



**CANADIAN
ASSAULT**

ISSUE # 1
Winter/Spring '98

ARCH ENEMY

STRATOVARIUS

ROTTING

SCEPTER

TENEBRAE

FLESHGRIND

INFERNAL MAJESTY

POSSESSION

+
Much
More!

*SACRAMENTARY
ABOLISHMENT*

*ETERNAL
DARKNESS
RECS/DISTRO/MAG*

*2 Page
VENOM Tribute!!!*

EDITORIAL WINTER/SPRING 98 ISSUE # 1

Welcome to the debut editorial and of course the first issue of Canadian Assault magazine!. I guess I should introduce myself to you briefly. My name is Dale Roy. I am 24 yrs old, have long blonde hair, blue eyes, stand shit I am not even totally sure I guess about 5'7. I first got into metal around late 1983/early '84 with bands like Iron Maiden, Venom, W.A.S.P., Twisted Sister, Ozzy and within months started to get onto some heavier stuff. It seems I always was and always will be attracted by heavy as shit music! Like I was saying, I started getting into Hellhammer, Grave Digger, Judas Priest, Mercyful Fate, Obsession and the like. This continued on through the mid to late '80's getting into bands like Celtic Frost, Bathory, Death Angel and quickly onto Carcass, Nocturnus, Morbid Angel, Repulsion and than in late 1989 I picked up a mag I had bought for a while back around '85/'86 called Metal Mania and they had an underground demo band column. Needless to say I wrote to some of the bands in there (i.e. Cardinal Sin, State Of Execution ect) and loved what I heard and discovered a great thing with the demos!. Flyers! Hell yeah, I started writing more bands and ordering some zines and was well on my way!. Then, I guess in late 1991 or so, I started to tape trade. I mean I was getting all of this killer underground music that would have cost me a fortune to order all crammed on a few ninety minute tapes. Also, from that I heard loads of new bands and some I loved so much that I had to have the original copies. Moving onto I guess early 1992 I asked a couple 'zines both just starting out if they needed some help with reviews. Both were into it, so I did a bunch of reviews and sent them off. I was as excited as shit to see my scribes immortalized in pen and ink and read by fellow undergrounders!. However, my excitement was crushed when both turned out to be bullshit and neither was ever to see print. Well, at the time I was having a phone conversation with Mike Campbell, one of my tape traders who also happened to be the editor of a very well respected zine called The Sepulchral Voice. Mike, after hearing my story above, wanted me to start doing reviews and the odd interview for his mag!. I was his tape trader but also a big fan of his mag and I was stoked as shit to have the opportunity such as this. So, I was fully on my way, fully immersed in the underground scene, save for the fact I was not in a band, cause I have very little musical talent, but a ton of dedication and devotion and heart for metal!.

I'll now switch gears and tell you a little about what I am doing with this mag and why I have done things certain ways with it. Well, first off, I am an absolute zineaholic. I order them obsessively and am reading them all the time. I feel the tons of mags I have read over the years has enriched me as a person. I am grateful to each and every person who had a part in making each mag. My addiction to underground's printed word, is one I need no help to cure, I love it. So, as you can see, I am very much into trading with other mags, my issue for yours. Okay onto some things in my years of 'zine reading I know what I like the most about them, how I like them to be layed out and so forth. For example, I hate short interviews. Little fucking half to one full page or not much bigger piss me off. It is so hard to really get into the band, see what makes them tick, hear what they are thinking and feeling; and, you will not get that from a half-page interview. To be honest, in one issue of Metalcore from New York there was like a 9 page interview. Now for some that is overdoing it, but I loved it! No, you won't likely see me doing 10 page interviews; but, hey if I get on a roll with a band have shit is flowing lets make the fucker 15 pages!. Another pet peeve is I like the interviews and pages of reviews to be mixed up a little. Using Ill Literature, a mag that is well done but annoys me, as an example. First off, most of the interviews are puny. But they also have all the reviews grouped together. I mean, I absolutely love reading reviews. And, yes, I am a front to back reader. So when in Ill Literature they have like 30-40 pages of straight reviews, no matter how exciting the reviews may be they are going to drag and get boring. All I am saying is mix shit up a little and you will surely keep your readers attention far better and things will flow nicely. Another thing Keith and I touched on in the Eternal Darkness interview is that I like far better underground mags that keep that DIY underground thing first and foremost. I find I dig mags way more that are done more underground - just photo-copied as long as the contents are well done. That is what I hope to do with Canadian Assault, and no I am not just saying that so I can spend less money. I have enough money saved for this print to print it professionally, but I am choosing to photo-copy it. As it is, I think I may have already overused my new found toy (i.e.- the computer, which I have only had for barely more than a year, and a good part of that time was spent learning how use it ha ha!) and made things a little too slick. I dunno. We will see how it turns out. I fear I have put in too many photos and they will just all come out darker than Chef's ass from South Park ha. I ask that you are patient with me. I am still very heavily in the experimental stages with concerns computer layouts and all that goes with it. I know this mag, when pieced together, will look pretty chaotic. That is due to my messing around with a lot of different layouts, just to see how it looks. I am sure I will settle down with the next couple issues and hit my stride with concerns to that. So, as I said, please be patient and remember as always it is the material that is the important thing, not the way everything is layed out, or if things are pro done or glossy and shit!. I think maybe before I embarrass myself any further, babbling like an idiot here he he, I will tell you my reasons for finally going ahead and putting my own mag out. One is the obvious - instead of just contributing to someone else's creation, I am making my own. My foremost intent is to help out the underground as a whole, all of my metal brothers and sisters, all the bands I dig and want others to check out. Also, I hope with my stab at describing records, I can steer you towards something you can tell you will probably like from my description or something you want to steer well clear of!. I hope to get better at this as I go along, so stay tuned, there are more surprises to come and if you like this issue, keep in touch there is more to come and it can only get better from here!. **SUPPORT THE UNDERGROUND, LOVE YOUR METAL, BE PROUD OF IT, BE PROUD OF YOURSELF AND LET'S UNITE UNDER ONE METAL BANNER TOGETHER!! METAL ON!!! IN THE WORDS OF CRONOS "HELL YEAH!!!"** Your Humble Editor, Dale "It flows thru my veins!!!" Roy.

P.S - You knew I wasn't finished right!?. What I have to say is, just to warn all in the very, very near future you will see flyers out announcing a new address, don't worry this address will still be good for a year or so. But be warned like anytime after June 1998, there will be a lengthy delay as things will have to be forwarded to my new addy. Now here is the surprise, my new address when I have it, as I said I will send out a shit load of flyers announcing it, but the new address will be in the United States!. I am moving there, to be with my lovely fiancée, who lives in Philadelphia. I will pick up all my underground activities as soon as I get there and begin work in haste on issue number 2!! Expect number two to come along a little faster than one did, now that I know what I am doing, sort of ha ha!. Also no there is no plans to change the name of my mag, I am still a Canadian no matter where I live, always have been, always will be, very proudly so!. Also in case you have not picked it up, the name is also a tribute to my favorite band of all-time VENOM!!! I was going to use Die Hard but a certain European record company beat me to it!, bastards ha ha!. Take Care all!!! MAKE MINE METAL!!!!!!!

Additional copies cost 3 North America/4US elsewhere to: Canadian Assault, c/o Dale Roy, P.O. Box 682, Blackfalds, Alberta, T0M 0J0, CANADA

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DETAILED TABLE OF CONTENTS

ROTTING Page # 43, 44

This is an interview I conducted with this young but relatively seasoned band, a death metal band who has been through the wringer, but persevered with their aggression intact...

ARCH ENEMY Page # 35-37

Our Finnish writer Arto, probes this band made up of long-time scenesters, whose members have been in acts in the past such as: Carcass, Carnage and Eucharist. They play intense and razor sharp death metal at hyper speeds and hyper extremity and are set to release a new album entitled "Stigmata"...

STRATOVARIUS Page #8-10

Arto takes a look inside the veteran epic power/heavy metal band and countrymen known as Stratovarius, watch for the forth-coming new release in the form of a live LP called "Visions Of Europe: Live"...

FLESHGRIND Page # 45,46

If extreme death/grind metal floats your boat as it does mine, then this American Pulverizer Records act, is something you need to check into...

TENEBRAE Page # 5-7

These Canadian black metallers tell you about their new independent album, their views on the scene and on life, and ward off claims made to Canadian Assault by their former vocalist(current Frozen Shadows singer/main man)...

INFERNAL MAJESTY Page # 28-30

It was with great pleasure, I interviewed one of my all time loved bands, who are considered by a great many fans and media to be underground metal legends. They are now back stronger than ever with re-newed vigor, support them and check out their new album set to be released on Hypnotic Records. If you manage to be lucky enough to see them live, then I will be jealous ha ha...

POSSESSION Page # 25-27

Read about these Kansas City old school metallers, their struggle to find a permanent bass player, the obstacles of where they reside and their love for pure metal...

SACRAMENTARY ABOLISHMENT Page # 47-51

Extremity, chaos, anger and apathy for the human race. All words that describe the sounds and philosophy that makes up this abrasive band, check into their new album on Catharsis Records...

SCEPTER Page # 13-15

Do you eat, sleep, breath and shit metal and it's way of life!?. Meet these three headbangers who share your passion...

ETERNAL DARKNESS Page # 17-20

This man oozes the underground, he has his hands in nearly every facet of it. Keith strives and works very hard to support the music and the underground, he embraces. His vision and dedication has always been focused and his spirit is the true metal spirit!. Help yourself and the underground scene by doing so and write and support Eternal Darkness...

Play Lists Page # 16

This is a look during the last 6-8 months or so into what I have been listening to, watching, an overview of my tastes and what makes me tick...

Occult Study Page #'s 44, 51

Here I have put in some materials for the open minded, who are curious and the interested occultist's alike. I personally find the occult fascinating, though I must say I am not an occultist or of any religion or group, I just find the materials, symbols and philosophies intriguing...

Olde Flyer Page #'s 30, 38

This is a small collection of some of the flyers I managed to get my hands on over the years. It's kinda cool to look back and see the early stages of the bands and see things the average fan might never come across...

VENOM Tribute Page #'s 21, 22

These 2 pages are a small and humble homage to my favorite band of all time. To their music, to the wonderful memories I have associated with it, also to their attitude and legacy!. One of the first albums I ever purchased was a cassette of "Black Metal", amazingly though battered and weathered by time and over use, the tape plays on, kind of like Venom today and their spirit which will live on forever...

