



# Tales of Beverina

40 A4 pages  
of decent English  
and over 120 pictures!

THE ONLY ZINE OF UNLIGHT  
MUSIC IN LATVIA

ISSUE #1 - THE DAWN OF 1997.

## THE ISSUE FEATURES:

LATVIAN SCENE REPORT

199666 REPORT

ALBUM, VIDEO, DEMO  
AND LIVE REVIEWS

INTERVIEWS WITH:

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KNECHTE DES SCHRECKENS

ALGAION

EVOL

LET ME DREAM

BABYLON WHORES

SKY FORGER

UTGARD

HEAVEN GREY

NEGLECTED FIELDS

OTYG

MAZE OF CAKO TORMENTS

ALFHEIM

and more...

Zirgs  
(SKY FORGER)



# Tales of Beverina

## HARK! EDITORIAL.

Hēil, dark souls and unlight minds, hēil, hēil...!!  
(ahem)

We, emerging from an unknown land called Latvia... the land of Namzis and Semigallians - the bravest slayers of the blasted christian hordes back in the 13th century, the land of Kurshjoi - the only real threat to ancient Viking pillagers, that made cruises as far as Africa even, the land of drowned and lost castles of great hidden treasure, both material and magic, one of which Beverina appeared to be... The land which has been left in twilight for ages, "thanks" to the crusaders and communists, and their foul morals that have deformed the minds of people once proud and free...

...We, Beverina, are about to start a heathen revolution of unlight music here, and this is one of our few weapons you're holding in your trembling hands right now - the first issue of an amateur and this far experimental wholly laser-printed paper zine, dealing with matters of unlight music in our own country and all the Mother Earth (bow to thee). For your interest, other items of our yet not mighty enough, to be mightier however, armoury include a tv and a radio show, a distribution office and organizing numerous live gigs, our very own black metal fest «Hexennacht» among them. But we are the only ones doing it all here at the same time, and that is why we need support... Therefore we summon our dragon magic and bid all of you, involved in the unlight music scene anyplace worldwide, not to hesitate and support Beverina by enlightening us with your art, we promise to promote and spread it here and over the Baltic states as good and fair as we can, until the final and glorious Armageddon comes. Still.. what goes under "unlight music" should be explained, so here it comes: black, dark, ambient, pagan, ethnic, folk, horror, industrial, gothic, darkwave, doom, neo-classical, symphonic, medieval, nuclear, viking, Norsk, war, satanic, evil, ritual, noise, terror, mass murder, occult, heathen, forest, dragon, trollsk etc and so on. (If you like mr. Cannibal a lot, you can perhaps throw some ultra brutal death and hyperblast grindeore in here too.)

This, our very first volume of The Tales was scheduled to be done and released by the very dawn of 1997, but as we all, especially me, are, have been and will probably always remain loyal servants to Belphegor, a little delay might be observed. Now this whole part I (one) of the chronicle is divided into three main chapters, each consisting of mighty more sub-chapters etc - 1) Latvian Scene Report, 2) 199666 Report and 3) Artist Interviews. No doubt, you will find a handful of valuable and interesting information here, my own favourites being the interviews with Pazuzu, EVOL and Algaion...

So read/browse on, and SHED NO MERCY!!!

*Morgueldar, The Eye Of Satan.*

We won't follow the Sun in its course,  
We will follow the Moon in its curse...

€€€€€

### THE DARK TELLERS OF THE ANCIENT LATGALLIAN REMEGADE FORTRESS BEVERINA:

High editor, all English,  
layout, witchcraft and  
hard work in general:

**Morgueldar,  
The Eye Of Satan**



Age: 17  
Ht: 5'10 1/2"  
Wt: ~176 lbs.  
Hair: Hazel  
Eyes: Gray



Ideological father, con-  
tacts and distribution:

**Naomiss  
Dalahan Bard**



Age: 21  
Ht: 6'1"  
Wt: ~180 lbs.  
Hair: Hazel  
Eyes: "Depends on the light"



Photography, death-  
grind, brutality:

**Cannibal**



Age: 18  
Ht: 5'8 1/2"  
Wt: ~155 lbs.  
Hair: Red  
Eyes: Blue



Our contact address:

**TALES OF BEVERINA  
c/o Juris Shilders  
Lielvārdes 139-74  
Rīga, LV-1082  
LATVIJA.**

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VOLUME #1 - THE DAWN OF 1997.



## PLAYLISTS:

### Morgueldar

1996:

- |  |      |
|--|------|
| 1. SUMMONING "Minas Morgul"                        | 1995 |
| 2. V/A "Norici Obscura Pars"                       | 1995 |
| 3. ELEND "Les Ténébres Du Dehors"                  | 1996 |
| 4. ZYKLON-B "Blood Must Be Shed"                   | 1995 |
| 5. CRADLE OF FILTH "Vampire or Dark Faerytales..." | 1996 |
| 6. CRUACHAN "Tuatha Na Gael"                       | 1995 |

Current (in no particular order):

- |   |      |
|---|------|
| PAZUZU "Awaken The Dragon"              | 1996 |
| MYSTICUM "In The Streams Of Inferno"    | 1996 |
| THE MOON LAY HIDDEN BENEATH A CLOUD any |      |
| ENSLAVED "Eid"                          | 1997 |
| DIE VERBANNT KINDE EVAS s/t             | 1996 |
| KVIST "For Kunsten Maa Vi Evig Vike"    | 1995 |

### Naomiss

1996:

- |  |      |
|--|------|
| 1. STORM "Nordavind"                         | 1995 |
| 2. SUMMONING "Minas Morgul"                  | 1995 |
| 3. POCOLUS "Poccolus"                        | 1996 |
| 4. THY REPENTANCE "Ural Twilight Autumnaias" | 1995 |
| 5. BATHORY "Blood On Ice"                    | 1996 |
| 6. EVOL "Dreamquest"                         | 1996 |

Current:

- |   |      |
|---|------|
| 1. NOCTURNAL MORTUM "Lunar Poetry"            | 1996 |
| 2. ZPOAN VTEZ "Gime Nugalé"                   | 1997 |
| 3. GOLDEN DAWN "The Art Of Dreaming"          | 1996 |
| 4. HA LELA "Pabudimas"                        | 1996 |
| 5. GODKILLER "The Rebirth Of The Middle Ages" | 1996 |
| 6. ENSLAVED "Eid"                             | 1997 |

Video playlist:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. IMMORTAL "Masters Of Nebulah Frost" |  |
| 2. BATHORY "One Rode To Asa Bay"       |  |
| 3. SATYRICON "Mother North"            |  |
| 4. MOONSPELL "Opium"                   |  |
| 5. BURZUM "Dunkelheit"                 |  |
| 6. ALFHEIM Live in "Mad Mix" 06/11/96  |  |

### Cannibal

1996:

- |   |      |
|---|------|
| 1. CRYPTOPSY "Blasphemy Made Flesh"               | 1995 |
| 2. KATAKLYSM "The Mystical Gate Of Reincarnation" | 1993 |
| 3. EMBRYONIC DEATH "Regurgiate The Dead"          | 1993 |
| 4. SUFFOCATION "Effigy Of The Forgotten"          | 1992 |
| 5. CANNIBAL CORPSE "Tomb Of The Mutilated"        | 1992 |
| 6. BRUTAL TRUTH "Extreme Conditions..."           | 1992 |

Current:

- |   |      |
|---|------|
| 1. KATAKLYSM "The Mystical Gate Of Reincarnation" | 1993 |
| 2. AUTOPSY "Act Of The Unspeakable"               | 1992 |
| 3. MORTICIAN "Mortal Massacre"                    | 1993 |
| 4. CANNIBAL CORPSE "Tomb Of The Mutilated"        | 1992 |
| 5. SUFFOCATION "Effigy Of The Forgotten"          | 1992 |
| 6. CRYPTOPSY "Blasphemy Made Flesh"               | 1995 |



Here starts the...

# LATVIAN SCENE REPORT

no introduction needed; to consist of 3 parts: (Latvian) band summary, artist interviews, as well as this winter's live reviews.

## BAND SUMMARY

*Cannibal, additions by Morgueldar.*

Nothing is really known outside the borders of Latvia about our underground scene. However even here - a damn lagged state of rotten post-socialism - heavy music has been evolving since 1980ies. And paradoxically Latvian scene features many promising and original bands on the world's level. Nevertheless there is one major problem that exists for all of them who want to break out in the world - money, money and money again...

Here follows a concise description of the most notable and popular of them bands in no particular (ie - chaotic) order, brought unto you by Mr. Cannibal...

**SKY FORGER** - Darkthroneish pagan metal on the highest musical level, which many other bands achieve only by their 2nd or the 3rd CD. The old cult name of Sky Forger was Grindmaster Dead and back then they played heavy, brutal and damn good doom metal with their own trademark - flute. Under that name their first demo tape "Stronger Than Love" was released. Then the band went pagan in its beliefs and changed its name to Sky Forger in the honour of the ancient Latvian god of thunder Pērkons. Eventually they started using different folk instruments in their songs and changed their style to black metal. The old vocalist was kicked from the band and the rhythm guitarist Peter sings now. Inalienable part of Sky Forger's live performances is their warlike pagan outfit and a sword to wave over the heads of the crowd majestically... At present the band's main effort is the recording of their first black metal demo, but again the crucial obstacle is the lack of money...

**NEGLECTED FIELDS** - very well, even perfectly performed technical death metal with melodic/jazz fusion elements and great, horrifying vocals in the vein of Carcass. This highly talented and young band is being compared to Cynic, but are much more original and atmospheric. The lyrics are tended to Eastern religion and philosophy. Neglected Fields have released a demo album "Sansara" yet it is possible that a CD is coming someday too. Besides they are the first here to have a professional video shot.



**Sky Forger - ceiling forger**

**MAZE OF CAKO TORMENT** - initially this was a one-man band, now after a couple of years existence a full line-up is being gathered. The music is highly complex, experimental and atmospheric horror death/black with oriental melodies, background keyboards, drummachine and other cool stuff. According to the bandname the music is filled with cacophony, but a technical not a senseless one. The first demo entitled "Dabalibula" is already released and can be exclusively ordered from Beverina Distribution. At the moment seems that Maze Of Cako Torment, judging from live appearances and master copies, have gone even more atmospheric and complex. Yeah, and again - this is one of those Latvian bands that should have already been released on a CD...

**HEAVEN GREY** - veterans of the scene. Two albums released this far, one of them - the demo "Under The Grey Clouds", the other - official MC "Memory River". The old material was death/doom, the new - doom - synthesis of Amorphis, Cemetery and Paradise Lost. To colour the music cello is used, while the most wanted song at gigs is the ballad "Upe" in Latvian, which is the most peaceful,

melodic and light of all their songs.

The new stuff for the third coming album is intended to be more diverse than ever.

**DZELZS VILKS** - another extremely ancient band. The name is to be translated as "Iron Wolf". In the early days they were pretty convinced followers of the heavy metal path and music in the vein of Judas Priest, just with a more extreme voice - very high, shrill and piercing - the only words I could make out of their first song were "asins krāsā mirdzēs mēness". Then changes in the band's line-up took place and the three remaining members started playing very original death metal with elements of hardcore and grind even, defining their own style as "animal core". On Dzelzs Vilks' live shows they often performed pieces in Latvian, that were not included in their first tape album "Mirusās Kaijas". Some of the most popular quotes include songs with names like "engēli, kaut tevi izpistu zirgs" ("angel, may you be fucked by a horse!"), "es negribu tevi drāzt" ("i don't wanna screw you!") and paradoxically "es izjāšu tevi zem galda" ("i will shag you right under the table!") etc. Now Dzelzs Vilks have switched their drummer and the style - to crossing of avantgardish rock and some kind of a core, proving once again that they are fully capable of creating really original music. All the lyrics are in Latvian now.

**BARBAROSSA** - brutal death metal with Cannibal Corpse and Suffocation influences. The band was formed from the leftovers of At The Tomb and Anaesthesia. A tape album "Dead Body River" released in 1996. Their live program includes a cover of "Enemy Inside", originally by Six Feet Under.

all photos by ©annibal. ➔



**Neglected Fields - PRO MOSH**



**Barbarossa**



# LATVIAN SCENE REPORT: BAND SUMMARY

**SANCTIMONY** - Started out as purely cover band playing songs of Cannibal Corpse, Entombed, Grave, Napalm Death, Morbid Angel etc. Now they have already released a demo tape entitled "When The Sun Was God" with their own songs. Musically a mingle of Napalm Death, early Hypocrisy, Morbid Angel and their pagan conventions.



**Sanctimony**

say that Motörhead is American Rūsa. The band exists for 10 years at least, maybe even more.. Features a member of Moral Free. Really good and heavy rock'n'roll with 'nice' lyrics.

**CRUSADE** - weirdo doomdeath hailing from Saldus. Sounded pretty good and professional on the demo tape "Tanatophobia", but their live appearance sucked horribly. Now the band is said to have finished its new program, hell knows like what...

**ANCESTRAL NEUROSIS** - the band's early style was doomdeath, now - melodic death "without vocals", slightly reminding of Sentenced.

**DIES IRAE** - heavy pagan death metal with folk elements and female backing vocals: predominantly fast with melodic and melancholic digressions. The band's attitude to christianity is stated in the song name of "Make My Grave Clean From The Cross". The year 1995 saw their famous "Nine Pages From The Moonstone Book" [Mapl] release, however.. Dies Irae do not exist anymore... :(

**GASTRIC FESTER** - sideproject of Darkreign and Denervation. The style could be described as *experimental dark horror core*. The music is based on black metal, however it includes hints of various other styles too: grind, avantgarde, industrial, hardcore and folk even. Possibly, a demo out soon...

**MISERIA** - good, melodic and original death. In some places reminding Carcass's "Heartwork", in other - Sentenced, but overall they could be a death metal version of Metallica, crossed with the 2 aforementioned bands. The vocalist/guitarist of the band is executing his military service at present and therefore the band appears in just a very few live gigs.

**METAL-H** - technically perfect and polished art-thrash with keyboards. The band has a really original and peculiar approach to their music. The keyboards create a horror movie effect.

**DISGORGED** - death metal, very complex, very brutal and very senseless.

**APĒDĀJS** - a new and fresh surprise to the scene! Can you imagine a hairy 12-year old youngster playing guitar and besides growling no worse than an average deathvocalist should!?!? The bassist of the trio is 14, I think, and the drummer looks like of a decent age. And they already have a couple of live gigs on stock. Hardcore-death metal strongly after Pungent Stench: simple and genius. The bandname means something like 'The Devourer'. "God knows" what will become of them in 5 years...



**Darkreign**

**PROCESSION** - rather brutal music: Heavy doom that occasionally passes into grinding death metal.

**REMAINS** - an old band: typical death metal, the band has 2 demo tapes. Musically enourmously influenced by the band Death.

**INVASION** - thrash/death with keyboards and female backing vocals. Sepultura's oldstyle («Arise», «Beneath The Remains») clones. The first tape/album out now!

**INFROGRESS** - if earlier on it was a pretty heavy and brutal death, then now it's just death with thrash elements left - also heavy, but not extreme. Now and then covers of Metallica's "One" as well as other well-known pieces of bands like Death etc are performed.

**HELL PATROL** - ex-Dzelzs Vilks sticking to the old traditions of D.V. and ripping your brain with fast, technical and extreme crossing of heavy thrash'n'speed metal plus utterly screaming vocal. One of the very few representers of this style in Latvia. Awesome!

**RŪSA** -  
Latvian  
Motörhead.  
Or I'd  
rather



**Hell Patrol**



**Miseria**

**JĒZUS UZ MIETA** - Latvian black punk version playing songs of Impaled Nazarene.

Features members of Alheim and Darkreign, as well as Latvia's own Mikka Luttinen (aka graf Multihuipeennus, aka Butt-Head, aka Goblin Mendessof Baphomedinovich etc.)

**DARKREIGN** - one of the first black metal acts in Latvia, and the most 'Norwegian' one. Music in true Northern spirit with fast yet very melodic riffs and Satyricon-ish vocals. Influences vary from King Diamond to Enslaved and Immortal, the bandmembers claim they have never heard black metal as melodic as theirs. Probably the most talented band of that genre in Latvia. The newest stuff is extremely artistic and beats Ulver even!





**Diskneeled**

of grunge, power/hardcore, punk and pure rap pieces, as well as a ballad. The only thing I can add here - the world is going towards a bad end... (sic transit gloria mundi hehe)

other names...

Many (really a lot) other legends and cult bands of the Latvian metal scene have been disbanded in the score of time - **Butchers, Mortmain, Disgorged? Dies Irae** and hundreds of others among them... As Cannibal of Beverina is the vocalist of **Denervation** and strongly believes in all Murphy's laws, he won't let us publish anything about them, just note that their guitars are usually tuned 4 (!) steps down!

**ALFHEIM** - for a long time used to exist as a sympho pagan black duo project (2 demos). A full line-up now completed by one of the original members. A musically unique blend of both modern and oldstyle black war metal elements, held into the good old clichesque tradition: the first and the only band in Latvia this far to perform in corpsepaint. At the moment Alheim is busy recording their first tape beyond the demo status, as well as composing material for a conceptual album, based on the events in "The Fall Of Hyperion". The keyboard/guitarist Loki has a black-techno-prikol-rave project called "Rubber Potzes", known of its hilarious "Hail To Lettland" demo.

**TWO FACED** - thrashcore, a good and technical copy of Pantera

and to finish with...

**SHREDDER** - leftovers of the "legendary" Diskneeled, which in its very beginning was called Marasmus and played a medley of thrash and doom, then changed the line-up and the name and started playing godly Siberian thrash with minimal Pantera influences (like a song dedicated to (the unfortunately living) Phil Anselmo). Now that Diskneeled is officially disfuncnt, three members of the original line-up have remained and the new band is heavily oriented onto rapcore (or brutal hip-hop as they call it themselves). They also have a couple



**Alheim in the woods..**

and now - for something completely different...

# INDUSTRIAL SCENE REPORT

*Cannibal*

the same principle - main bands...

**BACTERIUM**, founded by the well-known Vital, started it all. The band consisting of 5 people recorded their first tape "Swallowed Thoughts". At that time the line-up featured also a guy called Max, now known as Loki - the guitarist of Alheim. Then Bacterium sharply reduced their numbers to 2 persons and recorded 3 more cassette albums: "Invasion In Your Personal Darkness", "Invasion In Your Head" and "Smoke Vision". The leading Latvian electronic industrial act at the moment.

**TRILOBITUM COITUS** - project of Bacterium's Vital. The material on the first tape entitled "One" was avantgarde industrial and it consisted of both studio and live recordings. After the album the style of Trilobitum Coitus changed and the second album "Zero One - Opera" is terrorizing industrial noise already. In some compositions a brutal rhythm appears and that gives the "music", that can be called death to "normal" people's ears, a very special trace of mood. A slight influence of Brighter Death Now.

**DIEVS NO MAŠINAS** - (Deus Ex Machina) - a project of Dzelzs Vilks vocalist and one more person. Music in the vein of Nine Inch Nails. Professionally performed material, approved by critics.

**EMPATHY** - another Vital's project - a very good dark music. Empathy themselves characterize it as darkambient acid noise. Conditionally comparable to Lustmord's "Heresy" and "Paradise Disowned" discs. Empathy is more diverse however.

**MONKMORT** - two men act. A promoCD is recorded and being sent to various industrial labels. The style of Monkmort is darkambient ritual.

**KING LEAR'S CONVULSIONS** - industrial noise?

**GOD'S DELUSION** - very original music. Can you imagine a mixture of Dead Can Dance and Mz.412? No? Me neither until I heard God's Delusion "Pieces" part I. At present the band has one double album, the first part of which is the aforementioned medley, while part II is more rhythmic and complex.

The industrial/avantgarde label "W" Records is at the moment preparing a compilation to include the following bands and more: BACTERIUM, DIGITAL ROOC, TRILOBITUM COITUS, STOPCLUB, РЫБА МЕЧЬ - СВОЛОЧЬ ОБЫКНОВЕННАЯ, АКТ, YAPUTHMA SOUND SYSTEM, OHO

**All photos by  
©annibal, DIE!**

"W" RECORDS - MailOrder: P.O. BOX 106  
LV1082  
RIGA  
LATVIA

V/A "Ex-per-i-mentalland" (MANDRAGORA RECORDS compilation)

MANDRAGORA RECORDS compilation contains 11 industrial, dark, experimental and avantgarde acts from Latvia (8), Lithuania (2) and Russia (1).

1. **OHO «Purgatorium» 6:45**  
initially reminds of ASCHE a bit, but later on more peculiar. the music fits the title, the mood is intended to make the listener feel like he's in the purgatory (in places it seems you're in hell though) (7)
2. **ANONYMOUS Untitled 8:00**  
music of moods. listening feels like you're lost in a big, desolated garden, early in the morning fog... (7)
3. **EIRIMĒ «Solely The Wind» 4:22**  
initially pure ritual music, later on slight shades of BRIGHTER DEATH NOW  
The Slaughterhouse" join up, further on the music evolves into powerful and energetic monotone ritual saturated with all kinds of side-effects. In places it could be called NOISE even (9)
4. **AMORĀLĀ PSIHOZE «Mācība» 2:09**  
avantgarde, tended to ambientgothic, with male and female vocals, texts about desecrating the bridal bed, genital dissection and purifying from sins (irony) (7)
5. **REDUCTIO AD ABSURDUM «Antofagasta I» 6:38**  
the only Russian band on this compilation, electronic madness with influences of BRIGHTER DEATH NOW, monotonous and rather boring music. (4)
6. **ANDŽONS «Mikrofons - skaļrunis» 4:33**  
two sounds closing in, disappearing and twitching, boredom. (3)
7. **NEKAS Untitled 3:26**  
noisy mixture of clinging metals and electronic sounds (4)
8. **KING LEAR'S CONVULSIONS live excerpt 3:57**  
first a sound of a broken vinyl sped up 5 times, then it all transcends into a cosmic darkness, the darkness in turn transcends into a conditional noise (6)
9. **WEJDAS «Wejdas» (excerpt) 3:54**  
the famous band from Lithuania, pagan and depressing dark ambient avantgarde, a very good and original music, the texts are in Lithuanian, WEJDAS means "the idol of god" (9)
10. **NONEXISTED FEELINGS RESTORATION «Quia Expedit» 5:25**  
female vocals getting on nerves by constant repeating of two words only: "QUIA EXPEDIT"... the music: darkwave with hints of Gothic (5)

*Cannibal.*



**This is the part III of our Latvian Scene Report: live/concert/gig reviews... On the following pages most (all) of metal shows, that took place in the region of Riga, during the dreary Baltic winter of 1996/1997 have been neatly observed and described by your loyal servants namely Cannibal, Morgueldar and Naomiss. Read and be convinced that some things do happen here... All live photos are taken and © by Cannibal, so beware of the black wrath!!!**

## Black Friday:

DISKNEELED/RÛSA/HEAVEN GREY/HELL PATROL/BARBAROSSA/MISERIA/  
MORAL FREE/HOLY LAMB (SKY FORGER/MAZE OF CAKO TORMENT/  
NEGLECTED FIELDS/SANCTIMONY/INVASION)  
/"Robinsons", 13.12.96./

Reviewer: Cannibal (minor and less minor additions by Morgueldar)

There is a tradition in Latvia - a huge heavy music gig every Friday the 13th. Well, and the last such date was the 13th of December, 1996. The event itself took place in the mysterious "Robinsons" club, but the organization of it was terrible... Everything was supposed to start at 19<sup>00</sup>, but the most crowd (the foolish ones that didn't sneak in for free through the back door) got in only an hour and a half

later maybe, if that early. But actually there was no need of hurrying as nothing happened on the stage until about 22<sup>00</sup> - the same time when the place ran out of beer, and the thirsty folk (700 people, according to the number of tickets sold) was forced head for the closest 24-hours working shop after something stronger, which was a pretty long way to go (so long that I didn't even find it - M). The sound was bad, some bands sounded like out from a steel barrel (e.g. - MISERIA). The guards were cretins and haters of long hair. (At least) one fan was dragged down the stairs by his hair and then flung out, of course the peacemakers didn't forget to smash his face before that.

The first to play were DISKNEELED - a band distinct by this time. The first song ended up to be full of instrumental errors, but the rest were more or less without mistakes. Interesting, cold-sounding thrash with slight Pantera influences. They managed to ignite the crowd and during the second song there were so many people on stage that it was really hard to understand who of those were and who weren't in the band.

HEAVEN GREY, who were the organizers decided to disregard the order of performance, which was set by drawing lots earlier, and foully sneaked onto the stage before their time (one of the last actually, which would have made some of them keep away from alcohol for such an unbearably long time...) was come. And because of this swinish trick of theirs, 4 bands - the most awaited and most popular ones: NEGLECTED FIELDS, SKY FORGER, MAZE OF CAKO TORMENT and SANCTIMONY - refused to play and left the show. So the situation got pretty pathetic at that point... Two weeks later



Morgueldar intoxicated w/ Peter of SKY FORGER leaving...

part II of Black Fri-

day - the Black Saturday in "Mad Mix" (see review). HEAVEN GREY performed their usual program off the "Memory River" tape (that can be exclusively ordered from Beverina Distribution, see our mailorder catalogue). The crowd requested "Upe" as usual - the song in Latvian and their most wanted piece, exclusively meant for 14-15 year old girls proly. And despite the mannerless behaviour of HEAVEN GREY, their appearance was still on a high level - good doomdeath, a crossbreed of Amorphis, Paradise Lost and Cemetery...

BARBAROSSA - total brutality in the best traditions of Suffocation and Cannibal Corpse reigned the stage when they started playing. As a relief came their cover of Six Feet Under's "Enemy Inside" (and may Chris Barnes forgive me.. BARBAROSSA did it better and heavier than the original performers.)

HELL PATROL - extreme King Diamond-ish vocals, music out of heavy through speed unto thrash, they excelled that night because nobody else represented their style.

RÛSA - absolute classics, active for ~10 years already and a strong local version of Motörhead.

MISERIA - the vocal/guitarist is currently executing his military service (and wearing an extremely acid haircut), but for the gig had managed to get a couple days of vacation. A very good death metal with Carcass "Heartwork" vocals. Their music was a medley of deathmetal



eeeeeeek... HEAVEN GREY!

versions of Carcass, Sentenced and Metallica. Fairly an original music, the band could gain a worldwide fame someday.

INVASION were the next not to play as their drummer was "a bit" drunk. They made 4 attempts to start a song, but in the end nothing worked... On the account of this occasion the drummer was kicked from the band and is now a part of an act which is inclined to becoming the most brutal in (at least) Latvia - Denervation.

MORAL FREE were totally uninteresting hardrock, which didn't fit here completely (they never do as a matter of fact).

HOLY LAMB - the most professional and the best sounding quality band of that night. Perfect art rock.

The concert was over at ~4 in the morning, when the unlive music (Therapy?, Nirvana, Red Hot Chili Peppers etc.) started. The whole place was full (really full) of empty bottles. Vast piles of broken glass were gathered around each column of the hall. Every place clean of vomits was taken by passed-out metalheads. (Some had actually passed out where it was vomited too.) 30% of the folk were totally drunk and unconscious, 40% were heavily intoxicated and on the limit of passing out, 20% had had a normal drop and only 10% were almost sober. (Morgueldar announces he was among the 40%, see picture). Even the backstage was full of broken bottles of beer and other alcohol, there was a room in which somebody (many of them, large numbers..) had puked so that passing through without high boots would have most likely caused death by drowning, let us not mention the toilets...

The whole enterprise was total shit. A big "thanks" for that goes out to the organizers, who, according to unofficial sources, are further on banned from performing in "Mad Mix".

Probably, the only 2 really notable things about "Black Friday" were I meeting a really nice girl (not the one on the picture) then, and the release of a must-be crappy compilation tape of bands that were supposed to perform under the same cursed name - Morgueldar.



BARBAROSSA...

Related: Black Saturday;  
All photos by Cannibal.

ANCESTRAL NEUROSI/  
NEGLECTED FIELDS  
/"Mad Mix", 19.12.96/

Reviewer: Naomiss.

Just another regular concert at the famous rock club "Mad Mix". Not too crowded as usual, as only the true fans of those bands attend the minor gigs like this one, plus many of them get in for free.

The show was opened by Ancestral Neurosis with their program, which hasn't changed a lot during their last concerts. The band performed in their usual style of ????, without any special errors as usual. However the biggest con of Ancestral Neurosis is that it lacks a vocalist at the moment. Oral duties were partly carried out by the guitarist, who instantly growled a couple of silent phrases. That's why so many got bored while listening.



After a short break Neglected Fields started soundchecking. Undoubtedly they are the most technical Latvian band at the moment, but this time their sound didn't fit to the usually high standart. The rhythm section was well-heard, but both guitars disappeared somewhere beyond the horizon. It certainly had something to do with the equipment of the club. Neglected Fields performed 5 songs (that haven't changed lately), in some of which only instantly could the live female backing vocals be heard.

However, the most interesting part of the show was played by two "slightly" intoxicated middle-aged hell-knows-out-of-where "men" in dirty working overalls, dancing waltz with each other during the performance of Ancestral Neurosis... Mhmmyeah, what could be possibly stronger than a love of two men..?



Ancestral Neurosis

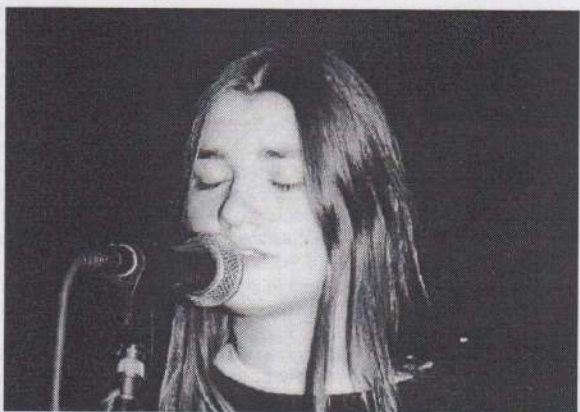
## Black Saturday:

MAZE OF CAKO TORMENT/SKY FORGER/NEGLECTED FIELDS/SANCTIMONY  
/ "Mad Mix", 28.12.96./

Reviewer: Cannibal

The concert of the 4 bands that didn't appear on the Black Friday the 13th gig due to the squalor of the organizers took place 2 weeks after in "Mad Mix" on the 28th of December. Enough of the folk had come, therefore the little halls of the club were packed to the brim.

MAZE OF CAKO TORMENT appeared first with their new program. The line-up of the band was extended to two persons (vocals/guitar + drums), that is why they can already be referred to as a band. (The rest was phonogram) Unfortunately the club's equipment was poorly adjusted, therefore it might have seemed to an ignorant person that a deliberate disharmony was being created on the stage. But actually a really good, complex, cacophonous and atmospheric program of black death metal was performed...



Neglected Fields...

NEGLECTED FIELDS were the second. Without errors or incidents as usual they performed their traditional program, which includes the 4 pieces from their first demo plus a couple of new songs. The sound was ideal, the music - perfectly polished, interesting, atmospheric techno death of world's level, that slightly reminds of Cynic but is much superior to it.



SANCTIMONY

Latvian folksongs. The band was in their traditional pagan gear, the vocal/guitarist Peter dressed in his usual ancient Latvian linen shirt, all the bandmembers wore leather cuffs and had holy pagan symbols on their breast. All of that was supplemented by an aggressive swinging of a huge sword right over the heads of the people. Soundwise the influence of Darkthrone and Satyricon was heavily noticable, however SKY FORGER are much more original and nothing in their music is ripped-off. The keenest blackmetalers present were also delighted with a cover of Darkthrone's "In The Shadow Of The Horns", during which one of the guitar amps melted down, but the sound didn't get any worse, which just proved again that they are on a really high level of musicianship, and the vocal/guitarist became just vocalist and now had a way better opportunity to express himself completely, as well as manipulate the sword much more bravely and even scrub something off the ceiling. :) SKY FORGER themselves refer to such incidents as **Christian Curse**, because they are quite resembling lately (equipment meltdowns, torn strings etc.) After their show at midnight we took a walk to the closest park to take some pictures for the zine. It was about -15°C outside, but the band went on all sweaty and wearing shirts only. The majestic procession was led by Peter with the sword, the bassist Zirgs - Latvian Satyr regarding his height (actually the drummer is not more than an inch shorter - *Morgue'dar*) - followed. A late couple happened to be on our way, they watched incomprehensibly and got a bit scared probably...

