit too."

I can't really say, that I like the business, I don't like it, but I don't hate it. The more I understand it, the more it is easy for me. When I don't understand something, I don't like it. When I understand it, then I learn it and try to be under control myself."

DE ACUERDO GUAPO TUS ULTIMOS COMENTARIOS, PERO SOLO EN ESPANOL! (Leeeeeeeeiiiiiiiiif!

What the fuck are you doing? I hope you don't speak chinese or japanese as well...-Ed.)

"La musica de Fear Factory es muy espiritual, es de mi corazon."

TAMBIEN SE TE ESTA OLVIDANDO UN POCO EL ESPANOL!

"Hehehe, did you understand me?"

SURE, BUT I WON'T TRANSLATE IT HERE BECAUSE IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE SOMETHING EVEN MORE SPECIAL THAN ON ENGLISH...

Yo, german guys doing an english written zine with spanish questions. We had to sum it up a little bit, anyway gracias de nuevo... es nuestra fabrica del miedo, disfrutenlo!!!

(How many beers did you have that night, Leifiboy? Sounds if you've drunken FEAR FACTORY's whole stock! Otherwise it would have been a much longer conversation, right? But YOU weren't able to talk in english anymore, weren't you? Oh boy, you better get back to "letter-interviews"! Spanish questions...tztztz!

-Ed.) LEIF JENSEN

FEAR
FACTORY

FEAR
FACTORY



ACHERON

Devilish,
Occult,
Christian
Hating!

ACHERON are back !In issue 1 we've told you about their problems with the german rip off label Turbo Music... Luckily these problems are over now and the band is stronger than ever !Relocated to Tampa/Florida,mainman VINCENT CROWLEY hooked-up with longtime friend and ex-NOCTURNUS drummer MIKE BROWNING for the second time and they put out a brand new EP, HAIL VICTORY on the english CANDLELIGHT label.A full-length album is due to be released on LETHAL RECORDS later on...But before we go too much in depth,read the interview with VINCENT...

WOULD YOU ALSO HAVE SPLIT-UP WITH THE OLD ACHERON MEMBERS IF YOU WOULDN'T HAVE RE-JOINED WITH MIKE ?

"The old ACHERON members are no longer in the band because of lack of dedication to ACHERON.Mike Browning's joining

the band has nothing to do with their departure.Presently the line-up is Vincent Crowley-vocals,Vincent Breeding-lead/rhythm guitar, Mike Browning-drums,Troy Heffern-bass and Peter Gilmore does our intros.On the RITES OF THE BLACK MASS lp I did the vocals,rhythm guitar and bass.Now I can just concentrate on my vocals and presenting a very intense stage show.The band only evolves more and more as time goes on and as long as I'm alive ACHERON will continue !"
WHY HAVE YOU MOVED BACK TO TAMPA ?

"Basically,I wanted a change of sights.Tampa has a fairly good scene and it's our home base for now."

HOW DID YOU GET TOGETHER WITH THE NEW MEMBERS ?TELL US A BIT ABOUT'EM !

"Well,it was hard to find members that were into the same ideas that I was into, but it happened.Mike left NOCTURNUS and contacted me at the same time we needed a drummer.Vincent Breeding was met through friends and Troy worked with the band when I was still playing bass for live purposes.When I found out how good he was on bass, I offered him the position. I really enjoy this line-up."

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR PROBLEMS WITH TURBO MUSIC ?

"We were ripped-off,but I curse them with all the forces of darkness !"(you don't



have to anymore, cause they are out of business now, after selling lotsa Nazi-shit for a while !-Ed.)

HOW DID YOU GET IN TOUCH WITH CANDLELIGHT RECORDS ?

"They contacted us." (WOW !-Ed.)

WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT YOUR NEW MATERIAL - DO YOU THINK IT IS MORE LIKE YOUR DEMO STUFF THAN ACHERON'S FIRST ALBUM ?

"It's a progression from the album and it is nothing like the demo days. I personally didn't really like our demo days. (Why ? You released some killer stuff back then !-Ed.) Our present day music is darker than ever but not a clone of any band !" (sounds good to me !-Ed.)