Album/Demo/Zine Reviews Page #'s 11, 12, 23, 24, 31, 32, 33, 34, 39, 40, 41, 42, 52, 53, 54

I must apologize somewhat as many of the reviews are old and that is due to a couple factors. My goal for this issue was to have over 100 reviews, unfortunately I did not receive nearly the amount of promo material I had hoped for. In order to achieve my review goal, I needed to review a lot of items from my personal collection, since I am not rich I could not just order tons o' brand new shit, so that is why some of the reviews are dated a bit. Also to reach my goal I enlisted the help of two friends and underground reviewers Pat Warner of File 13 mag, and Neil St. Laurent of Tracks Of Creation internet 'zine, my thanks go out to them. Also I must mention Kirk Dolbear, my metal brother and the man who runs Cyclonic Enterprises, he hooked me up with a bunch of review material for this issue, hails bro!. I hope my reviews are informative, hopefully they give you the reader, a clear idea of what sort of music the band plays, and the quality of the material to help you decide if you like it or whether you should steer clear. Hopefully I can keep up my 100 + review per issue standard for future issues. However I can tell you if I don't get more promo material, that won't happen. It won't be that way from a lack of trying, I plan on sending this issue to just about every major to minor underground label you can think of!. Also I will absolutely blanket the underground with flyers, I plan to print and spread 8 - 10, 000 of them!. So if I do not reach this goal than that will surely reflect labels and bands disinterest in moving their product, getting their name around and labels pushing their bands and supporting the underground...

Ancient Album Reviews Page # 4

This section focuses on old albums, I consider to be classics and must have's!. I try to keep my picks on more of an obscure level, I mean everyone know "Kill 'Em All" and "Hell Awaits" are classics, so there would be little point to put those here. I point out gems that have been largely overlooked, this is to help new comers and old timers alike, the young fans to check out the forefathers of the metal they worship and the seasoned metalheads on ones they missed or passed over the first time around...



THRUST -
"Fist Held High" 1984 LP
(Metal Blade/Banzai Recs.Canada)
 This American band play an explosive brand of speed metal armageddon. Thrust waves the flag of metal like true warriors - garbed in spiked wrist bands, studs and leather!. I love the guitar sound (courtesy of Bill Metoyer of Metallica, Morbid Angel...fame) on here as Thrust bust out killer riff after riff, chugging along at break-neck speed. The vocalist may be hard for some to get into, due the high range of piercing heights his voice often resides. The metal spirit is alive and proudly displayed on such tracks as: "Metallic Attack", "Heavier Than Hell", "Posers Will Die!", and the title track. A great pounding album and a truly overlooked and underrated gem!.

JUGGERNAUT -
"Baptism Under Fire" 1986 LP
(Metal Blade/Restless Records)
 Power metal reigns down with furies of galloping melodic riffage and resonating drums pounding - courtesy of Bobby Jarzombek. When I listen to this record, I get this great rumbling deep in my chest from the driving and heavy darkness that is "Baptism Under Fire"! My fave track has to be "All Hallow's Eve", which starts off with chainsaw guitar scratching then kicks in with some great rhythms and cool lines such as "In the midst of pagan rites...All hallow's eve spirits rise, On the cold shoulders of an icy abyss...". Punched home by vocalist Harlan Glenn's great laid back, smooth delivery. Superb lead work highlights this classic album. A must have!.

GRAVE DIGGER -
"Witch Hunter" 1985 LP
(Noise Recs./Banzai Recs.Canada)
 From the land of Destruction, Sodom, Kreator, Rage, and Halloween comes the mighty Grave Digger, with one of my favorite albums of all time!. Some people

have a hard time with heavily accented singers. In this instance, I personally find Chris Boltendahl to be great and soaring and his accent totally infectious. On this outing, Grave Digger crafted some truly great compositions that will keep head banging feverishly, with it's fast pacing, heavy riffing, thundering war drums, catchy framework and it's moving melodies. This LP is a glowing example of what a great power/speed metal album should sound like. Harmonies and melodies abound and the lead guitar work just smokes. All the tunes are good but some stand-outs are: "Night Drifter", "Don't Kill The Children", "Shoot Her Down", "Storming The Brain", and the title track. I can tell you this holds a soft spot in my heart and when this tape gives out from and age and overuse, if I cannot find another or the vinyl, a small piece of me will die with it, but the memories will live on forever!!. Before I go I just have to mention, on the middle section of the opening track, the guitar interplay is so fucking smooth and graceful, you have got to hear it...it leaves my ass in awe!.

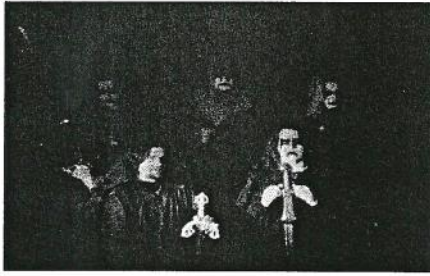


ONSLAUGHT -
"Power From Hell" 1987 LP
(Under One Flag/Combat Recs)
 Hells yeah! This album rules with an iron fist, loaded up with a ultra killer cover and song are not side A or B but side death and side metal. Onslaught play heavy fucking thrash/speed/death metal - simple, raw, powerful, catchy and I mentioned heavy as all fuck!. Vocalist Paul M. barks gruffly but clearly, driving an aural assault through such tunes as: "Damnation", "Skullcrusher", "Lord Of Evil", "The Devil's Legion", and "Steel Meets Steel (hmm...that title reminds me of Hammerfall wonder why!?)", to name but a few. Onslaught would never be accused of being a technical band, and I am sure would never want to be!. However, they are guilty of writing memorable and nastily crushing tuneful compos full of evil and rage. Hells yeah!.



MALTESE FALCON -
"Metal Rush" 1984 LP
(Roadrunner/Attic Recs. Canada)
 This is a very overlooked, very under-rated, heavy metal band from Denmark. A little known secret is this band features in it's ranks, Hal Patino who went on to play bass on a few King Diamond albums!. This is straight forward power/heavy metal with plenty of balls, lots of metal attitude and killer sing-along choruses that get stuck in your head, like the classic metal anthems they are!. Maltese Falcon are solid top to bottom with killer drum work, catchy, heavy riffing steeped with melody and harmony, superb soloing. The vocals are confident, smooth, deep and are belted out with power and high end range, for emphasis where needed. I would love to see this remastered and put on CD, Europe and Japan would fucking eat this shit up quicker than Cartman does his cheesy poofs!. Just wait till you hear this band march through tracks such as: "Rats", "Heavy 'N Loud", "Rebellion", "Alive" and the title track. The track "Headbanger" on here is live and, god, I wish I was there! What a commanding band! Just listen to the driving guitars and the main chorus of "We all know how to headbang, And we do it right!". The solo in this track is so awesome man!. Maltese Falcon holds up true the metal spirit. It makes me proud to be a mealhead!!. This probably won't be easy to find, but leave no used record shop or cut-out bin unturned. You will love me for it!.





C.A. Mag - Could you tell about the rather unique fashion your "Serenades Of The Damned" demo was recorded and how the recording of it differed from your freshly self-released CD in a real studio!!!!. Are you satisfied with the results of both these recordings???

Valdrihk - The demo was taped live at rehearsal on a DAT system (Yes a DAT walkman!-Dale), with a unique microphone at the center of the room. So, naturally the sound isn't that great (in fact, it seems to had been recorded in a tornado!). Nevertheless, it was a good start besides the countless fucks it contains!! The album has a much cleaner, professional sound that is by far more pleasant to the ear, due to the fact that it had been recorded through fifteen hours of studio work instead of 3-4 hours of live performance (on the demo).

C.A. Mag - I already have eluded to the fact of you just putting out your debut album on CD which is entitled "The Mist Softens My Sorrow"; please tell us about it, where was it recorded and what were the studio and pressing costs for it???. Do you hope a European label will pick up the album for release over there or are you planning to just stick to a lot of small distributions???

Valdrihk - We recorded at "Studio Le Mur du Son" in Montreal (Canada). The studio work was through in less than fifty hours so it hasn't been quite expensive, about \$1100. We pressed 500 copies for an additional \$2200. Some copies were sent to Evil Omen records and Candlelight, and we're hoping for a positive response regarding future recordings. But for the moment, we mostly count on lesser distributions for European promotion.

C.A. Mag - Upon the conception of the band why was the name Tenebrae chosen and was any thought given to the fact that there is a Finnish band with the same moniker who have released demos, a 7" ep and last year an album???. What are the plans for North American CD distribution and future touring if any???. What can we expect from a Tenebrae live show???

Valdrihk - The initial members chose this name because it is very representative of our music's essence, nature and lyrical inspiration. Neither I (Valdrihk) nor the first line-up knew that there is another Tenebrae, and we didn't really care as long as it does not interfere with our plans. The two bands are clearly distinguished from one another. We're presently having a distribution deal with Neoblast Productions (Quebec) and a few other local distributors. We are also discussing an eventual quick tour in two or three cities here in Quebec. We get on stage wearing cloaks and armors, sometime sword in hand. Also candelabras, crosses, angels and symbols of Baphomet to add to the visual and theatrical aspect of the show. We may also have a guest vocalist (see the closing answer of this interview to find out the identity of this guest vocalist!-Dale) on stage for female vox or additional vocals.

C.A. Mag - What kind of impact do you hope to have on the underground scene with this new record???. Are you satisfied with the material on it???. Are you happy with the sound and production job???. Some music on the album is the same or roughly the same as some songs or sections of your demo; was the material re-done with new lyrics (and essentially a new identity) in order to sever ties with your former members and their contributions or writings???

Dabraxas - We did not hope at first to have a certain impact on the scene, besides the satanic propaganda that black metal is for. We recorded it (the CD) because we wanted you to hear those songs with a good sound. If someone else appreciates it, well, that's great!
Valdrihk - We are in general very satisfied of this recording except me, for I am never satisfied of what I done. I hate my lyrics and my vocal performance on this album, but I can tell you the next album will show an impressive improvement. It (the CD) sounds great, at least better than the demo (hey why so down on the demo it had a cool primitive sound and is a classic in my mind!!-Dale) and the sound engineer at "Studio Le Mur du Son" did an incredible job. When I joined Tenebrae, Dabraxas handed me some tapes of songs that the former singer had put lyrics on but had took them with him when he departed. He asked me to write new lyrics, for these are great songs and also because the band has nothing to do with it's ex-singer anymore.