SKY FORGER came next... It was for their appearance that the most of the crowd had arrived. Perfect and fairly extreme pagan metal was supported by common singing of

SANCTIMONY - brutal death with a very strong vocal - finished the concert. Note that their bassist and drummer are playing in NEGLECTED FIELDS also. SANCTIMONY took a look back at their roots (cover years) by performing a brutalized version of Sepultura's "Roots Bloody Roots", gladly approved by the numerous average headbangers. Their own material was somewhat between Napalm Death, old Hypocrisy and Morbid Angel.

Overallly the event was successful, the bar of "Mad Mix" was emptied quickly and the thirsty public and musicians kept coursing a united route to the closest twenty-four hours

store, where they happily ever on bought hell knows how many liters of booze...



SKY FORGER

BARBAROSSA/PROCESSION  
/ "Mad Mix", 29.01.97./

Reviewer: Cannibal

Not too many of the folk had come and the same were lazy for any movement or moshing. The only person who did some headbanging yet was the Heaven Grey bassist Kalynin (Kumir), who was at his usual state of soul, i.e. - totally boozed.

PROCESSION came first. A common element of all their shows, which everybody is sick of already, was an act of masturbation with the microphone. In this concert it "occured" twice even.

The band performed their usual program - rather heavy death doom which in places turned into grind even. The vocalist was pretty relaxed and even

photos by Cannibal ➔



SKY FORGER: Peter and Zirgs



took a couple of walks around the half-empty hall with the microphone during the songs to help himself for some beer as his throat was logically sore like hell. He was also the only one (as usual) that made any major movements on the stage, as the both guitarists and the bassist stood as stakes and emotionlessly sawed all their program. The last and the most wanted song by the public was a jolly death version of a popular Latvian pop song - it was repeated twice even.

BARBAROSSA were the second (and the last) to play. Fairly complex (at least it seemed so to me because of the shitty sound) brutal death metal in the vein of Cannibal Corpse, Carcass and Suffocation. The voice was a conformable death grunting, so of course nobody had an idea what the lyrics were about. Inevitable was also their cover version of Six Feet Under's "Enemy Inside"... Can't really say how it all ended as I suddenly got terribly hungry and nothing was left for me other than go home, grind my axe, and as Cannibal Corpse sings: "REPULSION OF BEAUTY DROVE ME TO HUNT..."

**NEGLECTED FIELDS/SKY FORGER/SANCTIMONY/POSTMORTEM (RATTLER) (EE)**  
 /"Mad Mix", 07.02.97./

Reviewer: Cannibal

Those were the famous Estonian death metallers RATTLER planned to take part in this gig, however due to several problems with papers they couldn't arrive and therefore were replaced by their native colleagues namely POSTMORTEM - a band founded by an ex-guitarist of RATTLER.

The first three performers were the everyday NEGLECTED FIELDS, SKY FORGER and SANCTIMONY about which I won't tell much as nothing special occurred during their appearances and enough is told about them in other reviews.

About 200 people had actually managed to make their way into the small halls of "Mad Mix". The folk itself was pretty warmed-up and did their best by extremely fierce moshing and raving at each of the bands. That is why before each performance a chain of people had to be formed around the stage in order not to sweep the bands (especially - POSTMORTEM) away. It is also no secret that the stout sons of Beverina (mostly Naomiss - our hero) contributed to that quite purposeful act of peacemaking a lot.

Our Estonian colleagues started playing at about midnight. The music wasn't much different from that on their "Bloody Justice Comes..." tape (see review), whereas the sound was somewhat Swedish. Something between Carcass's "Heartwork" and "Swansong" crossed with Entombed's "Cladestine" and "Arise" by Sepultura. The climax of the show was reached when POSTMORTEM performed the cover of the latter - "DESPERATE CRY"!!! The crowd was raving mad and roaring along - all that any band could actually want...

A noteworthy element of the public was a dude called FASCIST, whom I haven't seen sober for more than 2 years, in fact - always heavily drunk or having a horrible hangover. This time was not an exception - Fascist had made major efforts in "stabilizing" his body with help of large quantities of diluted vodka. At the time of "Desperate Cry" this legendary image (Note n.1 - he had already been banished once from the hall during the appearance of Sanctimony) made intense and purposeful attempts to break the defensive chain and obviously get on the stage. (Note n.2 - the "stage" of "Mad Mix" is no more than 20 cms higher than the floor.) Subsequently poor Naomiss was forced to enjoy the pressure of Fascist's bulk (above 100 kg) on himself (which actually looked like a violent trial of rape from aside). The vocalist of Alheim - Morgueldar decided to ease Naomiss' suffering and remove the heavyweight from his back by trying to stick an empty beer bottle right into Fascist's ass, however no reaction was observed from the intoxicated headbanger. Still, despite all the desperate endeavours of Fascist, he didn't succeed in breaking the chain, that is why nothing was left to the forlorn metalhead other than rhythmically air-waving (or at least trying to) his pidarka - a knitted winter cap, that successively flew on the stage a



SKY FORGER again..

moment later. Another remarkable thing occurred when one of the representatives of the fair sex decided to mosh her hair, (that stretch down 'just' to her knees as a matter of fact), to POSTMORTEM a bit also, which led to a total confusion of the bass/vocalist of the band and even made him forget his notes and lines for a moment. At least his face greeted the unique view with a certain lack of comprehension upon it.

After the concert unlive music started, nothing special as usually (or getting on nerves to be more correct) - Clawfinger, U2, Europe etc., only Morbid Angel from the 'normal' stuff. Thanks to the malice of Alheim's drummer Blacklord Slayer even 4 songs of ABBA, gladly approved by everybody (weird, eh?), were played. The young elite of black metal exercised themselves behind the bassdrums on the empty stage, many others danced hilariously to the unappropriate music and went slightly mad towards the morning, the major folk was drunk as always, "Mad Mix" beer storage - empty... a routine as a matter of fact - all of it was over at 5<sup>00</sup> and finally the long road home had to be taken inevitably...

**Arprātīgais Valentīns:**

**TWO FACED/APĒDĀJI/RŪSA/MORAL FREE/SANCTIMONY/  
 HEAVEN GREY/P.A.G.A.N./SKUMJU AKMEŅI/KOHTPAC (ZIG ZAG/  
 D.D. RABBIT/SKY FORGER/INFROGRESS)**  
 /RVR kultūras nams, 14.02.97./

Reviewer: Morgueldar



POSTMORTEM

(No photos from this gig as Cannibal was come "to rest"...) As you may have probably guessed already, this suspicious fest mirrored through my misty eyes here was held in the honour of the crazy old monk Valentine, whatever he did that was so special, and it took place in the "palace of culture" of RVR train-builders



POSTMORTEM of course..

or who cares whom actually. A splendid place of four floors, stairways, many closed doors and a biig hall with a plenty chairs by the walls. This ruled in fact, as I didn't have any problems with locating my body in a certain condition whenever I wanted to.

Anyway, going up the never-ending stairs I was pretty sure it's Pantera they're playing unlive, but to my great surprise when I entered the hall, my eyes beheld a short-haired and suspiciously solid person jumping up and down the stage and roaring in the microphone. It took some time for me to figure those were really TWO FACED playing... a band featuring the famous bassmaster of Ultra and Holy Lamb... Well, if it's Pantera, let it be Pantera, as if I cared... so I kept on wandering about, exploring and looking for familiar faces.

As I was pretty late, soon APĒDĀJS hit the stage. I partly knew what to expect, but still my amazement was great. Just imagine this 12-year old solo/rhythm-guitarist/vocalist growling no worse than an average death frontman should. The enormous crowd of that night received them with ecstasy and awe. The music was vicious and easy, yet not too simple also, and the songs were short... much like Pungent Stench, but not many cared about the music, as they had this eighth wonder of the world on the stage to marvel at.

When the ole' fuckers RŪSA showed up, I got pretty anxious for some hemp, so during the appearance of those boring Motörhead wannabees all arrangements were made and meanwhile MORAL FREE were getting ready we set off on our endless quest... (...) ..Back, and what did I see? The damn MORAL





NAHASH...

were not done yet. It made me pretty angry, however they soon (?) were and after having a bit of food and fun with the piled chairs of RVR I was ready for the performance of SANCTIMONY (or I am not quite sure and don't remember if it wasn't HEAVEN GREY first and SANCTIMONY then, or the other way round, well... that is of a little importance, you will get the idea anyway...). But somehow the only thing I recall about the leading Latvian brutal deathgrind band that night was the vocalist's crowbar, the fact that they needed really a lot of time to fix the sound in the monitors and nothing else.

OK, let's presume HEAVEN GREY came next, and surprisingly played something fairly new to me, more progressive and diverse, which, especially concerning my floating state, managed to impress me quite a bit. In fact they were one of the best performers of that night imo. The stupid crowd roared for "Upe", which they finally got as a farewell song.

P.A.G.A.N.... may the name not mislead you - they're punk... Didn't turn much attention to them as I was more or less coming back to mortal life again, but still noticed that they were much better than KOHTPAC for sure.

Latvian's finest Gothic rockers SKUMJU AKMEŅI with their charming lead singer followed and although I wasn't yet much attentive I would vote them the band of the night. For they played really professionally and COOL. :P

And needless to say that the closing appearance of merry punx namely KOHTPAC (the name is to be read as in Russian - Contras) was ignored by me totally...

Just as they finished the lights went on and people were asked to go home, although the show was said to last till the mystical moment of "DAWN". (I don't remember what time it was, but still it was pretty far from anything likely to dawn). Anyway, the whole gig turned out to be pretty cool for me and at least much more successful than the last BIG event, ie - Black Friday. As usually not all of the promised bands showed up: SKY FORGER were lazy to wait for their one-of-the-last appearance and left to get drunk somewhere else, no idea where D.D. RABBIT and INFROGRESS went or if they were to play at all. Dunno really what ZIG ZAG was supposed to do at a gig like this...



ugh... GUESS WHAT!

certain spot for more than a couple of seconds as the whole mass kept moving around and around. I'll wager Sky Forger are the most popular band on today's Latvian metalscene. Haile!

They were followed by Neglected Fields, to which I listened in the tiny backstage, where the sound was much better than in the hall actually... Kewl, my tip goes out to the horror movie vocals, as well as anything else - the best Latvian death metal band at present.

For all this time the Nahash dudes had been quietly sitting in the backstage and putting on OUR corpse-paint, which they actually did only for the 2nd time in their lives. If more on stats, then this was only their 7th gig altogether too. The outcome on their faces looked pretty messy, gloomy and sinister - definitely much darker than that of the Alfheim posers...! Mighty late at night it was when they got onto the stage and mightier later when they had finished soundchecking. The little jolly guitarist also did a couple of scary and LOUD grunts in the microphone, which made me a bit upset about the health of my ears, however it appeared fortunately that the other Moonspell-like guitarist was the frontman really... Starting with a song from their new "Wellone Aeternitas" with its refreshing and weird clean background vocals, they immediately achieved a somewhat unique and creepy mood in the sleepy halls of "Mad Mix". Nahash rocked on with more mournfully extreme and requiemish pieces from their two tapes (which you definitely should have already ordered from the Beverina Distribution mailorder catalogue). Too bad for the people present as most of them were pretty tired and passive. Well, at least this was something unheard in Latvia yet... The impressive appearance of Nahash was finished by two covers of the truest black metal - Bathory's "Call From The Grave" and "Unsilent Storms In The North Abyss" by Immortal. The refrain of the latter in fact sounded a bit strange to me. End.

The night ahead was long and to kill some of it we - the new generation of Beverina - even made a glorious interview (see next issue) with the drummer and bassist of the Lithuanian quartet just before they went to sleep let's not tell where...

## Hexennacht Gins:

(the official Beverina fest)

ALFHEIM/SKY FORGER/NEGLECTED FIELDS/NAHASH (LT)

/ "Mad Mix", 21.02.97./

Reviewer: Morgueldar

Hell, let's try being original and review a gig I've performed at myself! But, first of all, this - the first Hexennacht fest - was also the officially first gig of our own future trademark series that will be organized by Beverina Productions alone. Intended to be black metal only, whereas not lacking representatives of death - Neglected Fields - also, the event looked like to be a failure at first - during the first hour not too many of folk were come, and, besides, our - Alfheim, first to play - make-up guy had mysteriously disappeared somewhere. However, at about 10p.m. things started looking nicer as Artūrs finally showed up and finished our half-done-by-ourselves-and-other-people corpse-paint and the legendary small halls of "Mad Mix" were full as usual again.

So, being a little late, our axe-guys made their way to the stage and did a minor pre-scaring of people by soundchecking in their warlike paint. The real storm was yet to come... A moment later I and the drummer were finished too and followed majestically to be greeted by the seitanic public, pretty anxious for a real headbanging. After carrying out a spontaneous idea of me announcing us as the most evil band in Latvia, another special show-element, unprecedentedly for me, was blasphemously performed by Blacklord Slayer (the drummer) - a ritual desecration of a sweet little photo picturing the Pope in person. Cheered by unholy screams of approval we kicked off with "To Isengard" and kept going with "Sātana Acs", "Holocaust" and other pieces almost without any errors. To let the band rest I was forced to do announcements between the songs, and somehow I don't feel that anybody understood what I was really babbling there. Anyway, finishing with our best and the newest "My Pagan Retaliation", Alfheim had totalled a record of 5 songs and none of them covers. As it seemed too early to "go home" yet, the



sons of evil!.. ALFHEIM!

crowd was given a choice to beg for what they wanted to hear again. Somebody wanted us to repeat everything, but naah... I guess "Sātana Acs" was what they really asked, as this was the easiest songname... And thus we made our second big mistake in a row - repeated "The Eye Of Satan" (the same we deliberately did on our 2nd show), which ended up as a partly improvisation and a total mess. That was it. Naah, we will never again play that song twice, 'twas agreed :). In spite of that this was definitely the best (3rd) quality concert in the glorious history of Alfheim.

A few moments later the mighty Sky Forger with their ancestral sword hit the stage. Their progress is observable - this time the fiery pagan show was opened by Peter's solo playing of a traditional Latvian string instrument, a bit like harp... further on a plenty of more folk elements followed during their appearance - the already traditional common singing of Latvian heathen folk songs and more nice Satyriconish melodies in their warlike bm tunes. However the effect they had on me this time was not as half as big as it was on their black-metal-debut, as the feeling won't leave me that it takes to hear 2 bands only - Darkthrone and Immortal - to compose music like this. Takes a lot more to play like this though. The crowd was on fire, it was impossible to remain at a



NAHASH



Hell, that's it about live gigs, fests, concerts and stuff. As for news, the Spring of 1997 follows with more quality fests and concerts of our own and neighbourland artists from Lithuania and Estonia, e.g. the BALTIC METAL MASS to take place in Riga, on the 11th of April, featuring VALEFAR (Lt.), CARNIFEX and FORFEIT (Ee.), as well as other great local bands... Those will be mirrored on the next issue of the "Tales". But now, let us pass over to the part III of the Latvian report - the main artists of our metascene. The material on the next pages is prepared by Naomiss and contains interviews with some of the most popular Latvian heavy bands - HEAVEN GREY, SKY FORGER, NEGLECTED FIELDS, ALFHEIM and MAZE OF CAKO TORMENTS. But... do mind that those interviews, that were given in English, are left as is, i.e. - completely unaltered. Browse on!

They are absolute legends of the Latvian metal scene, masters of artistic doomdeath metal, polished to perfection during the few fruitful years of their existence, they are being referred to as "the Latvian Paradise Lost/My Dying Bride". Besides they are probably the ones that have played the most metal gigs in Latvia. On the last one they delighted us with a completely new and really interesting program, slightly different and more progressive from the stuff on their first tape album "Memory River". Looks like they are also the most popular Latvian metal band in the foreign countries. Their bassist is one of the biggest drunkards on the face of earth! (whoops, sorry :) Now, where was I? Uhm, yeah.. And they are called HEAVEN GREY!!! Read this interview to find out more!

# HEAVEN GREY

How did the story begin... (sort of a biography, eh?)

The band was founded in 1993 after the break-up of two bands SCAFOLD and DISGORGED.

Vyacheslav and Vladislav played in SCAFOLD, but Ervin and the guitarist Janis, who played at first came from DISGORGED. The first vocalist was Andris, who played bass in GRINDMASTER DEAD (now SKY FORGER). Then at the beginning of 1994, manager of the band Ansis became the vocalist. The band wanted something new in their music, so they invited Ernest as the cello player. In May they recorded their demo cassette "Under The Grey Clouds". In this cassette was total death metal with elements of doom and grindcore. Step by step the band changed their style to doom metal. At the end of 1994 they recorded one more song. At the beginning of 1995 Sigvard changed Janis, the productivity of the band developed and in the summer they were ready to record their first album, but they had a lot of problems with studio finding, so only in November they were able to record it. They put it out in April of 1996 by name of "Memory River". They have played more than 100 concerts through all these two and a half years.

You are the best Latvian doom band at present. Why did you chose this style?

We prefer this style of music, because it fascinates all of us. We like heavy rock'n'roll (in a modern interpretation) or melodious metal - doom.

Is your "Memory River" cassette just a demo or a real tape album? Surely "Memory River" is our first full-length tape album or MC. Demo was turned out at 1994.

You have a very well designed tape. Why did you make it so colourful with printed lyrics etc, when others use just b&w inlets?

The cover was mainly created by our vocalist Ansis. He's a student of the Academy of Arts, so he did his best, shaping the cover in generally accepted standards. Also our label "Mapl" were benevolent, and assented such an expensive idea. However, we hope the cover for the 2nd cover will be much better.

There is a song "Upe" in Latvian on your tape, contrary to the others which are all in English... and somehow it has even become the most wanted song of yours...

We didn't have any premeditation to write the song "Upe" (The River) in Latvian. We didn't even have any ideas about Latvian lyrics. Then one day Ansis asked us what we thought about to have that song in Latvian. We agreed - OK, only one song, why not? The musical side of the song is very simple but melodious and bears in mind. At first we very surprised that it got so popular. Then we realized that the Latvian language gave it such a success. So on our 2nd album we'll have already 3 songs in Latvian.

You use cello in your music, why exactly this instrument? There wasn't any limit for us which instrument we wanted more. We just wanted a classical one to create a varied mood. Ernest was invited by Ansis to record some cello parts for a Demo. Later he started to play the gigs, too.

What do you think of your own music? Like what would you want to see it in future?

It's hard to think about our own music. We play Doom metal and it's a very interesting thing. We started as death/grindcore band but our inner soul led us for something more melodious, tuneful and calmer. The style is simple to be played but nice to be heard.

Like our souls - all six of us are very ordinary persons. So we got to Doom and we won't change the style as long as we are Heaven Grey.

Reactions from the fans?

Our fan opinions are always the best. However, they are sick of our clubgigs. They want us to play on big scenes, because they like our shows - how we act on the stage. (i.e. like sitting and staring into the emptiness with mouth wide open and a dumb expression on the face as the cellist does? - Morgueldar)

Have you sent your tape abroad and have there been any responses?

Yes. We have sent our album abroad - to Russia, Poland, England, Lithuania, Germany, Spain, Holland, USA, Mexico, Italy, but we don't want to uncover for whom - meaning, not to name the label this time.





The replies at the time are unconvincing but we wait for them impatiently. We're going to send some other tapes to Scandinavia, what we didn't do before.

You've had tons of live gigs in Latvia. Have you ever thought of taking a chance and performing outside Latvia?

We dare say that to capture fans in other countries, at first do it in your own country. Secondly, to visit another country - even Estonia or Lithuania we have to have some seals to be put in our passports. And it means that everyone of us could be called up for the military service in the Latvian army. It means that we won't be able to do music for one year. But we'll settle the problem and we hope in 1997 we'll definitely tour in the other country. We have some invitations.

What do your lyrics deal with?

The lyrics tell about interrelation between people, about life, love and loneliness. But never about the violence, Satan or something like that. The music is rhythmical, melodious enough, that's why the lyrics are easy to understand, to recite. However, the text of the song is the mirror of music and the other way round.

What in your opinion is the most serious problem in Latvian metal scene?

The most serious problem for the bands, playing heavy metal or more heavier music, is the lack of interest among the record-companies and labels to turn out or even to listen to their musical materials. Secondly the market for such bands is very small. It's almost impossible to put the heavy underground on radio or TV.

What do you do besides music?

Two of us - Ansis and Sigvards - have studies. Ansis, as already mentioned, in the Academy of Arts, Sigvards - in Riga Pedagogical School. Ernests is the only school leaver. He attends Grammar School of Nordic Languages. Ervins works in the service station. Vyacheslav is unemployed for the present. Vladislav is employed in roof maintenance.

And a couple of words to end this interview with...

We could wish every reader to listen the music he likes most, the music being able to touch your heart, soul, feelings, emotions. Let the music love you. Believe and trust the music you like.

Interview by Naomiss. Intro by Morgueldar.



band photos by somebody...

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 LATVIJA





# SKYFORGER

✧ SKYFORGER - I guess thus they can be called - "THE KINGS OF LATVIAN BLACK METAL". As well as the most famous band on the country's metal scene altogether. Their liveshows are bombastic explosions of fiery pagan wrath, their music - a warlike blend of the best traditions of raw and fast black metal in the vein of Darkthrone and Immortal, however superior to them because of the melodic and folk elements their music is juiced with.

What is important is that the biggest part of their enormous popularity here they have achieved in the score of the last half o' year only, during which SKYFORGER suddenly shocked everybody with a change in their style, shifting from brutal death/doom metal to technically perfect and polished onslaught of pagan black. But it was a long way to go until the four proud heathen warriors stopped at this kind of music. The first stage appearances of the band took place in the very beginning of the 90's, when they were called BEZ GREZNĪBAS, later on - GRINDMASTER DEAD, now for two years or so - SKYFORGER. And only with the joining of their second guitarist Rihards, the sound of the band logically evolved into what we can talk about now...

✧ Here is an interview with the band after their show in "Mad Mix" on 28.12.96.

**Naomiss:** Until now you were well known as a doom metal band, but then suddenly shocked everybody with professional black. Why so?

**Edgars:** We were in touch with doom for a very long time, played it for about 3 years, and eventually got bored of it, as it was difficult to find any innovations... Autumn had set in our band.

**Pēteris:** I could add that we were on the way of degression, the music started seeming uniform, there were disagreements among the members, constant changes in the line-up, then Rihards, who at that time was pretty much into BLACK, showed up. All of us got also carried away by DARKTHRONE and then everything started...



Pēteris playing kokle... now, translate it YOURSELVES!!!

**N:** So you have found your own style...

**P:** We hope so. We saturate the sound of BLACK with real folk...

**N:** I.e., you play ATMOSPHERIC PAGAN METAL?

**P:** Yeah. Maybe it is not expressed at concerts that much (*talks in the background, that on the mini-mal stage of "Mad Mix" no place is left for girls with the folk instruments etc.*), but on our recordings there will be both kokle and dūdas (not bagpipes?). (*aargh, I give up!* :- ( - Morgueldar)

**N:** Have you had thoughts of performing outside Latvia as well?

**P:** If there are any invitations, we are always available.

**E:** Of course, if anybody wants to.

**P:** Would like to visit our brother nation in Lithuania.

**Rihards:** We must be realistic, according to the current situation. The priority is to get it done with the recordings.

**N:** Your songs were in English earlier on, but now, with every live gig, new ones - in Latvian - appear...

**P:** We are getting rid of English on purpose, because, when rehearsing earlier on, it seemed noone could understand a word, that is why we sang in English, but now we came to the conclusion, f.ex., listening to ENSLAVED, ISENGARD - it's beautiful and nobody feels the language barrier. Plus even now we still have some pride of ourselves, our nation and our language left.



Left to right: Imants, Pēteris, Edgars, Rihards

**N:** So DARKTHRONE was the biggest influence... And I think it has left traits on your sound as well...

**P:** I guess it is so, although we try to put more emphasis on folk in our music. In the beginning our songs were all pretty "Northern", now we try to saturate them with the local folklore.





SKY FORGER live...

**N: What influences your lyrics?**

**P:** Texts are all written by me, as I am the one who sings them as well. I can safely claim that I have read every book that was ever written on the ancient Latvians, I enrolled in a library even... I have been influenced by chronicles, and even literary fiction, where one can find facts too. We have a song "Vilkači" ("Werewolves"). It was written after me reading the book "Pēdas" ("Traits"), and after seeing the film based on this novel.

**R:** Many bands, when founded, at once set their targets of how and what they want to achieve even before they reach at least a decent professional level. We evolved gradually. Our point is the need of the public here, in Latvia, understanding us, and evolving along. We must reveal all that has happened here and the fact that the truth has to be known. It all should happen gradually.

**P:** Returning to the lyrics, I would like to note, that if, f.ex. MANOWAR look upon themselves as warriors of metal, we would like to, speaking childishly, look upon ourselves as "warriors of the Semigallians"...

**N: Were you yourselves satisfied with this concert?**

**R:** To tell you the truth... too many technical troubles with the equipment. At least, good, that it isn't like before when before going up to the stage you weren't sure of anything... It's different now, you are confident that everything is going to be fine.

**P:** We have already decided a long time ago what to do if anything happens... because one can say there has been a "christian curse" cast upon us for the last concerts, - everytime something goes wrong with the equipment. Now we know what to do. If Rihard's guitar melts down, I give mine to him, or if anything happens to my guitar, I put it away peacefully, for I know that Rihards won't fail us and play all alone as well.

**N: Do you have your own stage pseudonyms/nicknames/etc?**

**R:** To tell you the truth, we do, but that is more like fooling around between us when drunk. We are simply PĒTERIS, EDGARS, IMANTS and RIHARDS. I think that, if somebody names himself after some demon, he won't become one anyway... We are what we are!

Reading the chronicles, everywhere you can see it written - "the proud heathens", that is why we are proud of our ancestors and ourselves. It is an honour to be an offspring of your fathers, to be yourself!

**N: How often and for how long do you rehearse?**

**P:** It's a pity, but very rarely lately due to the lack of time, the problems with place where to... We try to rehearse here, in "Mad Mix", when it is free, at nights usually. Gather at 10 in the evening and then stay until about 4-5 in the morning. We also sometimes come together at my place and play on acoustic guitars...

**N: What do you do besides music, any favourite leisure time activities, hobbies?**

**E:** I don't need a hobby, I have enough with my family. I have two sons and they take up all my free time.

**P:** My hobby is the ancient Latvian history.

**R:** All my life is music...

**Imants:** All my free time is taken by work, earning money, to invest in music.

**N: When can we expect the first professional release from you?**

**E:** I think, towards the end of the Spring we will definitely have it, maybe even sooner, as we have been silent for a long time concerning recordings.

**N: Your favourite bands?**

**R:** I like many genres and bands representing them. I like folk music a lot - ILGI, RASA, from abroad - CLANNAD, DEAD CAN DANCE. I still listen to some death metal

stuff also - maybe MORBID ANGEL. From heavy bands I respect KING DIAMOND and MANOWAR a lot. And, as to black, I could emphasize SATYRICON, IMMORTAL, EMPEROR, and of course such classics as BATHORY.

**P:** I'd say that those bands concern us all... oh, and, of course, let's not forget DARKTHRONE!

**N: It is common to consider EURONYMOUS the king of BLACK, do you agree with that?**

**P:** Of course, not! If it can be said so, why not consider DARKTHRONE and IMMORTAL kings as well?

**N: Your wishes in the end -**

**P:** An enormous thanks to all who come to our shows, to all who can stand us.

**E:** Big thanks to the public, because we play and will play for them only.

**R:** We'd like to see once our true might together! So that we wouldn't keep splitting, but unite ourselves in one mighty fist and do something for the sake of progress.

**P:** Yeah, we'd like that, if in a few years a mighty big pagan fest would take place here...

For more on SKYFORGER see Latvian Scene Report - band summary and live gig reviews. See the cover for an attractive portrait of Zirgs. SKYFORGER are also scheduled to take part in the BALTIC METAL MASS on the 11th of April, 1997, so be there and check them out, if you haven't already... Akmenī iecirstās zīmes!!!

Interview by Naomiss. Photos by Cannibal.



Into the mighty vinterforest...



Loki - guitars, keyboards



Sieg heill! Finally this is an introduction written by a band itself! Alfheim is certainly the most original (and this also means the best, after Sky Forger of course!) black metal band in the rotten state of Latvia. It is beyond hard to label our superior music as the style of Alfheim sees both elements of oldstyle and modern black metal merge with atmospheric dark ambient/electronic music. And do not mind the trendy band name, as black metal-wise it is hard to find any comparisons to us worldwide. Besides we are the only Latvian band ever to perform in corpsepaint... stay tuned, more traditional black show elements coming!!! Here is yet a short and inexpressive interview with Loki - the heart and soul of the band, the eldest and the most serious member. Do not pay too much of attention to his peaceful tone, we have the evilest drummer in Latvia!!! Yeah, and check the majestic lyrics of our most wanted song on the bottom of the page!

Questions by Naomiss.  
Photos by Cannibal

Blacklord Slayer - drums, evil



The first question about the bandname, what does it mean?

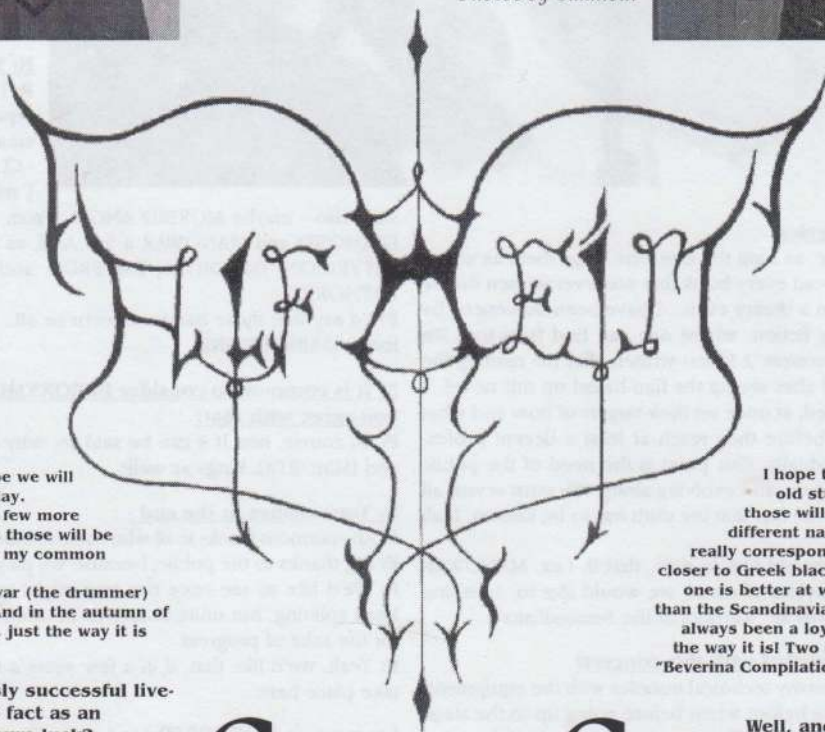
I love Scandinavian mythology really a lot and took the name from there. Alfheim is one of the beyond worlds in Scandinavian mystery.

Please, tell a short history of Alfheim. For how long is the band active?

Since the 31st of December, year 1994. A couple of pieces were written then, some of which are yet to be realized. They were done by me and my friend K.R. on a computer as a master demo "Kali-Yuga". I hope we will still cooperate with K.R. someday. During the winter of 1995-96 a few more compositions were started, but those will be continued and finished only on my common project with K.R. In the summer of 1996, I and Ivar (the drummer) decided to resurrect Alfheim. And in the autumn of '96, the line-up was completed, just the way it is now.

You have had 3 enormously successful live-gigs, do you look upon the fact as an obvious regularity or just pure luck? I think both. We were lucky and our program itself is not that bad after all.

I know that besides guitar, you are playing keyboards as well. Aren't you planning to



# Sātana acS

(ALFHEIM)

Ir Spēks, kas spēj no Debesim Mēnesi noraut, kalnus izgāzt ar saknēm, upes un Laikū apstādīnāt, planētas notriekt no ceļa, kosmiskās orbitas izvandīt, vadīt vētras gaitu, izsaupt lietu un mākoņus...  
Un To Man dod Sātana Acs.

Kad no Rietumiem, Ziemeļiem, Dienvidiem, Austrumiem saticas visi vēji, kad mežonīgā virpuli griežas zeme un smiltis, kad Debesu vārti nokrakšķ un lūzt, kad pār laukiem un lejām Elles jātnieki brāžas...  
Tad atveras Sātana Acs.