HOW BIG HAS MIKE'S INFLUENCE BEEN ON THE SONGWRITING ALREADY ?

"Well basically Mike concentrates on the drums only. I do all the lyrics since I have to sing them. But we are doing an old 1987 NOCTURNUS song we both wrote, called SLAUGHTERIZATION FOR SATAN. And the music is written by myself and Vincent Breeding."

DO YOU AGREE WITH THE ACTIVITIES OF THE NORWEGIAN BLACK METAL CIRCLE ?

"I could really care less about what they do. The difference between us and them is that they want Christianity to get strong and suppress people and we want to end Christianity. They want to be slaves and we are our own masters, they believe in actual living and feeling deities and we acknowledge the force of darkness, they like the weak minded and we want the elite. Personally, whatever they do they eventually will have to take re-

sponsibility for, so I just don't care as long as they don't step in our circle!"

HOW DO YOU TRY TO GET YOUR MESSAGE OF THE "EVIL EYE"

ACROSS ? WHAT DO YOU DO EXACTLY DO ?

"We have our own anti-Christian movement and all hates of the false faith are welcome. We supply newsletters and information to those who wish it. We also supply satanists information on our inner circle and the Church of Satan."

HAVE YOU WORKED WITH PETER GILMORE ON THE NEW ALBUM AGAIN ? WHAT HAS HE CONTRI-

Death to Christianity

PRAISE THE
SELF

BUTED TO THE SONGS THIS TIME ?

"Well, the new release HAIL VICTORY is an EP so we only put songs on it. But he will be on all our full length albums." (oh thanks Vincent, the question WAS for your next FULL LENGTH ALBUM, otherwise I would have asked about the EP..-Ed.)

COULD YOU IMAGINE TO SHARE SOME VOCAL PARTS WITH MIKE IN THE FUTURE MAYBE ?

"No! (oops..-Ed.) I am the singer and I will do all vocals now. Anyway, Mike has no desire to do any singing (even back ups) at all. He wants to deal with just his drums."

WILL CANDLELIGHT RE-RELEASE YOUR DEBUT-ALBUM AS WELL ?

"No, JL-AMERICA has released the RITES OF THE BLACK MASS lp in the USA, so Turbo Music can rot in heaven !" (yeah,

sure they can, but as far as I know, JL-AMERICA is bankrupt as well...-Ed.)

ANYTHING ELSE ?

"Thanks for the support Frank, and we are due to do a European tour in October 1993 with SAMAEL and UNHOLY. (oh boy, I'm not sure, if this will already be out then... -Ed.) We are also planning to do our new album LEX TALIONIS on LETHAL RECORDS of Austria. Hail Satan, ACHERON LIVES !!!"

Of course they do !!! Just check out HAIL VICTORY and make up your own minds. To me, ACHERON is one of the most original bands out of the Tampa-area, although they are not a "real" Tampa band. And if you hate Christianity, it's much easier to agree with their statements, than with all of the norwegian self-claimed Satanists...

Hopefully their address will be still the same when this zine is out, cause they have moved so much over the last years, you won't believe it. So you better check it out, before you order any merchandise... Shirts are \$13(US)/\$17.

ACHERON

P.O. Box 272929
Tampa, FL 33688
U.S.A.

You can also try to get in touch with CANDLELIGHT RECORDS at the following address:

CANDLELIGHT RECORDS

Units 15 & 15A
Bushell Business Estate
Hithercroft, Wallingford
Oxfordshire, OX109DD
E N G L A N D

Please make sure to enclose IRC's if you'll write them.

FRANK STÖVER

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**SMALL
BUT
WORLDWIDE**

POSSSESSED

The return

This interview was originally planned for our 2nd issue, but unfortunately the band didn't reply at that time.

The reasons for it were quite simple - Bob Yost, their old bass player left the band and so they had a bunch of problems concerning their mail, because Bob was the one who did all that in the past. Now everything's solved and we got our interview with new mate Paul Perry...

FIRST AND MOST IMPORTANT QUESTION IS OF COURSE, WHY IS BOB OUT OF POSSESSED?