C.A. Mag - I recently got a letter from your ex-singer, where he states he thinks your new material is "a Cradle Of Filth rip-off" and that the reason he left was is in part because you guys wanted the band to be "a cool, friendly black metal band"; what do you think about this, and do you think it's just jealousy or what???. What do you think of his new band and do you still speak with Damaroth???

Dabraxas - Well, a lot of people seem to think that we are like Cradle Of Filth, but I really don't think so. The only places where it can be similar is the melodic passages of piano and violins. The person who composes our keyboards is Molek, and the only music he listens to is classical music. Yes, I think he's very jealous of us. When he was with Tenebrae, we did 3 songs where he wrote all the lyrics (we kept the songs, but we changed the lyrics); he was really proud of them and he found it was good black metal. But now he departed from the band, he suddenly thinks all his songs are despicable. Another reason why I think he is jealous is that now we are more popular in the underground scene and he can't take it. But mark my words, he will never tell you that! If he thinks we are a rip-off of Cradle Of Filth, I don't see why his band is more original, or more black metal; it's still amateurish, not to much work (put into it). We also think that he is trying to have a sense of belonging with the black metal attitude like some bands. He absolutely wants

to be associated with it. We don't think you have to live the black metal lifestyle (in black 24 hours a day, hating everyone that does not think like you do, to be only in that world of fantasy, ect...) to be a black metal band. The black metal philosophy is in your soul, not only the dress and all that. We have put aside this; it is narrow-minded and childish. When he'll (Myrkhaal) grow up, he will understand. Tenebrae is open-minded. If the way we are makes us a "cool friendly black metal band", so be it. We have other things to do. We still talk to Damaroth; he has departed for professional reasons.

C.A. Mag - I find in your music the keyboards are a very integral part of your compositions and not just used as many bands to create a false atmosphere to cover up their incompetence with their other instruments, do you agree with this statement???. Also could you describe the overall content of Tenebrae's lyrics???

Valdrihk - Keyboards are the foundation upon which our music is elaborated. So it fulfills a crucial role as a front instrument, much alike the guitars or vocals, rather than to serve only as a background atmosphere. As for the lyrics, vampirism, solitude, suicide and disgust towards christianity and it's filthy poisoned roots are the main themes tackled in "Serenades..." and "The Mist Softens My Sorrow". The next album will probably be a vampire concept, with Luciferian inspirations and still in both french and english like the last release.

C.A. Mag - What are your fave sci-fi/horror/gore movies???. Fave books and authors???. Which are the best 'zines to the bands in the underground and what is your opinion on the importance of 'zines to the underground in general???. What other mags if any have you done interviews with???. Where do you find most of the band's mail is coming from???

Valdrihk - We all enjoy "Excalibur" horror classic entertainmen lot of fantasy



Debraxas

don't read a major Canadian stagnated to acknowledge other mags,



Valdrihk

medieval productions like and the like. We're not movies, but we may horror films, or a grotesque t. Stuff like Stephen King, horror. I also enjoy poetry

lot of 'zines, but we realize promotion means, acts. A large amount of the local scene if it ment. Some interviews but none of them were ever published (we'll just have to change that right Dabraxas!-Dale). Mail comes from all around the sphere, but I can say that it mostly comes

from France, Poland and the United States. Most of the mail is sent by internet.

C.A. Mag - What is your opinion of the Canadian scene???. What bands do you currently listen to???. What are your all-time fave bands and which ones influenced the beginnings of Tenebrae???

Valdrihk - We personally think of the Canadian scene as pitiful, especially in Quebec; bands are narrow-minded to Cannibal Corpse/ Suffocation grind and closed to anything different. The black metal scene in Montreal is nearly non-existent. Dabraxas and Mathieu listen to atmospheric black metal (Darkwoods My Betrothed, Cradle Of Filth), old rock bands (Genesis, Pink Floyd) and classical as well as Molek. I appreciate bands like Summonings, Isengard, Gehenna's Ip, but also material ranging from Skinny Puppy to Autumn Tears and also classical medieval orchestrations. Tenebrae's debut weren't influenced by a particular band, but from the black metal scene in general. There are some talks about Tenebrae being influenced by Cradle Of Filth because of our keyboards but Molek doesn't listen to black metal at all. So how could we be C.O.F. rip-offs since Molek composes all keyboards???. (I haven't heard much of C.O.F.'s new material but maybe people are finding some similarities between the two bands other than the keyboards!?-Dale).

C.A. Mag - You've just found a permanent bassist; please tell us who he is and how you found him???. Have you started writing new tunes with him???. When searching for a new member, must that chosen member share the same tastes and philosophies of the band, or do you just search for the most talented musician possible regardless of his convictions???. What are your views on religion and do you call yourselves satanists???

Valdrihk - His name is Laurnet Seiter and he arrives from France, in March 1996 and was referred to us by one of our contacts. Yes, he is very implicated in our latest compositions. Most importantly he must share our musical convictions, but also a great deal of our interests, beliefs and philosophy. For us, black metal is a state of mind and not a lifestyle, like the wanna-be's who look up at Norwegian black metallers as 24 hours a day incarnated darkness and evil, or so they think of them as. Black metal is purposely a weapon in a war against christianity, not a childish quarrel about who is the fucking truesupreme evil. If that's what black metal is about, then why do we bother recording albums and promoting ourselves instead of retiring ourselves from society and meditate in caverns about which church shall we burn or what deed another act done that makes them posers?. We consider ourselves satanists and we are opposed to christian concepts, especially catholicism. They try to be politically correct by preaching in contradiction to the holy book and by this means refill their deserted churches with mindless clones.

C.A. Mag - What is your CD cover painting depicting and what does it mean to you???. The style of the painting is very surrealistic and obscure or vague; was it done this way in order to reflect the feelings or meaning behind it's concept???

Valdrihk - It represents a great deal of the lyrical content. That is the snow dunes of "Calvacade Toward Frozen Crystal Lakes", the mournful demon of "Like Autumn In Spring", the mist and moon of "Sous Le Regard De La Lune", ect....The painting was done in a vague way to fully represent the mist and so anyone can have a personal interpretation of the scene.

C.A. Mag - What's life like in the Montreal area; do you like it there???. There must be a slew of cool shows there (actually I know there is from my great underground longtime contacts from there!-Dale), due to the large population and large scene there!???. Who's the best live band you have witnessed???

Valdrihk - It's great living in Montreal, except that there's not a lot of cool hangouts presently (It's gotta be better than Alberta!!ha). I must admit there are some pretty good local bands.

Valdrihk & Dabraxas - (best show) that would have been Enslaved in July 1995.

C.A. Mag - Last words and comments on this interview???. What merchandise is currently available???

Valdrihk - Vjohrrnt Freyjaason, former vocalist of Moonlore (another good Quebec act!-Dale), which disbanded recently, has joined the band. He acts as an additional vocalist, so I do mostly all the vocals and lyrics, but he is very present, especially during gigs. The demo "Serenades Of The Damned" is no longer available (this is too bad!, tape traders do not despair I and others have traded this demo around the globe so search for you won't be disappointed!!-Dale), but you can get the full-length debut opus "The Mist Softens My Sorrow" for \$12 CAN (I guess 14 US elsewhere should cover it!-Dale).



Well, that is the end of this in depth and hopefully interesting interview, I hope that you will write this band and support them, they are talented and know how to pen emotional and dark black metal music. I must send out thankx to these two underground souls and brothers of metal (Dabraxas and Valdrihk) for taking the time to answer my questions and


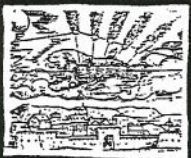



for checking to see if the interview was received, hail!!!. One last note to those who need further reference to the sounds of Tenebrae before ordering the CD I quote the band's bio : "Tenebrae plays a different kind of black metal, mostly dark and aggressive, sometimes more mid-pace with sinister sorrow filled expressions and haunting melodies, macabre keyboard segments, morbid atmosphere and brutal guitars. Powerful drumming and inhuman vocals are the essence of Tenebrae's music."

Contact : Pierre Leclerc, 5224, St-Denis, Montreal, Quebec, Canada H2J - 2M2
email = tenebrae@vir.com



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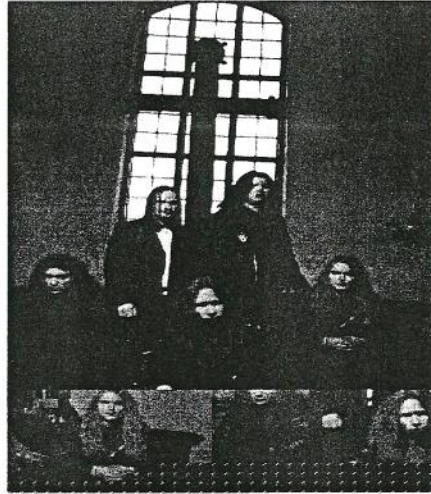
STRATOVARIUS

Stratovarius are a power/heavy metal band I enjoy and appreciate, they are quite unknown in North America, however overseas they are a big band, I thought it would be cool to try and secure a interview with them and at my request my finnish brother in metal did just that and I think it turned out rather well...so read on!!

Questions by Arto Lehtinen

Answers by the singer of Stratovarius Timo Kotipelto

More information on the band : www.netlife.fi/stratovarius



1. Hi Timo, how are you doing and what have the Stratovarius guys been doing lately ??

T: Hi! I'm doing just fine! I've been on a holiday and done some sports (mountain biking and rollerskating) with Jari. Timo mixed one German band called Edguy. Jens has been doing some recording in Sweden and I guess Jörg did the same in Germany.

2. The sixth Strato album titled "Visions" was released last spring. Obviously both the band and the label must have been extremely pleased with the general respond received from the heavy metal public and selling figures as well or am I right ??

T: You are right. We were really surprised by the response. We've been on the charts in many countries like Germany, Italy, Spain, Greece, Japan and in Finland (the 16th week on the top 40, close to going gold here!). We did our best with the album and are happy with the result.

3. As for the lyrical side of "Visions" based on Nostradamus' visions and predictions on how the world heads toward the total end. What is your personal point of view on his predictions, do you rely on taking them 100% seriously or have you become prejudiced and skeptic when reading his predictions ?!

T: To be honest, I really would not like to believe in them...Don't want to die in two years! But he predicted many things like Hitler, Napoleon and World War II so it's quite frightening in a way.