Un ar vienu roku Es aizslauku zvaigžņu miriādes, krit asiņains priekškarš un Tumsas zobenu asie ilķņi aprij Gaismas pamestos bērņus...  
Un Saules vietā spid Sātana Acs.

Un katru nakti zaļvīpains pūķis pāri jūrām pārnes Mani mājās, kas patiesībā tikai ceļš, taka, kuru apsargā niknie vilki ar asinis zvērojošām acīm, mana pils uz klints kraujas, vīrs nāru nāves dziesmām, Mana valstība viscaur, kur skatiens vien sniedz...  
Jo Man ir Sātana Acs.

Un Es esmu mūžīgs...  
Jo Es esmu Sātana Acs.

Lyrics by Morgueldar,  
The Eye Of Satan.

start something ambient/folk/Gothic etc someday too?

Yes, but the priority of the moment is Alfheim's demo. The projects can wait in turn. Although I and K.R. really want to finish the current recordings of our antichristian porno industrial project RUBBER POTZES. To tell you the truth, that is not a serious music, but more making fun at idiotism, religiousness and fanaticism.

When will the new long-awaited demo be out after all?

I hope that this year we will release our old stuff. And a new demo album. But those will most likely be released under a different name, because "Alfheim" does not really correspond with our actual style, which is closer to Greek black metal scene. And probably no one is better at working on Scandinavian themes than the Scandinavians themselves! Although I have always been a loyal adherent of it, but that's just the way it is! Two of our tracks will be featured on "Beverina Compilation", which is to be released very soon by "Beverina - VMV Prod."

Well, and some of your last words... I hope that our plans will be realized someday and in Latvia a normal, intellectual underground scene will evolve. Hail to all true black, dark, ambient scene elsewhere!  
P.S. For Alfheim contact write to Beverina Productions. For sure reply enclose IRC or USD.



Morgueldar - the throat of dark sorcery



Noctivagus - bass



# MAZE OF CAKO TORMENTS

It's hard to mention or define just one thing particular about this band. The basement of it is one person, Sergey by name, who seldom calls himself "Sir Kaljmuk" also.



**Kaljmuks by the cold walls of "MadMix"** The music he creates is highly original and too sophisticated to describe. That's why in order to get a better picture it is commended to hear what the man has to say himself...

**\* An interview with Kaljmuks after the Maze Of Cako Torments show in "Mad Mix" (28.12.96.)**

**Naomiss:** You played alone before, but on this show you had a new drummer on set. How come?

**Kaljmuks:** That's because I have a friend Kostja, who started playing drums. I made up a study material for him and that evolved into our common project in the end.

**N:** So all of your new material is written specially for your drummer?

**K:** Yes, that's right.

**N:** But why haven't you gathered a full lineup then?

**K:** That's because it takes at least 4 years to teach somebody play, but I don't have them. And available people who can play are hard to find because they all have their own bands.

**N:** Your music has a fairly small amount of lyrics. (Lyrics!?!? - Morgueldar) Why so?

**K:** First of all, I am a musician and try to express everything through music. Secondly, I've gone through a change of mental stand in the course of time, and it is hard to reveal it in text.

**N:** And what are the ideals you've had during this course?

**K:** Simple Satanic philosophy, brainless aggression earlier, but now my point of view upon life has changed.

**N:** And what have been your musical ideals?

**K:** They were Slayer, Death, Cynic, Atheist...

**N:** Could you yourself define your style?

**K:** About the previous material, the one that was on the tape... it's hard to judge for myself even. But the new one could be black metal.

**N:** It is possible, that in the future your music could still change...

**K:** I don't want to change styles, I rather want to improve my playing technique, perfect myself, become wiser.

**N:** Let's return to the past. When did you start to play?

**K:** I started learning playing in about 1990 together with a few acquaintances, but in the end I was the only one to remain. Therefore I decided that there was no need to wait anymore and started playing alone.

**N:** Why is your band

called "Maze Of Cako Torments"?

**K:** I'd say that the name is the most perfect name for my style too. Once I talked with friends and we reasoned like this: a band "Metallica" and they play metal also, "Death" plays death metal. That's why I decided that my bandname needs to have something to do with my music.

**N:** Once we talked about the interview and you said you would like to be interviewed on a sea-shore. Why?

**K:** That's because I love all elements of Nature and they are best enjoyed by the sea.

**N:** Then there should definitely be a fireplace too...

**K:** Of course. **Kaljmuks on stage.**

**N:** But, say, what do you like best: the Sunrise or the Sunset?

**K:** That depends on the obstacles. The main thing for it is to be beautiful.

**N:** How much of your time do the rehearsals take?

**K:** I play every day for approximately 4 hours.

**N:** And where do you play?

**K:** At home, on the nerves of my neighbours and family.

**N:** By the way, what should your tape be considered for? A demo or a real LP?

**K:** It was originally intended to be an LP, but, when the material was ready, I realized it could be nothing more than a demo... because of the sound quality also...

**N:** What are your future plans?

**K:** I hope to release a new album, and if all goes well - in the format of MCD.

**N:** Please name your 5 favourite bands:

**K:** Cynic, Atheist, Death, Amorphis, Slayer.

**N:** Hmm, where did black metal go?

**K:** It follows after those bands. I'd like to mention Rotting Christ.

**N:** Your last words...

**K:** I wish everybody, who listen to me, not to lose their appetite of doing it further on! And myself I wish to not let anyone lose this appetite!

[Interview by Naomiss, translated by Morgueldar. Photos by Cannibal.]





# NEGLECTED FIELDS

**NEGLECTED FIELDS** is one of the most popular metal bands here in Latvia. Familiar to our scene since 1994, when they were known as **CARRION**, this technodeath quartet is also among the bands that have most often performed live. Indisputably the greatest achievement of **NEGLECTED FIELDS** this far is their legendary appearance at the **DEATH COMES 6** festival in Lithuania, together with **THERION**, in front of about 1500 spectators... For a talk I've invited the band's frontman and guitarist **Sergey**, also known among people as "Destruction".

Hello Sergey, how's life?

Hi. It seems, everything is O'K, but there are many temporal troubles. Do you know, nothing is more constant than temporal troubles (huh-huh!)

What are you and **NEGLECTED FIELDS** doing at the moment?

Now we're making a new distribution to spread old (*huh? - Morgueldar*), searching for recording label and playing many gigs... Hell, it's hard!

I know that you took part in the **DEATH COMES 6** festival in Vilnius and you played together with **THERION**. What other bands took performed there and what was the overall impression the festival left on you? Ah, **Death Comes...**

It was the greatest impression of the year. Everything was just amazing: people, organization, musicians. The crowd was sick! 5 bands played this day: **Ghostorm**, **Neglected Fields**, **Ruination**, **Meressin** and, of course, **Therion**. So, what can I say about it? Primely. (*?? - Morgueldar*) All styles were performed: death, black, doom. Even so rare style as techno-death was performed twice - by ourselves & **Ghostorm**. Sound was not the best, but the light was, and we've got a good video from this concert.

Perhaps you can tell us of any queer or curious things that occurred at the festival?

Too many of them... May be, I must tell about lessons of Russian vulgar slang, given

to **Therion** members by our bassist **Sergey**, or about great drinkin' party after the concert... I don't know, I can't choose.

Let's turn back to the past. How was **Neglected Fields** born?

There were no interesting details, connected with our appearance. It seems now, what once we've simply decided to play together, and that's all. It's happened in February 94, but seriously we exist since September 95, when we began to play techno-death.

Why are you playing progressive death metal?

'Cause we like to play technical, melodic & fast music. We consider what we can realize ourselves only in this style.

(*Looks like this guy is just messing whats with thats... a note for your better understanding - Morgueldar.*)

I know that you recorded your demo in Estonia, for what reason?

Quality. It was the reason to do it. The quality in Latvian recording studios still sucks. Also we've many friends in Estonia, who recommended us **Tallinn Townhall Studio**. So it's happened. It was not only a record, but a long and happy adventure in foreign country. For example, our drummer **Kārlis** took part in recording of Estonian radio programm for children. He played a penguin from Finland.

How has your demo spread this far?

Not bad, but not good. We spread them all across the world, but we have not so many distributors as it's needed.

It's obvious that you are still very active after the release of your demo. What are you going to do in the future?

We'll try to find recording label to be issued on it. If we couldn't we'll make a self released CD. The first variant is more interesting 'cause the second is very expensive. That's all about future.

What about the concerts?

Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia - nothing more. We're trying to make a concert in Poland and Russia, but it's difficult and now there are no results.

And a couple of farewell words! Best regards to all of you, and I hope it's not the first and the only one issue of your zine! Bye...

Interview by Naomiss.

Photos by Cannibal.



Destruction

**Neglected Fields contact:**

Andrey Tihomirov, Nīcgales 47-22, Rīga, LV 1035, LATVIJA

## A short summary / conclusion of the Latvian Scene Report.

As you see, anything goes, everything's happening, everything's evolving. New bands replace older ones. Quality replaces quantity. If earlier on, the beginning of 90ies, the Latvian scene consisted of nothing but average **Carcass** and **Sepultura**, death/thrash wannabees, then now we see the scene exploring a much wider range of dimensions of unlight music. It is well proved by the thriving dark/ambient/industrial and black metal scene. The same goes out to the public, that has swiftly become very open-minded and is not afraid of going into new audial experiences. Black metal has started a revolution among the personal tastes and is eventually conquering the territories of death/thrash, in their unprogressive meaning, again. The heavy music itself has reached the peak of popularity. Just attend some of the biggest metal shows here, you'll see what I mean! By the way - you won't believe that - about one half of all the weekly concerts of any "unserious" music are those of the most extreme one. It is not officially proved, but, hell, you just take a look at the posters on the streets of Old Riga - on nearly most of them you will see the crusty and thorny logos of our metalbands. **SKY FORGER**, **HEAVEN GREY**, **NEGLECTED FIELDS** and **SANCTIMONY** can perhaps be already referred to as "stars" of a local measure. What is also very good is that strong contacts with our neighbour countries - Estonia and Lithuania - have been established, and their bands come to play here (see back the Live Reviews), as well as ours go to play there... And now, the unlight has begun to swallow the media... And that is done mainly by us - **Beverina**: a tv and a radio show, and now this zine...

On the whole the metal scene of Lettland is a very perspective one. Perhaps in a year or two it will not be much worse than that of any other normal European country. Big future prospects, your investments are most kindly welcome!!! (esp. in and by **Beverina** :)

- Morgueldar.

**Here ends the Latvian Scene Report!!!**



Herman



The release of this, the first "Tales Of Beverina" volume was actually scheduled to take place a bit closer to the very beginning of 1997. That is why we haven't dropped the original idea of introducing another sort of a report: a 199666 report... The year in unlight music, manifested in the form of a bunch of dirty old album reviews from 1996. Some of them might be interesting to read, or perhaps none of them.. well, that's up to you, since you've bought the zine! (I mean.. who cares about a couple of subjective reviews, that's not the thing people buy zines for..) However, there are only two points of view: our and the wrong one; that is why none of our reviews are to be considered subjective. **Fuck everything true, we are unlight!!!!** Sure, a damn great year as my musical taste suddenly became quite peculiar and I got into some completely new dimensions of sound, mood and atmosphere by discovering Summoning, Elend, Arcana, Mysticum, EVOL, Pazuzu, Bethlehem and other great and unique artists of unlight. Great because of the comeback of Cradle Of Filth and more excellent releases by the aforementioned bands... a busy year for Endura, Protector, Silenius, It, Mikka Luttinen & Magus

Wampyr Daoloth, Dan Swanö etc., due to their participation in so many essential and notable projects. Hosts of numerous new promising names to hit the scene: December Moon, Falkenbach, Godkiller, Avatar, Golden Dawn, just to mention a few. The ole well known Norsk artists were busy trying to keep their scene alive by creating some more new, more magnificent combinations of the true old fame - Arcturus, Borknagar, Old Man's Child etc, the others of unlight - by changing the manner of music and style, often less extreme, in the name of progress - Amorphis, Samael, Moonspell, Burzum. The geography of black metal keeps expanding slowly - from Central America to the Urals of Russia, from Monaco to Lithuania and Ukraine; Oceania, Japan and Australia were there earlier, Israel is becoming powerful and something has started even in Turkey too. A fact, some could be very dissatisfied with, that almost every other person who listens to black metal nowadays, intends to play it too, is very positive in my opinion. That goes out to the competition, be it cutthroat or friendly, and the overall increasing quality of what our humble elvish ears get. Yet there are cons - the scene has grown practically ungraspable, unless you devote all of your time to it. The common tendencies of music and attitude? In my eyes they would be the growing medieval-ness in the respect of traditional folk music and



inclination to creating original atmospheres. This year (1996) the unlight music went much less extreme, more artistic and avantgarde. All positive this far... what I hate is again the growing trend of being true (no wimps, no posers, no trends - the trendiest slogan ever!), the decreasing rate of originality, the terrible Swedishness and maybe

some more I've forgotten to mention. Anyway, choose yourself - what to listen to and what not. As far as this, we hope Alma Beverina can help you a bit. (I'll give you a hint: take a peek at Lithuania - there's really a lot of great promising stuff evolving.) The maximum rating is 10 (very much), the minimum - 1 (ugh). Look into the future yourselves! Uh, well... *In weed veritas est!*

- Morgueldar.

## 1 9 9 6 6 6 : ALBUM REVIEWS

### THE 3RD AND THE MORTAL "Painting On Glass" [Voices Of Wonder Records, CD, 1996]

A word of warning for those who may wish to expect something mellow of the "Sorror" or "Tears Laid In Earth" kind from this new The 3rd and The Mortal release... Sorry, nope, "Painting On Glass" is soundwise closer to the stuff on "Nightswan", still even more avantgarde and distorted, weird and depressive. Kari has at last gotten the opportunity to express herself (or her voice in particular) from each little side, as to the band it has now gone completely atmospheric, I mean each note, each tune creates a certain mood.. really! And that's the kind of music I like, while the vision itself might be light or nostalgic even, the rhythm (if there is one) in the back is heavy, vicious and menacing. 64 minutes, 14 tracks, many of them instrumental, all of them diverse... oh-what-an-album!

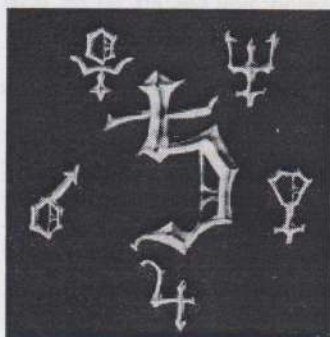
Morgueldar. Rating: 8



sive direction. The album consists of two separate epics, each built of 4 parts: «Blut Aus Aeonem» and «Horns Lurk Beyond The Stars» - a reflection of what awaits far out there... a dimension of mightiest and purest darkness blablah... And this is truly avantgarde! Progressive, fast and really complex black metal that still features Abigor's best trademarks - medieval melodies and astral atmospheres. Great and majestic is this album, well, not really better than any of the previous ones, but definitely different. A masterpiece! Heil Austria!!!  
Morgueldar. Rating: 9

### ABRUPTUM "Vi Sonus Vens Nigrac Malitae" [Full Moon Productions, CD, 1996]

Dunno really with what to start... First of all, let me bow my obedient head to the almighty It. For it is only his black mind that could breed anything of this kind (that is a compliment). And I'll start with proclaiming Abruption one of the most original bands on the face of this planet. Their newest procreation was recorded in 1995, released in the end of 1996, and looks like



### ABIGOR "Opus IV" [Napalm Records, CD, 1996]

Right, the fourth opus of the most significant Österreich schwarzmetal act. And actually... more than I expected!! For Abigor have now moved into a lot more progres-

all by It alone, as Evil is missing for some reason.. well, the album is dedicated to him anyway. As usually the band is spawning *Pure Black Evil*, however this album is less aggressive than the earlier art of Abruption and in places merges with *dark ambient* even. It represents just one composition, at a length of about an hour...

And remember that *Abruption* is the *Audial Essence Of Pure Black Evil* and listening to it is at your own risk.

Goblin. Rating: 7

### ADORNED BROOD "Hiltia" [Folter Records, CD, 1996]

This is an Allemagne band that, to my mind, plays a music never heard before - synthesis of three styles - black, death and folk. As everybody can read in the CD booklet this is to be referred to as "Teutonic War Metal". Well, the music is truly martial and full of medieval melodies, granted to the flute performance. The lyrics are all about the past days of old and ancient gods. The songs themselves are sang in both German and English. The album is comparatively long - more than 52 minutes of running time. I would like to divide it in two parts, because the first part is really warlike, folkish and elated, but the ending of the album remains uniform and boring even. In any case "Long live Teutonic War Metal - Faith with or against us!!!"

Naomiss. Rating: 7



### ALGAION "Vox Clementis" [Avant-

### Garde Music/Wounded Love Records, MCD, 1996]

Well, I had always thought Algaion to be a Swedish band that is yet not \*that\* Swedish. This MCD still proved how bitterly wrong I've been. (A small piece of an advice from me: if you're Swedish and want to play black metal, and are less mentally deranged than Vondur... drop the idea, sell your guitar and get a job!!) Musically "Vox Clementis" doesn't differ much from the previous album of Algaion: the same mournful melodic guitar riffing, desperate vocals and bashing speed, granted to Peter Tagtgren. Yet there is much of musical, technical and inventive progress observable in those four tracks of ultra fast and melodic Swedish black metal.

Morgueldar. Rating: 7



### AMORPHIS "Elegy" [Nuclear Blast Records, CD, 1996]

Dear old Amorphis playing doomdeath rock now. While the last "Tales From The Thousand Lakes" was just one fragmental and messy epic story after Kalevala, on "Elegy" it's more like whole little stories - parts of the same epos. And it is fairly hard to grasp the whole diversity of this album in a few words... still basing their music on metal, Amorphis has attempted to cover a wide range of other musical styles as well - folk of course, rock, pop, blues, dance, jazz fusion etc. All of it is sooo melodic, rhythmic, beautiful and filled with easiness that I am afraid "Elegy" is pretty far from unlight. Still... I'd be proud to be Finnish if I knew Amorphis... <makes sense, eh?>

Morgueldar. Rating: 9





Lord Kaiaphas

**ANCIENT "The Cainian Chronicle"** [Metal Blade Records, CD, 1996]

Black clouds filled the day sky in the primitive Lands of Nod... when Cain brought his beloved brother Abel as a sacrifice unto the One Lord Almighty... a greater prize I have one... As Grim has eventually abandoned Ancient, his duties are now taken up by the obscure American citizen called Lord Kaiaphas and... what a gain for Ancient! For he looks like an awfully talented blackmetalmer :P, a master of numerous voices (which actually brought up in me reminiscences of the classic "Jilemnice Ocultist" operette by Master's Hammer), percussion and verse, just look at the great rhymes and the hilarious sacrificial concept of The Chronicle itself. The keyboard parts and female vocals are in turn performed by the Kimberley/Sarcana babe, also known from her participation in acts like Gehenna, Dimmu Borgir, Therion, Avernus etc... Sure, and this is also supposed to be the first black metal released



on Metal Blade, and at that point I turn slightly disappointed, of Ancient becoming just another of the many good black metal bands out there... That is why I would still prefer "Svartalvheim" over "The Chronicle" - for its uniqueness, there will never be another album like that. Yet a lot of traits of the old Ancient have preserved here, although in a much smoother production now (even here has the infamous Dan Swanö managed to lay his hands!), which sort of made me look at the musical landscape as if through a thin wall of glass. Kicking off with a majestic nocturnal synth track "Ponderous Moonlighting", followed by "The Cainian Chronicle" consisting of IV parts, the first 2 of which are really a pleasure to your ears, just wait 'till they get reeeaaaalllly groovy, the album moves on through the tremendous "Song Of Kaiaphas" and the infernal "Exu", and finishes as a must item for every respectable black metal collection: **ABANDON EVERY HOPE, YOU WHO ENTER!**

*Morgueular Rating: 8*

**ANCIENT WISDOM "For Snow Covered The Northland"** [AvantGarde Music, CD, 1996]

The main source of influence of those 5 Swedish snowmen is not to be sought any further the mighty borders of their own fatherland. Unfortunately it seems that

Katatonía has not died really, that's why Ancient Wisdom, unless they settle to change their style drastically, will probably never conquer a title of *original musicians*. Well, I'd still consider the intro song "A Hymn To The Northern Empire" a fairly original one - kind of a black-metal-My-Dying-Bride's-Sear-Mc-1993 :) - piano & violins only, gloomy drumming and an especially true and evil Orkish voice. The songs are really beautiful and so must be the lyrics - "In The Land Of The Crimson Moon", "They Gather Where Snow Falls Forever", so if you can forgive the shameless similarity to Katatonía's "Dance Of December Souls" (I can :) and you do like the latter, this 1-hour album of melodic doom/black metal is meant for you.

*Morgueular Rating: 7*

**ARCANA "Dark Age Of Reason"** [Cold Meat Industry, CD, 1996]

The debut album of this charming Swedish duo is in my opinion the best that Cold Meat Industry has ever released. You may disagree or not, but to me those about 40 minutes are very fascinating - music that constantly keeps reminding of something already hearkened, but still is truly unique - brilliant medieval neoclassical art, involving various electronicized symphonic instruments, both male and female vocals and surely unlight, forlorn and majestic atmosphere - enchanting, mesmerizing and slightly horrifying. "Dark Age Of Reason" is also a very relaxing and inspiring album, good to read and think by etc. The only complaint of mine would be that the tracks are too short - the themes are repeated a couple of times and a beautiful song ends... or maybe, on the other hand, it is just positive as this album is perfect anyway. Highly recommended.

*Morgueular Rating: 9*

**ARCTURUS "Aspera Hiems Symphonia"** [Misanthropy Records, CD, 1996]

Damn, kill me, this is again one of the true masterpieces of the year!.. A splendid and fresh Norwegian project involving such dudes as Hellhammer of Mayhem (etc.) and Garm of Ulver fame. But is it black metal? Well, the only aspect that reveals Arcturus connection to the mighty svart scene of Norge are the typical vocals... perhaps the atmospheric keyboards and cold freezing winds of northern winter too (Naar Kulda Tar)... but resumingly this is just purely wonderful symphonic metal with black metal vocals - if you've heard Ulver, you will also recognize the melancholic clean voice, but as to the rest... the rest is so unique - marvelously melodic, majestic, elating and crystal clean... yet complex and exceedingly well-performed at the same time... And as somebody said, Arcturus would gain big commercial success, if they'd kick Garmr. However I am sure they would lose a lot at the same time, as in my opinion his voice is one of the basic parts of this atmosphere - wintry grey, unheard - as well as one of the best black metal vocalists due to his skill of both expected viciousness and improvisation. And that concerns all Arcturus musicians - they are probably the best, the most professional and skilled black metal has ever seen - just pay some attention to Hellhammer's genius drumming, Garm's colourful voice, the over-technical guitar solos and breath-taking keyboard parts! My favourite? - "Fall Of Man" (naturally :). Harken yourself, and you will be moved to the very depths of your hearts. May Arcturus shine forever!

*Morgueular Rating: 10*

**ATMAN "Like A Pure Unwaited Magic"** [New Gotia/Requiem Records, CD, 1996]

At the first sight Spanish Atman seems to be just another new band looking for fame

in the vast fields of black metal music. Still there is an aspect that makes us look at this album from a more original point of view. And it is the female backing vocals. And those are not "just" female backing vocals. On the background of the fast usual Atman riffs this lady has made an effort to demonstrate a voice she could by definition easily use on any opera stage (and maybe she has already done that?). Whatever, but the person who was the one struck by the idea of incorporating those operatic vocals, deserves my best regards.

*Naomis Rating: 6*

appreciate the incredibly precise musical depiction of this mystic place, for all of the tragedy of Khazád-Dúm can be felt there: the delving of the ancient caves, the finding of Mithril, the Golden Days, Orkish onslaughts, the curse of Darin, the presence of the Balrog, the disastrous failure of Balin's mission and the final journey through the mines.. all so picturesque, tragic and real...

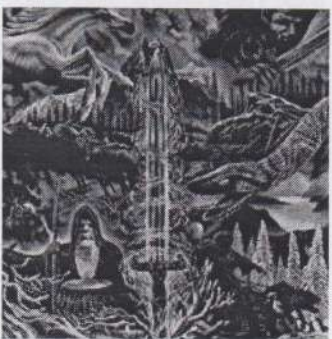
*P.S. The first black metal band I've heard of besides Satan Vult Te Mortuum to have a female bassist.*

*Morgueular Rating: 9*



**AVATAR "...Memoriam Dragonis"** [Wood Nymph Productions, CD, 1996]

...And when the third day came... I fell in love with this album. Simply couldn't help myself... For those 68 minutes of "Dragon metal" as I would call it contain something that most new bands lack - the ability to carry away, to fascinate and to impress. From Belgium does this band hail, but the sound of it is what I would call an international one. Combining elements of intensity and atmosphere, Avatar create a dark enchanting fairytale effect: imagine Emperor with Gehennic keyboards and vocals, all slightly touched by Summoning... still Avatar overcomes both of the first 2 bands at least with the supremely well technical and original performance, great melodies, rhythms, the colourful diversity, richness of ideas and elements of lyrical digression. (However the intro chords of "Sands Of Suceof" hilariously remind me of "I Am The Black Wizards" too much, sorry (... especially once the previous track has been entitled "Emperors Of The Night".) My favourite track of "Memoriam" is doubtlessly the 12 minute long synth-only



outro: "The Mines Of Moria"... (*Hail Izarothas!*) And, if you are common with Tolkien and his works, you will have to

**BABYLON WHORES "Trismegistos"** [Sugar Cult Records, MCD, 1996]

...ON EVIL'S PILLOW HERMES TRISMEGISTOS SLOWLY ROCKS OUR ENTHRALLED MINDS AND THE RICH METAL OF OUR WILLS IS VAPORIZED BY THIS ALCHEMIST

Here it is - a slap in the face of all you, no-wimps-no-posers-true trendies. Well, watch out! This is not metal, nor the British doom? band either! And neither is this anything that I would call of my kind... that is why I won't try searching for a definition of this music. Some say 'death - ', some 'street rock', I dunno... Anyway this is good stuff here on the MCD - aggressive, hellish, melodic, catchy and «bad», slightly reminding my narrow mind of Therapy? (could as well compare them to Guns'N'Roses (vocals) though :). Nice «Babylonic» artwork, lyrics, great sound and cool attitude... too bad my promoCD wouldn't play the last 2 of the total 5 songs... (the beginning of "Beyond The Sun" sounded really promising :/ Grasp thee meaning of the universe or ! kill thyself ! Contact: Sugar Cult, P.O. Box 225, 00531 Hellsinki, Finland.

*Morgueular Rating: 7*

**BATHORY "Blood On Ice"** [Black Mark Productions, CD, 1996]

My, my... a must hear for every true Manowar fan: swords of steel, brave deeds, mighty warriors, old wise men, bloody re-venge, swift stallions, gods of thunder of wind and of rain etc etc... Plus the appropriate music that all brings up memories of my childhood faves. :) OK, I am not really the right person to review this great (yes, I did say that) release, as I am not \*that\* familiar to Bathory's previous masterpieces, it is also well proved by the fact, that after the stunning end of "The Lake" I naturally expect to hear something like Satyricon :). Still I am truly moved by the heart-breaking melodies of the aforementioned "Lake", "Man Of Iron"

Onissions, corrections of mistakes and simply things forgotten and left unsaid will be printed here...



and "The Woodwoman", the cold and epic atmosphere on the title track and the magic enchanting narration of "One Eyed Old Man"; "Gods Of Thunder Of Wind And Of Rain" however sound too familiar to me, even at the first listen.

This is a Conan-conceptual album, well-worth owning for every collector, mainly because of the 32-page booklet, that gives us a deep insight into the story behind "Blood On Ice", as well as an in-depth history of this cult band, not without a humorous touch. ;)

**Morgueleard Rating: 8**



**BETHLEHEM "Dictius Te Necare"** [Red Stream Records, CD, 1996]

A chilling shadow passed my heart when I first heard the harsh, mesmerizing shrills emerging from Bethlehem's newest. Yaaaaarrghhahahaaaa... Damn, I thought, this is awesome! And after a few more listens I was pretty assured that 1) those are the best metal vocals I have ever laid my ears upon, 2) German is the language of black metal. I've heard only a couple of songs from "Dark Metal", but it can't be unnoticed that the band has gone through a major improvement. For this is utterly heavy, insane and "exclusive" dark metal. Guitars succeed in making an impenetrable, thick wall of sound, and the sound of waters in the background and the supreme throating in the front create an atmosphere so original and unheard. As music seldom makes me depressed, knowing what drug-addicts Bethlehem are, I'd give the melancholy and uniqueness of "Dictius Te Necare" to that account. *Den Tod vermeiden beißt das Spiel der Verbannung verlieren... Ich werde mich weiter töten...* I advise you to kill yourself.

**Morgueleard Rating: 9**

**BORKNAGAR "Borknagar"** [Malicious Records, CD, 1996]

This Norwegian project consists of members of such acts as Enslaved, Ulver and Gorgoroth. Uniting their strengths the members of those bands have created a true Scandinavian black opus, that surpasses acts like Satyricon even. The music is fast, hymnic, with many beautiful melodies and acoustic parts. Listening to Borknagar, it seems that black metal is the only style where you can most truly emphasize all feelings of a soul. I am spellbound by this music, it makes me sense and grasp all the noble and beautiful that surrounds us in our lives. Very bright and emotional are the places where clean vocals are used. I'd prefer to admit that this is one of the best, if not the best, albums released in '96.

**Naomiss Rating: 10**

**BURZUM "Filosofem"** [Misanthropy Records/Cymophane Productions, CD, 1996]

The originality of by all ;P so beloved uruk-hai's auidal art is not lost even in his 5th masterpiece, which consists of 3 quite notable, 2 almost identical and 1 cunning and shameless 25-minutes long ambient synth composition. And, nevermind my irony, these over-than-60 minutes of an entirely different mood and atmosphere that usual black metal displays nowadays here are

definitely worth owning. True. Lyrically my attention is captured by the interesting transcript of J.R.R. Tolkien's "Bilbo's Song in Rivendell" aus the legendary "Lord Of The Rings". *I wonder why life must be - a life that lasts eternally...*

**Morgueleard Rating: 8**

**CANNIBAL CORPSE "Vile"** [Metal Blade Records, CD, 1996]

A new vocalist - George "Corpsegrinder" of Montrosity At the first take "Vile" seems bad, but it grows on you more and more with each listen. In some places the "music" on this album is even faster than that of their first works. There is also a discrepancy between the today's vocals and the old Chris Barnes standart - one can even understand the lyrics (!!!).

**Cannibal Rating: 9**

**CARCASS "Swansong"** [Earache Records, CD, 1996]

Looks like that the legendary Carcass have emptied themselves finally. Musically "Swansong" is deathrock. Only instantly can one recognize the guitars, which, as a matter of fact, are only a liquid reflection of the material we heard on "Heartwork". Of course "Swansong" doesn't lack some good pieces, like "Generation Hexed" and "Go To Hell", too. But overallly the album is weak and Carcass have lost all their skill of invention.

**Cannibal Rating: 5**

**CRADLE OF FILTH "Vempire Or Dark Faerytales In Phallustein: Symbols And Signs To Know Us By"** [Cacophonous Records, MCD, 1996]

Hurrah! After a 2 year gap of deadly silence Cradle of Filth - the only true English black metal band - finally make a triumphal comeback with just a bare 36-minute MCD. It to be honoured at least by two titles however. But what a stunning 36 minutes those are!!! And, damn, how to describe this miraculous deed really!? The headcrushing speed, yet unchallenged oral performance, eerie melodies, classic/orchestral insertions, the evildark might of all 6 vampyric tracks on this EP - all this indisputably proves that Cradle of Filth is and will most probably remain for long the greatest band on Earth ever...