"Bob is out of the band because of musical differences. YOU MUST HAVE A FEW PROBLEMS WITH YOUR FAN MAIL, BECAUSE IT WAS ALWAYS BOB'S ADDRESS IN POSSESSED FEATURES..."

"We had some problems, but now the situation is taken care of."

HOW DID YOU GET INTO THE BAND, PAUL?

"I've been the bass player of a local death metal band called CONJURATION and I was a friend of Walter and very much interested in POSSESSED. WHY HAVE YOU DECIDED TO DO ANOTHER DEMO, HAVEN'T YOU GOT ANY INTERESTING OFFERS FOR AN ALBUM?"

"We decided to do another demo because the first one was the worst thing the band has ever done. We had a few offers but we weren't ready, plus we had problems with the members..."

YOUR NEW DEMO WAS DONE IN THE SAME STUDIO AS THE '91 TAPE, ALTHOUGH IT TURNED OUT MUCH BETTER THIS TIME...

WHAT ARE THE REASONS FOR IT?

"We were more confident about ourselves and as a unit. We practiced a lot harder on our weak areas plus on the '91 demo, Mike had only been singing for a week and Walter had only been playing in the band for 2 weeks. Now we know more about the way we want to sound."

WHY HAVE YOU RE-RECORDED 7TH SIGN?

"To prove to people that this new band is more faster heavier and tighter than the '91 demo."

MIKE HAS PROGRESSED A LOT AS A VOCALIST SINCE YOU RE-FORMED. DID HE HAD ANY SINGING LESSONS?

"No lessons, he just gargalls with razor blades (Ha Ha Ha)!"

YOU MENTIONED SOME SHOWS YOU DID ON THE WEST COAST - TELL US MORE ABOUT 'EM...
"We played 3 shows, 2 in the Bay Area and 1 out of town, which turned out great for the band being broken up for five years. We've played with MACHINE HEAD, IMMORTALITY, BLOODCLOT, INFESTATION and INSANITY. In our setlist we play almost all of 7 CHURCHES a few from BEYOND THE GATES, EYES OF HORROR and half of the material from the upcoming album."



HAVE YOU ALREADY HEARD CANNIBAL CORPSE'S COVER OF 'THE EXCORCIST'? WHAT DO YOU (HONESTLY!) THINK ABOUT IT? (I HATE IT, BY THE WAY, CAUSE THE VOCALS ARE CRAP AND THE SONG HAS MUCH MORE POWER AND HEAVINESS IN THE ORIGINAL VERSION... JUST MY TASTE...)

"No we haven't but we would like for everybody to hear us play it now!"

DO YOU THINK, PEOPLE WILL ALWAYS ASK YOU SOMETHING ABOUT THE EARLY DAYS, ALTHOUGH WHEN YOU HAVE RELEASED A NEW ALBUM WITH A DIFFERENT LINE-UP? DO YOU MIND, CAUSE YOU HAVEN'T BEEN IN THE BAND BACK THEN?

"People usually only ask Mike about the old band. But it does not bother us because after we have been playing shows, it's all about us. Not to be egotistical but we're just confident and people see that and say they like us 100% better! The old band will always be the first and will always be a legend!"

HOW BIG IS YOUR MUSICAL INPUT ON THE SONGWRITING THESE DAYS? IS MIKE WRITING ALL THE STUFF ON IT'S OWN OR DO YOU CONTRIBUTE SONGS AS WELL?

"We all contribute to the music we're working on now, but Mike wrote the songs on the demo."

SEVEN CHURCHES WAS A BIG STEP AHEAD OF IT'S TIME WHEN IT WAS RELEASED AND THE PRODUCTION IS STILL ONE OF THE BEST FOR THIS KIND OF MUSIC, SO HAVE YOU EVER TRIED TO WORK WITH RANDY BURNS AGAIN?

"Right now we are just focused on distributing the demo and getting a good record deal. We will deal with that when the time comes."

MIKE, WAS IT A KIND OF HONOUR WHEN JOE SATRIANI CAME DOWN TO PRODUCE 'EYES OF HORROR' OR HAVE YOU NEVER BEEN A FAN OF HIM MUSICALLY?