4. How did you get interested in penning the lyrics about Nostradamus' views for "Visions", as the man's standpoints are definitely one of the most used concepts in lyrics of several heavy metal bands ?? "voice" that won't happen to you ?!?!?

T: Yeah, our melodies are quite high and difficult to sing. So far everything's been okay. I've never lost my voice or had to change melodies or sing an octave lower. But you never no...Actually I take a good care of my voice and myself. Meaning I don't drink during touring, I do a lot of warming up, stretching and so-on. Also I do a lot of sports to keep my self fit. Before every tour I also sing a little bit more than normally (which isn't lot...). But I also keep enough brakes in singing. Of course the vocal lessons have helped me a lot.

7. It is obvious the land of the rising sun has fallen on its knees in front of Stratovarius apparently you must have been astonished at having such a glorious support there ? Even other Finnish bands f.ex Sentenced have got an extremely good following there, any clue for this syndrome ?!

T: We don't know any particular reasons why we are as famous as we are in Japan. When we make songs we don't think "Will it sell or not?". We just make the music that we love. I guess people can recognise that our music comes from the heart. Finland is also very mystic and interesting country for Japanese (as Japan is for Finnish people). We have things here that are for them very hard to find (snow, clean nature and a lot of space to live).



TIMO KOTIPELTO

8. As for both North and South America recognised being a more or less complicated area for selling and doing a promotion, but as for the States I have got the impression Stratovarius have gained a solid following going through the power metal audience, have you ever planned on doing promotion of any kind for the North American market?

T: Like you said the States is not an easy country for us (of for any other real metal band). They have their own music scene which differs a lot from European's. But we get a lot of email from the States so I know there are some fans there! But at the moment we haven't done any kind of a promotion for the States. Episode is released there but I don't know if it has been promoted at all. Of course we would like to do some real promotion there and

maybe do a little tour in the near future!

9. Do you agree that countries where heavy and power metal is the popular style are Japan, Germany, Greece ? And what have people's reactions been toward your music and gigs there ?!

T: Nowadays there's also some other countries which are very good for us like: Finland, Spain, Italy, Brazil and Argentina. We did 3 sold out gigs and 2 festival here in Finland in May-June. The crowd was incredible! They sing very loud and show their emotions and that's a lot in Finland! It's the same in Spain, Greece and Japan. In general it's getting better and better. I guess this kind of a melodic metal is coming back!

10. I have always paid attention to your cover art of every Stratovarius album, it is quite obvious that the art has always been playing the important role for you, bringing out some kind of the stratovarius spirit... right ?!?

T: Yes, you got the point. Our music is very symphonic and in a way mystic and "huge". We love covers that are sometimes a little bit hard to explain. And I think when the people see our covers they will get a hint what kind of a music we play. So the cover should always support the music.

11. As for Jörg Michael and Jens Johansson having created the reputation of their own in such classic bands like Dio and Running Wild, of course the most asked one now; How did you meet up those guys after all ? How are you able to rehearse and keep the contact to each other as they happen to dwell elsewhere ?!

T: Timo (Tolkki) has years (he met him in mixing (F.O.H) some just called to Jens and join the band. So it all. Now when we we have the best guys band. They are so funny guys. So we are them!



know Jörg for 4 Germany while bands there. And he asked if he liked to was very easy after have Jens and Jvrg in the world for our talented players and very pleased to

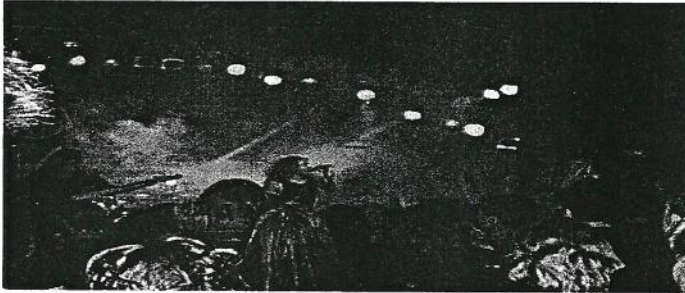
Band being interviewed by JYRK Finnish tv music program

a little bit sarcastic from your point of view, but do you agree that their involvement in

Stratovarius has increased the general interest in the band in the positive way, bringing more and more attention among the metal audience ?!?!?

T: I can't deny it hasn't but the main reason was their talents. But I think it has helped us to gain more publicity all over the world which is a good thing!

13. Do you ever get reading a review who would have got compare you to f.ex



pissed off at written by the one an idea to Helloween ?!

T: At the start I got anymore. Maybe at sounded like them but if somebody still example to Helloween laugh because then what he's talking fans don't do it and they are the ones we make our music for!

pissed but not the first albums we not anymore. And compares us for I just get a good he doesn't know about. Real metal

Live Hamburg, Germany August 28th, 1997

14. In a few interview the guitarist Timo Tolkki has unveiled about the next album, not being a normal studio album, but a full-live album instead. Have any plans been scheduled yet where to record that album ?!?

T: Yes. We will record a couple of gigs during the tour (Athens, Milano and maybe some gigs in Finland). The album should be out in February 1998.

15. Your publication policy has almost been that a new album out every year, well I can't resist my temptation by asking when can we expect to hear the new stuff by Stratovarius ?!?

T: The next studio album will probably be out in the next year's September-October. I can't be sure at the moment. But the plan

plan is to record some new songs next spring so we will see...

16. The most average question now, what sort of music do you listen to nowadays and do your personal bands/artists have some influential factors on Stratovarius ?! Probably not the most nihilistic death metal at all, hah ?!?!?!?

T: We listen to more older bands like Rainbow, Old Iron Maiden, Queensrÿche and so on. Actually I haven't bought any new cds for a long time. Timo Tolkki and Jens listen to classical music a lot.

17. Quite a long interview this time, so to conclude this interview, predict how the future will look like for Stratovarius from the abyss of your eyes

T: Touring, touring, touring. Recording the live album. Touring. Mixing the live album. Making new songs. Recording a pre-production. Recording the next studio album. Promotion. Touring..... It all looks very good for us. As long as I enjoy singing and can do it I am happy.



FRIGHT NIGHT (1989)



TWILIGHT TIME (1992)



DREAMSPACE (1994)



FOURTH DIMENSION
(1995)



EPISODE (1996)



VISIONS (1997)

VISIONS

10 Tracks playing time : 61.04

After the excellent Episode expectations were quite high for this new opus, though outdoing Episode is not any easy task to say the least. Visions is a fine piece of work in it's on right, with a big budget, sound and overall production very well done and are a match for Episode, though there are no choirs or string orchestras this time around. Some choice cuts to check out are Black Diamond, Forever Free, Legions and of course the epic 10 minute closer Visions. The keyboards are much more prevalent this time together with even better drumming is a testament to the fact that Jens and Jorg are adapting well to the band.



Unfortunately as you can see I fucked up the page with the thanks lists, cutting off some names, it was too late this close to print to re-do it so here is a list of people who got cut off and a few last minute additions : Dave and Fleshgrind, Sean "THE drum god" Doran, Jonas and Hostile, Troy and Catharsis Records, Darren "The live bootleg master" Anfinson, K.F.C. for all the killer grubbs!, Graal and Sliver mag, Denis and Sentinel Steel records, Jayson (Hey where are ya man!?) Campbell, War/Hate Productions and that about does it!

IT FLOWS THRU MY VEINS LIKE THE STEAMY RIVERS OF ACHERON!!!

DEMO REVIEWS



ABSONANT CADENCE - "Emergence" DEMO 1996

Outta the mighty Quebec scene comes A.C., with this professional 7 song demo, filled with brutal semi-technical death metal with a good sound. Absonant draws influences from here and there, but none stick out enough to the point where you go, "that sounds like..." The riffing is heavy and chugging, with some nice drum work and killer deep semi-understandable growlings supplied by Pierre. The song structures are the band's strong point, as they sound very fresh & always keep the listener guessing. Which, in my book, gives this young band a step up on the competition since this trait takes many bands years to develop (some never do!) and mature enough to grasp such a concept. Support this dedicated band and check them out live - they play out a lot. Lookout for new material soon as well. \$7CAN/\$7 USA elsewhere. c/o Dominic Simard, 2183 Rue Vimy, Chicoutimi, Quebec, CANADA G7G 3X3.

DROGHEDA/MORTICITE - "Unabomber/Sufferage" SPLIT 7" EP 1996 (Extremist Recs)

Well, these two American death/grind bands sure do fit each other. On side one is Drogheda, with muddy guitar production (on purpose of course!), and garbled belchathon vocals. The drums are similar to hearing your neighbors slug it out against your wall! Moritcrite, keep things very much the same with the guitar sound (a shade cleaner, but not much). The vocals on this side of the vinyl, are a nice mix of a cross between hardcore vocals and the deathroar growl ala Suffocation. The latter vocal, is a deep husky one like your local seven foot bouncer, may possess. I must say, I really dig Moritcrite as they remind me a lot of Monestary. (old band made up of Sinister/Entombed members), which I totally loved! \$3 US(North America) \$4 US elsewhere. Extremist Recs., c/o John Roody, 2221 12St. SW, Akron, OH., USA 44314.

VULPECULA - "Phoenix Of The Creation" 7" EP 1996 (Eternal Darkness)

Here's a relatively new atmospheric black metal band, which features in it's

ranks Chuck Keller of the sadly now defunct (but forever immortal horde) Order From Chaos along with Chris from Nepenthe. Described in their bio as being a cross of early material by the likes of Mortem, Samael, and Arcturus - which I hear, but throw in a little older Katatonia and a smidge of O.F.C.. I have also heard it said that Vulpecula have and would blow O.F.C. away, which is taking things a bit far as they were the mighty kings!. Having said that Phoenix Of The Creation is a great release by an excellent outfit, who are one of the best at combining raw and heavy black/death with pure atmosphere, to create quite a chilling slab of vinyl. \$6 USA everywhere for this piece of black art. Eternal Darkness, 124 Mayer Dr., Oakdale, PA. 15071, USA.

VULPECULA - "Fons Immortalis" Demo/Reh. 1996

Well, above I reviewed the bands 7" EP, which was a repressing of their '95 demo tape. Now they have recorded some new material for us. This is extremely interesting stuff here as things are much less obscure this time out. The riffing and song flow is heavy and at the same time mesmerizing, but in an edge-of-your-seat and ready-to-pounce as adrenaline rushes into a fever pitch!. The vocals I like more, they were not as buried as on the seven-inch - much more in-your-face. Last news: Vulpecula have been signed to Merciless Records from Germany. They have just released a MCD with the same title as this release!. Send a blank tape + \$1 USA/1 IRC elsewhere. Vulpecula, P.O. Box 8471, Kansas City, MO. 64114, USA or Eternal Darkness (See addy above)



Green Solution?