*those who trespass against us, beware the shadows of dusk...*

**Morgueleard Rating: 10**

**CRADLE OF FILTH "Dusk.... And Her Embrace: Litanies Of Damnation,**



**Death And The Darkly Erotic"** [Music For Nations, CD, 1996]

*Rise, ablaze, libidinous.... Darken Desire! Indulge! Burlburber!* The kings of England return with something mortals can only dream about. Surely, this 59-minutes long opus of 10 mesmerizing epics is something world has never seen yet. For "Dusk" sacks even the two previous masterpieces of the band. Lengthier than ever, more diverse, more speed, more melodies, more ghostly sounds, more distortion, more Donald Duck vocals, more female moans and voices, more seduction, vampyrism, atmosphere... ahhhhhh Praise them! Dani has done another great lyrical work on those succubian chronicles. (Actually all the album is worth quoting...) *From this ransacked celestial temple I hold the prophet's severed head unto all nations...* The same goes out to his immortal voice. As I already mentioned sometime, Cradle Of Filth are the orally most extreme band in

sons other than those with other bands of that Swedish genre - not as complex as In Flames and not as aggressive as At The Gates, but still more melodic and artistic - this album conquered my heart to my own great surprise! However there is a thing that pisses me - and almost everybody I know - the female vocals. *Mine is the grandeur of melancholy burning...*

**Morgueleard Rating: 8**

**DARK FUNERAL "Secrets Of The Black Arts"** [No Fashion Records, CD, 1995]

The Dark Age Has Arrived... and what we have here is an "Ultimate Satanic Symphony". Fast, extreme, brutal, melodic, not that Swedish and a bit atmospheric even. Musically Dark Funeral just kick ass. Lyrically, uhm... I wouldn't take them seriously, I get the certain impression that most refrains consist mainly of the words "Satan" or "Lucifer" sang in all possible variations, e.g.: Saaaaaaaatan, Sataaaaaaan, Sssssssstttttannnnn etc... The worst is that many of the refrains are so catchy that you can't help singing along the stupid lyrics. *Daaaawn no more riseees...* :P Dork Funeral indeed. Great musicians however. I look forward to their next release, now that they've kicked Blackmoon, right? Yeah, and check the beautiful graveyard images in the digipack!

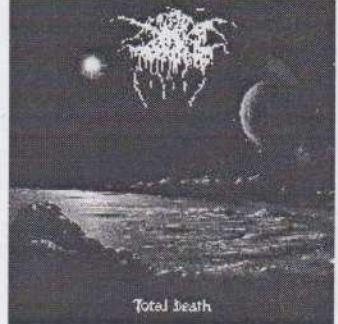
**Morgueleard Rating: 8**

**DARKTHRONE "Total Death"** [Moonfog Productions, CD, 1996]

Well, just two of them, legends? Looks like Nocturno Culto and Fenriz are the only ones left to lengthen the memory of the reign of Darkthrone long gone... "Total Death" consists of eight angry and intense songs, demonstrating how great can raw black metal be. Interesting is the album's lyrical concept, for poems of more true dudes - *brothers of north, brothers of doom*, not involved in Darkthrone - like Garm, Ihsahn, some Carl-Michael and Satyr even can be found behind the voice of genius Fenriz... Well, "Panzerfaust" was more to my liking, but the only real complaint - the sound is too good. ;)

*Stare into the galactic fog - armageddon has been achieved*

**Morgueleard Rating: 7**



the world... even operatic vocals are present, and the legendary Cronos of the Venom fame in person makes a narrative guest appearance here. The digipack itself is worth more than owning: the most beautiful I have ever seen. And there is much more that I have probably forgotten to tell you... Well, you are all going to buy it anyway, so I guess you'll make your final conclusion without my help. As our dear friend Goblin says: Get it or die!!!

*Nocturnal pulse... my veins spill forth their wateceers rent by lips I cherish most...*

**My favourite of 1996!!!!**

**Morgueleard Rating: 10**

**CRYPTOPSY "None So Vile"** [Wrong Again Records, CD, 1996]

Did somebody say that deathgrind is dead? That it has fulfilled its quest and has no future? Well then take a listen to Cryptopsy! Fast, brutal, technically performed and most importantly - not boring hyperblast grindcore metal (*i added that - Morgueleard ;).* And although Cryptopsy is following the path of their first "Blasphemy Made Flesh" masterpiece, there are no repetitions, but some innovations even. Stylistically something between Brutal Truth's "Extreme Conditions..." and Suffocation's "Effigy Of The Forgotten".

**Cannibal Rating: 9**

**DARK TRANQUILITY "The Gallery"** [Osmose Productions, CD, 1996]

Actually, this isn't unlight music, but who cares... it rules! Being absolutely ignorant about the rest of DT albums, I can't really make any compar-

**DARKTHRONE "Goatlord"** [Moonfog Productions, CD, 1996]

This is certainly more a pleasure to ears thirsty for evil and true mayhem. Well, you must be informed what kind of an album this is - old recordings from 1991 with vocals redone in 1994. Therefore logically - killer black/death. And it rocks of course! Especially the vocals - Fenriz the desperately evil "Panzerfaust" way (the  *jewish fairytales* places where you can understand lyrics are just crush), some cryptic weird and clean narration, as well as a plenty of eerie female voice by Fenriz's girlfriend of that time - the familiar witch *Nacht* of the Aghast fame. The drumming is superbly intense and the messy sound adds a special trace to the overall dark and brutal atmosphere. I really enjoyed this album, see if you can get me!

**Morgueleard Rating: 8**

First of all, do not worry - those pages are also printed 600 DPI as usual... The 300 DPI stuff in our disclaimer are all lies. ;)



**DECEMBER MOON** "Source Of Origin" [Spinefarm Records, CD, 1996] Looks like England is about to take the number two black metal spot (right after Austria) in the matter of quality. Any way this is the sideband of Cradle Of Filth's mighty bassist Robin and WAS, also familiar to COF fans as a temporary session guitarist sometime. But if you expect December Moon to be just another Hecate Enthroned rip-off of "the greatest band on Earth", you're quite wrong. Yes, there exists a marginal similarity, but I noticed it only in the keyboard and the bass sound. Well, that's only natural, let's assume it is a typical trait of English black metal. Hell, but this isn't the usual "atmospheric black metal with keyboards and female vocals", although it features all the mentioned qualities! For December Moon are highly original - real artists who have accidentally decided to play black metal, perhaps not knowing much of it, however being more than able to handle their instruments and throat. Unfortunately at the moment I am in sort of a hurry and have no time to describe all the songs, as they are really diverse, and atmosphere, but believe me - this band is truly unique and you must definitely purchase this album, if you have not already done so!

**Morgueular Rating: 9**

**DETERIORATE** "The Senectuous Entrance" [Pulverizer Records, CD, 1996]

A non-compromising definition of this band's style could be "fast'n'evil black metal". However the sound is not chaotic, which is so common with most bands of this direction, the music hath quite a lot of interesting technical effects and is overall performed in a high quality. Still one has to admit that what Deteriorate play is nothing new. Or maybe one could still find originality in the lyrical concept: what would you say of an American band having a track called "Kiev: 1237"?

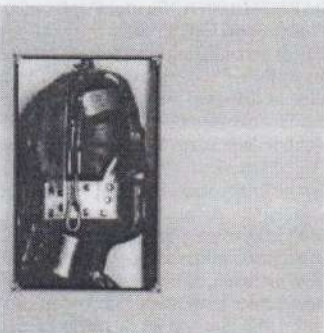
*(What would you say of black metal being mixed with thrashcore? And you call it nothing new?? - Morgueular)*

**Naomis Rating: 6**

**DIABOLICAL MASQUERADE** "Ravendus In My Heart" [Adipocere Records, CD, 1996]

At last the solo project of Katatonia's very own Blackheim has seen the light of day. And yet in this album many melodic traits of Katatonia are inevitable. The music is much more black metal than all the previous Blackheim's masterpieces. An important role on this album is played by the participation of Dan Swanö. He even makes a guest solo appearance on one of the songs, and his voice helps us remember such classics as Judas Priest. All the album could be characterized as a masterpiece of mutual manifestation of styles like classic heavy and black metal.

**Naomis Rating: 9**



**DIABOLOS RISING** "Blood, Vampirism & Sadism" [Kron-H Productions, CD, 1996]

Here we have the second full-length of the international European black techno indus-

trial project, however this is not exactly "666" Part II. "Blood, Vampirism & Sadism" is opened by the weird techno track "Satanic Propaganda (S.N.T.F Rising)" and furthermore consists of 3 circles: Circle Of Blood, Circle Of Pain and Circle Of Death, which sounds perfect to me. Yes, this one is by far more extreme and brutal then anything of industrial I've heard before. Each song is so different and new, and I am partly sure nobody has ever made songs like these before. Names like "Ilsa (The She Wolf Of SS)", "Sadism Unbound" or "Mantle Of Suffering" alone make one's blood freeze, and the music does even more. If Darkthrone's "Panzerfaust" was the *evilest* album ever, then this one is the most cruel for sure! However some "sadism" themes do make me smile. Or, actually, they shouldn't, for if you've seen the video, you really ought to take "Blood, Vampirism & Sadism" seriously, like this dude -> :( Definitely one of the most original recordings of this year. (See also: Raism)

**Morgueular Rating: 9**



**DIMMU BORGIR** "Stormblåst" [Caphophonous Records, CD, 1996]

The dark children of the "dim castles" keep heading forth with their second album, that entirely sweeps away even their excellent "For All Tid" debut. Symphonic Norwegian black metal. Yes, "symphonic": for all the 11 tracks (even your parents might like some of them), sang in Norsk, are accompanied with enlightening melodic piano/keyboard/orchestral tunes, that are successfully supported by another orc's Shagrath's Ulveric vocals, dark mystical narrations and the same typical Norwegianism. Sorrowful and beautiful are those songs...

*P.S. Fellow Tolkien freaks, could "Broderskapets Ring" mean "Fellowship's Ring", eh!?:)*

**Morgueular Rating: 9**

**EDGE OF SANITY** "Crimson" [Black Mark Productions, CD, 1996]

Most of you must have already heard of the new joke by Dan Swanö - a single-song album, 40 minutes sharp, recorded in 24 hours only. "Crimson"!!!! <wow> -P Being quite an amazing opus and surely an unbeatable masterpiece of epic Swedish doomdeath metal, this album also serves as an excellent summary of all Edge of Sanity has done in the past years of their existence. Splendid!

**Morgueular Rating: 9**

**ELEND** "Les Ténébres Du Dehors" [Holy Records, CD, 1996]

*...with a star... Heading for the open sky... where the flames never dared to come... The rays of the moon linking the spheres... the molochian comets...*

Don't know how about you, but I was astonished and deeply moved when I first heard this album... It made me feel something, a lot actually... Damn, and this is so close to the ideal of unlight music... for I've seen low people who just can't bear Elend...

*We won't follow the Sun in its course... We will follow the Moon in its curse.*

Glenn Danzig did it first, if you remember his black aria of the same Miltonian "Paradise Lost" concept, then Elend's first magnificent "Leçons De Ténébres" followed, and now this... the great, mesmerizing ultimate Luciferian symphony. Dark, looming, menacing... like the forest of the Huorns this music hangs above our heads with a silent unrest tension built inside, waiting to be suddenly released... Luciferian revolution, God is dead!

"Beware!" said my christian music teacher... To those who don't yet understand, Elend is almost completely symphonic (neoclassical?) music yet accompanied with cruel black/death screams in the background.

*But we will regain the paradise*

*For in the east of Eden,*

*I will shed the blood of Christ...*

**Morgueular Rating: 10**

**ENDURA** "The Dark Is Light Enough" [Allegorie Records, CD, 1996]

*Darkness is a positive thing, it is the Night of Pan, the Night from which Dreams spring, LVX from NOX. Metaphysically it is the pure state of None-being, Nirvana, The Dark That Is Light Enough... (Endura interview in Schism zine)*

Now this, the second full-length CD of dark industrial Atlantis ritual music by the English Endura quite promisingly starts out with 2 medieval compositions "The Stars Are Right" and "Nevers Gift", reminding me of Arcana or maybe even Mortuis a bit... And it is quite unusual, but on this album they actually sing ("When I Was Dead"), not just chant or repeat one phrase, which is pretty hard to get used to. However looming darkness reigns the rest of "The Dark..." - manifested in the form of creepy noises, black synth waves, desperate cries, eery sounds, ringing, and very obscure incantating... As to the end, it is light enough - the child will endure, congratulations!

*What hath drowned will rise...*

*What hath risen will rule!*

**Morgueular Rating: 7**

**ENDURA** "Black Eden" [Read Stream Records, CD, 1996]

Necronomic themes of splendid ruin, ritualistic sculptures of darkambient entitled "Black Eden" start out with the noisy and yet horribly tranquil "Satanas Ex Machina", which in my opinion is the band's best track this far, superior to the great "Intra-Uterine Sabbat" even. Next is a typical Endura piece - "The Left Hand Of The Dead" - creepy, moaning, tremendous and

**B r i g h t e r  
D e a t h**

**N o w i s h -  
f o l l o w e d  
b y a n o t h e r  
o f t h e  
d u o ' s  
b e s t  
c o m -  
p o s i -  
t i o n s**

ever - the cold melodic, majestic and mesmerizing "The Devil Stars Burn Cold". And to this point we have a perfect dark album here. However the further 2 tracks of obscure ritual and chanting music lack the greatness needed and the right exalted «Black Eden» mood is renewed with the 6th and the final "Golden Heresy", which is in some way similar to "The Devil Stars..." Well, eventually this one is my next

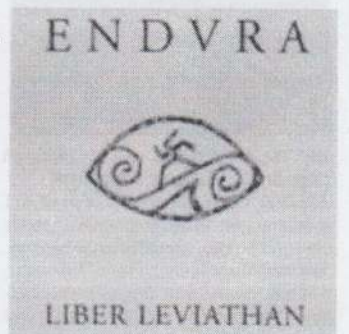


Check whether the cover is glossy! It should be.

favourite right after the yet unrivalled "Dreams Of Dark Waters"... the place of crossing, the doorway between Spheroitic and Qliphotic aspects of the Tree... hell, that is what the flyer says :>

*...Strange Trees still grow on the other side of Eden...*

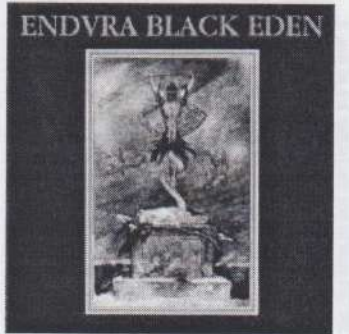
**Morgueular Rating: 9**



**ENDURA** "Liber Leviathan" [Aesthetic Death, CD, 1996]

The weirdest of all Endura albums this far, the least musical and therefore the most atmospheric. Let you not be misled by the rhythmical opening ritual track "Gods Of The Bent Sea" - the rest of the album is just pure occult dark wave of enchanting water magick...

"The light of ancient stars filters down from gulfs unimaginable. Encrypted glyphs flower in the depths, decoding in



the hearts of the elect. What was written in the spaces behind the suns is mirrored in the waters of the earth and in the minds of the mad. The Goddess of Fifteen is caught upon the hook of the Lord of Thirteen, the seas are bent and mighty beasts are summoned. A new age is proclaimed, the Book of Leviathan is opened."

-Liber Endura

Well, what to say in the end then...? Looks like 1996 has been a busy yet a fruitful year for Frater XIII and Nephili Koresh. Let's see where they progress further!

*Dagon is my weapon.*

**Morgueular Rating: 8**

**ETERNAL DIRGE** "Khaos Magic" [Morbid Records, CD, 1996]

This is chaos magic indeed. This album astonished me in the positive meaning of this word. I thought a lot about how to define the style of this music. According to the band, they play NeoPagan Metal. This label will most likely express nothing to those who haven't heard this album. But it's re-



ally hard to describe this music in my words... - very fast, symphonic, complex shiftings, simultaneously sounding both death and black, in some places - even power metal. Each song uses electronic background sound, that reminds me of a couple of Nocturnus "Thresholds" tracks. The music is pretty complex and technically perfect on the compositional level as well. The vocals are of two sorts - grim death metal and rather fast, but not screaming, black voice. I would suggest many of the new bands to look at Eternal Dirge, because there's a lot to learn from them.

*Naomiss. Rating: 9*

**EVOL "Dreamquest" [Adipocere Records, CD, 1996]**

The follow-up to the interesting "Saga Of The Horned King" debut by the young Italian blackmetallers is here - the second full-length album of EVOL... 52 minutes of ultimate kindergarten black metal :). Just the music to play for the children of ye' unlight ones before their sleep - "fairy-tale dream metal". But, hell, I am not being negative! Am I? No way, for I hold this music in honour not for the black or evil or true or fast aspect of it, but much more for the marvellous melodic and ultra-atmospheric keyboard parts it is juiced and filled with... no words can really express how they rule... I would die for the keyboard pieces. Classical, inventive, enchanting and a bit Leacether Stripish... Prince Of Agony does a great job and exactly the synth element is the basic part of EVOL... combined with the clean female narrations (as to me, I don't really care about the accent - the voice is extremely charming and beautiful) and natural samples of the wind, waves, horses, birds, wolves and grasshoppers... Altogether creating a true nocturnal mood and the most wonderful medieval fairytale effect. Really relaxing and moving... ..However, when it comes to black metal, I grin :). The music is so-so - ok, but the clean male vocals **do ruin everything**. And this is strictly my opinion - EVOL should drop the black metal parts altogether... then this album would be worth all the 10 out of 10!

*Morgueldar. Rating: 8*



**FALKENBACH "...En Their Medh Riki Fara..." [No Colours, CD, 1996]**

Now this is something - if Avatar I've christened 'Dragon metal', Absu - 'Ship metal', Burzum - 'Orc metal', Immortal - 'Blashyrkh metal' and so on - perhaps Falkenbach then would be 'Horse Metal'. Stamping, neighing and etc on the debut album of this Icelandic, moved to Germany, artist. Well, that is not the point anyway... Invoking all the pagan pantheon, "...En Their Medh Riki Fara..." (uff..) is a precious tribute to all unsleeping patriots of our ancient northern heathenlands. While the opening "Galdralag" reminds of Golden Dawn a lot, the following Celtic "Heathenpride" and "Lacknishendr" with its chorus are a couple of real neo-pagan anthems. To be more legible, this invaluable CD with its paradoxically crappy design and great content holds over 40 minutes of black and atmospheric heathen metal, a must item in each neo-pagan's collection... *...Into the ardent awaited land...*

*Morgueldar. Rating: 8*



**FUNERAL "Tragedies" [Arctic Serenades, CD, 1996]**

52 minutes of good depressive doom. The band introduces two vocals - a Gothic female one, close to Kari's of The 3rd And The Mortal, and the fundamental male growling, two - a bit like the voice on Winter's "Into Darkness". Musically something inbetween The 3rd And The Mortal and Anathema's "Serenades", but more original. However the album could be more diverse too. While listening, it is advisable to keep yourself further away from sharp instruments like knives and razors, otherwise there is a possibility of "accidentally" and unconsciously, lacking any remorse slashing your own veins. This is music for suicide.

*P.S. At present the band has switched its female vocalist.*

*Cannibal. Rating: 8*

**GARMARNA "Sir Holger" [Massproduktion, maxiCD, 1996]**

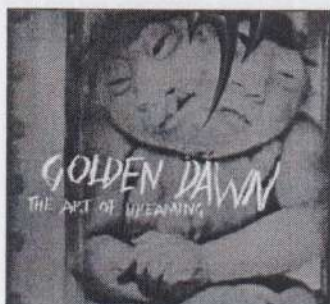
Stunning! A natural masterpiece, created by this Swedish folk-metal band. I'd say I've never heard anything more beautiful and ethnic. This maxi single consists of 3 compositions - "Sir Holger", "Vänner Och Fränder" and "Varulven", which are all based on Swedish folk songs. And the only regret of mine is that I haven't heard all the '96. CD "Guds Spelemän". The music is so beautiful that it can't really be described. It is meant for all those to whom the national traditions are close even nowadays.

Contact: MASSPRODUKTION

*Naomiss. Rating: 10*

**GATES OF ISHTAR "A Bloodred Path" [Spinefarm Records, CD, 1996]**

Dunno really what made me even come close to this release... Still if it was the intriguing name, reminding me the legendary Beherit track, then I'd been sorely mistaken, for there is nothing Babylonian in this music. As a matter of fact there is hardly anything in the music. What I would call those feeble 33 minutes of a supposedly (mind the huge adv. campaign) superb Swedish death/black (raw, fast and melodic - beware of these words, you, who are not yet tired of the uniform "Swedish style") are really a weak imitation of bands like Naglfar, At The Gates, In Flames, Mörk Gryning, Amon Amarth and the almighty famous Hypocrisy sideproject. And if during the first nine overboring strummings you wouldn't have managed to throw the tape out, the last track - a ridiculous W.A.S.P.



cover - should do it. No fucking black rock'n'roll! I'm glad the band has understood it themselves, as there are no more Gates of Ishtar (actually, there are... those

were just good rumours :)). Try The Abyss better...

However the incredibly high technical level of performance and musicianship does not allow me to rate this record lower than 5 out of 10. And, what else... I am sure: many of you will enjoy "Bloodred Path" a lot... *Morgueldar. Rating: 5*

**GEHENNA "Malice" [Cacophonous Records, CD, 1996]**

Dunno really if all I will be telling is right, but at my first listen the opening songs seemed like absolute masterpieces, the best of Gehenna, but... The further I followed this approx. 60 minutes long album, the more I got bored. "Malice" features so many good and yet so many bad songs. The bad, boring ones in my perception, are mainly on the other half of the album. If it were like ~40 minutes, dismissing couple of lame compositions, "Malice" could be referred to as an excellent album, but... In my opinion the previous "Second Spell" was much better, if not concerning quality of sound, then at least the skill of invention and the warlike spirit. Of course professionalism is a good indice, but without original ideas one won't get far...

*Naomiss. Rating: 6*

**GOD'S DELUSION "Pieces" [selfproduced, tape, 1996]**

Very interesting industrial music. Tranquil and melodic. Could be characterized as a medley of Dead Can Dance and Mz.412, with elements of Morthound's "Spindrift".

*Cannibal. Rating: 9*

**GODKILLER "The Rebirth Of The Middle Ages" [Wounded Love Records, MCD, 1996]**

Amazing! But, becoming acquainted with this recording, I really had a feeling the middle ages are coming to reborn again, for Godkiller are but just another marching soldier in the common movement towards the resurrection of "dark medieval times" - Arcana, Golden Dawn, Proscriptor, Adorned Brood, Falkenbach, Pazuzu of course... Do I have to name more? There are many... BUT :) ...Godkiller definitely is/are (a one-man band, right?) one of the leaders by the means of quality, outmatched (heavily although ;P) in the bounds of black metal by Golden Dawn only. Well, and perhaps that Austrian (one-man as well!) band is also soundwise the closest to the music spawned by this Monaco/French lone genius. Less special elements and effects, still a lot of great keyboard atmospheres, acoustic parts, clean narration and the strongest weapon - the majestically desperate, beautiful medieval melodies. Black knights keep striding on their dark horses through moonlit nocturnal landscapes, while "The Rebirth Of The Middle Ages" continues... I was pretty tired of black metal for some time and exactly Godkiller was the one who brought me back to my feet under the eternal dark banner... I await a full-length now!!!!

*Morgueldar. Rating: 9*

**GOLDEN DAWN "The Art Of Dreaming" [Dark Matter Records, CD, 1996]**

Tracklist: *Ideosynchronicity/The Art Of Dreaming/Nothing But The Wind/My Confession To War/Sub Specie Aeternitatis/The Majesty Of My Kingdom Afar/The Sorcery Of The Nagual Side/Per Aspera Ad Astra/Beyond The Mortal Shell*

Now this must actually be the most colourful album of the year. As well as the most indescribable... To go on with mosts, I'll add that "The Art..." contains probably the most diverse black metal ever to emerge (not only) from the shadow of the Alps.. As a matter of fact Golden Dawn exists as a solo project, stemming from the mind of one man - Stefan Traumlüller, known of his participation in Apeiron also. And I truly

wonder about this man's mind... Is he really doing it all alone? For "The Art Of Dreaming" is just so crammed with multitudes of very musical and various soundscapes, melodies, different rhythms, speeds, digressions and changes, diverse voices and medieval folk elements, warlike marches and enchanted atmospheres, the art of dreaming. My sub-label for this black metal would be *modern medieval*, hell, you have to hear it, you must hear it, he is genius and I mean it (Mortis is nothing compared to him :). This album is just perfect argh and "My Confession To War" is sso martial... My 2nd bm fave of 1996!!!

*Morgueldar. Rating: 10*



**GRIMOIRE "A Requiem For The Light" [Euphonius Records/Voices Of Wonder Records, CD, 1996]**

The main thing I would like to say about this album is... ORDER IT! BUY IT!! STEAL IT!!! I can safely assure you that this is the best release of all the new artists, and non-European bands in general I've heard lately.

Hitherto I thought there was only one "thing" distinguishing about Israel: Jesus Christ; but now I know of another: Grimoire!!! Listening to this requiem, the only aspect that betrays the origin of this band is the ultimate opus of the album: "Nevuath Ha'Tom", lyrically all in Hebrew. I would also like to mention the track "At Dark" which is a true display of the darkness on this album. The song is not fast, but a very emotional one - performed in two voices - clear, clean sounding and truly moving, painful black vocals. It also pleases us with an excellent inblend of piano and synthesizer masterpieces. Mind that the whole "Requiem For The Light" delights with even more such keyboard insertions, a very beautiful and technic one of which is presented on the "Above The Silvery Fog (The Night Flight)" intro, that makes us lose ourselves in forgettance completely. Summarizing all, the sound of this recording reminds the one of the Austrian black metal a lot, but the texts are on the same level with Bathory epics: *The ravens had flown high, high above the silver fog. Over the stormy mountains, and on to the past, carved in stone...* Simple and genius...

*(Grimoire is nothing special imo - Morgul.)*

*Naomiss. Rating: 10*



**HA LELA "Pabudimas" [Karas, tape, 1996]**

"Ha Lela!" - in these words the ancient Lithuanians hailed their goddess. And this little but sweet tape in its fairly original packaging proves that a movement and life still stirs in the dark Lithuanian forests and plains - the very heart of Europe and its last pagan empire... "Pabudimas" - the Awakening of Pykuolis and Goddess queen of dreams... it consists of four lengthy and really nice atmospheric pagan metal tracks with a touch of black and a plenty of folk elements, acoustic and keyboard parts, obscure singing, both male and female. There

More bands likely to be featured on our next issue: Adorned Brood, Asgaroth, The Abyss, Pendragon, Pest, Valefar/Anubi and Poccoilus.



is something so special and national about this tape and the gloomy, dark, forlorn yet proud music on it that "Pabudimas" should be utterly dear to every young Lithuanian pagan heart. *Ob... there were smiths who coined weapons for the Great Perkunas blessed by eagle-owl's scream...*

And I daresay that, featuring two members of Pocolus, Ha Lela is the most outstanding and the most original act from Lithuania today, definitely the next stuff to order from Beverina Distribution once you will have purchased Dark Fire Dancing II. Contact: Vaidas Šadeika, Taikos 10-11, 4910 Utena, LITHUANIA.

*Morgueldar. Rating: 9*

**HEAVEN GREY "Memory River"** [Mapl, tape, 1996]

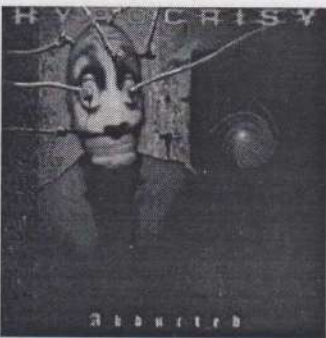
The most professional doom band in Latvia. Well-performed, melancholic, but not extending slow doom with cello. Influences of Cemetery, My Dying Bride and Paradise Lost.

*Cannibal. Rating: 7*

**HERMH "Taran"** [Last Epitaph Records, CD, 1996]

Your-ears-friendly opus of dark/black metal with a slightly Gothic sound, performed by Polish people. Just as in all the territory of Europe, black metal has left its traits in Poland also. Hermh belong to the new wave of black metal, which is not afraid of experimenting. In this case I mean the synthesis of various styles that achieves a pleasant effect. Very emotional is the song "Golden Sea" with its succesful acoustic sound, slightly touched by folk music. 5 compositions from series of "Blackness" are the very embodiment of true dark horror; "In The Shadow Of The Trees" - Gothic black etc... It is obvious that many could like this album because of its diversity. Talking about the sound of the album, it is not that ideal, guitars have a strong demo sound, however the keyboard parts are really rejoiceful for they improve the background of the music. The diversity of vocals has to be acknowledged too - as to me, I managed to hear 5 different kinds of vocals.

*Naomis. Rating: 7*



**HYPOCRISY "Abducted"** [Nuclear Blast Records, CD, 1996]

No, it's not black... It's Swedish death. And a superb one. And here with Peter Tägtgren we finally see a truly progressive Svensk death metal band. What once was brutal with Hypocrisy has now turned vicious and made this stuff supreme. The lyrics are said to be about extra-terrestrial subjects (except the last 3 - suicide). The organization/sequel of "Abducted" is perfect as well. And, even if it is the best Swedish (a word pronounced not without disdain from my mouth) death metal album ever, I can't rate it any higher than ten.

*Morgueldar. Rating: 10*

**IMPALED NAZARENE "Latex Cult"** [Osmose Productions, CD, 1996]

Well, it's interesting, but this is the first Impaled Nazarene (my ex-fave band in fact) album where you can't really divide the



songs into the 'good' and 'crap' ones. And although the 14 hyperblast tracks here are not quite as good as the 'good' ones on the previous killers, they are definitely much better than the crappy ones there. So this time it is... True black punk! Heheh... raging, thrashing and destroying! Looks like the band has found its real style finally. Also some nice and desperate samples here: Punishment is good and there's no light at the end of the tunnel... Among my favourites songs I'd like to name "Violence I Crave" (yeah! the best actually...), "Motörpenis" with its irritating bass-solo again and "Zum Kotzen" probably... As to the cover it sucks as usual.

*P.S. Latvian scene, watch out for "Jezus uz mieta"!*

*Morgueldar. Rating: 8*



**IMPALED NAZARENE "Motörpenis"** [Osmose Productions, MCD, 1996]

Yeah, punk! 8 minutes and 5 tracks: the title off the full-length, the rest are IN fave punk covers, nice to be judged after names: Whore, S/M Party, Transvestite, Alcohol... The whole mini is just slightly more punkish and less brutal than "Cult". *That's right, motherfucker!*

*Morgueldar. Rating: 7*

**IN MEMORIAN "Insantification"** [Rock Machine Records, MCD, 1996]

Now this album and the dark authors of it deserve positive references only, even more if we consider that the origin of In Memoriam is Brazil. The style of music could be defined as sympho-death/black. And although, the compositions on "Insantification" are not long, each of all express themselves from the good side only. Very impressive is the intro, in which in childish female voices it is told about... satan and which ends by a stunning phrase from the vocalist... **IN.MEMORIAN!!!** The music is performed in a fairly high level, with perfect keyboard incorporations, that help to create an unforgettable impression. Highly recommended.

*Naomis. Rating: 6*

**KATATONIA "Brave Murder Day"** [AvantGarde Music, CD, 1996]

Oooh how groovic.. Is this really Katatonia? Hmm, soundwise yeah, but musicwise it must be Edge Of Sanity. I am pretty sure that mr. impudence Dan Swanö has got something to do with this album too. Well, what to say... Edge Of Sanity is a good band too and so must be this album then. 6 tracks of heavy and melodic Swedish doomblack rock, and, hell, aren't they

trying to be original? Brave, Murder, Day, Rainroom, Mushroom, Endtime, 12... And although most of them songs are pretty 'light' (take "Day" for example) the whole atmosphere is rather nostalgic, tragic, and depressive even with a touch of sad concilience. A very blue album...

*Morgueldar. Rating: 7*

**KRABATHOR "The Rise Of Brutality"** [Soundless Productions, split tape with Pandemia, 1996]

Much better than the previous "Lies" album. A certain influence of Sinister, but not a blind copy. Good, technically played performance of 4 songs. Commended to all those who fancy Sinister and the early Hypocrisy. The group itself is from Czech Republic.

Contact: Soundless Productions. *Cannibal. Rating: 5*

**LEFT HAND SOLUTION "Fevered"** [Massproduktion, CD, 1996]

The album is meant for all admirers of Gothic metal. I won't compare this band to other Gothic artists, as I am not a specialist in this genre. Something similar to depression came over me, while listening to this album, all merry and light things left me, and I was forced to lose myself in thoughts about the big and serious problems of life... The technical performance of the band is of a high quality. Very good is the voice of the female vocalist - deep, thoughtful and earnest. The album is for those who are grave, and maybe even pessimistic in their souls.