"He was Larry's guitar teacher and I was very honored because he's a great guitar player and I like his music a lot!"

WAS IT DIFFICULT FOR HIM TO GET INTO YOUR KIND OF MUSIC?

"No, it was not a problem. He is very open minded and one of the greatest guitar players ever. He has taught Steve Vai, Kirk Hammett, Rick Hunolt and Gary Holt (EXODUS) plus Larry Lalonde and also helped me on some stuff."

That's it already boys'n'girls, if you wanna know more about POSSESSED, or just a copy of their current demo tape, drop them a line at:

POSSESSED
1072 Falsom St. Box 371
San Francisco, CA 94103
U.S.A.

The demo goes for 5\$ if I do remember correctly, but you'll better ask if it's still for sale. It's a 3-track tape and features the tunes "7th sign" (new recording), "Last ritual" and "Human extermination". For a detailed review see elsewhere in this issue.

FRANK STÖVER

MARTYRIUM

Some of you might remember, that we had a bigger feature on a german black metal band called MARTYRIUM in our last issue. In fact that I really liked their demo, I decided to give them another feature to express themselves a little more. All infos are in the following interview and all the answers were given by NEOPHYTE, the band's drummer... WHEN YOU AND AHARON FORMED THE BAND WAY BACK IN 1989, WAS IT ALREADY UNDER THE NAME "MARTYRIUM", DID YOU ALREADY USE THE SAME KINDA LOOK AND HAVE YOU ALREADY CALLED YOUR MUSICAL STYLE "BLACK METAL" ?

"When I formed the band in '89, MARTYRIUM was influenced by the old black metal scene. We started to paint our faces and wear leather, bulletbelts etc. Our style is and was black metal!" WHY HAVE YOU SPLIT-UP WITH THE FORMER MEMBERS OF THE BAND AND HOW DID YOU GET TOGETHER WITH FERNEUS AND DAEVAS ?

"We threw out the old members because of personal problems. They didn't fit into the band. Daevas and Ferneus are old friends of us. They were into black metal as we are and wanted to release their thoughts and feelings in our music." IN FACT THAT EVERYONE USES NICKNAMES IN THE BLACK METAL SCENE, MAYBE YOU CAN EXPLAIN HOW YOU GOT THE IDEA FOR YOUR FOUR NAMES ?

"The names have a deeper meaning for every member of the band, it's too personal to explain here." DO YOU THINK THAT BLACK METAL IS ONLY FOR REAL WHEN YOU WRITE OCCULT/SATANIC LYRICS AND USE MAKE-UP ?

"What else? Black metal should be for a small circle of listeners, which can feel the music and most important understands it!" ALTHOUGH YOU SEEMED TO BE INFLUENCED BY BATHORY AND CELTIC FROST AS WELL IN THE BEGINNING, YOU'VE CHANGED YOUR DIRECTION A LOT OVER THE YEARS. DO YOU SEE YOURSELF STILL AS A BLACK METAL BAND ?

"Martyrium IS black metal! Even if we don't sound like BATHORY anymore. It depends on your heart." TO ME, YOUR MUSIC SOUNDS MUCH MORE HONEST THESE DAYS AS A LOT OF THE STUFF FROM SCANDINAVIA, CAUSE YOU SEEM TO GO IN A TOTAL DIFFERENT DIRECTION, NOT(!) INFLUENCED BY ANY TRENDS. IS IT POSSIBLE, THAT YOU DON'T LISTEN TO A LOT OF THE STUFF THAT IS COMING OUT NOW ?

"I listen to 80% black metal. (Norway stuff, Necromantia, Throne of Ahaz, Grand Belial's Key etc.) Also to Diamanda Galas, Tangerine Dream or classical music. We try to sound different with our style."

DOES IT BOTHER YOU, THAT BLACK METAL IS BECOMING TRENDY ON ONE HAND AND STUPID AND CHILDISH (NORWAY-SCENE) ON THE OTHER?