GORBAGE - "Green Solution" Demo 1996

Fuck ya! - look who's back... the mighty death masters Gorbage. Ultra heavy and gruelingly fast crusty death metal, add to which a plethora of groove oriented riffs and a performance behind the kit which gels beautifully together. You will also find spitting out of your speakers, a two pronged vocal attack (one's just an insane gurgle, while the other is reminiscent of Benediction's Dave Ingram on the 'Grand Leveler' LP). I got into the lyrics more this time - especially on "Encephalic Ghoul" (which is about the general fuck over we receive from the Canadian gov't) and "Freedom Of Choice" (a shot at the

vegan straight edge preaching, which is almost as bad as organized religion like christianity and the Jehova's). Anyways, this 30 minute plus blitzkrieg is finished in hilarious Gorbage fashion with a track called "Darth Simpson" - you gotta hear it!

Only \$5 world, c/o Gerald Smith, 13 Earleton Ave., Dartmouth, NS, B2Y 2A6, CANADA.

EPIDEMIC CAUSE - "Promo Tape" 1996

I have always been amazed by bands from the land of the rising sun. Whether it be hardcore insanity, feedback noise, or black/death, the bands always manage to impress in one way or another. Be it their aggression, or simple distinctiveness; they always win me over!. Finally an exception to the rule!- Epidemic Cause with their boring, repetitive metal hybrid with sleepy, droning guitars - and something I have always despised - mechanized drums. All of which is interlaced with laid back, shouted out vocals which are much too low in the mix. Just plain bad. Not sure if this extra-strength sleeping pill is available to the public, or if a prescription is needed, but you could write and find out. Although I wouldn't advizzzzze it. Lastest news: this band has released a full-length CD now, so if the above described sounds like your thing look for it. c/o Tomimatsu, 3-1-21-207 Nakahama, Joutou Ku, Osaka 536, JAPAN.

SICKNESS - "Primordial Brutality" Demo 1996

An aptly titled cassette which superbly describes Sickness. Straight from the opening track, "Hate", with it's barbaric brutality is in the vein of Malevolent Creation mixed with Broken Hope. I must be a sucker for this stuff cuz I loved listening to this four song monster - it may not be all that original, but it is heavy as all fuck and the musicians are competent and make up a tight knit unit. This Sickness is the Greek one and not to be confused with the American one who have released an album. \$3 US everywhere. c/o Samkous Nick, 44, Bizanou St., 144 51, Athens, GREECE.

SICKNESS - "Advance Demo" 1997

Well, my friend Nick of Sickness recorded me some of the freshly recorded material for their (as of that time) unreleased demo which should be out now. The four tracks present are: "Stagnation Of Deadness", "Voluptuous Incubus", "Enthroned In The Ghastly Depth's", and "Flesh Power Dominion". The progression from the "Primordial..." demo is quite evident on the new material. It is quite easy to pick out the maturation process as the compos are very smooth and proficient. Sickness have dropped a lot of their earlier influence in favour of a cleaner style. I must say I am a tad disappointed as they have dropped some of their pure brutal edge. However, these trax are right on pace with some of the better popular death metal bands over the last number of years. On a side note, Nick the drummer of Sickness, also drums in Kawir who recently released an album on Cacophanous recs.

DEMO REVIEWS

SECTION VIII -

"Promo Tape" 1997

Four trax on offer: "God Bless The Phobophobe", "Disturbed Innocence", "Stained", and "Crucifusion". Section VIII is the brainchild of Wes Sontag, who some may know as the guitarist of the deathrash gods Disciples Of Power. They are heavy thrash metal band, peppered with sparkling solos, compelling compos and solid drumming. I seen this band live and they are tight, heavy and energetic with vocalist growler 'Bleeding Lung' prouncing about insanely. Not too mention they end their shows with a killer rendition of Slayer's "Reign In Blood"! Section VIII, 17218 111 A St., Edmonton, Alberta, T5X 3K2, CANADA.

EPOCH OF UNLIGHT -

"Promo Tape" 1996

This is a low priced promotional tape that comes on a 90 minuter. It includes 3 advance CD tracks, a 10 song rehearsal from 01/04/96 and finally a live show from 12/17/95. Epoch play fast, raw and catchy black metal. This tape showcases a band that knows how to write tuneful, memorable material. Blasted home with heaviness, speed and topped with some great perverted, glass gurgling black metal rasps. Their CD is out now on Exhume Distribution, but send a American dollar or I.R.C. to get the Exhume catalogue. Exhume Distro., 1615 Vera Cruz, Memphis, TN. 38117, USA.



BEKHIRA -

"Self-Titled" Demo 1996

After being rather impressed by this bands 1995 rehearsal tape I traded for, I was looking forward to this. Bekhira play black metal horde metal of majestic proportions mixed with extreme forcefulness and blackened speed. The pure atmospherics of hate, hostility and militant aggression are varied with gloomy funereal darkness and imposing power. Four songs are included on this tape "The Grand Evil Spirit", "Utopian Millenium", "The Hunt Of The Garwalls", and "Gas The Christ". Order this tape from A.M.S.G. for \$7 US, no band contact is wanted! A.M.S.G., Centre MBE 175, 82 rue Jeanne d'Arc, 76000 Rouen, FRANCE.

WARVOMIT -

"Sadistic Perverted Majesty" Demo '97

Warvomit is a Belgian three piece, who seem to have their hearts in the right place. The song structures are uninnovative, repetitive backed up by sloppy drums. I

like the vocals, laid back but strong all the way thru, though they get a bit monotone sounding after a while. I do like the guitar sound on this tape. And, Warvomit comes up with some cool riffs, but play them into the ground! With a much tighter drum performance, a lot more work put into the arrangements, I think this band could be killer. Die hard mid-paced deathrash fans check this. Warvomit, c/o Bartholemy P., Rue Cardin 8, B - 4837 Membach, BELGIUM.

TOTENTANZ -

"Shadow Spectrum" Demo 1997

Hmm...ambient music is not something I am overly fond of. At least this is not your usual keyboard affair. The atmospherics at times, bring to mind the Canadian one man project, Drowning In Solitude, whose '93 demo "Molested By Spirits", I really liked. All the voice parts, are very vague and distorted ghost like moans. This music makes me think of something you might hear on an old disturbing B horror movie (i.e. "Defiance Of Good" or "I Spit On Your Grave" and the like). This is mixed with a slightly gothic feel and some upbeat moments (guys dump those, they are gay!). Something of note is this band is comprised of members from Darkness Enshroud/Black Funeral/Valefor. Good emotional stuff, and considering I usually have an intense dislike for this style, you know it is good, fans of stuff like Akhaharu or Will O' The Witch, will enjoy. Band contact: c/o Micheal Lavachtoler, 3122 Dunster St., Indianapolis, IN. 46227, USA or order for \$5USA/6 World from: Crescent Moon Imports, Box 342162, Milwaukee, WI. 53234-2162, USA.

MORTIFIER -

"Promo Tape" 1996

Italian black/death, first off the vocals of Arcanum, remind me a lot of Immortal on their debut "Diabolical Fullmoon Mysticism", and are very good. This band is obviously talented and come up with some nice riffs and interesting structures (in a few spots). I hear some Immortal influence as well in the music, but oddly enough I find the sound of this band to have a very North American feel to them! The more times I listen to this the more I like it. These disciples of darkness know how to construct fine black art! Evil Metal Horde, c/o Iaia Carlo, Via Custoza 24, 72017 Ostuni (Br), ITALY.

DROHM -

"A Winter's Burial" Demo 1996

3 tracks of flowing, American black metal with some nice death metal overtones, especially in the vocals. At time, I find the music is dream like in a dark way, and not from the keyboards either. But the rhythms and guitar sound are lucid and never let you completely settle down. As they hit with blasting, deep growls and the odd immense and jolting heavy chug. Song titles include: "A Winter's Burial", "Brink Of Dusk", and "Fallen Leaves...". Really good music and for some damned reason their guitar sound reminds me once again of Drowning In Solitude, which hasn't had

play in my stereo in a long while!?. I am going to have to dig that puppy out. It was a truly excellent demo; and, so is this! Drohm, Box 452, Meredith, NH. 03253, USA.

S.C.A.L.P. -

"Through Eternity" Demo 1997

Dirgy, slow metal that moves with the speed of a Russian bear. S.C.A.L.P. have been around for a while and this is at least their 2nd demo, if not 3rd. I had heard some good things about this band, however I am not too impressed. The songs are stripped down, and of a contrived sounding nature. It does not sound natural at all, coming off sounding very forced and loosely executed. For some reason also, I find the guitar sound to be very irritating. On top of that, the vocals of Rizhenck, sound very tortured and not in a really depressive or melancholic way, which would aid the music. They sound annoyed and uncomfortable or pissed, like he is taking a dump and is having a tough time squeezing one off. The tape comes with 7 trax and a nice fold out J-card, with lyrics and photo. Order for \$5US World: S.C.A.L.P., Novosilskaya ST., 10-39, Orel 302030, RUSSIA.

NOMICON -

"Promo Tape" 1996

I was interested to get this. I remember always perusing tape trader lists, thinking I should check Nomicon's I believe it was demo '92 or '93 called "Tri- angle". For some reason, I never did. So, now I got this. I must say I am very disappointed! This is very weak. Let me set the scene, very stale and riffs and background rhythms, average sort of thin black metal vox. Mixed with some weird and exceptionally gay funky, techno induced beats, that are really sad! Did I mention nice cover!?! Anyways next! Nomicon, Tokkelinkuja 4 A 2, 00500 Helsinki, FINLAND.