Contact: MASSPRODUKTION *Naomis. Rating: 7*

**MARDUK "Heaven Shall Burn... When We Are Gathered"** [Osmose Productions, CD, 1996]

Well, here we have it - a totally dull, uninteresting and jolly high-speed Swedish black metal album. Looks like Marduk don't really care about anything and just mosh on without any senses: bam bam bam bam all the way... Or actually no... but still interesting how they actually manage to shift from really nice and evil moods to totally dumb and stupid ones the next moment. They go on demonstrating this "brilliant" skill although the album... Well, for example, "The Black Tormentor Of Satan" is certainly a masterpiece, one of the best pieces by Marduk altogether... as well as the glorious Mussorgsky's "Night At The Bald Mountain" as the introduction of "Glorification Of The Black God". On the other hand, "Darkness It Shall Be" is definitely not the best track to listen to when in a bad mood. Actually, in my opinion, it is the most annoying black metal song I have ever heard. On the whole... I don't quite know what to think about this album, nothing positive really... hohoho, yeah and check the evil Tolkien images on the cover and all around!

Coming (or come already): «Glorification» EP with a remix of the title track + covers of Venom, Bathory, Destruction etc., a live album, next full-length «Nightwings», and even later a «Panzer Division Marduk (A Tribute To War)» EP!



Perhaps some bands, besides C.O.F., can really live on black metal only, eh?

*Morgueldar. Rating: 6*

**MAZE OF CAKO TORMENTS "Dabalibula"** [Mapl, tape, 1996]

Death black horror experimental atmospheric - this is how one could describe the first Maze Of Cako Torments recording. Highly complex program, technically performed - all by one man. Drummachine and background synths are used too. The only way to acquire this tape abroad is by ordering it via Beverina Distribution. Very special packaging!

*Cannibal. Rating: 9*

**A MIND CONFUSED "Out Of Chaos Spawn"** [Near Dark Productions, 7"EP, 1996]

This is fairly technical death metal (in a typical Swedish vein as the band comes from Stockholm) with a touch of black. The EP presents 2 songs "Feeble Son Of God...", which reminds Dissection a lot, and "Your Sacrifice Won't Cleanse Our Souls" which is really a masterpiece. The song starts with a very good atmospheric intro and continues with perfectly played guitar-soleos and great acoustic indentions. To my mind, the band has made a very good start.

*Naomis. Rating: 6*



**THE MOON LAY HIDDEN BENEATH A CLOUD "Were You Of Silver, Were You Of Gold"** [ART, MCD, 1996]

I am damn discontent for this being the only release by the Austrian Moon Lay Hidden Beneath A Cloud (what a name!) I've heard (heh, an old review - now I have them all!! :P): Hoom hoom, dark mystical folk music of the Balkans, ritualistic dance/game rhythm and an enchanting, cruel and dreamy (sleepy even) female voice singing, narrating, incantating... Good for a change and not just that actually.

*Morgueldar. No Rating.*

The contact address of SKYFORGER: Peter K., Ropazru 108-12, Rīga, LV-1006, LATVIA.



**MOONSPELL** "Irreligious" [Century Media Records, CD, 1996]

Evidently their worst album, but still a damn good one! (Sorry, out of time! :) *Morgue*dar. Rating: 8

**MORSUN DIABOLI** "...I Zmien Sie Rzeczywistość" [Ceremony Records, tape, 1996?]

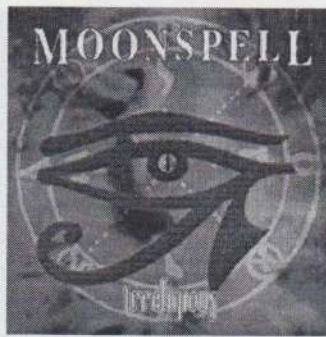
True black metal in Polish way. The tape consists of an intro + 4 songs + outro. I can't really tell what this music is resembling to, that's why I'll just name the band's "official influences" (mentioned on the cover) - Bathory, Burzum, Mastiphal, Mayhem, Possessed, Venom... Anyway, nevermind them for the sound of Morsun Diaboli is unique. This is not the case when you forget the recording after one listen. I really took liking in the vocals and the atmospheric keyboard parts, in places similar to Summoning's "Minas Morgul". I advise you to purchase this tape as the design and the sound of it is of a high quality, so you won't be disappointed!

*Naomis*. Rating: 8

**MORTIIS** "Crypt Of The Wizard" [Dark Dungeon Music, CD, 1996]

And finally here they come - the yet digitally unreleased 1996 conceptual 12" vinyl series by the weirdly fiendish synth wizard from dimensions unknown - Mortiiis. More in the vein of Fata Morgana and unusually diverse, those 10 compositions vary from impy elvish dances to impressive and deep organ pieces. My favourites on "Crypt" are the untypical-to-Mortiiis "En Sirkel Av En Kosmisk Kaos", where a supposedly peaceful dance suddenly turns into an evil haunting industrial nightmare, as well as the mystically melodic and trollish piece in the very middle of the CD, which, to me at least, serves as the theme for the whole album. And though I realize that to some this music might seem too simple/plain and minimalistic, I think it takes a genius to put this all together and build such a unique, extraordinary and inimitable atmosphere. Hail the dark emperor of deserts and dungeons! Long live Mortiiis!!

*P.S. Uh oh, (don't) check the new Vond!*  
*Morgue*dar. Rating: 9



Swans» turned out to be one of the most atmospheric metal releases ever. «The Angel And The Dark River», which for a looong time was simply my very favourite album in general, made me also pretty sure that this was the peak of perfection and the band itself had nowhere to progress further. Oh, I've been wrong, and how sweet it was to find it... For «Like Gods Of The Sun» sees My Dying Bride having improved even more - it is perfectly obvious with the musicianship, arrangements and the overall production itself - just a bit heavier and "faster" than «The Angel», all the instruments, including violins, are now so effectively utilized, no spare parts at all... ergh, everything is ssoo perfect that it makes you choke... :) My faves: «The Dark Caress», the digipack bonus version of «It Will Come (Nightmare)», «Here In The Throat» and «For My Fallen Angel» especially <faint>... *No finer woman had lay before me Dark and filled with beauty All it took was one lonely kiss Her lips, swollen and red Smothered all over me I felt faint and without control And with great thirst, I drank deeply...* Yeah, some of you would call those lines and the like on "the Gods..." corny, I still call them art. Well, I won't compare the album to other MDB releases: but the last 3 certainly form a "trinity" in my eyes - Swans, The River and Gods all encircling above... my dying bride... One of the best '96. releases ;)

*Morgue*dar. Rating: 10

**MYSTICUM** "In The Streams Of Inferno" [Full Moon Productions, CD,

anyway, so I'll just shut up - Morgul)

So, what's Mysticium up to in a couple of words anyway? Mysticium is a rare blend of Industrial/Techno/Black, I have never heard anything equal to, and I think neither have you! For example the music and the vocals on "Where The Raven Flies" remind me of German industrial somehow. The music is aggressive itself and the presence of drum machine just heats up the fire! The album consists of 8 compositions at a total length of 37 minutes. Two of the tracks - "Let The Kingdom Come" and "In Your Grave" - have been featured on the Nordic Metal compilation tribute to Euronymous, so, if you are familiar with this compilation, you could not have possibly missed those stunning masterpieces.

Thanks to those three great guys for at least some diversity in Black Metal.

(...Never Stop the Madness! Don't Control Drugs, let them control you!)

*Goblin*. Rating: 9

**MZ.412** "Burning The Temple Of God" [Cold Meat Industry, CD, 1996]

Beware! For this is labeled as TRUE SWEDISH BLACK INDUSTRY! Earlier on known as Maschinenzimmer #12, those 5 persons, one of whom is currently being imprisoned for having carried out an act similar to the one mentioned in the title, in their second long-play display most of the usual what an industrial satanic goat noise band is expected to, i.e. - industrial satanic chainsaw-killing-many-preferably-christian-people-their-blood-being-spilled-over-the-un-holy-altar goat noises etc. But this time we have a surprise here - 2 more, quite original (and not bad after all) tracks called "Feasting On Christian Blood" and "Vampiir Of The North" - both performed in the style of Northern black metal, the latter being an instrumental yet a crushingly good piece. Yes, and there are more black metal throat ripping as an addition to the usual noise songs as well. Interesting indeed. Very even. If someone of your nutty friends has this CD, do help yourself, borrow it and take a listen! Luckily I am neither a specialist nor a fan of industry and judging about all the album after 2 songs only would not be very fair, therefore no rating...

*Morgue*dar. No Rating.

**NAHASH** "Wellone Aeternitas" [Ledo Tako Produktai, tape, 1996]

Mournful Lithuanian black metal. Slow yet not doomy or boring. Four long and requiem compositions that lack an analogue concerning the unique mood. One of the tracks - "Requiem" - was featured on the "Dark Fire Dancing 2" compilation. Recommended material for fans of Abyssal and jailbird' Thorns.

Contact: Vytautas Stankus, Traku 5-2, 3000 Kaunas, LITHUANIA.

*Cannibal*. Rating: 8

**NOCTURNAL MORTUM** "Lunar Poetry" [????, CD, 1996]

This is the best of all ex-Soviet Union bands that play real black metal at the moment. To be more precise, Nocturnal Mortum hail from Ukraine. It is really nice to acknowledge the fact that the former republics of USSR are striding at one with the current era and black metal is common there also. The Baltic states, which are closer to Europe and Scandinavia and have probably been more inspired by the black arts of those countries, can not really compete with the Ukrainian Nocturnal Mortum's album "Lunar Poetry"... This masterpiece has summed up all that the European black has gone through in the last 5 years. The music is fast, complex, atmospheric, with lots of technical keyboard parts and revised folk melodies. The style of the band is best characterized by the second track on the album, that can probably be considered the "trade-

mark" of Nocturnal Mortum. Also worth mentioning is the fact that one song is performed in the Old Slavic language, which leaves traits of *pagan black* on the band.

*P.S. According to the latest news, the band has kicked one of the guitarists and added another keyboard player to the line-up. Note that the new album of Nocturnal Mortum will be a real pagan one, all in Old Slavic and featuring many musical traits of national traditions.*  
*Naomis*. Rating: 10

**NOVGOROD** "In My Eyes The Black Light Of The Sun" [Northern Darkness Records, tape, 1996]

It'd be interesting to find out what this Italian band meant with picking such a name. The tape consists of 3 compositions, that prove that a characteristic school of black metal (or black/death maybe even) has firmly established itself in Italy, for the sound of all the new bands is somewhat alike. It's hard to distinguish anything special in this music, I suggest you to comparatively take a listen to Theatres Des Vampires, Another Day or the Italy's own "classic": EVOL, and you'll get the whole thing.

*Naomis*. Rating: 5

**OUTSIDER** "Step To Nothing" [Soundless Productions, tape, 1996]

Rather complex death metal with a very good bass guitar. Vocals in the vein of Blasphere's "Rest In Peace". Nothing especially original, but certainly an advisable band for all death metal fans.

Contact: Soundless Productions.

*Cannibal*. Rating: 6

**PAN. THY. MONIUM** "III - Khaohs & Con-fu-sion" [Relapse Records, CD, 1996]

I have always been very enthusiastic about Pan. Thy. Monium for with their previous two full-lengths and the outstanding EP they have proved to be one of the best bands on the world's death metal scene ever, one of the few that were actually trying to keep death alive (sounds interesting, eh?). Were? Oh, mourn ye, mortals! It's so sad to announce that with "III" Pan. Thy. Monium have released their own obituary... :( And even sadder it is to find that this is actually the best stuff they've done this far. The album consists of 4 original and perfect tracks, as experimental, diverse, atmospheric and well-rehearsed as usual, "The Battle Of Geecheeb", "Thee-Pherenth" and "Behrial"... Grand. And although Pan. Thy. Monium is definitely the most original death metal band I have ever known, this album doesn't lack one shameless rip-off: the closing "In Remembrance". Haven't there been enough "Cosmic Silences" or "666" 6'06"-es this far?

*Morgue*dar. Rating: 8

**PANDEMI** "Pain" [Soundless Productions, split tape with Krabathor, 1996] A band from Russia. Standardized, uninteresting, unmoving and typical death metal.

Contact: Soundless Productions.

*Cannibal*. Rating: 2



**POCCOLUS** "Poccolus" [CD, Danguis Productions/Hammerheart Productions, 1996]

O-ho-ho! Hard to believe that just our brother nation of Lithuanians have succeeded in creating such a black music! Ac-

## MY DYING BRIDE



**MY DYING BRIDE** "Like Gods Of The Sun" [CD, Peaceville Records, 1996]

Eeeeeeeek! Here is one of my really favourite bands ever, the first unlight music I heard at all... Godz! So this is their fourth "real" album and again it is classic: while «As The Flower Withers» was something unheard and utterly dark, «Turn Loose The

1996]

To start with, I think that the Norwegian black metal scene is the strongest in Europe, in fact not only Europe, but the whole world (Jāni, leave your opinion to yourself! :). (Don't worry, I will :) *in fact - the strongest does not necessarily mean the best :P* <Guerriist! Osmoid> ubm ok, Mysticium kicks as



According to the musicians themselves their achievement is to be honoured as *warlike pagan metal*. I wouldn't like to be foreseeing future, but it seems that with time a unique style of black/pagan metal could emerge from our (Baltic) countries. This music is rich with national traditions, masterfully used folk instruments (*that don't even have a translation in Latvian-English dictionary!*) >:( - Morgul) and lyrics in Lithuanian. Seems like Pocolus in their music have expressed just what has been piling up in our conscience and blood for centuries. I am very glad that this band with their first CD of more than 60 minutes of beautiful dainas have perfectly announced themselves from the good side only. Music, slightly akin to Scandinavian black, lot of symphonic parts and truly moving, heart-tearing, a bit croaking vocals - this is what they call Pocolus. (*The clean vocals argh terrible - my opinion again - Morgul*)  
 Contact: Audrius Šimkunas, Seliu 24-1, Utena 4910, LITHUANIA.  
*Naomiss. Rating: 9*



**POSTMORTEM "Bloody Justice Comes"** [tape, 1996]  
 Estonian death. Nothing really brutal or melodic, but just classic death metal kept in the good old tradition. Well and professionally performed, high recording quality, colour sleeve with lyrics. Recommended to all fans of death metal. Order this tape from Beverina Distribution and you won't regret it!  
 Contact: c/o Sergei Shelepov, Kärberi 47-101, Tallinn, EE0038, ESTONIA.  
*Cannibal. Rating: 7*



**PROSCRIPTOR "The Venus Bellona"** [Cruel Moon Int'l/Cold Meat Industry, CD, 1996]  
 Now this is really atmospheric medieval music, the autor of which is the well-known Prosciptor McGovern of the Absu fame. And this is where all his connection with black metal ends for "The Venus Bellona" should be considered as a truly occult album which touches upon the ancient Scottish traditions and "the Dominion Folklore of Thoth". The album consists of 20 compositions at a total length of 50 minutes,

and it can be safely said that even those 50 minutes do not fully reveal all that Prosciptor is capable of. Each song is very original and leaves a different impression of true darkness and, I think, that the best way of capturing the entity of this music is the one in a vast room of good acoustic, with candles being the only lighting. Only then will the feeling of a real medieval atmosphere be able to clasp you... (*Have you tried it, hel? - Morgul*)  
*Naomiss. Rating: 8*

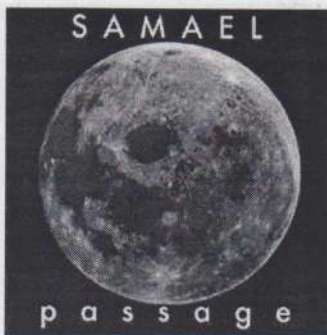
**RAISM "The Very Best Of Pain"** [Osmose Productions, MCD, 1996]  
 Not once have I felt so enthusiastic about an album at the first listen even before getting to the end of it! *Die die die diediedie* So, the masters of vampyric sadomasochism Diabolos Rising, ie - 2 members of Impaled Nazarene and Necromantia, switching their name to Raism, make another outstanding effort of 199666 - this time towards a more "rockish" sound, the synths are used more effectively now, guitars are played by the Septic Flesh guy whatever his name was, and I dare say that this 5-song-only EP is the best Mikka Luttinen and Magus Wampyr Daoloth have done this far. You just have to hear it yourself... Luttinen has exceeded himself with the lyrics, just hear and enjoy lines like *Well, cheer up, boys and girls!* or "*What kind of hell is this anyway?*", which supposedly tell of a guy "who dies and goes to hell, and things are totally different... Satan married the Virgin Mary, there aren't any fires burning, he sees Peace&Love signs on the walls and stuff like that" (*excerpt from M. W. Daoloth interview*). Hmm... : ) I guess in this place I have to say that, after releasing 3 albums, which are all so different and great at the same time, D.R./Raism are the most original artists in the black metal scene at present. I can't believe they'll split up... (?)

*Morgueldar. Rating: 10*

**ROTTING CHRIST "Triarchy Of The Lost Lovers"** [Century Media, CD, 1996]  
 It's amazing (...not actually) how each new Rotting Christ album takes more and more listens to get into. 'Twas hard with "Non Serviam" and much harder/boring with the "Triarchy...". 9 slow, nice, melodic, rhythmic, resembling and... sleepy songs here again, and we see a real cult band growing old... I'm not carried away at all, though this is a good album to listen to when you're tired. Maybe, yeah, not kindergarten blackmetal, but more of the house for old solitary people... It's obvious they'll never be like on "Thy Mighty Contract" again...  
*Morgueldar. Rating: 6*

**SABAOTH "Sabaoth"** [Stormsoul Productions, CD, 1996]  
 Sabaoth is a band that comes from a rather exotic country - Paraguay, and plays quite an unusual music for its nativity - black metal. The diverse changes of speed, mood and atmosphere, all well overthought and performed, make me become lost in a thought that people are alike everywhere, no matter if it's Europe or Latin America, and black metal is just the thing that can connect those oh-so different lands. (*dream on! - Morgul ;*)  
*Naomiss. Rating: 8*

**SAMAEL "Passage"** [Century Media, CD, 1996]  
 Now, everybody should be surprised - just to take a look at the change Samael has made since "Worship Him" in 1991 - kings of the late oldstyle black genre gone industrial metal, where extremely satanic lyrics shift into philosophical sci-fi ones and the early brutal raw sound is turned into an atmospheric and thick electronic layer. The very typical rhythm of Samael remains and



is even supplemented by some techno (or whatever they're called) beats. Yes, it is a drummachine now. And it does an excellent job. The vocals are the cold and creepy type that on "Rebellion's" "I Loye The Dead". And despite my slight scepticism of the first listen, with songs like "My Saviour", "Angel's Decay" and "Moonskin" I just can't help myself falling back and sighing: "How great!" some time later... *I am the sword which leads every sword, I am the path which contains every path: I am immortal, I am glorious, I am supreme, I am my saviour, my saviour...* And to finish with this - I hated KMFDM's "Nihil", yet I love Samael's "Passage"  
*Morgueldar. Rating: 8*

**SATURNUS "Paradise Belongs To You"** [selfproduced, tape, ???] - ???  
 Hard to say when has the album been recorded and what is the real name of it. From the packaging of the tape it can be said that this is a Danish band and this tape has been released in Denmark. And all I could find about this band was that it has got a CD called "Paradise Belongs To You" on stock, and, as there is such a song on the tape too, I assume this is the cassette version of the CD. Speaking of music it reminds me of My Dying Bride "Turn Loose The Swans" times a lot. Song lengths vary from 9 to 10 minutes. In the technical scape the band doesn't deceive our expectations: the clean sound of the guitars, well-played acoustic parts and the synth themes create a truly melancholic feeling.  
*Naomiss. Rating: 6*



**SATYRICON "Nemesis Divina"** [Moonfog Productions, CD, 1996]  
*This is arnageddon...* Hail the new gods of northern black metal! For with this stunning masterpiece Satyricon have finally succeeded in overthrowing Darkthrone from the Fjelltronen of Norsk metal. Nemesis Divina... the revenge of the gods... Gods, indeed. Let Fenriz reclaim the title of the

king, who cares: for Satyricon are the gods. Though "Nemesis" certainly takes a few more listens to get into than the usual Satyricon albums, when you're finally in, you'll be mesmerized by both the coldness and greatness of this music. The epic consists of seven hymns to the empire of the "Nordic Hemisphere", all meant to sweep you off your feet by the incredible strength and energy they are performed with. The natural overwhelming mental might of the north is supported by a headblasting speed, great incorporation of harmonic piano pieces, medieval atmosphere, mystical female chants and melodic guitars "aggressively" performed by Satyr, Frost and Kveldulv. And what do we get? One of the best Norwegian black metal albums ever!!! Plus a tip for the neat album cover, picturing a burning book with a falcon nailed to an inverted cross on its cover.

*Phantom north - I'll be there when you hunt them down...*  
*Morgueldar. Rating: 9*



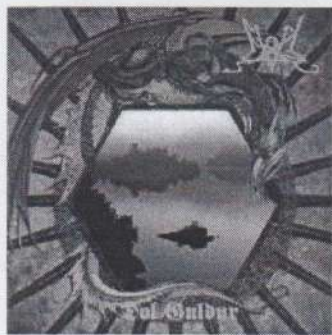
**SEETHERIAL "Nord"** [Napalm Records, CD, 1996]  
 Newcomers on the Swedish black metal stage - Setherial with their debut album prove that the Swedish scene is still strong and alive. Music in the spirit of Emperor. According to the band, Setherial means "Total Darkness And Death" and listening to "Nord" will ascertain you of that. The album is dedicated to the Arrival of the Dark Age and War Against Christianity. Guess what the lyrics are about!  
*Goblin. Rating: 8*

**SIGH "Infidel Art"** [Cacophonous Records, CD, 1996]  
 This is indisputably the best Japanese performance in the field of black metal genre. The music of this album calls forth truly dark emotions only. It is not too ferocious or aggressive. It makes one feel and grasp the true darkness of a soul. The album is not homogenous however, it includes a

Warning: some articles might be written under my persistent influence of hemp!



wide range of hints of other styles too. The electronic sound of the release is just excellent, the author of it must be a real "classic" one. "Infidel Art" uses two types of vocals, which perfectly fit the mood. The sound is good too. Nevertheless the influence of the Italian school is felt greatly. **Naomiss. Rating: 8**



**SUMMONING "Dol Guldur" [Napalm Records, CD, 1996]**

*Tracklist: Angbands Schmieden/Nightshade Forests/Elfstone/Khazad Dûm/Kôr/Wyrmvater Glaurung/Unto A Long Glory.../Over Old Hills;*

*Total time: 68'47"*

Out of dark and unto a long glory... Summoning. Their third, another evil tower of Middle-earth (Lugbûrz, Minas Morgul, what's next? Utumno? Orthanc? Angband? or Thangorodrim? No actually, for the forgotten songs of "Dol Guldur" will be released on the coming MiniCD "Nightshade Forests": 9 - See how excited and incapable of reviewing this album I am!..)

Well, first.. what has changed since "...Morgul": Summoning have gone more complex, there are 2 guitars now, the sound is much denser, and the atmosphere is even more impressive and sad somehow, the average song length is about 10 minutes, the fastest rhythm here is approx. 60 beats per minute, and it goes on for a couple of seconds itself anyway, thus the fastest track of "Dol Guldur" being equalled to the slowest one on the previous, but otherwise the music of our beloved Silenius and Protector hasn't changed, the same majestic drummachine, misty background atmosphere, the epic mood, moving and piercing melodies, their synths being explored even further.., nevertheless I would yet dare to prefer the more diverse "Minas..." over "Dol...", but I stress that they are close, and, oh... no words can express what I feel during "Unto A Long Glory"... Standing on a hilltop with a bloody sword in your hands, among countless dead bodies of mountain trolls and orcs, slain by you and lying in the long heather, looking out over the landscapes of steamy lakes, nightshade forests, vast green plains and summoning your dragon magic.... *out of doubt, out of dark, over dread, over doom lifted...* and you ask me if I can rate it any lower than 10..? **Morgueldar. Rating: 10**

**THEATRE OF TRAGEDY "Velvet Darkness They Fear" [Massacre Records, CD, 1996]**

Aw, what a great album! Certainly none worse than on the classic self-titled release last year. Theatre of Tragedy return with more tragedy and drama in their songs. Hard to describe how pleasant 'tis to find they haven't dropped the death vocals and hear Liv's beautiful singing again. No changes stylistically, a smoother production and a better sound however, but that's no problem with me, if you ask. < sigh > Such a great album that I fail to describe it, so you should buy it yourselves, it's perfect! By the way, can somebody tell me where are the great samples of "Bring Forth Ye Shadow" and "When He Falleth" (my fave) from? **Morgueldar. Rating: 9**

**THEATRES DES VAMPIRES "Vampirisme, Necrophilie, Necrosadisme, Necrophagie" [Garden Of Grief Productions, CD, 1996]**

This band is of an Italian origin, and as far as it is known this is their debut album. And, whilst listening, the influence of the "Italian school" isn't unnoticable, e.g. Evol-like spoken female vocals with a strong Italian accent. The songs are as atmospheric as they can possibly be in black metal. The sound could be better although.

**Naomiss. Rating: 7**

**THERION "Theli" [Nuclear Blast Records, CD, 1996]**

Mr. Cristoffer Johnsson is here again, so what should that mean? Another great album twice more original than the previous one? "Theli" is great, yeah, and, to my mind, with this album Therion becomes one of the best metal bands in the world. Evidently there are less changes in the style than through the previous years: compared to "Lepaca Kliffoth" the band has only gone less heavy metal and much more sym-

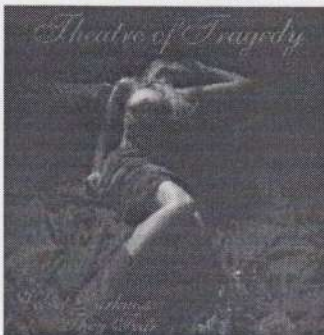


phonic. Just take a look at the long list of the guests: the never-lacking Dan Swanö (just singing here actually), The North German Radio Choir, The Siren Choir etc. And once again - "Theli" is great - epic, pompous, majestic and diverse 10 lyrically occult tracks of symphonic metal, each perfect and unforgettable... Looks like Mr. Johnsson is a genius really. It took a long time for me to decide if this album was better than the previous full-length masterpiece, as "Lepaca" was more a surprise to me and certainly much closer to my heart... And, yes, this is one of my favourite albums of 1996 too.

**Morgueldar. Rating: 10**

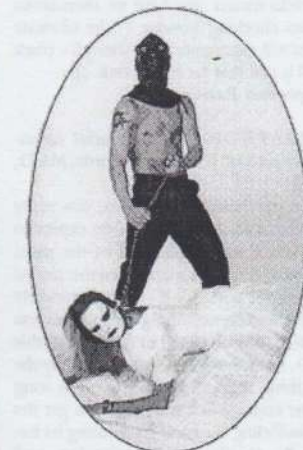
**THY REPENTANCE "Ural Twilight Autumnalia" [Undead Wood, CD, 1995]**

And although this album has been recorded already in 1995, I am of the opinion that it is still worth mirroring here. The fact I would like to stress first is that the band emerges from the central regions of Russia - the town called Ekaterinburg, the former



name of which was Sverdlovsk. But Thy Repentance proves that even there a perfect music can be created. This style is a synthesis of dark electronic and black. And I tell you, I have never heard music that atmospheric and emotional. In their art the band must have put all of their skill and their perception of the surrounding environment as the title of the album expresses all that they have probably wanted to say. I advise Thy Repentance to everybody who wish to hear an untypical and very original music, performed by two stout sons of the wide land of Russia. This music was not made for a short period of time, it was created to serve eternity...

**Naomiss. Rating: 10**



**TSATTHOGGUA "Hosanna Bizarre" [Osmose Productions, CD, 1996]**

Once again it is proved that you shouldn't let the image of a band influence your opinion on its music... And the image of this, by Osmose so widely advertised, German band, which in its early years was called Dissection, is hilarious indeed. However the music... is stunning! Although the intro resembles Sepultura's "Roots" too much, the following is more "pleasant" - merciless, satanic, evil and extreme shredding, merged with vocals in German, atmospheric keyboard elements and teeth-drilling industrial sounds - cult of Impaled Nazarene's classic "Tol Cormpt Norz Norz" with more a deathish sound. "Hosanna Bizarre" really surprised me pleasantly.

The new album "To The Credo Of Inversion" to be released in early 1998, w8sing...

**Morgueldar. Rating: 8**

**ULVER "Kveldssanger" [Head Not Found Productions, CD, 1996]**

Their debut was outstanding... but now they suddenly shock us with an absolutely non-black-metal and all-acoustic album of tranquil "folk" guitar music and many clean vocals. Although trolls is supposed to be back, I sense no trolls on "Kveldssanger"... the atmosphere rather reminds me a bunch of sorrowful and nostalgic northern wood-brigands late at night, after many sad and deep cups of beer, remembering their youth.

**Morgueldar. Rating: Nice to fall asleep to.**

**VARGAVINTER "Frostfödd" [Invasion Records, CD, 1996]**

The most peculiar thing that struck me while listening to Vargavinter - no matter how a Swedish black metal band, unless it is Vondur, would try sounding Norwegian, there shall always remain something so typically Svensk in their music. And Vargavinter certainly do not succeed much further in that north-west direction than, say, Dark Funeral, Throne Of Ahas or Thornium. Picture a mingle of Satyricon's "Nemesis Divina" and Marduk's "Heaven Shall Burn..." quite predictably carried out in a terrible speed (superb drumming, really), but not lacking the slow atmospheric mo-

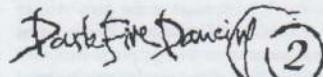
ments also, technically perfect, rich in melodies, juiced with untraditional folk instruments like oboe even, native language, including female voice and natural stormnoise samples as usual, and you'll get all qualities necessary for a "perspective" modern northern black metal band Vargavinter is. And I must admit that during the 3rd listen, I got quite carried away by this one. Although I doubt about how many more albums like "Frostfödd" I can take... (*I couldn't take Setherial*)

**Morgueldar. Rating: 7**

**V/A "Crusade From The North" [Moonfog Productions, 2CD, 1996]**

You know who they are - the proud and tall people on Moonfog - Satyr, Fenriz "and the band"... In all possible variations which sum up a total of 6 names - Satyricon, Darkthrone, Isengard, Storm, Wargraven and Neptune Towers. The indecently cheap double-CD is also an indescribably good start for those yet unfamiliar to svartmetal fra Norsk. Yes, those are the legends here with 16 supposedly unreleased/rare tracks - demo, 7", 12", 39847x, rehearsal etc recordings. Mhmm, Interesting.. but how come that many of them do not differ from the normal full-length album versions at all? Well, still this is musically a supremely well-made double-album, the jewelous essence of the North all in exactly 91 minutes and 3 seconds.

**Morgueldar. Rating: 8**



**V/A "Dark Fire Dancing II" [Dangus Productions, tape, 1996]**

Well, hard to realize that, but... this is the best compilation I have ever heard!! What do we deal here with then? Dangus Productions Compilation: a 90 minute high quality tape of "obscure" Lithuanian pagan/black/darkwave music. 15 bands and 15 tracks and ..unbelievable.. but each of the 15 is great!!! awesome!!! and original!!! None compilation have I ever heard so dark and colourful at the same time either - furious black, warlike pagan folk, grotesque and hypnotic dark metal, ambient industrial, electronic atmospheric... all is present here. And... how original!, everyone shall find something unheard there! It is extremely hard to name any favourites on this masterpiece, by constant listening you will fall in love with all of them songs, so I'll just name my least favourite - Meressin, which infact is quite good too... Oh, hell, I feel an irresistible urge to list them all: Wejdas, Pocolius, Anubi, Laumė, Akys, Ha Lecla, Girnų Giesmės, Caduceus, Nahash, Zpoan Vtenz, Valefar, Sovijus, Eirimė and Sala. All rule, honestly.

The tape itself is very neatly designed, featuring a booklet with photos, contact and info on each artist, as well as some inspiring and elated pagan quotes. Frazė "Mes neuždegėm ugnies, ji degė visada..." yra paimta iš Anubi? Well, fairly sounds like Billy Joel to me... ok, whatever.. Actually this compilation made me proud just to be born of a brother nation of Lithuanians. Aww, they are sooo far ahead us... And this tape is a must have for every true heathen warrior of unlight...