"Black metal is a trend, but even if this music is in the press quite often at the moment, I hope that black metal is too extreme for most of the people (hope so too! -Ed.) I don't think, that the Norway-scene is stupid or childish (well, I don't mean the whole scene, but some of the activities there, like burning churches, killing people etc. -Ed.) I absolutely support the hunting of christians. They destroyed so many religions and cultures, they deserve to be punished!"

IS IT IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO KEEP YOUR IDENTITY AS A KIND OF SECRET OR WHY HAVEN'T YOU PRINTED YOUR COUNTRY OF ORIGIN IN YOUR INFO AND USE AN OUTSIDE PERSON FOR THE BAND CONTACT ?

"Yes it is. Malkuth promotion is so-to-say a member of the band. It keeps a lot of work from us." ALTHOUGH IT MIGHT SOUND TRENDY THESE DAYS, I'D LIKE TO KNOW YOUR POINT OF VIEW ABOUT THE HAPPENINGS WITHIN THE BLACK METAL SCENE... DO YOU SUPPORT THE ACTIVITIES OF BANDS LIKE BURZUM, MAYHEM ETC. ? ARE YOU INTO SATANISM ON

YOUR OWN ? ARE YOU IN CONTACT WITH ONE OF THOSE BANDS ? HAVE YOU ALREADY BEEN CALLED FALSE ?

"Basically I support those activities as mentioned above. Real black metal bands should unite to filter false people out. Same happens here in Germany. An elite of bands against those who have infiltrated the scene. Hail to the german black metal mafia! I wouldn't describe it as satanism. What we practice is deeper, we follow the lifestyle of a satanist, but our rituals are different. We are in contact with some bands. No, we haven't been called false! There is no reason for it!"

DO YOU THINK IT IS POSSIBLE TO GET A ROUGH SOUNDING BLACK METAL ALBUM OUT, THAT CAPTURES THE ATMOSPHERE OF A DEMO IN A GREAT PRODUCTION ?

AS BLACK AS THE NIGHT !!

"It is possible. But it depends on the band. Impaled Nazarene and Rotting Christ proofed it!" GIVE US A FEW DETAILS ABOUT YOUR "THROUGH THE AEON" DEMO !

"Recorded in Dec. '92. It contains four tracks which lyrically deal with magickal themes. We are very unsatisfied with the sound, especially the drum-sound." THERE'S TALK ABOUT A 7" AT THE END OF THE YEAR...!

"Probably there will be a 7" out on a label from Holland, but it's not sure yet. Songs have been recorded already." WHAT IS YOUR OPINION ABOUT LIVE-SHOWS? WILL YOU PLAY LIVE OR DO YOU ALSO HATE IT TO PLAY IN FRONT OF TRENDY D.H.-KIDS ?

"I hate to play live! Too much costs and work to play in front of a couple of children!" IF YOU WANT TO ADD SOMETHING TO THIS INTERVIEW FEEL FREE TO DO IT HERE...

"My hails to our brothers of OFFERBLUT and UNGOD! Stay true and hate! There will be an end of the word of god!"



That's it. If you are interested in MARTYRIUM or if you want to send them hate letters or anything else, use the following contact address:

MALKUTH PROMOTION
c/o Maik Kalkmann
Triftstr. 25
49090 Osnabrück
Germany

Don't know, if the demo's still for sale, just ask...

FRANK STÖVER

GOREFEST

The Eindhoven insanity
(Nuclear Blast Records)

Yeeeeeaaah, these dudes finally got the success, they've ever deserved! GOREFEST is (in my opinion) one of the greatest pure death metal acts of today and this live-recording from the legendary EINDHOVEN OPEN AIR FESTIVAL proves their intensity at it's best!! Songwise, you'll get mostly songs from their breakthrough release FALSE, but fans of the earlier days will be pleased to hear STATE OF MIND and CONFESIONS OF A SERIAL KILLER in a great live atmosphere as well! The quality of this recording is excellent (it was done by a dutch radio-station) and hey, this is the first real LIVE ALBUM ever released by a DEATH METAL ACT, so get yourself a copy before it's too late!!!!