SOULSCAR -

"Self-Titled" Demo 1997

Soulscar, despite an obvious sound toward the genre, can't be called a typical death metal band. While the structure and intensity are at the extreme there is something different about the sound that really makes it stand in a different light. The question of importance however is whether this recorded sound is as a result of bad production or it was strived for completely. Putting the production flaws aside (as certain songs indicate much of that buzzing sound was not intended in the music) the band still does hold some unique qualities. The music is extremely easy to get into, that is it holds a certain riffing structure with an upbeat pattern with neither an excess in emotion or technicality, plain and simple. The rest of the music basically situates itself around this guitar driven core; not to downplay the intriguingly industrial style drumming. To the point where even Andrew realized it by mixing them low, the vocals are nothing spectacular and are played as just another melodic instrument (quite harmonized and without rapid fluctuations in intensity). For a demo band I don't think one could expect anything more than what Soulscar provides. While the production on some of the songs is not very good, the skillful guitar work more than compensates. It escapes the death genre somewhat by not being too muddy sounding, a trend we see with many bands now. Definitely worth checking out and hopefully an album is in the near future. Soulscar is Andrew Staehling - Neil St. Laurent

SCEPTER

The phenomenon of revitalizing the whole “old metal” sound is sweeping the globe, but some of us have stayed true to this vision the entire time!. While thrash, death and black metal have each individually left their mark on me both as a listener and as a critic, nothing has touched me as deeply as just plain old, outright, balls to the wall, heavy fuckin’ metal!. Some other people that have never “kicked” the metal “habit” are the trio that calls themselves Scepter from Chicago, Illinois in these United States!. Their debut demo “Up Thy Ass” belongs in every metal fan’s collection, no matter how lightly you take the genre!. 4 songs of aggressive hell bent, metal anthems and no less you get. It is available from both me and the band for \$5 US. More recently the band released a 4 song mini CD that is equally aggressive in it’s aural assault, this too is available from both the band and me (Eternal Darkness Creations) for \$7 US, I will let bassist/ vocalist John take over from here...



John Bassist/vocalist

Since I really didn’t give much of a bio why don’t you introduce yourself and your band, by filling in any necessary information of the history and prehistory of Scepter!. “Hello readers. My name is John and I am the bassist/vocalist for Scepter. Scepter also consists of Todd on guitars and Eric on drums. Beginning with Scepter’s prehistory, let’s go back to 1987. I had joined my first serious band called The Dead Youth. By 1988 Todd had joined Violent Insanity. Our bands often played together so that is how Todd and I became acquainted. Eric also joined Violent Insanity soon after. By 1991 I was getting frustrated with the direction that The Dead Youth was going in, so I asked Todd if he wanted to work on a couple of songs that the rest of The Dead Youth shot down. Eric joined in and within 2 jam sessions Nostradamus was born!. That union only lasted about 6 months due to commitments to our main bands.

In 1993 I got kicked out of The Dead Youth and Violent Insanity dissolved due to lack of members. That left Todd and I to concentrate on Nostradamus full time!. Eric wasn’t available then so we knew we’d have to get another drummer. Since this would not be the original Nostradamus line up, Todd and I felt a new name was in order so in the spring of 1994 Scepter was officially born!!. We recruited a drummer named Dave and in the winter of 1994 we recorded the now legendary “Up Thy Ass” 4 assault EP. Shortly after that Dave left the band due to personal matters and Eric joined us once again. We recorded our latest effort “Metal Supremacy” in 1995 and that brings us up to the present. Still awake?.

Was “Up Thy Ass” your first demo?. Did Nostradamus record anything?. Are you satisfied with “Up Thy Ass”?. “Nostradamus mad a four song rehearsal tape but we never released it. “Up Thy Ass” is Scepter’s first release. So far we’ve gone through about 800 tapes by sale, trade and promotion. Just about all of the reviews we’ve either heard or read about it were positive. We are completely satisfied with “Up Thy Ass” because it sounds as good today as when it was recorded. It has a timeless quality and will never sound dated. We love it and that is the most important thing.”

Your production style on “Up Thy Ass” was very Horst Muller/Celtic Frost-ish circa 1984 sounding. I thought it very much like “Emperor’s Return”, was this sound intentional?. Do you hear this comparison often?. Who produced “Up Thy Ass?. **Could you tell us of the processes that went into creating and recreating such a legendary sound?.** “Yes we have had many Frost comparisons with our sound. I think that is mainly due to our straight-forwardness of our recording. We’ve always thought that albums like “Morbid Tales”, “Dressed To Kill” and “Too Fast For Love” (Leathur Records version) sounded because of the straight-forwardness. We recorded “Up Thy Ass” at Hair Bear studios and it was produced by Jeff Islinger and Scepter. Jeff’s a great engineer because he’ll get you the sound you’re after and suggests things that are normally taken for granted yet could be easily overlooked.

The sound we were going for was just the natural sound of the band with good sonic separation of the individual instruments. We don’t use effects other than a little delay or reverb. We’re pretty much a plug-in and go kind of band and I think that “Up Thy Ass” shows that. I’ve heard a tape of Celtic Frost rehearsing for “Morbid Tales” and it sounds basically the same as the album. A band must already have a sound and know what they want before attempting a studio recording”

Who was behind the helm on “Metal Supremacy”?. Could you tell us a little of what went into writing the tracks on the mini CD and tell us how the recording went?. Any interesting stories to had there?. “Again the same team produced “Metal Supremacy” (with the exception of Dave of course). All of the songs were written at the same time as the songs for “Up Thy Ass” except for “Nostradamus” which was written back in 1991. We chose to put out two releases ourselves rather than put them on a full album in order to develop as a band and build a solid foundation over time. We feel that we are just now starting to tap into our full potential. These days too many bands go for the first deal that comes their way rather than planning for the long haul. We took a little longer recording “Metal Supremacy” because we tried to capture more of an “album” this time around. Who can tell what is album quality these days anyway with all of the black metal recordings being passed off as “album” quality. I think the psychological ramifications of pressing a recording onto a CD instantly registers as an “album” quality product to most listeners simply because it is

on CD! (I think so too -Keith). So whether or not "Metal Supremacy" is a sonic improvement over "Up Thy Ass" is up to the listener. We love it and that is all that matters. As far as interesting stories during the recording session... Jeff, Eric and I were all wasted for the duration so maybe that's why it took a little longer to record! HA!!!"

How has "Metal Supremacy" been received by the public?. How about the press? How can my readers get ahold of a copy and what labels are selling it?. "Some people prefer "Metal Supremacy" to "Up Thy Ass" and vice versa, but for the most part the mini CD has been well received by zines and public alike. Some distributors carrying "Metal Supremacy" are Merciless Records(GER), Near Dark(SWE), Abyss(USA), Repulse(SPA), Displeased(HOL), Bleed(FRA), Eternal Darkness(USA) and many others. One can always write Scepter as well. "Metal Supremacy" is available for \$7 worldwide and "Up Thy Ass" is still available for \$5 worldwide. Scepter/ P.O. Box 388068/ Chicago, IL. 60639-8068, USA".



Eric Drums

I am aware that Scepter has preceded this trend but what do you think of all of the bands reverting back to the traditional ways of metal and hellfire?. Especially in Europe, what do you think of bands like Bewitched, Dissection, Nifelheim and the like who are pretty much the cream of the "new crop"?. "Bands should play whatever they want to play. Perseverance and longevity always separate the real bands from the trendies. Bands who do nothing to innovate usually disappear when they run out of ways to exploit the work of others. I have always been into metal and hellfire so bands reverting back to the old ways probably never knew the old ways to begin with. (How true -Keith). When a band decides to "get back to their roots" I ask myself why did they leave their roots to begin with. These days all you need is a bootleg Hellhammer shirt, some



Todd Guitars

spikes and bullet belts, invoke the names of certain old bands and PRESTO!. You're instantly "true". Ten years ago if you saw some sick fuck wearing a Destruction shirt or a bulletbelt you knew he was the real deal. Nowadays it is hard to tell who the enemy is. I can't believe that every "old school" person today is for real or we wouldn't have been subjected the lame thrash and death metal of the early 1990's. Where were all of these "true warriors" of today 10 years ago when we needed them?. My main beef with the "old school" trend is that when record labels use the 1980's tag as a marketing tactic it cheapens the feelings and memories of the past. Scepter is a 1990's band and proud of it!. Trends will come as they will go, but bands like Scepter will stand the test of time because we play metal to please ourselves and not to please others."

I know you do not like to be labeled (the band that is) as thrash, black or death metal, and that just the term "metal" suffices. Do you think that labels are limiting and misleading?. How are some of the interesting ways in which Scepter has been labeled?. "For us, "metal" is all we need. We have been influenced by so many metal styles that to call ourselves just "thrash", "black", "death", "hardrock", or just "heavy metal" would be inaccurate. This is the 1990's we don't want to rehash the past. No one else is writing music we want to hear so we do it ourselves. We have been called a various mixture of all of the styles I just mentioned and that is fine by us. We take all the great music we have been influenced by, add our own ideas and create METAL!. Pure and simple. Bands should label their music with what they feel in their hearts."

What five albums sum up the term "metal" to you?. "Morbid Tales", "Too Fast For Love", "Dressed To Kill", "Black Metal", and "Reign In Blood"."

What is Scepter like live?. What can one expect walking into a Scepter show?. Do you do any covers live?. What would be the ultimate cover for Scepter to do?. "A Scepter concert consists of three fuckers abusing their instruments, banging their heads and driving the audience into a insane metal frenzy!!!. All of the songs off of "Up Thy Ass" and "Metal Supremacy" are fair game for a Scepter performance as well as some new ones like "I'm Going To Hell", "Death Spell", and "Swastika". The only cover we have ever done live was "Oriental Masquerade" as an intro. Right now we are too busy creating our own music to spend time learning someone else's material. Most of the bands/songs we'd like to cover have already been disgraced by other bands. We have some covers in mind maybe one day..."

If you could, please give us a brief rundown on what the songs on "Metal Supremacy" deal with?. "Metal Supremacy" is about being a METALHEAD., thinking the way you want and not letting society's "betters" tell you how to live your life. Everyday real METALHEADS triumph over the followers of the world by being our own persons. "Death's Head" is about the lame aspects of eternity and how it's not worth worrying about dying because it is unavoidable. "Tetagrammaton" is about Solomon's Seal and his conjurations. Finally "Nostradamus" is about the healer/prophet/astrologer himself."

How long have you been playing bass?. Do you play any other instruments?. What is Scepter's practice regiment?. "I have been playing bass since 1985. As a kid I played piano, saxophone and trumpet. I have never stuck with them because I needed a ROCK instrument. I wasn't into the drums and guitar was too delicate for me. I was into Steve Harris and Nikki Six so I came to the conclusion that bass was for me, it's twelve years later and I am still playing bass so I guess I made the right decision. As for practicing we usually just work on what we need to for the time (i.e. during the "Metal Supremacy" day we work on "Metal Supremacy" songs). We never force anything out. If practice becomes a chore it's not worth it!."