*The flame that burned many years ago at the altars of the last pagan empire in Europe has not disappeared - it still burns in our memory, hearts and works. Let that flame unite! Let the descendants of the honourful ancients open new spaces in your souls. The brightest flames will mark the new age. Be strong!*

Contact:  
Dangus Productions,  
PO Box 382,  
LT-2300 Vilnius,  
LITHUANIA.

**Morgueldar. Rating: 10**





199666:  
VIDEO REVIEWS

V/A "Nocturnum Compilation" [tape, 1996]

A warm advice of mine: do not buy this compilation. The tape represents 9 bands, of which the most famous known to you could be Empyrium, Parnassus, Puissance... You can as well hear them anywhere else. Of the rest - Guillotine, Sanguinary, Windwalker, Sarcastic, Darklands, Memory Garden and Otyg - I would like to distinguish only the latter. For it is a new and a really talented Swedish folk/black band, the music of which is based on folk songs, using violin and mouth harps. I could safely compare them to Storm.

The main defect that should make one keep away from this compilation is the horrible sound quality.

**Naomiss. Rating:** -

VOND "The Dark River" [Dark Dungeon Music, CD, 1996]

Aaaaaarrrrrrggggghhh!!! I can't believe it... Even in my worst nightmares I couldn't've imagined Vond regressing that much. *Note: Vond's debut "Selvmord" altogether with "Keiser Av En Dimension Ukjent" were my favourite things done by the until-now-perfect no-more-a-wizard Mortuis.* Now, the 40-minute "Dark River" consists of 6 tracks, each more horrible than the previous one. In fact all of them, including also the intriguing titles of "Love I Never Had" and "Suicide Is Painless", sound like something a genius (?) of Mortuis' kind could be doing, say, at an age of 12. "Black Hole Space Window", performed in the deep vein of space synth ambient techno, brings up an actual image of an average piano-fuckhead experimenting with a newly-bought cheap crappy synth. However the title track gives us hints of a possible spontaneous madness of Mortuis. No atmosphere, thin sound... Damn, what else can I say... This is really disappointing. Very indeed. C'mon Wizard, tell us this was a (very) bad joke, my hope is not all lost yet... :)

**Morgueldar. Rating:** 1

VONDUR "Stridsyfirising" [Necropolis Records, CD, 1996]

Amazing! Black metal to the core!!! Fast, raw, peeled-off, angry and Satanic. For Vondur have actually surpassed all black metal CD bands and set a new highscore in the matter of simplicity. Imagine a very (very) primitive and evil Norwegian Impaled Nazarene playing what they call Darth Vader black metal. Or more particulary - Nuclear War: Destruction of Everyone. Total Annihilation of everything, except VONDUR. Like a mailbomb sent from Satan to Earth. [Vondur Interview] We are

Satan's mail, and Necropolis is the mailman.

It & All of the Abruption/Ophthalmia fame having fun with instruments and Star Wars image have meanwhile uncovered the true meaning of true blackness... and this CD just rules! Even if you paid your money for it! Besides the music on this "Declaration of War" is quite diverse somehow, there are all kinds of atmospheric, melodic, keyboard, drummachine, sample and space stuff. The epos features also a couple of very emotional and deep piano pieces by that Dissection/Ophthalmia babe whatever her name was. What else? All the lyrics are in the only true language - Icelandic, so it's pretty useless learning the song titles by heart... Anyway - almost 50 minutes and 17 tracks means you have no alternatives besides checking Vondur - "the ultimate rock'n'roll experience"... (After all - black metal is not that far from punk. ;)

**Morgueldar. Rating:** 9

XHARATHORN "Immemorial Atlantic Veneration" [Repulse Records, MCD, 1996]

Before purchasing this album, you really should reconsider what you do expect to get. And if you're not tired of the usual unvarying fast black metal, then this record is meant for you. But if you unfortunately feel like hearing something special, then you are most likely doomed to failure with this MCD. For it is very uniform: probably the only thing that differs from song to song are the texts. When listening, you get the certain feeling the band is repeating its lessons. For this is just a plain replaying of the same old, same old and not a thing new. Could be up-to-date 5 years ago, but not now...

**Naomiss. Rating:** 3

-THE END-

**Record label contact addresses:**

**Dangus Productions**, PO Box 382, LT-2300, Vilnius, LITHUANIA.

**Ledo Tako Produktai**, c/o Tadas Kazlauskas, P.D. 1045, 3042 Kaunas, LITHUANIA.

**Mandragora Music**, c/o Normunds Ćirskte, PO Box 266, Riga, LV 1012, LATVIJA

**MASSPRODUKTION**, PO Box 377, S-851 06 Sundsvall, SWEDEN.

**Soundless Productions**, PO Box 668, 3018 Kaunas, LITHUANIA.

**A missing contact address of the band or the label after the review means that the recording has been acquired for reviewer's own resources.**



BURZUM "Dunkelheit" [Misanthropy 1996]

This cassette features only one video, for the track "Dunkelheit" hot off the "Filosofem" album. In a review about this album once it was said: "Stupid person, great music"; but I in turn about this video would like to declare: "Great person, stupid video..." **Indeed.** The video would be absolutely nothing without the music of Burzum. For all of the running time we can see nothing but simple landscapes and rune writings in front of them. This video is a perfect example of how labels earn easy cash on the account of the artist's fame and its achievements. If not for the vast glory of Burzum, nobody would ever need that video, in a format of a complete cassette even, the price of which is close to the price of one CD!..

**Naomiss. Rating:** 1

DARK FUNERAL "The Secrets Of The Black Arts" [Full Moon Productions, 1996]

This video did nothing but disappointed me. I still remember the promising advertisements, from the summer of '96, of the Dark Funeral video, to be shot during their European tour. It took 3 more months until I finally could lay my eyes upon this visual presentation of the band... The video starts with concert images of fire-spitting. Next follows an inexpressive depiction of the members taking a walk about some castle ruins, as well as the tortured faces of the vocalist. I wouldn't like to go into details, if there are any here at all. I am rather watching the old Venom concert recordings from the early 80ies, than this Dark Funeral "masterpiece".

**Naomiss. Rating:** 3

DIABOLOS RISING "Blood, Vampirism & Sadism" [Kron-H/Osmose Video 1995]

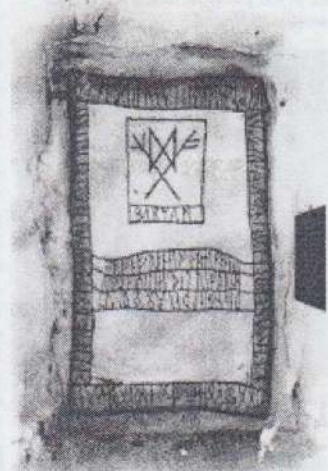
Here you have a 35-minutes long video cassette with a full video-version of the album. The content of this tape could be described as an example and/or a practical guide for young beginners in satanism and sadomasochism. Practically each song has its own plot but in all of them images of the basic theme appear. Well, as I don't feel myself like being a satanist nor sadomasochist, my rating looks like this: -

**Naomiss. No Rating.**

IMMORTAL "Masters Of Nebulah Frost" [Osmose Video 1995]

This tape is mastered out of two videos for 2 (how many did you expect?) immortal songs: "Blashyrkh (Mighty Ravendark)" and "Grim And Frostbitten Kingdoms". The videos are not based on any special plot, we simply see the band performing "outdoors", on the background of the mighty nature of North. In the first video we must note the very well picked spot in the mountains of Norway, which gives us the opportunity to observe all the beauty of Scandinavian fjords. The major time of the video the display is taken by the heroic images of Abbath and Demonaz. I would like to approvingly excel the fact that Immortal aren't filmed with swords or other weapons in their hands, as it should be common in black metal. Instead they bear their mighty guitars, that accent the musical part of performance instead of the theatrical warrior farce.

The other video is shot in a snowy plain near a plenty of water (maybe an "iceberg" was meant here). Here besides good ole' Abbath and Demonaz we may behold the legendary Hellhammer him-



self with a complete drum set. Again we see Immortal and snow in the background from all the possible points of view. However to the video for a couple of seconds are added even a few moments from some Immortal live show.

The only thing left to guess is: how didn't the band freeze to death while performing half-naked in such a visible frost?

**Naomiss. Rating:** 8

MOONSPELL "Opium" [Century Media, 1996]

Oh how few videos are there of well-known bands of black metal and the like! 'Tis hard to understand whether the artists lack the resources needed or they are just unwilling to have a visual version of their music out. Moonspell have created a simple yet expressive video, that only elevates the status of the band for the visual effect still means a lot. The song "Opium" is taken from their latest album "Irreligious". The plot is plain and easy to understand. The main hero is a person, engaged with astrology in an opium den, and of course being under the influence of the smoke of it. Here we also see the band itself, as well as the vocalist, enjoying his sweet dreams together with a couple of suspicious-looking ladies. And I must admit that the intended pleasure of opium is sort of transformed into those, watching the video also. In my opinion there could be more in the artistic aspect, nevertheless the band leaves only a good impression with this video.

**Naomiss. Rating:** 8

MORTIIS "Reiser Til Grotter Og Odemarken" [Cold Meat Industry, 1996]

This is probably the longest video ever created for a song - almost 30 minutes. Of course, that's so only because of Mortuis' never-lacking generosity when it comes to track lengths. However, it must be said that the authors of the film, editing such a long video, have tried too hard and often paused at one and the same frames for too long and from this "short format movie" perhaps a compact version of about 7-8 minutes could be made, for the people, not closely familiar with the art of Mortuis, might eventually get tired and bored of this video. To tell you the truth, even I in some places got sick of staring at one unchanging image for almost a minute.

The video itself most of the time displays a medieval castle and its surrounding land-



# DEMO REVIEWS

scapes in all their beauty. In places the ghostly image of Mortis can be seen lurking around as well. I would like to name this video a real complete tale, that can be listened to the whole end of it, staying awake, by real addicts of the afterworld.

**Naomiss. Rating: 7**

## NEGLECTED FIELDS "Sansara" [self, 1997]

Well, this is supposed to be the first professional metal video of a Latvian band ever. Yeah, there've been some before, but amateur, according to the subject, and, sorry to say, stupid. Now the visual version of the title track from the first demo/album by the most technic technodeath band in Latvia was filmed in Vilnius, Lithuania, during their performance in the "Death Comes" festival (on one stage with Therion etc.)... And that's about it... nothing more than just the guys shredding and moshing energetically, to be seen from about 4 or 5 points of view. And... yes, of course it is always notable that one can actually mosh while playing, especially such a complex stuff, but... it looked kind of (very) hilarious to me... all under one rhythm and neatly like soldiers in a line, by the way, it's not the usual up-and-down headbanging, but round-and-round-we-go here. Yeah, and although they really tried hard to fill the space with their hair, the short guys of Neglected Fields looked pretty little on the huge scene. Best regards. After all this is the first professional Latvian metal video blablah, isn't it?

*P.S. Do you guys mosh in rehearsals also?*

**Morgueldar. Rating: 5**



## SATYRICON "Mother North" [Moonfog Video 1996]

The new "chef-d'oeuvre" by Satyr. Along with creating music, he has now decided to try his hand at directing, by shooting a video version of the best song "Mother North" from Satyricon's newest album "Nemesis Divina". This Moonfog videotape consists of two versions of the song. One, meant for a wider audience and demonstration on commercial tv channels, the other - for fans, or, particularly speaking, people without prejudice. You'll ask, why? Because Satyr in this film, besides the evil images of his band and corpsepaint, uses also a body of a nude female. The name of this "heroic" lady is Monika Bråten... From the artistic point of view this video is nothing genius really. In it we see the band embraced by nightfog, their bestial war grimaces, Satyr with a huge axe in his hands, Kveldulv, trying to look like an old witch, Frost with his teeth punched in, as well as the brave Monica, whom Satyr is leading around a shady forest, intending to chop her head or rip her open afterwards obviously. And of course we must evaluate Monica's talent of naked-dancing...

Resuming all "Mother North", it is meant for the true fans of Satyricon, as well as a horror act for all christians.

**Review by Naomiss.**

**Rating by Morgueldar: 10+ :PPP**

## ABORTED "Aborted" [EP, 1996]

Rageful 10 minutes long (short) promo material, that consists of four electronic black/death compositions with elements of grind. Could be conditionally compared to Mythos, Darkthrone, Zyklon-B and - no matter how funny it sounds - Righteous Pigs also.

**Contact: N. Nevai, 251 C.P.W. #2A, N.Y. N.Y. 10024, U.S.A.**

**Cannibal. Rating: 7**

## AGONIA "At The Darkest Spawn" [1994]

Not really an extra-fresh demo, and so isn't the music. This Italian band has probably hoped to reap laurels under the style of death/grind. To my mind the music features nothing worth mentioning, plain mediocrity. Tape designed as common with bands of such style.

**Naomiss. Rating: 4**

## CRIMSON MIDWINTER "Us Mere Mortals" [1996]

An excellently designed demo cassette (colour cover, photos, thanxes) of well-played Finnish black. This demo includes 4 songs + an intro. The musical achievement is of a good quality, and it is felt that the band is inclined to its own unique style and sound. And this is not the usual re-playing of some ideals, common with other bands. This demo leaves a very good impression with its freshness and complexity, therefore it is highly advisable to purchase it for \$5 in Europe or \$6 elsewhere:

**Contact: c/o Hatanyomus; Kurkelankatu 6D31; 21100 Naantali, FINLAND.**

**Naomiss. Rating: 7**

## EMBALMER "The Fatal Desillusion" [demo?tape, 1995]

Brutal death metal for all those who fancy Cannibal Corpse and the like. Embalmer itself is from Slovakia and unites 5 defrozen elements/musicians. The recording quality is good, tape design... bearable.

**Naomiss. Rating: 5**

## MORBOVIA Demo '96. [1996]

I must confess that this far I haven't really had a lot of business with many demos. But of the few Morbovia has impressed me the most. This German band plays an original crossing of sympho death and black metal. The demo delights with its high sound quality, fairly technical performance and the variety of vocals. For example, the great-sounding Deutsch singing on "Was Bleibt Ist Der Tod". Listening to the intro of this song I have an unconscious wish of comparing it to Hachaturyan's "Sword Dance". And, by the way, this song is also beyond doubt the best of all 4, presented on this 32-minute long demo.

**Naomiss. Rating: 8**

## NEGLECTED FIELDS "Sansara" [1996]

The most professionally and technically performed death metal in Latvian history. Four immaculate and perfect compositions: *Sphere's Rhapsody*, *Eschatological*, *Sansara*, *Living Structures*. Female backing vocals are used. Slight Cynic influences. Neglected Fields however are indisputably more interesting and better.

**Contact: Andrey Tihomirov, Niegales 47-22, Riga, LV 1035, LATVIA**

**Cannibal. Rating: 10**

## RAGNAROCK "Beloved Of The Raven God" [1995]

Don't really know with what to start... This is a very original English duo, uniting the talents of Deorth and Moon. The music created by them is very original and it is hard to find an analogue for it. Maybe it could be called *epic Celtic war metal* with a tendency to black. It is approved by the cover of the tape, all consisting of Celtic orna-

ments and rune writings. Like *f.ex.* the basic text of "Til Valhall", which is taken from a work by S. Sturluson that dates back to 1220. Speaking of the main vocal, I would like to say **horrible**. Especially on the track called "Ni Ful An Sabras Athragad Death", it's a real nightmare. On others it is quite bearable and even tended to melodicism. As to the music it must be said that it's really diverse. There are good epic creations, something from the calmer parts from Bathory's "Twilight Of The Gods", filled with natural sounds, like horses, water flowing etc. One of those is a real medieval ballade, entitled "Beloved The Raven God", which starts out as a simple song, and is slowly accompanied with martial drumming and a medieval melody with birds singing in the background. Something close to that is also the "I Hear The Mountain" song. But there are also epic and warlike tracks. One of those is "Samhain", masterfully trimmed with synthesizers, or "Legion Of Death", resembling to a black metal Manowar, or "Sons Of Odin", the title of which says it all... And thus I could list all of the songs for each of them are truly original masterpieces. Note that the tape itself comes together with a booklet containing detailed information on this demo. I would really like to recommend you this demo, but as far as I know it is almost sold out by now. Well, search and, who knows: maybe you are lucky!

**Naomiss. Rating: 9**

## SHATARGAT "Crushing The Thrones Of Light" [Noitatorni Productions, 1996]

To start with, the bandname doesn't mean "Storm" in the black tongue of Mordor orcs anymore - for Shatargat are for some time already now known as PEST. As to the demo, it is quite usual, consisting of an intro + 4 tracks + outro. Raw, extreme and merciless black fucking metal with occasional melodies and no atmosphere. Very evil is the introduction - "The Opening Of The Eye Of Satan" - imo it beats Abruptum even. Of the rest black metal stuff I love only the two songs, composed by Sacarth, ie - the member kicked from the band now, - "Lurking Through The Shadows Of The Moon" and "Thine Art Blasphemy" (especially the latter - PERKELE!!!). I bet this music would be great live, but home you might get bored of it. Anyway, all the best... to the PEST!!!

**Contact: Nazgul, Vainikkalantie 72, 53100 LPR, FINLAND**

**Morgueldar. Rating: 7**

## TWILITES OF THE CANNIBALISMS "Vestigial Tales" [LP, 1996]

Achtung, Achtung!!! This is music made for scaring the hell out of little children and old ladies! And/or for people who do love all that is extraordinary and incomprehensible. This style of music has no name invented yet, that is why I will safely christen it by myself: **"Akoustic Schizophrenikal Blakk Delirium"**. To those, who completely don't get anything said by me, I will compare this band to such a monster of insanity as **Darkness Enshroud**. This LP includes a total of 10 feverish nightmare compositions, long enough to drive those, mentally unprepared, nuts. Oh, how I respect people who don't understand what they're doing... I am one of those and therefore I rate this album with 8.

*P.S. In any case I slept peacefully after T.O.T.C.*

**Contact: N. Nevai, 251 C.P.W. #2A, N.Y. N.Y. 10024, U.S.A.**

**Naomiss. Rating: 8**

## UTGARD "Northern Glory" [1995]

Although the demo of this Finnish band has reached us with a slight delay, this recording should still be considered as timely. I am glad about the high quality of sound, as rarely a demo band can take pride in it. "Northern Glory" is typical Scandinavian black. The tape consists of 7 dark songs,

both in English and Finnish. To my mind, the band has been quite influenced by such classics as Mayhem because the vocal in places is similar to Dead's. But the track "Tytär Pohjoisen" reminds me slightly of Impaled Nazarene's "Blood Is Thicker Than Water" (I might be wrong!). The demo is available for \$5:

**Contact: c/o Raven; Riihipellontie 4a1; 43100 Saarijärvi; FINLAND.**

**Naomiss. Rating: 7**

## WINTER NIGHT OVERTURE "Incar-nated In The Flame" [1996?7]

The third album of the best Estonian black metal band. Perfectly performed black/death with keyboards creating a special mood. Musically held in the best traditions of Samael and Opeth. 21 minute of music that should definitely hold the highest chart positions.

**Contact: Sergey Velugin, Lükuri 28-11, EE0036, Tallinn, ESTONIA.**

**Cannibal. Rating: 9**

## WITHOUT GRIEF "Forever Closed" [1996]

A 5-man Swedish band demonstrating this recording of 4 songs. The tape is not bad by any means. The quality is good, professional colourful design. As to the style of music, Without Grief is very close to Dark Tranquillity. I guess all that's left is to wish them all the best in the future.

**Naomiss. Rating: 7**

## XIBALBA/AVZHIA "Ancient Blasphemies" [Vision D Records/Distribution, split demo, 1996]

Both of those are new Mexican bands, who apparently have decided to pursue glory in black metal. Xibalba's music could be described as an early (80ies) black, concerning both the sound and the vocals, that strongly remind of Bathory's "Bathory". In any case Bathory is classic, but today such a music won't shock anybody, especially once all 3 demo songs remind of each other so much... Avzhia left a better impression on me. Their demo includes only 2 songs, but they are enough to give a sufficient idea of the style. Probably it's the art of the Norwegian cult band Darkthrone that Avzhia bases on. Musically very close to the times of "A Blaze In The Northern Sky".

**Naomiss. Rating: 3/5**

**A missing contact address of the band after the review means that the demo has been purchased for reviewer's own resources.**

All new bands are encouraged

to send their dark arts to:

TALES OF BEVERINA,  
c/o Juris Šilders,  
Lielvārdes 139-74,  
Rīga, LV-1082  
LATVIJA

We promise a fair listen, review and a possible interview... Just get in touch!

**HUGARD:**  
"Northern Glory" demo '95

*Hugard's demo "Northern Glory" out now!!!  
This tape contains over 30 minutes of  
Northern black metal. You cannot acquire  
this cold art by sending...*

20fim (Finland), 5\$ (elsewhere)  
**€A\$€€ ONN€!!**

Hugard, c/o Raven  
Riihipellontie 4a1  
43100 Saarijärvi  
FINLAND

*Zines, labels and others, get in touch... all mail will be  
answered!!!  
NO RIP-OFFS HERE!!!!!!*

*This ad is printed '97 and is valid until final Holocaust.*



«LET ME DREAM - a Finnish band that is more than interested in composing original music. They do it as well. Most of their influences come from the bounds of metal and Gothic rock, but the members have got open-minded music tastes and this means they're not afraid of experimenting with new and even avantgardish ideas also. The debut album of LET ME DREAM



at gigs, he also had played bass in such metal groups as BLIND REALITY and THROMDARR, so we knew he was able to handle his bass enough well for us.

Jari Koskela (keyboards, 21 years old) joined the group in January '94 when our original keyboard player Teemu Peltoranta (drummer's cousin) left the band. Jari is my cousin and we all knew him before he joined in.

I think we never decided to create this kind of music. We just started in late '80ties playing stuff like SLAYER, KREATOR etc. followed our natural progression and ended up playing emotional and atmospheric music. That's the style that works perfectly for us..

"My Dear Succubus" [Adipocere Records, 1995] is a good example of what the band has created in the first years of its existence and what the four young men are musically inclined to. Now the band is working on its 2nd album, which will show the band more professionally oriented and which will, doubtlessly, be a turning point in their carrier. LET ME DREAM is now heading into even more atmospheric and emotional direction than ever before...» (from Let Me Dream's official homepage on www, heavily altered version by mr. correct guy Morg)

Your sound is pretty dark but at the same time a Gothic one... How would you label the music of Let Me Dream yourself? Would you associate yourself with black metal?

- No I never wanted that our music would have something to do with black metal, so I was a bit amazed when i realised that f.e.x. ADIPOCERE was advertising our album as a gothic/black/doom release. Personally I would call our sound as emotional and atmospheric mix between metal and gothic rock.

Interview by Morgueldar, answered by Jani Koskela.

Hellou, how are you?

- Thank you, I'm fine. And you? (who cares? - ed ;)

Let Me Dream... What a name!!! Tell us about the idea behind it! who and how invented it...

- Well, we were called as CONGESTION until the late '94. We decided to choose new and more unique name before the debut album release, after all our old name was just picked up from dictionary and we were afraid that it would give a wrong picture about how our music is. LET ME DREAM is a good name for a band like us. The name is not linked to any music style like metal, so it gives more space to our creation.

Introduce yourself now, who are the peoples behind Let Me Dream, from where do you come, and how did you meet, and how



did you decide to create this interesting music?

- Well, it first started when I (Jani Koskela, guitar/vocals, 22 years old) and our drummer (Janne Peltoranta, 20 years old) decided to form a band in early '89. We had known each other for ages. Marko Tuominen (bass/vocals, 26 years old) joined the group in June 1993 when we were looking for a bass player for our third demo "Bed of the ancient river". He was a local gig arranger so we had met him couple of times

To what scene in Finland's music do you belong? Black, doom, Gothic, folk, whatever? Are there any scenes at all?

- Hmm... I gues gothic metal would be the closest, but there is no gothic metal scene in Finland. I certainly hope that we would draw attention from both genres metal and gothic rock. And I think that we have succeed somehow.. But anyway we are definately still in very underground and unknown level in Finland, simply because Finnish medias (except for the underground of course) aren't interested in our kind of music, especially when you're not signed to a big label.

Do you know that when you write "Gothic" it has to start with the capital G? (stupid question, imo)

- Yup, I do. wierd question for sure, heh ;)  
(then why don't you do it?? - ed)

What are your greatest inspirations musically or lyrically?

- Well, We try to keep our music original, anyway my personal main influences would be FIELDS OF THE NEPHILIM (from goth scene) and (old) CELTIC FROST (from metal). Anyway we listen to almost everything from THE DOORS to extreme music. And lyrically We just write about our personal experiences, dreams and thoughts

To what music do you listen at the moment? Name your 5 favourite recordings/albums ever!

- Hmm... fave albums are always very hard to choose... CELTIC FROST "To Megatherion", FIELDS OF THE NEPHILIM "Earth Inferno", SISTERS OF MERCY "First and last and always", SLAYER "Reign in Blood", MORBID ANGEL "Altars of madness". Those are my long time faves, of course there are many others to mention too. All in all I listen to mainly metal and gothic music, but I don't actually care about styles.. If the music is good, interesting and original then I listen to it.

Can you read? And if yes, than do you? What do you think of Kalevala and all that northern mythology crap? Does it influence you?

- Of course I can read, heh.. I haven't been that fascinated by Kalevala or northern mythologies, but it's of course interesting to know how people used live here and what they believed in. Anyway most mythologies are just crap like any other mythologies or religions. But still i respect more our tradional believes & habbits than f.e.x. christianity, which doesn't belong here at all..

"My Dear Succubus"... Are you also fascinated by the idea of dark seduction, Gothic romances, devil's whores, red roses, blood vampirism sadism etc?

- Romaces & red roses, yes. I don't personally write much



about such things like vampires etc. But those are interesting myths of course. And I'm not into devil's whores either. I rather look for respect and trust. wierd?! heh..

If I remember correctly you had a song about the Sun rising in the south... Tell me about the vision/idea behind this one! Your music is quite visionaire itself too, songs like "The Sight"... (my fave of yours ;). Elaborate on the idea...

- Yes. "When the sun rises in the south", it's about the time when christians conquered scandinavia. It's somehow linked to scandinavian nature & believes. Ehh, doesn't sound that original idea anymore. I wrote it in '93..

"The sight" is about my personal mid winter experience. It's about a cold Fullmoon night, when clouds & forest etc created very dark feelings. Again about 4 years old lyrics so it's bit hard to explain..

Anyway we always try to write lyrics that fit to the music, same atmosphere.

How did the sales of "My Dear Succubus" do? Approx. how many copies have been sold this far?

- I called few months ago to ADIPOCERE and they said the CD have sold about 2500 copies, which isn't very much I'm afraid. Anyway I'm getting quite much mail everywhere so I'm satisfied. I gues it have spread quite well among the tape traders too.

We know that you have recorded a new promo recently... Please tell our readers about it... What is it like musically, lyrically, idealistically? How does it differ from the previous recordings of yours? Don't forget to mention its name!

- Yes. Actually we have recorded 2 promodemos after the album. Both are even more gothic than the album, more emotional & atmospheric stuff. We have progressed a lot with arrangements esp. with vocals and keyboards. The keyboard sounds are no a lot more powerfull & dominating than on the album. On the album the keys were actually far more too weak soundwise.

I think the demos are musically better than the album, but of course it's just my opinion.

Anyway lot's of people have liked our new stuff, even people that didn't like our debut CD.

(OK, it's called "Medley Rain"... why do I always have to do everything? - ed)

Who of you in the band does the black and who the clean vocals?

- I do the aggressive vocals (or as you call, black) and our bass player does the clean vocals.

Are you ever going to introduce female vocals in your music? I think that would do really great...

- So far there has been no need to use female voice. Yes, female voice sounds great but we won't use other voices without a good reason. If we someday write a part in our song



The current line-up: (from left to right)

Jani Koskela, Marko Tuominen, Jari Koskela and Janne Peltoranta

that needs female voice on it, then we'd be glad to ask someone to do it.

Looks like you just keep on recording and releasing promos on and on happily... What happened to your deal with Adipocere? Are you ever going to release Cds again? If yes, then when and on what label?

- Heh.. The deal with ADIPOCERE was for one album and we're now looking for a deal with the new promos. Of course it's possible that we never again release a CD, but I don't actually care. I rather write my own music than f.e.x change the style to something which would give us a deal more easily. So I really can't tell when we release another album, until some label has guts to do it. It might be commercially a bit risky you know as our music ain't exactly that which people buy immediately when they hear it's in the shops.

Your future goals in general...

- Well, we see how the new promo goes for the labels. If we don't get a deal, then we release the tape as a demo. I gues we just keep writing this kind of music as long as we find it as an interesting thing to do and see how far we can go.

Free space, what would you wish to us and our readers?

- Well, if you want to hear original, emotional & atmospheric, gothic influenced metal music, then feel free to check us out anytime. At the moment there's available "My Dear Succubus" CD '95 for 16 U.S \$ and "The Maze" - demo '96 for 5 U.S \$. You can order also our demos ("The Maze" & the earlier ones from '92 - '94 period) on a blanktape + return postage.

LET ME DREAM contact addresses:

LET ME DREAM, c/o Jani Koskela, Leppasenojantie 243, 12100 OITTI, FINLAND

E-Mail: Gores@freenet.hut.fi (Jari Koskela)

www: <http://tlti.token.fi/~gore/LMD.html> or

<http://www.cute.fi/~gore/LMD.html>



L A S T M I N U T E R E V I E W

ABHORRENT "Rage" [selfproduced, CD, 1997]

Abhorrent is a young and angry Brazilian underground band, who through their own efforts have finally succeeded in releasing their self-financed debut album entitled "Rage". The name of Brasil however always makes me fear either something exceedingly brutal or deadly similar to Sepultura. Well, this time the latter is closer. I would most likely describe the material on "Rage" as melodic and technical thrash metal with elements of thrashcore, technically right inbetween Pantera, Sepultura and Slayer... see, not my style at all... However after hearing this CD I was pleasantly surprised - being almost completely unfamiliar to thrash - I still took a fair liking in many of those, totally 9, Abhorrent songs. Kicking off with something different - a really sweet and emotional acoustic intro, Abhorrent rock on with more songs, essential to which is the warlike drumming, intense pissed-off vocals, symphonic solos, superior to Pantera's senseless shredding I'd say, and complex and melodic riffing reminding me of At The Gates a bit even. But let me not mention the lyrics - social and cheesy as it's common in the style. Well, "The Witch" surprised me... any way: this album goes out to all the die-hard fans of aggressive thrash!

www: <http://www.abordoc.com.br/abhorrent/>

Contact: SQN 108 - Bloco "J" APTO. 506, CEP 70744-100, Brasilia-DF, BRAZIL.

Morquendar. No Rating, but enjoyable for sure!





During the last few years the Italian black metal scene has thrived so swiftly that several new meanings like "the new wave of Italian black metal" and "the Italian school of black metal" have been invented. However it was not such a long time ago when the first legends hit the scene: Mortuary Drape, Necromass, MonumentuM, Opera IX, and EVOL among them. The latest of those - now a quartet - have proved to have a very original approach to their music. The last year marked the release of their second full-length on Adipocere, entitled "Dreamquest". To find out more, Morgueldar and Prince of Agony had a nice little chat with the help of Internet...



**Interview by Morgueldar, answered by Prince of Agony (EVOL), received 19.01.97.**

**Hello, how are you? And where/how did you meet the new year?**

**PoA:** Ave, I'm fine, and you? Well, we met the new year in Grenoble (France). We were there to play a concert. Everything was great! There were a lot of people and also a lot of snow!

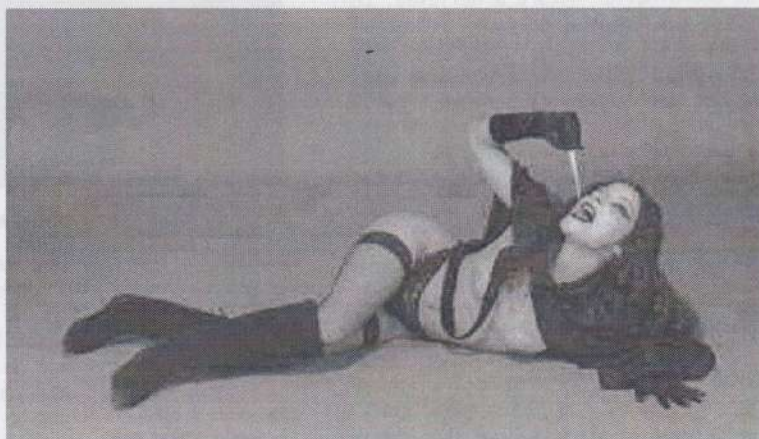
**Please, a short history of the band, when was it formed, and when did the other band members join in, etc?**

**PoA:** I formed EVOL during the first month of 1993. Lord of Sorrow joined immediately the band. Princess of Disease joined us during the summer of the same year. For the end of 1993 we released our first demo, The Tale of the Horned King, where Lord of Sorrow played guitars, bass and drums. In 1994 we found a session drum player, who helped us 'till Dreamquest. Now we have a former drum player, named Count De Saba, who is the last one to have joined EVOL.