FRANK STÖVER

GOREFEST

Mindloss
(Nuclear Blast Records)

Nothing new here, just the re-release of GOREFEST's debut-album, which originally came out on the small Foundation 2000 label some years ago. Anyone who had problems to obtain a copy of it so far, due to distributing problems or whatever, can easily buy it now! The songs are all from the band's two demos (except for one, if I remember correctly) and they are still worth to listen to. Although GOREFEST have turned into something more special with FALSE, this is a legendary release as well! Collectors should pick it up for sure!

FRANK STÖVER

DIVINE EVE

As the angels weep
(Nuclear Blast Records)

Hmm, haven't heard of this young act from Texas before, but the debut-4 tracker does sound really cool to me... Their label categorized them as death-/grindcore, but I'd totally disagree with that! Yeah, sure... death metal sounds ok with me, but I can hear a lot more classic influences in here as well. Their riffing is mostly based on the early (and still great!) MASTER-riffings as most of the bands have already used in the past. I'm not 100% sure, but there could also be some references to early ENTOMBED/NIHILIST stuff, at least, that's what came into my fucked-up brain these minutes. Check them out - no new trends here! Enjoyable...

FRANK STÖVER



Elements

(Music for Nations)

Hey, am I getting older or what? Probably... cause after the first listening of the new ATHEIST album, I already LIKED IT! Can't believe it myself, cause at the time, as UNQUESTIONABLE PRESENCE was released, I was totally disappointed, being a fan of the not soooooo technical older stuff of the band! Well, as I said, I can't explain it, maybe it's because I'm getting used to this form of music by now and with releases of DEATH, CYNIC, PESTILENCE and all those techno-deathers, it became easier... Compared to the disappointing new PESTILENCE release, this is almost as brilliant as CYNIC's first one (I know, Leif will heavily disagree, as he obeys CYNIC 24 hours a day!). We don't have to talk about how brilliant the musicianship is, as everybody already knows it by now... I'll bet, everyone who loved ATHEIST's last album, will enjoy this one as well. And I will end here now, cause I have to re-listen to the UNQUESTIONABLE PRESENCE to change my opinion as soon as possible!

FRANK STÖVER

TESTIFY

Testify

(Our Choice Records)

Rough Trade's Katja introduced me to this german (!!) band and as I don't consider myself a fan of industrial music, I was a little bit sceptical, if I was going to like it or not... Well, she continued talking about an "easier enjoyable version of MINISTRY", which sounded good to me, cause some MINISTRY songs are quite cool to listen to... So, here I finally got it - the TESTIFY debut-album and it is even better than I expected it would be. Heavy guitarsounds, harmonized industrial vocals and the typical monotonous rhythms for this kind of music... It's brutal, there are no doubts about it, but after a couple of songs, it begins to bore me (like almost every industrial release), cause most of the parts in the songs are repeated too often for my taste, but I guess, that is typical for those bands. Industrial maniacs should check TESTIFY out anyway... I'm just a loser!!!

FRANK STÖVER

TWO MINUTES BEFORE FUCKIN' DEADLINE



Pleasure of molestation

(Relapse Records)

I'm not sure, if I missed something, but if not, this is the second release of the RELAPSE UNDERGROUND SERIES, featuring the HYPOCRISY demo from 1992. It contains 4 tracks, that are absolutely identical with a recording, Peter sent to me a couple of months ago, to show me the new musical direction, HYPOCRISY were going to. So I guess, it's the same demo, which was released on CD here. All four tracks also appear on the bands new (disappointing) 2nd album, but these versions are really shredding! This is the living proof for me, that it ain't weak material on their 2nd album, just a horrible production! So, if you liked the debut-release of this swedish outfit and if you can stand an even more extreme version of it - get yourself a copy of this limited edition (3000 copies worldwide!) release instead of the new album... and give those guys a second chance with their next release!

FRANK STÖVER



'TURN LOOSE THE SWANS'

(PEACEVILLE)

The ultimate release
of
1993!!!!!!!

More details and
mega-feature in
VOICES #4!!!

...and forget about my CELESTIAL SEASON-review somewhere else in this issue!

FRANK STÖVER



WINGS

FROM THE
ARKSIDE

Vol. III