Is it hard on your voice to sing in the fashion that Scepter vocalizes?. Have you ever had a problem with that?. How would

you describe Scepter's vocal style because whilst you don't grunt you definitely don't shriek. How do you describe it?. "It took awhile to break my voice in but it takes time to perfect like any other instrument. My main priority as a vocalist is to sound as sick as possible yet understandable. I always liked the qualities Tom Warrior, Cronos, Alice Cooper, and Tom Angelripper had in their voices. Maybe that crossection is a good description of my voice. Being a bassist first, vocals have always been a secondary concern for me."

What bands have you played out with?. Are people that see you live surprised by your straightout approach?. What have given you their "seal of approval"?. "We have played with Funeral Nation, Mortar, Cianide, Corpse vomit, Ember and Eternal Hatred. Chicago has some pretty diverse bands so others probably just look at us as one more piece of the mosaic. Most bands here, wisely, are only concerned with themselves and their own sound. I suppose we have the seal of approval from the aforementioned bands. Other bands outside of Chicago we share a mutual support with are Vulpecula, Abigail, Pentacle, Deceased, Occult and Typhon".

Any comments in closing?. "Believe in your METAL."

I hope you have enjoyed these few words with a real metal meister! (I know I did Keith, my metal brother!! Thank you!!!-Dale). Remember the name-Scepter and buy their stuff!!!. ALL metal fans must own a copy of "Metal Supremacy" or else F.O.A.D!!!!!!!!!!!!!!.



Ha here's a few messages from the friendly Canadian government to your humble editor!. More than a few times I have had items confiscated by the government some things they gave back but most they kept the rat bastards!. In case you were wondering below they refer to "zines as "pamphlets" dumbasses. Just thought I would throw this in a share my laughs with everyone else!!.

Revenue Canada Customs and Excise / Revenu Canada Douanes et Accises Canada

**NOTICE OF DETENTION/DETERMINATION
AVIS DE RETENUE OU DE CLASSEMENT TARIFAIRE**

Importer/Importateur

**DALE ROY
5911 58TH STREET
ROCKY MTN HOUSE, ALTA
TOM 1T4**

Regional Control No. N° de contrôle régional	
Point of Entry Bureau d'entrée	VANCOUVER CMC
Point of Entry Control No. N° de contrôle du bureau d'entrée	803 K27 7075
Date	8 July 1993

PART A — NOTICE OF DETENTION

PARTIE A — AVIS DE RETENUE

The following goods have been detained for a determination of tariff classification. Once a determination has been made, you will be notified in writing.

Les marchandises désignées ci-après ont été retenues aux fins du classement tarifaire. Nous vous aviserons par écrit du classement effectué.

Description of goods/Désignation des marchandises

**PAMPHLETS & 2 AUDIO TAPES—GOAT PENIS
DEATH CULT—DEVoured IN HOLYNESS
CW800630441CA**

Exporter/Exportateur

WILD RAGE BOX 3302, MONTEBELLO, CA 90640

Calgary Customs Mail Center
1100-49 Ave. NE
Calgary, Alberta
T2E 0A0

Date:

IMPORTER NAME: DALE ROY P.O. BOX 682 BLACKFALDS, ALBERTA TOM OJO	REGIONAL CONTROL NO. CU042248235CA
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The following material has been detained at the Calgary Customs Mail Center. The material listed below has been reviewed and found to contain descriptions or depictions of the following:

Description of Goods Imported	sex with degradation	sexual assault	sex with bondage external control	sexual acts involving juveniles/ juveniles in a sexual context	incest	bestiality	sex with violence	other description:
ONE (1) ADVERTISEMENT	X							INSERTION OF FOREIGN OBJECTS IN AN ORIFICE

As the portrayal of sex was found to be the main object of the material, and as it contained the above descriptions/depictions, it is therefore considered to be obscene, as that term is defined in section 163(8) of the CRIMINAL CODE, and its importation into Canada prohibited.

Editor's Playlists For The Last 6-8 Months or so....



ALBUMS (TOP 12)

Testament - "Demonic" 1997 LP
 Unlord - "Schwarzwald" 1997 LP
 Autopsy - "Mental Funeral" 1991 LP
 Earth Crisis - "Destroying The Machines" 1995 LP
 Hypocrisy - "The Final Chapter" 1997 LP
 Order From Chaos - "Stillbirth Machine" 1993 LP
 Grim Reaper - "See You In Hell" 1984 LP
 Tad Morose - "A Mended Rhyme" 1997 LP
 Carcass - "Symphonies Of Sickness" 1989 LP
 Halloween - "Original Motion Pic. Soundtrack" '78 LP
 Edge Of Sanity - "The Spectral Sorrows" 1993 LP
 Venom - "The Second Coming (5/25/96)" Live LP

MCD/MINI-LP/CEP(TOP 10)

Behemoth - "Return Of The Northern Moon" '93 CEP
 Mortuary Drape - "Into The Drape" 1992 MCD
 Helloween - "Self-Titled" 1985 Mini-LP
 Sarcófago - "I.N.R.I." 1989 Mini-LP
 Will O' The Witch - "Aradia And The Gospel Of Witches" 1992 Cassette EP
 Venom - "Canadian Assault" 1985 Mini-LP
 Dismember - "Misanthropic" 1997 MCD
 Savatage - "The Dungeons Are Calling" '85 Mini-LP
 Sodom - "In The Sign Of Evil" 1984 CEP
 Kataklysm - "The Mystical Gates Of..." 1993 MCD

DEMOS (TOP 10)

Twisted Tower Dire(USA) - "Triumphing True Metal" Promo Tape 1997
 Crematory(SWE) - "Self-Titled" Demo # 2 1991
 Death SS(ITA) - "Horned God Of The Witches" Demo 1982
 Bekhira(FRA) - "Self-Titled" Demo 1996
 Midnight Sun(FIN) - "Self-Titled" Demo # 1 1996
 Morbid Darkness(CAN) - "Return From Death" Demo 1994
 Ancient Rites(BEL) - "Dark Ritual" Demo 1990
 Autopsy(USA) - "Charred Remains" Demo 1988
 Ares Kingdom(USA) - "Self-Titled" Promo 1997
 Grand Belial's Key(USA) - "Goat Of A Thousand Young" Demo 1992

7" EP (TOP 10)

Dark Tranquility - "A Moonclad Reflection" '92 7" EP
 Entety - "Cadaveric Necrogrind" 1993 7" EP
 Impaled Nazerene - "Goat Perversion" 1991 7" EP
 Monestary/Sinister - "Split 7" EP" 1991
 Incantation - "Entrantment Of Evil" 1989 7" EP
 Pungent Stench - "Extreme Deformity" 1989 7" EP
 Profantica - "As Tears Stain The Altar..." 1993 7" EP
 Vulpecula - "Phoenix Of Creation" 1996 7" EP
 Plutocracy - "Freedom Denied" 1990 7" EP
 Ancient Rites - "Evil Prevails" 1992 7" EP

REHEARSAL TAPES (TOP 5)

Cardinal Sin(SWE) - "Instrumental Rehearsal" 1995
 Dimmu Borgir(NOR) - "Rehearsal 08/94"
 Slaughter(CAN) - "Rehearsal 10/25/85"
 Tenebrae(CAN) - "Rehearsal 10/20/94"
 Celtic Frost(SWI) - "Rehearsal 07/84"

LIVE AUDIO BOOTLEGS (TOP 5)

Disciples Of Power(CAN) - "Red Deer, Alberta, Canada 12/20/95"
 Venom(UK) - "Toronto, Ontario, Canada 03/31/85"
 Root(CZE) - "Brno, Czech Republic 12/01/93"
 Benediction(UK) - "Montreal, Quebec, Canada 18/07/94"
 Decide(USA) - "Montreal, Quebec, Canada 06/10/92"

LIVE VIDEO BOOTLEGS (TOP 5)

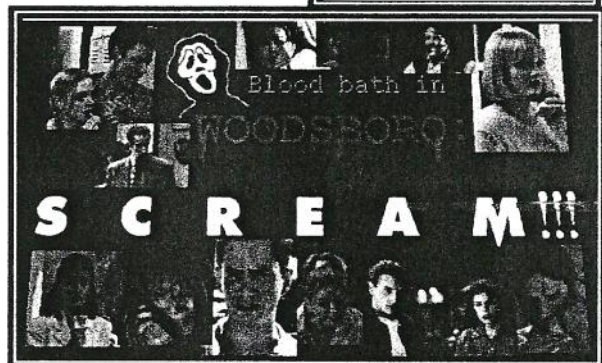
Dissection(SWE) - "Charlotte, North Carolina, USA 03/05/96"
 Masochist(USA) - "Someone's Basement, USA 1993"
 Madball(USA) - "Milwaukee Metalfest, WI., USA 07/26/96"
 Sigh(Jap) - "Kawaguchi, Japan 05/26/94"
 Cradle Of Filth(UK) - "Portugal 07/02/94"

BIBLE OF DEATH/GRIND VOL # 1&2

Brutal Truth - "Extreme Conditions Demand..." '92 LP
 Cryptopsy - "Blasphemy Made Flesh" 1994 LP

TV SHOWS (TOP 5)

The X-Files
 WCW Monday Night Nitro
 Jerry Springer
 Anything on the Comedy Channel
 South Park!!!



MOVIES (TOP 12)

Halloween (1978)
 Reservoir Dogs (1992)
 Scream (1997)
 Clerks (1995)
 Subspecies I-III('90's)
 Stargate (1994)
 Good Will Hunting ('98)
 Tommy Boy (1995)
 Titanic (1998)
 The Lost Boys (1987)
 Dazed And Confused (1993)
 Stand By Me (1986)



Here is an interview I did with the mighty Eternal Darkness mag/label/distribution from Pennsylvania. It is long and I hope in depth, the way I like interviews to be. Keith is a long time undergrounder so read carefully he speaks words of wisdom and intelligence that comes with experience. Read on...

ETERNAL DARKNESS

Tell us about the year and age you first got into the underground!??.

Okay, I first got into metal around 1982, when I was about 10 years old with bands like Iron Maiden and bands of that nature that were really big at the time. Then every year I was into it (metal) I wanted more and more extreme stuff. I first heard Venom in '84, and I first

got Venom in '85 with "Welcome To Hell" and that sent me on my journey to the underground.

What were the first demo/zines/bands you originally got into???