**Am I right to interpret your band name as an inverted form of LOVE? Why such a name? Who came up with it and what**

**is the hidden meaning behind it?**

**PoA:** I decided to use this name, because I think it is very meaningful. I think that there are two opposite Forces who rule the Whole. It is difficult to give a name to them, so I found LOVE and EVOL. LOVE is the Positive Principle, the One who builds. EVOL is the Negative Principle, the One who subtracts. We're living in a Decadent age, so EVOL is the only Hope we have to obtain a New Age of Rebirth in the future.



**EVOL's own trademark - the demonic Princess of Disease**

**Why did you yourself choose to bear the name of Prince of Agony?**

**PoA:** In EVOL, all the members have a title (Prince, Princess, Lord and Count). This title express the nature of our noble souls. The rest of the name is an expression of our actual mood. Agony is what I feel in living in a hostile and decadent society, ruled by ignorant people and where Truth is banished.

**I haven't heard your "Tale of The Horned King" demo, it obviously has something to do with "The Saga.." album. What is the difference between them? Why did you replace the original "Tale" name with "The Saga"?**

**PoA:** Our demos were some sort of presentation of the band. They were recorded with poor means and they were short. When we had the opportunity, we recorded the complete versions of the demos. So, The Tale... has become a true Saga. The same goes for our second demo, The Dark Dreamquest part I has become the more complete DREAMQUEST.

**Your first album was obviously a conceptual one, is there a concept behind "Dreamquest" too?**

**PoA:** Dreamquest is for sure a concept album. It tells the "quest" of a Noble Soul through the Land of Dreams, looking for the banished Truth and the Ancient Gods, forgotten by a society ruled by ignorance and false values.

**What are the main differences between "Dreamquest" and the previous album in your own eyes? Have you progressed? Are you satisfied?**

**PoA:** I think that Dreamquest is really better than The Saga of the Horned King. First of all, Adipocere

Records gave us a bigger budget for recording expenses. Then, we progressed also from a technical point of view.

**How are the sales doing? How many copies of each of your albums have you sold?**

**PoA:** I'm not very informed about sellings. Adipocere Records told me that 'till now we sold about 4000 copies of DREAMQUEST.

**What is EVOL doing at present, and what are your future plans, any releases planned in 1997, etc?**

**PoA:** Now, we are working on new materials, which will be included in our third CD. Adipocere will produce also our third album. We are planning a recording of a videotape. The release of our new CD is planned for the end of 1997.

**More than 50% of the music on your albums are the atmospheric enchanting synth compositions. Therefore the overall impression of EVOL is not a very-black-metal one. Do you consider yourself a black metal band? What are those keyboard parts meant for? What do you want to achieve?**

**PoA:** Yes, the synth tracks are a fundamental part of our music. They are meant to create a sweet atmosphere, they are a reflective part of our albums. Well, our creations are able to mix different styles of music. It is difficult to say that we play only black metal.

**Who composes the keyboard parts?**

**PoA:** Keyboard parts are created by me. The final arrangements are cared by me and by Roberto Scarpa Meylougan, a great musician from Venice.

**Would you agree with such style labels according to your music: "Atmospheric"? "Light"? "Dark"? "Evil"? "Gothic"? "Medieval"? "Kindergarten"? "Dream"?**

**PoA:** I don't know the meaning of "Kindergarten". For the rest I agree with all your labels. In our music there is everything, for every musical tastes.

**Give your own short definition of EVOL's**



**Prince of Agony**





An illegally inverted logo.

music then please:

PoA: We play a music tuned with the Whole and with the present condition of our Age. Decadence is the main aspect that characterizes our society.

Your quest of creating an another world of dreams... Is the world supposed to be evil or dark? It doesn't seem so, since many of your songs do not really create an atmosphere like that, they are just so light and visionary that they could be even used as cartoon soundtracks for small children (sorry :)... What is YOUR own land of dreams like?

PoA: The Land of Dreams is the Realm where Truth dwells. Our world is "evil", because it is ruled by ignorance. EVOL, the Black Principle, will destroy our world, giving us the opportunity to build a truer society.

What do your lyrics deal with? Evidently it is a magical/fantasy world beyond reality. By what mythologies and ancient tales have you been influenced the most? Which of them are reflected in your music?

PoA: Well, the lyrics I write deal with fantastic worlds because Truth dwells there nowadays. In Dreamquest are present a lot of Lovecraftian's elements, which are taken from the sumerian tradition. I use also some medi-

eval tales and I'm very inspired by the ancient greek philosophy (especially by Eraclitus and Empedocle).

Your opinion on religion... You claim to be a Black Philosopher, the Keeper of the Silver Key even. What exactly is your Silver Key? Please tell us in short on what mainly is your philosophy based? By what great philosophers of centuries have you been influenced the most?

PoA: The Silver Key is the mean to open the Gate that leads to the Land of Dreams, where Truth dwells. My Philosophy is based on the concept of the Whole, composed by two opposite Forces (Neikos and Philia) who work one against the other. Eraclitus, Empedocle, Giordano Bruno are my main influences.

I know that the almighty J.R.R. Tolkien is one of your favourite writers, and I just can't keep from asking you anything about him... Please share your opinions/influences! What works of his have you read and, maybe, what is your favourite episode/event (-s) during all the history of Middle-earth?

PoA: Well, Tolkien was a great writer, the father of the modernfantasy literature. I know you're an expert on Tolkien works. I've read only The Hobbit and The Lord of the Rings. The episode I remember with pleasure is the arrival of the Fellowship of the Ring in Lorien, the meeting with Galadriel.

Is it hard for a band like EVOL to perform live? Do you have any special show elements? Your opinion on corpsepaint... Does your image differs from the common one of black metal nowadays? Do you consider yourselves original?

PoA: Well, I think we have a very impressive image. Our shows are quite simple, we do not have special elements, apart from our robes. (Is the chick, singing half-naked, not a special element? - from my secret sources - ed. :) We play live as you can see on the pictures on the CDs. Corpse-pain is part of our experience. Personally, I do not use the common paints, I use a mask, created for me by a small shop in Venice.

Please, tell us something about your charming bandmember Princess of Disease? In my opinion her voice is one of the most beautiful ever heard in dark/unlight music... What kind of a person is she? What kind of relationship do you have?

PoA: I'm the Prince and she is my Princess, that's quite obvious. I agree with you, her voice and tone are very special and wonderful. The Princess has a very strong character. She is a basic part of EVOL music.

What is the black metal scene in Italy like nowadays? What can you say about bands like Opera IX and Theatres Des Vampires? There seems to be one interesting trait common with all Italian bands I know: the female vocals, can you say something about that too?

PoA: There are only two bands in Italy who have a female singer: Opera IX and EVOL. (Hey! And where did the Theatres and Another Day go?? - ed.) But EVOL is the only band who has a clean female vocalist. The best bands from Italy are EVOL, Opera IX, Necromass and Mortuary Drape.

What is your opinion on a band like Cradle Of Filth? Their newest "Dusk....."?

PoA: I've only their first album, sorry. I'm not very interested in this topic. (Good thing he apologized at least >:/- ed.)

To what music do you listen yourself? How does it influences your own art? Name your 5 favourite bands of all time!

PoA: Telling the truth, I do not listen to black metal very much. I like a lot atmospheric music, dark and epic. I like Enigma, Dead Can Dance, Elend, Loreena McKennit, Tiamat, Therion. My fave bands in metal: Manowar, Rotting Christ, Samael, Bathory, Tiamat.

What do you think of computers and Internet? How important are they in your work and life?

PoA: I'm very interested in computer topics. I enjoy myself very much with computer games. Internet is a very powerful mean in order to communicate and to acquire informations on different topics. Obviously, I use also computer for work, especially writing. ➔



Lord Of Sorrow







Do you know where Latvia is? ;)

PoA: Sorry, not exactly. I know that it was part of URSS.

OK, and now end this interview in whatever way you want!

PoA: Ave, visit our web-page in Internet and let you be charmed by the enchantment that surrounds our music...

Well, that's it for the questions.. However, after the interview we still had a little more e-mail discussion concerning the "kindergarten" topic, thus getting an opportunity to find out more on Prince's views. Here's what followed:

PoA: I've got one question for you: what do you mean for "kindergarten music"?

What I mean for kindergarten music? :) That's my own sublabel I choose for your music: kindergarten black metal. Please, don't take it as an offense, I like your music. Well, but to me EVOL seems like just the music that blackmetallers would play for their kids (if they ever have any) before going to sleep: like bedtime stories hehe, ok, therefore kindergarten black metal. Well, imagine a future black metal society. First: kindegarten: EVOL, Dimmu Borgir or Rotting Christ, then school: say, usual Swedish black metal, then: high-school, hmm, f.ex. Immortal or Dødheimsgard hehe. It's all about extremity.

PoA: Prince of Agony's back from Kindergarten. I've a bit different opinion about the "ages of music". I do not like Immortal music at all (and the same goes for Marduk and c.). I like melody, armony, because this helps me think and dream. Immortal music is not able to convey me nothing, it is completely meaningless (and all the songs are the same). It is possible that when you talk about kindergarten music, you are refering to Celephais. Well, that song is very similar to baroque music, and that was not for kindergarten. There are a lot of kind of music and usually I do not express judges on them, because I respect the personal tastes. Anyway, this time I think I can express a personal opinion (and it is really personal). If you think Immortal is for high school people, well, then I can say Immortal music is for a kind of people I do not want to be mixed with and I'm proud to listen to kindergarten music, because "kinder" are much closer to Truth than so called "adults". Well, that's all. I hope you will let me know what you think about it. etc...

Hmm, he got me a bit wrong there again, I didn't mention "ages" to say the least... Well, I guess I already said it's all about extremity and not technics or atmosphere. I wouldn't call your music anything close to extreme even, yes, very dreamy and atmospheric, I agree and therefore quite suitable for little children before going to sleep etc. Of course there is other music meant for that and the screams of the witch in the end of the saga album are not that tender at all (: Your music is kindergarten in the bounds of black metal only - if compared to Immortal or Zyklon-B or whatever, only in the matter of extremity/speed/evilness etc. And NO WAY complexity. Uff... Whatever :P Immortal rules!

EVOL contact addresses:

e-mail: [folingio@protec.it](mailto:folingio@protec.it)

mail: Prince of Agony  
c/o: Giordano Folin  
via Lemene 8  
35135 Padova  
ITALY

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the artists, sorry to  
s a y .

(For the  
review of  
"Dream-  
quest"  
see 199666  
Report:  
Album  
Reviews!)

SOME LAST MINUTE REVIEWS :

INFERNAL BEAUTY "DrakensQuar" [Hammerheart Productions, CD, 1997]

A new year and a new album. The music is good. However listening to the CD, I have this feeling that the band has not yet completely untied themselves, and the album sort of breaks off, not having been done to the end. Musically they're like Dimmu Borgir's "For All Tid". I really don't want to emphasize anything about this album, I'd rather stick to the idea that this is just the band's introduction to something monumental coming.

Naomiss. Rating: 6

SHADOWDANCES "Burning Shadows" [Dangus Productions, tape, 1997]

So, does the enigmatic term "atmospheric shadow metal" really means a mixture of doomdeath and death? According to Shadowdances, yes! And this is the exclusive tape version of the Abstract Emotions MCD, released in 1996, plus 2 newer tracks, not featured on the mini. Totally 7 songs, most in the melodic and moody vein of Amorphis "Isthmus" and "Tales", however often surprisingly crossed by some awkward untraditional atmospheric keyboard and instrumental parts, which altogether come in a majestic, professional and artistic mass of really great music with traces of late Gorefest, especially on the new songs. Overallly I'd name Shadowdances much more interesting and superior to our own Latvian Heaven Grey...

Contact: SHADOWDANCES, PO Box 465, 2007 Vilnius, LITHUANIA.

Morgueldar. Rating: 8

UNNAMED "The Black Monk" [Ceremony Records, tape, 1994/95]

The tape consists of two parts. The first one, whose material is recorded in 1994 presents a very good atmospheric doom/black metal. This part includes an intro + 3 songs, that reminded me a lot of the already long ago heard Evilized, which, just as Unnamed, is of a Polish origin. The music is technical and with a good synth-design. The vocals are specific - sort of a narration with a strong accent in English.

The other part of the tape consists of two songs only, recorded in 1995 and to be considered as bonus tracks from the new album "A Beauty Of Suffering - A Poetry Of Dreams". The performance is similar to that of the first part, but it misses the black parts, therefore - emotional doom metal.

Naomiss. Rating: 7/6



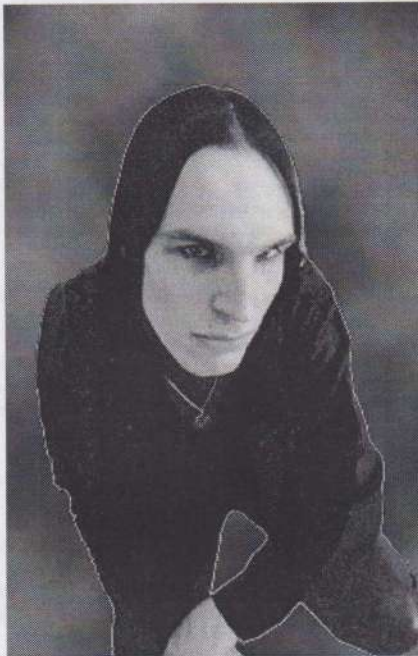


# BABYLON WHORES



PERHAPS, YOU COULD FIND SOME USE OF THIS OLD AND OUT-DATED BIOGRAPHY:

Formed in the spring of 1994, Babylon Whores went into studio after having practised 9 times, with vocalist Ike Vil having a sudden urge to have a 7" record out. The end result, Devil's Meat, a slap of vinyl with a bag of dog meat included with the initial 50 copies, didn't exactly bomb the nation, but sold it's pressing reasonably quickly to have a reprint in December '94. The production's not too hot on it, though...



*The interview with the unlight 7-stringer of Babylon Whores A.L. was done by Morgueldar, The Eye Of Satan, during the creepy February winter of 1997, whilst paralelly executing the holy daily ramadan, in servitude to the almighty demon of laziness namely Belphegor, when it's forbidden to work and think... The band had just returned from their two-week recording trip to the Ultima Thule of the other side of Finland in Kemi. So, whilst waiting for the new promo to arrive at my mailbox, I gathered some of my final strength to make up the following questions, answers to which you may majestically behold looming down there...*

**If you are not in metal...**

**Originally hailing from the dark woods of the eastern Finland, the Whores' 7-string mystic has for the time being settled his earthly self in one of the shadier areas of the capital city. Previously he has made the life of his colleagues miserable in a doom rock group Stray Toasters. Admires feline animals, finnish national romantic art (fave of the moment being "The Swan of Tuonela" by Sibelius), trance techno and Celtic Frost. Doesn't own a drivers' license and is a frequent loser in Sega Rally matches. No future plans are worth mentioning due to the increasingly unpredictable nature of the space/time continuum we habit.**

Hello, how's vinter in finland?

"Unpredictable, as it has been for a few years, could blame the mankind for tampering with the ecosystem... this stupidity will be duly paid I wage."

"On a personal level, the winter has been one with a lot of activity and emotional turmoil; I aim for physical and mental equilibrium now as we head for springtime..."

Well, first tell us of the news, how was your trip to wherever it was? How did the recordings do? Didja have enough fun, booze and females? Are you satisfied?

"We went to the north of Finland, Kemi & Tico Tico studio to be precise, to record our debut album "Cold Heaven". Our constant experimental ventures slowed the recording process somewhat, but you learn with everything you mess up in the studio so it was worth it."

"There was enough booze, weed and nightlife in Kemi to help us relax once in a while, but on the whole the two weeks consisted of long days of hard work."

"The sessions resulted in over fifty minutes of finished material but we ended up banishing one mellow psychedelic creation and two unsuccessful versions of old songs into abandonment to create a coherent whole. Satisfied? Sort of. The album is a serious improvement on previous Babylon Whores recordings, which is important, but not quite "there" yet. More like Prima Materia for future Operations."

OK now introduce yourself in 1 word!

"Searching"

Why the hell you're playing a 7' string not 6, eh?

"Because of the expanded possibilities in playing; I am not too technical but I like to experiment. One basic advantage is of course getting a heavy low end without the usual hassle with sloppy downtuned strings. We will probably tune further down in the future and bring in a few other things too. In fact I do play a normal guitar occasionally but on "Cold Heaven" I did my parts entirely on the seven stringed one."

"A guitar with seven strings is a weapon of the elite (hail to my brother Jarkko in Tiermes!), ha!"

Are you informed that there is a band called "The Whores Of Babylon" in England or somewhere? Why "Babylon Whores" anyway? Because of the legendary dissolution? Or what? Explain... Why is there a guy called Babylon in your band, huh? Don't you think you have quite an inappropriate image for your music?

"Yes, I am aware of The Whores of Babylon from the U.K. I even interviewed them for a small fanzine years ago, as I liked their demo tape a lot at the time! The name of our band however was chosen long before I joined. I trust in people's ability to discern between the two bands, that shouldn't be a problem with the least amount of intelligence really: both bands have a distinct sound of



Ewo  
Melchem -  
gtr

In October 1994 Sugar Cult lent \$2500 from a local drug pusher and booked two days of studio time in a Helsinki studio to record a CDEP. After some psycho-physical problems along the way, the vocal parts were finally completed with the roadies of Sakari Kuosmanen (Finland's answer to Barry Manilow) carrying equipment into the recording room.



Ike Vil -  
voc

The tentative radio hit "Silver Apples" was also left without the string section and other shit, but put on the record nevertheless with just vocals, piano & keyboards to have a fourth song. The loan is due to be paid before 31.12.1995 or somebody's in deep shit. Otherwise, the record took the band towards a bit more gothic direction and, surprisingly, even got lotsa radio play...



Jake  
Babylon -  
bass





Litmanen - gtr

The band consisting of Ewo (gtr), A.L. (gtr), Babylon (bass) and doublecheeser Diego replacing former drummer Pete Liha, along with the aforementioned Ike have been doing some so-so and some very good gigs around Finland with Pennywise, Hybrid Children and the like, plus a mini Northern tour with Xysma in spring '95. Hybrid Children, by the way, also recorded a cover of Babylon Whores' "Methadon Slut" on their second album Honeymoon in Babylon. (The original version is due to be featured on a Maho Pop compilation CD "Don't Fuck with the Babysitter II" later on this year.)



Rova - drums

After some odd (some actually very odd) gigs and a festival appearance at Joensuu in July, Jussi left the band and a replacement appeared in the form of new guitarist A.L. The inclusion of this gloomy, dark elf-like figure from the east raised the average height of Babylon Whores to 185cms (6'1"), resulted in a more sinister overall sound, and significantly enhanced the esoteric library of the Whores.

## BABYLON WHORES

The future is likely to see the band starting to fight with each other, slowing down, becoming more confused of what's going on, Ike Vil going nuts with the occult, and eventually, split up on stadium...

### Discography:

SCR-666  
Devil's Meat  
7" single



SCR-667  
Sloane 313  
CDEP



SCR-668 Trismegistos miniCD

their own and lyricwise not much of a common ground exists, apart from certain mythological themes in treatment of which we again take completely different routes. Jake Babylon is a nom de plume of our bassist, adopted on a pure spur of the moment basis.

There are people who are annoyed or not at ease with Ik3's deliberate use of poetic allusions and americanisms going hand in hand with more archaic english or the way our songs often turn out, not fitting the usual categories. It is a case of the entirety having an urban, modern side as well as a primal, ancient one, the line between the two being like one written in waters. I guess this line of thought goes for the image too, which might be inappropriate in someone's eyes but we are not out to fulfill anyone's presuppositions on how a band should look or act either..."

To illustrate the present situation further, it seems "Trismegistos" has sold equally well among people into independent/rock music and those into the extreme end of today's metal, although it is clear we don't have a big audience."

"Reviewers sometimes seem to have a hard time trying to pin Babylon Whores down, which results in hilarious comparisons ranging from The Nomads to Manowar."

"The name Babylon Whores is fitting in a sense as it can be as interpreted as representing opposition to the logic and morale (the judeo-christian ethics) the society imposes upon us, or abolition of the stagnate mainstream western thought in favour of the hidden, underground traditions and heresies. In a thelemic context you could note how the whore of Babylon is seen like the esoteric, apocalyptic Babalon, representing Shakti or the power permeating all nature... or if we don't want to get sidetracked into the occult, we can settle on just saying that everyone is a whore in today's western world!"

Call me narrow-minded, but to me your music reminds of Therapy?. Compare yourself to some other bands if it is possible and give your own name for the music you play! Whaddya think of the 'death rock' label I've seen in a review?

"Well, you narrow-minded one, too bad that I don't like Therapy? at all and rather leave comparisons to reviewers. I could point out superficial likeness to various bands but I don't know if that does justice either way. "Death Rock" is okay, we've used it ourselves but by the end of the day such a term obviously is as useless as anything; I sincerely would like to let the music do the talking but that's only an ideal situation."

So are you done with the full-length? You said it's going to be completely different stuff... Like what then?

"Well we already touched on that, but... no, it's not completely different stuff, but you can safely say there is more conviction, power and mood in there this time. More depth in other words. While "Cold Heaven" saw us working in more detail than ever before, it turned out a lot rougher sounding than "Trismegistos" - more loosely played and nasty."

When to expect the release and on which label? Tell us about your label contracts... And are your releases doing well? How many copies spread already, if you happen to know?

"The old releases are on our own label Sugar Cult, there are a few copies of "Trismegistos" left but "Devil's Meat" 7" and "Sloane 313" cdep have totally sold out their pressings of 500+ copies." "For the release of the album we have signed with Herolne, a new division of Misanthropy Records. Some other labels took interest but none were too inspiring. We want a label with attitude and it seems Misanthropy are also honest with their artists. Time will tell. I know Diamanda is taking a chance with Babylon Whores as there are no guarantees for huge sales or anything, so at the least we have to respect the genuine interest on her part."

So you're going darker now? More sinister and evil? Am I on the right track?

"Not entirely correct. How about going beyond good and evil...? Nah, the music is darker than before but we are not trying to be "evil".

Why aren't the lyrics of "Speed Doll" printed in the booklet of "Trismegistos" ?

"We didn't quite work out a decent layout with "Speed Doll" lyrics included, and Ik3 felt they belonged to an earlier era of Babylon Whores anyway, so the decision was that leaving them out wouldn't be a big loss."

What are your own greatest influences musicwise? (A long answer expected) Your faves, stuff etc.. Your current playlist?

"Ik3 who is responsible for a large portion of our songs listens to a lot of different music from prog rock like King Crimson and H.P.Lovecraft to garage like Dead Moon as well as At The Gates or old thrash metal. But I doubt our favourites show in the music, like Jake's contributions don't exactly resemble the heavy industrial he's into nowadays, nor Ewo's Carnivore or Moonspell... If there is any influence coming in it tends to get twisted until unrecognisable so I can't point out anything definite. Our own experiences in this mystery called Life and literature play a big part in the mix too."

"My "current playlist" is almost non-existent, as I've been far too busy for weeks on end to actually sit down and listen to anything, apart from a select few; Esoteric: "The Pernicious Enigma" advance tape(s), Trial of the Bow: "Rite of Passage" cd, some indian music, can't think of much else... ok, certain records/songs by the following artists have corresponded with my taste in music at one point or another: Killing Joke, Magma, Celtic Frost, King Crimson, Christian Death, Current 93, Arcturus, Kula Shaker, Lisa Gerrard, Dead Can Dance, Zero Kama, Sol Invictus, Tangerine Dream, Nefilim, Beherit, Diamanda Galas, Worms, Das Ich, Kingston Wall, Proscriptor, Cathedral, Krakatau, Steve Vai, The Infinity Project, Hawkwind, Led Zeppelin, Elijah's Mantle, Endura, Death SS, Psychic TV, Ain Soph, Darkthrone... fuck, is the answer long enough by now? ;-)"

Why don't you play the kind of music you listen to most (i assume you don't)

"Well, Babylon Whores is not one or two persons but five who all have an effect on how we sound. We do not force the music to follow a set route and we're above deliberate copying. Whenever I find time to do something entirely of my own it will sound completely different to what we're doing now as an entity known as Babylon Whores and I assume the same goes for the others..."

And now enlighten me with your life philosophy!



"I want to and live a strong, full life without self-deceit, as vague as that may seem when written down. In the end we are all alone, but it is my girlfriend and very few others I care about and trust on this dying planet... material things seem less and less important each day, I hate to be a slave to money or authorities but I have my pride and will intact so I am not chained."  
 "Well, there's something to start with, but a "life philosophy" keeps on evolving... until life ends."

**OK, now your personal opinion on those littel topics:  
 Necronomicon.**

"Like everyone, I am familiar with the mock-up Avon Necronomicon (\$5.99 at your local bookstore, get real!) which makes for some mildly interesting reading - it is after all an attempt, however suspectible, at pulling together a grimoire of sorts and some of the translations included are from genuine Mesopotamian originals. The concept of Necronomicon as the archetypal forbidden book existing in normally inaccessible dimensions as expounded by Kenneth Grant et al is of more worth."  
 "Giger's art book of the same name is of course magnificent."

**Tolkien.**

"His vast learning is respectable and I liked reading The Hobbit, Lord of the Rings and parts of Silmarillion years ago but I am no fanatic. Creation of a fantasy world is obviously a huge undertaking and I don't see anyone doing it more convincingly."

**Trolls in the connection with elves.**

"Sounds like the norwegian black metal scene to me. Oops. :-)"

**Vampyre movies with bad end.  
 Vampyre movies with happy end.  
 Vampyre movies in general.**

"Let's lump all three together shall we? I do enjoy vampire movies, especially the old Hammer ones with Christopher Lee. I watched Coppola's interpretation of the theme last weekend over a bottle of red wine (!) and even though I've seen it a couple of times, you can't help but be stunned by the sheer beauty of some of the scenes."

**Kalevala.**

"Kalevala is interesting to an extent. I've read some academic studies pertaining to it recently but it is ages since I've touched the actual book. And no, it is not an influence to the band!"

**Let Me Dream & Impaled Nazarene.**

"I have only heard a few tracks off Let Me Dream's debut album which were a sad case of ability not meeting the demands of ambition. As for good ol' Impaled Nazarene, I haven't been paying much attention for some time but during the recordings we loaned "Ugra Karma" among other cds from Ahti, the engineer, and it was a surprise as no-one really remembered what an intense motherfucker of a record it is after all. Ik3 kept on playing "Chaosgoat Law" over and over!"

**Black metal.**

"What can you say about a subject which has already been discussed to death? Let's say there's not many bands on that front which interest me/us now."

**Bal-Sagoth.**

"Often too pompous for their own good but it is commendable they are at least doing something of their own."

**Summoning.**

"Only heard the name."

**Neslepaks.**

"A nice Isengard tune pops into mind."

**How tall are you anyway?**

"Tall enough. Who cares?"

**Last words blablah**

"Thank you for this interview. At the moment it seems we will head on a small european tour with Nattvindens Gråt and Wish by the end of May. Be there! Electric Wizard rocks!"

**Contact address:**

"Sugar Cult P.O. Box 225 00531 HELLSINKI FINLAND"

# SECUA DELENDA

## MASTERPIECE BY THE MASTER OF METAL!!!

PARNASSUS "LET THE STARS FALL AND THE KINGDOM COME" HAS ARRIVED!

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# PAZUZU

(Knechte Des Schreckens)

**Hello Ray, how is the winter in Österreich?**

Cold and snowy. Not quite my season, I'm not the kind of person who enjoys a longterm winter. I guess winter is a part of the year, but I only enjoy it in the beginning. After the new year, winter starts to bother me. I mean, if I lived out on the countryside, I would probably enjoy it more, but I live in Vienna, Austria's capital, and here the snow and ice is piled up on a heap, then carfumes color it black with tar, then dogs piss and shit on it, finally all the pebbles that lie around are thrown on top and then I don't like to see it anymore. You know what I mean...

**How did you, the members happen to form Pazuzu?**

**Whose idea was it and who is supposed to be the mainman of this project? Well, yeah... do you look upon Pazuzu as a project or a serious "band"?**

Oh, that was about two and a half years ago. Silenius and Protector of Summoning approached me and asked if I wanted to make music with them. I sang for Summoning back then, and we had already founded the ABMS. Since we were all into Darkwave/Gothicmusic, we decided to combine black metal topics with darkwave tunes and sounds, the result was the Urdia Text Demo and shortly after that, Head Not Found offered us a deal, which we gladly accepted and have not regreted. We invented something new within the BM scene. Pazuzu now is only me, I mean, I write all the music and lyrics and the other two helped on two songs on the new CD. To me Pazuzu is a band, since it's my main musical activity.

**Tell us about your new «Awaken The Dragon», when exactly was it released? How does it differ from «And All Was Silent...»? Are you satisfied with it? Is the «Renewal Of Ages» track on it? Have there been any changes in the line-up?**

Awaken The Dragon was released in December '96 on Dark Matter Records/SingSang Records (<http://www.ssr.co.at/ssr>). It differs in many ways to And all was silent. For one the music is alot more diverse, I mean, I took influences from many cultures and periods of history. Also the instrumentation is alot more classical. I tried to find the right instruments for the different songs. Another point is, that the sound of the album is amazing. The first album was mixed by the completly incompetent Trifixion. Awaken The Dragon was produced by Martin of Pungent Stench, who was a brilliant producer, and without whom, this release would not have been half as good. Also the cover is alot more professional. The lyrics were printed and there are cool pictures in the booklet. I am really 100% satisfied with the complete album, music, cover, everything. Renewal of Ages is not on the album, it was an exclusive track for the ABMS Norici Obscura Pars compilation CD. Like I said, the line up, consists only of me.

**How did the sales of «And All Was Silent...» go?**

**Approx. how many copies have been spread?**  
And all was silent sold, as far as I could gather, approximately 6000 copies(until last summer). This was a pretty big surprise to us...especially since there was no promotion in magazines etc...

**Now, I am very interested in how you would define your own music...**

I don't really have a real definition. I refer to it as Pazuzu music. The closest I can think of, would be Black Wave, because of the Black Metal and Dark Wave elements. But I'm not all to concerned about these matters, since I have more interesting stuff to think about!

**I think it is obvious, even for a blind person, what are the concepts behind your music... Tell us about your interest in occult matters: What mythologies/literature influence you most? What are your own conventions, beliefs of nature and its laws? What religions do you hate? Have you ever been involved in any mystic/magic cults or practice? etc etc**

Well I have to say, that the lyrical concept of Pazuzu has changed. I didn't want to tell the whole story again, about the Necronomicon etc... I thought it might be better to invent an epic story, since every trashy shit band talks about occultism nowadays, there's no more originality in this topic. Personally I'm nothing, neither satanist, nor christian nor pagan... I don't really give theses matters alot of thought. For one, I believe in myself, since I must justify all my actions. I don't care about any religion, if it makes someone happier, why shouldn't that person follow this belief, as long as he doesn't bother anyone, it's ok. I studied Philosophy for two years, and so I got a pretty good overview of all main philosophical works. My views are always guided by philosophy and reason. When I was 14 I was a pretty convinced satanist, I mean, I got into metal, and I guess that was a natural progression. As I got older, I started reading more serious occult stuff and I still carry this knowledge with me, but it doesn't have a special role in my life anymore.

**Now, about musical influences, name some of your greatest inspirers as well as your current faves!**

Pazuzu is inspired by different stuff. I mean, usually I come up with some melodies, then I compose harmonies and second melodies, then come percussions etc... and then I write the lyrics. While I'm composing, I don't think Hey, and now a little more Dead Can Dance..., I just compose, and I'm inspired subliminally. One of my favorite bands comes from Vienna, they're called The Moon laid Hidden beneath a cloud...really authentic, medieval darkstuff. And of course stuff like Dead can Dance, Loreena McKennit, Mars. At the moment I listen to tons of stuff, I mean, I work at a record company (Dark Matter/Sing Sang), where I hear all sorts of musical styles, and there's always something that I like. I'm responsible for all the imports, so I have to have a wide range of musical knowledge. Metalwise I enjoy Abscess, Golden Dawn, Arcturus, Trouble, and lots of older Deathmetal and Thrashmetal.

**Are all Pazuzu songs intended to be serious? Even «Baptism Of Infant Flesh»?**

Certainly, and I think especially Baptism of Infant Flesh sounds kinda spooky, I mean all the bells and the eery soundeffects, and then this weird baby with the flanger effect. To me it sounds pretty cool, but I guess that's a matter of taste. Each PAZUZU song is to me something special, or at least I had a certain idea when I composed it. It's like I'm expressing my thoughts etc... through my music.

"Since early 1994, Pazuzu emerged as a driving force of the Austrian underground with the release of its first demo «The Urdia Text». The Norse label, Head Not Found, later spawned forth the magnificent and ultra-mystical full-length of the band, entitled «And All Was Silent...», featuring Silenius, Protector (of Summoning fame), and Pazuzu, who in real life is also known as Ray. I reached him via the e-mail of Austrian record labels Dark Matter and SingSang Records, which he currently works at. And I was surprised to find out many new things about the Austrian metal scene, the country's own black metal syndicate, the new «Awaken The Dragon» release, as well as the band Pazuzu itself (it is obvious that all the time I thought it to be kind of an all-star team of by-me-so-beloved Österreich schwartzmetal stage). What also surprised me was discovering that Ray is actually a part of Knechte Des Schreckens - the «newcomers» to the misty valley of ABMS", the dark creations of which you should have already witnessed on the «Norici Obscura Pars» compilation, released in 1995 - too. That is why I actually bothered to ask some additional questions about this fresh and interesting act as well. Here is the interview done about the January of 1997...

"The surface of the planet will snap its angry jaws at the churches and temples that have polluted and battered it for so long. In tales told beyond the vortex of time, the battles of raging Armageddon, for as masters we shall call the battlefield ours... We are the earthquake that rumbles the creation of God."

-Pazuzu-

It says that everybody does vocals in Pazuzu and I am very interested in who does which... Let's take a song like «The First Dominion - The Renewal Of Ages»: Who of you growls? Who does the clear narrative voice? Who does the torturous cries «Deliver me unto evils» on «The Crusades»? And the last one: the freaky «...and all was silent» on the title track? I presume there is only one female in Pazuzu, right?

The vocals to First Dominion were all done by me. I used to sing for a death metal band when I was youger, so I was trained in growling. The narrative parts are easy, because that's my normal voice...

The Crusades, funny enough, were all done by me as well. When I listen to that track now, I can't help myself, I have to grin! It's really obvious that it's the same voice doing the devil and the heretic. But it's a good medieval track.

The and all was silent screams were done by Silenius and Protector. At the moment there's no more female member in Pazuzu. I had female vocalists as studio musicians, in the future I will use more. I don't know why I didn't have more on Awaken the Dragon, but it doesn't matter to me, the album sounds just as good...

**Has or will Pazuzu ever perform live?**

Pazuzu did perform live once, till now. In Berlin on the 25th of December 1996. The Gig was pretty cool, there were quite a few people there. But to be honest, I don't think Pazuzu is live music. It's the kind of music you listen to when you are at home, or whatever. It's music that takes you on a trip. At least that's the way I see it. When I listen to my album and close my eyes, it feels like it's music by someone else, not me, and that's what I like about it. If I get good offers I would go on Tour, although I would enjoy it more, if I were on Tour with a metal band.





Could you tell us something about the mystical organization of A.B.M.S.? Why are you a part of it? And what does it give you?

The ABMS (Austrian Black Metal Syndicate), was a thing formed by me, Silenius, Trifixion and Protector. Later on ABIGOR and PERVERTUM (RIP) joined. We were a bunch of BM musicians who supported each other. Then ABIGOR had big quarrels with PERVERTUM, and they left. After that SUMMONING had the same problem with PERVERTUM, and they left as well. After that, the ABMS was only my PoBox. I mean I still support good bands, like Golden Dawn (they have a record out on DMR). But there is no more syndicate. I'm still friends with all the bands, especially Summoning.

What do you think of the sideprojects of Pazuzu members: Abigor? Summoning? Die Verbannte Kinder Evas? Trifixion? Do I miss any on this list?

I like each of the projects you mentioned, except Trifixion. I don't like the demos, nor the albums and definitely not the compilation tracks on Nonici Obscura Pars. I just think Abigor and Summoning both suffer from poor recording quality, but the music is always first class. Verbannte Kinder Eva's is cool, but Protector is in other projects that I don't like at all. I have a Black Metal band with Necros from Pervertum. That's really refreshing. In this band I play bass and sing, we're called Knechte des Schreckens.

Tell us more about Knechte... First, what does it mean (sorry, I'm not that good in German) and why do you have this name? What is Knechte Des Schreckens doing right now and will there be an album released someday too?

K.d.S is a side band I have with Necros of Pervertum (RIP). We just play some heavy back to the roots black metal, just guitars, drums and bass. We have composed some new material for an album we might do. Knechte des Schreckens means Servants of Horror. We picked this name because it sounds different then always the same scandinavian shit like -heim, -gard, etc... I think it sounds heavy. (fit does - ed.)

In this band I play bass and sing, Necros is on Guitar and we have a mysterious drummer, who was also active in Vuzem. But you'll hear more soon. After that I will start with Pazuzu again.

Hmmm, and I just have to ask why do you always keep mentioning PERVERTUM (RIP)?

Well they split up because they weren't successful playing Black Metal, so they changed style...not a very worthy way to play music if you ask me. They fucked up so bad, that the whole scene more or less hates them...well some will live and some must die...

L A S T S E C O N D R E V I E W S ! ! !

PAZUZU "Awaken The Dragon" [Dark Matter Records, CD, 1996]

**Tracklist:** *Awaken The Dragon - Millennium Two/The Five Emperors/Ball Of Thieves/Robaume Des Reves (Baronesse Chap II)/The Messenger And The Spiritwind/The King Of Vermir/Vorfall/Until The Sun Returns/In A Tavern/Pazuzu/Im Menschen (Des Tragik Des Todes)/Outro*

Hark, my friend, for an ancient tale I tell!... Thus starts the newest creation of the famous and obscure Austrian one-man act Pazuzu. All of you should well remember his outstanding debut full-length on Head Not Found, 1995. So, if you liked it, you're going to like this one as well. At least I, sure like hell, did. While "And All Was Silent..." was more a dark and satanic album, in "Awaken The Dragon" the main emphasis is put on folk and medieval elements. And although some songs resemble "And All Was Silent..." just too much - with this I mean the Gothic organ/clavichord stuff + female chanting in French, and some more - on the whole those albums are not like each other at all. What differs is the overall atmosphere, which is almost a full contrast to the previous Pazuzu release - less evil and more epic, less inquisitional and more essentially medieval...

The tracks are all so diverse, that it is really useless describing each of them 12. Still those that I would like to excel would be the majestic dragon-invoking opener, the following epic tale of "The Five Emperors", the cosy outro, the nice and merry folk song "Ball Of Thieves", where Pazuzu actually sings in a duo with a female. "In A Tavern" is another great medieval drinking folksong with all the appropriate elements of atmosphere into it - we hear a bunch of probably dirty brigands and lumberjacks in a "real" wooden tavern, drinking beer, talking, shouting and laughing, cups clinking, barmaids and girls screaming etc., the whole crowd takes a good part in the song by several loud "hey's", clapping, roaring, and in the end joining in by singing the refrain all along even. It's really amazing, you have to hear it yourselves! Especially, once it is followed by a totally different track - the orientally mystical

What can you say about the Austrian darkmusic scene? In my opinion it is the best, musically... What do you think?

Yeah, I guess you're right, we have pretty good bands. I mean there's GOLDEN DAWN, ABIGOR, SUMMONING, KOROVA, VERBANNT KINDE EVA'S, PAZUZU, all the others are not worth mentioning, trendy and childish. What I like about our scene, is that it is in constant development, bands become more original with every release. By the way, I'm just listening to GOLDEN DAWN's new advance tape, and it's really fantastic...

What could you say about the following subjects?

**Satanism.** Interesting, but not really definable. In any case not Lavey.

**Heathenism.** Unfortunately overpowered by christianity Norsk/German mythology trend. Stupid and unoriginal, especially bands that impose this crap on others.

**Necronomicon.** Only partly authentic, alot of it is invented, but still very interesting

**Wicca.** See Heathenism.

**magic(k).** If understood a powerfull allie, if underestimated a great psychological torment.

**misanthropy, elimination of mankind.** Sometimes I wouldn't mind that although I'm not misanthropic.

**war in general.** War is only to feed the bankaccounts of the already rich and powerful. I would never die for these people

**Tolkien.** I only read The Hobbit, and only the first book of Lord of the Rings. My brother is a big fan of Tolkien, just like Silenius from Summoning.

**Cradle of Filth.** Good Musicians, but very trendy and very corny photos.

**Elend.** Great Austrian band, no doubt, especially their second CD. Let's see how they progress.

Say, and what do you think of Vuzem? (bonus question :)

I like Vuzem alot, they play cool music, and I think there's more stuff coming up, you should definitely check it out!

And what words would you like to end this great interview with?

Well, this was a highly interesting interviewwww. I think my second on the Internet. If anyone wants to contact me they can email me at: srr@thing.or.at. Bands should send their demos to: Dark Matter Records, Manahilferste 51/2/25 A-1060 Wien, AUSTRIA. Thanks for your support...Awaken the Dragon and see you at the Ninnib Gate...Ja Andarra...

**Interview/article by Morgueular, The Eye of Satan. The image is taken (aka stolen) from the A.B.M.S. Norici Obscura Pars CD booklet.**

and tremendous "Pazuzu", the lyrics of which you can read somewhere on this very page... "Im Menschen (Des Tragik Des Todes)" = Die Verbannten Kinder Eva's "Futile Belief"???

And in the end I really can't keep myself from naming this great album the true soundtrack to Sierra's classic "Hero Quest" game (all episodes!). You shall definitely agree with me! :) Too bad I'm grown out of those times...?

Number 1 in my playlist right now, although I won't hide that I like "Awaken The Dragon" just as much as I like "And All Was Silent...". This means they're quite equal in my eyes. Both great! Eeeeeeck, more albums there should be like this one!

**Morgueular Rating: 10**

ABSU "The Third Storm Of Cythraul" [Osmose Productions, CD, 1997]

**Tracklist:** *Prelude To Cythraul - including ...And Shineth Unto The Gold Cometh.../ Highland Tyrant Attack/A Magician's Lapis-Lazuli/Swords And Leather/The Winter Zephyr (...Within Kingdoms Of Mist)/ Morbid Scream/Customs Of Tascamancy (Quoth The Sky, Nevermore) Act I/Intelligence Towards The Crown/...Of Celtic Fire, We Are Born - including Terminus (...In The Eyes Of Ioldanach)/Akhera Goiti - Akhera Beiti (One Black Opalith For Tomorrow)*

The opening of 1997 is delightful in the musical sphere: the well-known American occult metal band Absu to bring forth their third opus...

A couple of words about this release: "The Third Storm Of Cythraul" is more a compilation of old and unrealized material, rather than a real album. The band's outstanding skill of manipulation with various styles is really surprising and pleasing. The album it-

# PAZUZU

Divine emptiness and perfect black decorate the darkness that has come about this land. The blazing horizon hangs like a pale red ribbon above the temple of god. From each corner of the sky hangs one angel and from each angel hang ten thousand men. The waters and land now bow to me and dare to move only at my command. And I say - May this pithful soil rumble! Across vast badlands of red dust and cracking soil invisible beings sore from one monument of destruction to another. And beneath every mountain lies one forgotten demon, still weary and yet enraged. Thus on the seventh day, the planets shall have re-aligned and the thirsting sun shall have cast the last beam of light. Darkness arise! And around a throne of sand we shall unite. Man, woman, child and beast - listen, and inherit my infinite wisdom for I am all and I am no one. I am visible and yet unseen. Beyond the stars that hide beyond, my empire does stand. Far away and hidden well from the jealous eyes of all. I call the three dimensions mine. And so the blackest day has come. The infinite fire shall be fed from your fearful souls. I have come to proclaim oblivion and the flames shall illuminate even god's temple high above. Greeding to lick the flesh of the dying traitor...

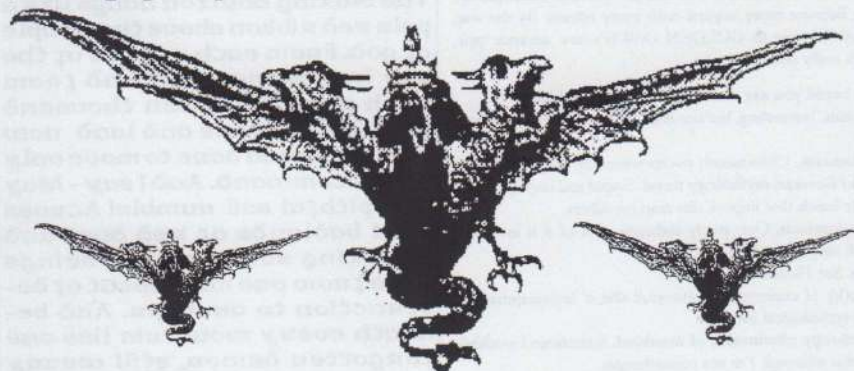
self represents a rare blend of power/black metal in the best traditions of Bathory. One of the most succesful songs, in my opinion, is "Morbid Scream" ('88.), reminding of Bathory's classic "The Return..." a lot. On the whole 10 black metal hymns at a length of 45 minutes will certainly be something refreshing for you and will likely bring up pleasant memories of old. Let the speedy metallic tracks, the overall epic mood and Proscriptor's vocals in the vein of heavy metal ease your ears! In brief, if you are a fan of oldstyle black metal, you should, or to be more precise - you must purchase this opus. **Goblin Rating: 9**





# ALGAION

The interview with the headman of one of the best Swedish black metal bands, Algaion, Mathias Kamijo was done by Morgueldar, while the official bio, written by the suspicious vocalist Mårten Björkman, is used...



## FORMATION OF THE BAND

The Swedish black metal band Algaion was formed in the early autumn of 1993 by Mathias Kamijo. He and I (Mårten Björkman) had then been playing together for several years in the band Abemal. Mathias felt that the music he was making did not fit in that band so he formed this new band. In October 1993 a demo was recorded containing the tracks "On the Reach of Zaphonia" and "...And With Darkness I Pierce Him". The demo was released originally in thirty copies, one of which fell into the hands of Jon of Fullmoon Productions. Later in the spring of 1994 we recorded a compilation track for a comp. tape released by Nattfursth of Sorhin, the comp. tape was called Drap and the track we contributed with was Kratos that we recorded and included on our first CD.

## DEAL WITH FULLMOON PRODUCTIONS

The summer of 1994 I spent in Florida with Jon of Fullmoon. We worked out a deal for the full-length of Algaion that was going to be released later in 1994 by Fullmoon Productions. The recording then became subject to numerous delays so we did not actually get to record before November 1994.



## OIMAI ALGEOIU

We recorded the CD in the studio called Abyss and run by the vocalist and Lead guitarist of Hypocrisy - Peter Tägtgren. We were the second band to record in that studio, the debut CD of the Hypocrisy side-project The Abyss was recorded there a week earlier. To help us with the recording, which

is hard if you're a two-man band and one of them (i.e. me) is a complete nitwit when it comes to playing instruments, Fredrik Söderlund of Octinomos programmed the keyboards and the drums for us. Mathias' girlfriend at that time joined us to do some backing vocals and Nattfursth of Sorhin, who was with us all the time in the studio, filled in as a backing vocalist on one of the tracks.

## PROBLEMS WITH THE POLICE

In August of 1994 I and Henry Möller went to Norway to stay with Emperor for a couple of days. On our way there we stopped and took some photos of the church ruins outside of Oslo - Frogn Kirke that was burnt only a short while before we got there. On that location the anti-satanism division of the Oslo police had 24hour reckon that spotted us so when we got home, a week later the Oslo-police interrogated us about that fire. It even got up as a full-page article in the Norwegian newspaper Aftenposten. We did not give them the pictures (of course). One of them is now adorning the CD-print on the Absurd (GER) CD.

## INFORTUNUM

In the winter of 1994 I founded a record label that was supposed to release the full-length of Octinomos - "On the Demiurge" (still available from FMP), we also planned that that label should release an Algaion 7" later in the spring of 1995.

## VOX CLAMENTIS

On April 22, 1995 we entered The Abyss studio again, this time with Peter Tägtgren as our drummer. We recorded four tracks instead of only two as we first planned to.

## MORE PROBLEMS WITH THE POLICE

Shortly after that I was arrested for another fire and held in jail for long enough to make the releasing of Algaion material on my label merely fantasies. After I got out on parole we for a while stood without contract for releasing the songs we had recorded in April.

(see 199666 Report for the review -ed.)



So... is he really posing or just innocently taking a pee?

## PROBLEMS WITH LABELS

We went to Fullmoon Productions again and the release on that label was almost ascertained when the German giant label Nuclear Blast contacted Peter and said that they were interested in releasing the four tracks as a mini-CD. At the last second, in September 1995, they got cold feet about releasing Black Metal, which they apparently found worth no support.

The label that came to release our MCD was...

## AVANTGARDE / WOUNDED LOVE

...the merged two Italian labels AvantGarde and Wounded Love. The MCD is now out and available from AvantGarde

The New Algaion CD, is now scheduled to be recorded in January 1997 to be released after that by the aforementioned label.





**Hello, to start with: Is it really somebody of you pissing in the forest on the back picture of "Oimai Algeiou"?**  
**A:** Hehe, wouldn't you like to know. Maybe I am pissing, but then again, maybe it just looks like it.

**Tell us in brief about the creation of Algaion and the history of it.**

**A:** Well we started in October '93. Back then I was the only member. Marten was singing in another band, ABEMAL, which I was plying guitar in. I had made some songs that just didn't fit in that band so I started my own band. I got Marten to join in December '93 when we recorded our 1st demo. The 2nd demo was recorded in January '94. We recorded our debut CD, Oimai Algeiou, in November '94 after getting a deal with Fullmoon Productions. The 2nd CD, Vox Clamentis, was recorded in April '95 but wasn't released until August '96 due to label problems. Both CD's were recorded in the Abyss Studio. Vox Clamentis also featured Peter Tagtgren, HYPOCRISY, on drums.

**Why did you choose to bear the name of Algaion?**

**A:** I don't know. It just seemed to fit our music very well. We DIDN'T want to take a name like "Goat Fucker" or some shit like that so ALGAION just sounded really good.

**How have you in your own opinion progressed along with your albums? What was the stuff on your demos like? How does the MCD differ from the full-length? What is your current music like?**

**A:** Well the songs on our demos were good but the sound quality made you puke. I think that the major difference between the two CD's are the length of the songs and the production. We spent less time recording Vox Clamentis but it turned out a whole lot better than Oimai... The new stuff will be much slower than before but that's about



all I can tell you about it right now.

**What are your greatest musical influences? Name some of your alltime favourite recordings.**

**A:** I don't really know what my musical influences are. In the beginning it was ROTTING CHRIST but now I don't know. Some of my alltime fave recordings. They would have to be KING DIAMOND-Them, HELLOWEEN-Keeper...I+II, IRON MAIDEN-Somewhere in time, ROTTING CHRIST-Thy mighty contract, QUEENSRYCHE-Operation mind crime and MAYHEM-De Mysteriis Dom. Satanas.

**How would you label your own style?**

**A:** Eh, Speed metal with unhappy lyrics. A lot of guitar harmonies.

**What is your opinion on the Swedish scene? Don't you think that many bands sound practically the same, of course there are exceptions...?**

**What about you? Your opinion on bands like Gates of Ishtar, Naglfar, The Abyss, etc?**

**A:** I think the Swedish scene isn't as strong as it was two years ago. As you said too many bands sound the same. But over all it's still going strong. Gates Of Ishtar - Never heard them, Naglfar - Good band with 80's metal influences and pretty nice guys, Abyss - Violent and hyper speedy black metal and also fun guys to hang around with.

**Song names in ancient Greek and Latin, are you (well, not you - Märten) singing in those languages too? If yes, then why?**

**A:** Yes we do have some lyrics with Greek and latin in them. Why? Well because it just sounds really good to sing in Greek and latin. It's as simple as that.

**OK, then tell our readers what "Heosphoros Ho Proi Anatellon", "Oimai Algeiou" and "Vox Clamentis" mean..**

**A:** Heosphoros... = Lucifer rises up in the morning, Oimai... = Tales of Algaion and Vox... = The voice of lament

**What are you singing about really? Any message behind the music?**

**A:** Martens lyrics reflect his mind and emotions and thus it's hard for me to comment them. But many of the lyrics are about ending life. Of course there's a message behind the music but it's hard to figure out if you don't have the lyrics.

**Hmm, then who does the beautiful female vocals on "The Last Delusion"?**

**A:** That was my girlfriend at that time, Elisabet "D-wing" Magnusson.

**Religious convictions?**

**A:** Yes but they are personal so we don't discuss them in interviews.

**What does Nature mean to you?**

**A:** I don't know. Food, allergies, oxygen. In other words it doesn't mean anything in particular to me. It doesn't give me any inspiration if that's what you mean. (Well, I just figured that the cover of "Oimai.." looks pretty "natural", so.. uhhh... - ed.)

**How are the sales going? How many copies of each of your albums have been sold?**

**A:** I'm not quite sure. I think Oimai.. sold around 4000-5000 copies and Vox.. have sold 5000-6000 so far so I guess they're doing fine. But of course these figures are only wild guesses. But I think they're fairly accurate.

**You released your first album on "Full Moon Productions" and now you've moved to other labels? Why? Tell us about your contracts.**

**A:** First CD was released on



Fullmoon Productions, then we were offered a deal with Nuclear Blast but they stabbed us in the back so then we released Vox.. on Wounded Love Records/Avantgarde Music. The whole story is far too long to go in to in this interview. And it would just bore you. I know it sure as hell bores me.

**What do you do besides blackmetalling? (CONFESS!!!:)**  
**A:** Is this where you want me to say: Burn churches and rape children? (No actually, that goes under blackmetalling - ed.) Well I don't! I mostly "play" with the computer, smoke cigarettes, drink Snowballs, sleep, play guitar, criticize other people and shit like that. In other words, I'm totally un-true. :b

**What are Algaion's future plans and what are you doing right now?**

**A:** Well right now we're rehearsing for the new CD which we'll record in either February or March. That's about as far into the future I've planned so far.

**What about the rumours of your connection with The Abyss? Are you a member of this band, and if no, then why? :)**

**A:** It seems to be a misunderstanding that I am a member of The Abyss. I am NOT a member of that band... Well there was some talk about me playing bass on the latest Abyss CD but that didn't happen. Don't know why. But who knows. If they ever tour I might get to play with them.

**And what would you like to say in the end of this interview?**

**A:** What's the difference between a dog? The left leg is shorter. :/ Thanx for the interview. And people, Don't take yourselves so fucking seriously. It just gets pathetic in the end. (a brilliant attitude, in fact I didn't quite understand the joke - ed. ;)



All photos, but this one, are picturing Mathias alone and are stolen from the official homepage of ALGAION: <http://www.kuai.se/~ruach/Algaion/>



# OTYG

*OTYG is beyond doubt a new and promising rising star on the firmament of the Scandinavian metal scene. The music they make is filled with national motives and folk elements. Listening to them makes us think of our past, of our ancestors... At the moment the band has recorded 2 demos and been featured on «Nocturnum Compilation». For a short talk I've chosen the vocalist, guitarist and the songwriter of OTYG - Vintersorg.*

**When did OTYG start playing and who are the members?**  
 Hail! OTYG was formed in the spring of 95 by me and two other guys which had been involved in the metal-scene for quite a few year. We all felt that we wanted to greet our swedish old folkmusic, so i wrote a couple of song in that vein. The other guys liked 'em so i wrote a couple more and then we recorded our first demo called "Bergtagen" and later on we recorded another called "I trollsrogens drömmande mörker". Now we are six members. Matte on guitar, Daniel on bass, Cecilia on violin, me myself is doing the singing and the second guitar, Stefan on drums and Samuel plays the mouth-harp.

**All of your lyrics are in Swedish, right?**  
 We're playing metalthymsns from the north of sweden so for us it's natural to sing in our home language. It wouldn't fit to use the english language to progress our musical inheritance.

**What are you inspired by both musically and lyrically?**  
 Musically we are inspired by Scandinavian old folkmusic, and lyrically by the mystical beings in our folktales such like trolls, elves and other creatures which lurks in the deep woods and mighty mountains. And of course we describe our beautiful nature with its seducing powers.

**What do you think of the Norwegian band STORM, the music of which is very close to yours?**  
 People often compare us with STORM and i think it's okey. STORM is a quite good band with good musicians

so i can't complain when people do that. Even when our music is written all by ourselves and STORM almost plays old folksongs.

**What does OTYG mean?**  
 OTYG is a groupname for "supernatural" (in my opinion very natural) beings in Skandinavian folkmyth's, some of 'em are aberrating and beautiful other cruel and ugly.

**Your opinion on Christianity...**  
 I'm a man of the north and a son of heathendoom so i don't care much for christianity. It's a false and misleading religion with strange ideals. I think it's embarrassing to hear them and other religious groups talk about peace. They have set off wars since the dawn of time so in my heathenheart they always gonna be a group of weak people.

**What can you say about the black metal scene of today?**  
 I love blackmetal when it's well played, and i think the norwegian scene is the strongest with bands

like Ulver, Kvist, Malignant Eternal and many more quality bands.

**Your future plans...**  
 We've got in touch with a Norwegian record company but nothing have been signed yet, but probably we're gonna release something on that label.

**And what are your own favourite recordings?**  
 My alltime favorite record is Ulvers "Bergtatt" but i can't really say the rest of the best. KVIIST's - "For kunsten maa vi evig vike" is a killer album and i like Dødheimsgard, And the old heavy metal scene with bands like Judas Priest is good.

**Last words...**  
 Thanks for the questions and good luck with your zine!

**OTYG contact:**  
 c/o Vintersorg/Hedlund  
 Varvsgatan 11 by  
 93134 Skellefteå  
 SWEDEN

Interview/  
 article by Naomiss.



Left to right: Daniel, Matte, Stefan, Cecilia, Vintersorg

Interview by Naomiss,  
 answered by Raven.

**Who are UTGARD members and when did UTGARD start to play?**  
 - Our members are now, me (Raven) - vocals, Orch - guitars, Glaurung - bass and Mordja - drums. We started summer 1994, so UTGARD is quite new band.

**Why do you play Black Metal?**  
 - Black Metal is closest for our soul and that's why we play it!

**Please tell about your "Northern Glory" demo.**  
 - "Northern Glory" demo was recorded at the end of 1995, consisting into and 6 tracks of original Black Metal. I still like that demo, it's filled with lots of dark feeling.

**What is new about UTGARD?**  
 - After our demo bass player Wakboth was kicked out of band. It took some time before we got new one, but now we founded Glaurung (from band WARLOGHE). We have written lots of new material and in March

*UTGARD are definitely very interesting, if you ask me... At least the material on their debut demotape, entitled "Northern Glory", appeared to be quite peculiar with its clichesque traditionality but the singular approach to it. One should also pay attention to Glaurung's "sideproject" WARLOGHE. Dragons were shaped by moonlight.. Morguedar.*

we are going to studio, to record our second attack against christianity. It should be CAS'LP full of original Black Metal, with playing time around 45 minutes.

**Do you play live?**  
 - Yes we play live. UTGARD have maded about 5 gigs so far and we are going to play more in future.

**What do you think about Finland's Black Metal scene of today? And what do you think about today's Black Metal scene in general?**

- We don't have any scene here in Finland. Almost everyone here are some fucking homoidiots without skills or heart to play. Couple great bands and they know who they are. Hail to them!  
 Today's Black Metal scene consist great or promising or shit bands as always. Best bands come from Norway, Sweden and Greece.

# UTGARD

**What do you think about christianity?**  
 - Weak worms who should all be killed!!! Support the War against christianity!!!!!!!

**On the flyer one of the UTGARD members wears a BURZUM shirt (maybe). Why?**  
 - Yes and that member is me. I wear the shirt because BURZUM is musically one of the best bands ever.

**And what do you think about BURZUM? About the fight of BURZUM and MAYHEM?**  
 - As I mentioned BURZUM is musically one of the finest bands ever, so is also MAYHEM. I don't have any deep opinions about their "fight", because i don't know the guys personally. It's ridiculous when even everyone outsider of this case spread some childish anti-burzum or anti-mayhem stuff. My view is that Count killed Euronymous and now is paying for his fucking stupid act in prison for lifetime...

**Please tell me the 5 best records of all time.**  
 - Those five best records change all time, but now they would be: MAYHEM "De Mysteriis Dom Sathanas" CD  
 CRADLE OF FILTH "Dusk And Her Embrace" CD  
 BATHORY "Blood On Ice" CD  
 DARKTHRONE "Transilvanian Hunger" CD  
 BURZUM "Burzum" CD

**And some words of yours in the end...**  
 - Thanks for this interview! Wait for our new release, it will destroy!  
 Couple "Northern Glory" demos left... HAIL & KILL !!!!!

**UTGARD CONTACT:** c/o RAVEN  
 RIIHIPELLONTIE 4A1  
 43100 SAARIJARVI  
 FINLAND

**ANSWERS UNALTERED**



RIGHT TO LEFT: ORCH, MORDJA AND RAVEN

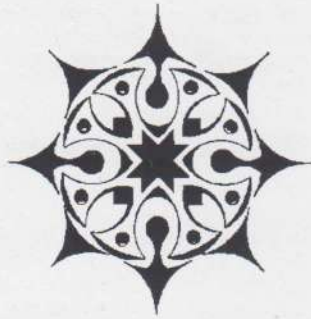


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Here ends Beverina's first effort of starting our own chronicle of unlight music in its connection with us. Although it took "slightly" more time than planned (doesn't everything?), we hope the delay is compensated with the overall content and technical quality of this zine in general. Judge yourself! The first volume of the Tales is completed. And Now you should look forward to the next issue onto the end of summer this year, to (hopefully) feature interviews with Golden Dawn, Abigor, Opera IX, Sanctimony, Postmortem, Nahash, Grimoire and/or others, as well as The Ukrainian Scene Report... Until then, listen to Mysticum, Haqes, Kvist, the newest Emperor, Enslaved and Immortal, burn a few churches, desecrate some graveyards, kill a couple of ugly christians, and, above all, Open the gate of Sirius...

**TALES OF BEVERINA thank and hail exclusively:**

(in no particular order) Goblin Mendesoff Baphomedinovich, Ugnius & Giedrius - Dangus Productions, Tadas - Ledo Tako Produktai & Nahash, Viesturs - Sanctimony, Sergey - Neglected Fields, Yuri Lesniy from Ukraine, Sky Forger, Elias - Elegy Zine, Ray - Pazuzu, Antti Litmanen - Babylon Whores, Jari and Jani Koskelas - Let Me Dream, Mathias Kamijo - Algaion, Prince Of Agony - EVOL, Marcus - Abhorrent, Vintersorg - Otyg, Postmortem, Alheim, Reno - Monkmort, Edžus (Lekainis), Raven - Utgard, Denervation and Darkeign, Nandor Nevai, Nuit D'Octobre, Massproduktion, Didzis, Gints & Mad Mix, De Sants, THE PANTHEON OF GODS - you know who you are, the unlight temple of morguldur, (Unsilient Storms In The North) Šnabis, Linda, sadistic satanic Sametis 666, Bob Witlox, Adi Levi, Dusk And Her Embrace, all quality pipe tobacco and weed producers and traders out there, Latvijas Balzāms, master Belphegor and all those who didn't bother us on our eternal quest...

The evil crew of Beverina (left to right): Morgueldar, Naomiss, Cannibal...



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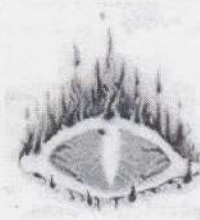
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(The Eye of Saturn)  
(and The Eye of Satan,  
according to Morgueldar)



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 **BP001** #12!



*In memory of Humanity, an  
insect race whose dominion  
on this planet will soon be  
usurped. To the glory of those  
who walk the gaps between  
the stars and who wait to return.*