The first 'zine I ever saw or read was called Unholy Book and I think it was from Texas, I'm not sure but I bought it in a local record store here and loved it. That inspired me all the way up to until today, it still inspires me. Metal Forces, was always big back when that was more of a 'zine then a magazine, it was always big on my list. Morbid...Morbid magazine from Norway and Sweden, when he (the editor) moved to Sweden. Umm...early demos, Dreamdeath - "More Graveyard Delving" (demo '86), was a real big one that inspired me to get more into the underground with tape trading, a lot of Pittsburg bands like Dreamdeath, Bird Of Prey, early Necropolis...uh...

What was the first band you wrote!??.

That would be Pedophile in Arizona...it's kind of a funny story, cause I wrote away for Morbid mag from Norway. I was living in Mesa, Arizona and (when) I got Morbid mag, I read about Pedophile, who lived 2 streets over and I wrote them through a Norwegian magazine (There in lies one of the true beauties of the underground scene! -Dale). That was the first band, I ever wrote.

When did you first begin tape trading???

I started tape trading with my friends in 1986. When I got my first dual deck stereo in 1986. I moved to Arizona (From Pennsylvania), I met lots of people who were into tape trading and the scene down there. So, I really expanded when I moved down there in 1987. I started building a list.

Okay...without getting too deep into your record label or your mag yet. Do you feel your tape trading suffers, due to restraints on your time, produced by your other activities!??.

Oh yeah! Good question, I really do. I'm afraid, (anymore) I only have a couple of tape traders and your one of them (Yes, I am I count myself lucky Keith's list fucking rocks! -Dale). You know for yourself how long it takes me to get tapes back to people. But I always apologize to 'em and always try to send neat stuff when I can. But yeah it does suffer.

When and how did you get the idea for Eternal Darkness mag!??.

Okay, I was reading a 'zine from...I was really into 'zines in the like the mid to late '80's. I was reading a 'zine from New Jersey called Hammerhead and said to myself "hey I could do this", and sure enough a couple of months later I had one starting to develop and about a year later in 1989, I put out my first issue. But, Hammerhead 'zine is why Eternal Darkness exists today!

Cool...some of your favorite all time fanzines, past and present???

Old ones would definitely be Unholy Book, Morbid, the old Wild Rag! Before it turned into a newsletter I really loved the old Wild Rag!. And uh new ones I really like are Heresy from Australia, I like Visionary's Dream form New Jersey a lot, The Sepulchral Voice R.I.P. Uh the 'zines that look underground but are well written, is what means a lot to me. The writing and the underground look to it.

Preach on brother Dempe!!...we share that same philosophy!.

Yeah Canadian Assault to of course!.

Ah ah ah...How did your first issue turn out and how many copies were printed???

The first issue was rough, it was the stapled in the corners(type thing), it was done on a really old type writer(gasp...type writer, what's that!? Ha ha -Dale), my first 3 issues were done on this horrible old type writer. They were put together neatly at least, I put a lot of time into them, it(issue one) sold like only a hundred copies.

Is that how many you printed???

That is how many I printed. It is sold out, I only printed a hundred copies.

What bands were in your first issue???

There was 6 bands interviewed, there was Nocturnus, Human Remains from Phoenix, Black Ritual from Pennsylvania, Arcane from Texas, Hellwitch from Florida and one other I can't remember right now.

Can you explain the long history of Eternal Darkness mag and the old school kings Order From Chaos!??.

Oh sure, I wrote to Chuck(Keller) to get a "Crushed Infamy" demo in 1989. He sent one to get reviewed in issue two of Eternal Darkness, I reviewed it and sent the issue to him. He called me up and said it was the first magazine to compare Order From Chaos to the bands they actually wanted to be compared to. Like (bands such as) Bathory, Terrorizer, Carcass, stuff like that which we were

really big fans of at the time and still are. Our relationship just blossomed from there, we started tape trading. Then that summer Chuck, the summer of 1990 he said that he had to come down and visit his Aunt in Tuscon(Arizona), I was living in Phoenix at the time. So I said why don't you stay with me for the week that he was down and he did. It became a yearly thing, he would come down and visit me and I became really good with them(the band) and eventually released a seven inch of theirs. And umm...I was friends with all of them until they broke up, but I'm still really good friends with Chuck and Mike today.

How about a few words on your series of compilation tapes???

I started the simple that, it's not people sounded like.

That's sound like
Yeah unfortunately tapes, there professional
Oh that was
Yes the long ended). This the issue and
That's a
Heh heh go
Did you find them!???

Oh yeah, included), more

Could you

Sure, the first one is called "In The Darkness' Cold Clutches" from 1991(90 minutes), 2nd is "Darkness Reborn" from 1992(90 minutes), 3rd "A Dark Time" from 1993(80 minutes), then "Let's Fight In The Dark" from 1996(90 minutes).

When did you come up with the idea and concept of forming your record label???

It kind of started with the compilation tapes, I had hoped it would always blossom into more. But I never had the money but uh...I originally went into it with a friend to do a seven inch in 1994. It was to be(either) Order From Chaos or Nepenthe, but Nepenthe weren't ready to release anything at the time. So I got O.F.C. to give me some live tracks they recorded in the studio and that became the "Live: Into Distant Fears" 7". My friend kinda bailed on me, so it just became Eternal Darkness Records, just from doing that seven inch. So far, I've released 3 seven inches and a couple cassettes...

Kay hold on, your going right into my next question...perfect. Could you list all of the products you have put out and describe each one!???

Sure, 1994 I have the Order From Chaos live 7", it had 2 songs for 16 minutes. Live O.F.C., that was almost unheard of and it is available(as bonus tracks) on the "Plateau Of Invincibility" CD. But, it's better on vinyl cause vinyl rules!(He only speaks the truth! - Dale). It's available on red and black vinyl and Order From Chaos play the best black/death war metal(ever) in the scene!. The next release wasn't until early 1996, I released the Vulpecula(band made up Chuck Keller formerly of O.F.C. and Chris from Nepenthe - Dale) demo '95, but it wasn't really an extended release. That was put out to just tide(us) over until the, until I put out the Vulpecula 7" ep out, but the demo is still available for anyone who just wants a cassette of it. But, the seven inch "Phoenix Of Creation" which is the same as the demo and is available on blue or black vinyl, they nocluent black metal in the vein of ancient Samael or Mortem from Norway, very cult sound, very underground sound. It's the first recording the band ever did in the studio together. Then spring of '96 I released...(pause)...I re-released the Nepenthe - "Ligea" 7". Which was supposed to be released on a European label, which I will not mention here, that kinda bailed on them. So I released it, it is 4 US/5 dollars every place else. They really, really brutal death metal in the vein of like Treblinka(who later became Tiamat -Dale) or Nihilist(who changed there name and formed Entombed - Dale) a very Swedish sound.

Okay, your working on a split 7" ep release right!???

Yes!

Tell us about that and what bands are invovled???

Well, my next release which isn't out yet, it will be out in early February(1998, this interview was conducted on Jan.13th/98 -Dale). It is a band called Ares Kingdom which is Chuck and Mike formerly of O.F.C., their first project since Order From Chaos together(the release will be in the form of a cassette ep -Dale). Then the split 7" is gonna be Ares Kingdom and R.U. Dead?, which is a band from Germany that is Fleshcrawl(the Black Mark records band) members and ex-members of a band called Poison. It will be a Eternal Darkness and Majestic Union Records from Germany(co releasing it).

Now when you say ex-Poison members, this maybe interesting to the readers, is that the old speed metal band from Germany!???

Yeah, exactly there are one or two members(in R.U. Dead?) that are from the old speed metal band. R.U. Dead? are a very intense



compilation tapes, that was back in '90/91. For mags to put out a compilation tape with some of the bands from the issue in it, So I did such a big thing today like it was back then. I just wanted to show reading my magazine what the bands I was raving about in the pages

kinda cool, cause people can hear a sample of what the bands and know for sure if they will want to order it!

exactly, nowadays people put out CD's with their magazines, I don't have the money to do that. I'm still putting out compilation looking a little better than they used to. I'm getting them done more y, there will be a new compilation tape with this issue too. **really!?!...I thought you had ended the compilation tapes!?, or just the Darkness comp series you ended!???**

series, so to speak the four compilation tapes, that were in that(were one will only be like 30-40 minutes just some of the best bands of it will only go out with the issue, it won't be sold separately. **good idea, I might even steal that one from you ha ha.** for it man!.

the comp tapes were a lot of fun to do and do you still sell

they are all for sale, they all cost 3 US/4 elsewhere(postage except for the last one, from '96 it is five dollars, cause it's done professionally...

list them for anyone that wants to order!???

-The Eternal Darkness Back Issues... (An Eternal Darkness product)

- Issue Number 3 9/90 Order From Chaos, Blasphemy, Deadhead, Apparition etc. \$5
- Issue Number 4 7/91 Grave, Cadaver, Morbid Angel, Abhorrence, Sarcophago etc. \$5
- Issue Number 5 6/92 Order From Chaos, Pentagram, Impaled Nazarene etc...\$3
- Issue Number 6 3/93 Paul Chain, Lemegethon, Sathans, Domine, Terata etc....\$3
- Issue Number 7 1/94 Order From Chaos, Abigail, Grand Belial's Key etc....\$3
- Issue Number 8 11/94 Ancient Rites, Pavor, Samael, Sentenced, Mortuis etc...\$4
- Issue Number 9 10/95 Order From Chaos, Bestial Warlust, Majesty, Osuary etc...\$5
- Issue Number 10 10/96 Bathory, Apollyon's Sun, Vulpecula, etc. \$5 US

band one of my personal favorites. It is going to be great to do a seven inch with them.

When pressing a 7", how many do you usually press!???

Usually 500 at a time I usually see how it sells then do a pressing in another color five, six or seven hundred that is usually as far as it goes.

Can you give a rough release date and price on the new issue # 11!???

The new issue will be out by the end of January for certain, cause I'm done typing it. I'm just laying it out now. It costs \$6 dollars US and comes with a sampler tape with Cromlech, Tyrant from Australia, Armageddon, Holocaust and a lot of good bands. The issue is gargantuan, well over 80 pages(fuck he is not joking either, that number could well inflate past the 100 page mark when all is said and done! -Dale).

Please give us a list of all the bands featured!???

Okay let me get the list...(pause)...This issue has lots of different kinda bands, like lots of power metal, lots of black metal and death metal. Let's see, we have interviews with: Samael, Cradle Of Filth, Angra, Steel Prophet, Summon from the United States, Pentacle, Scepter(see this interview elsewhere for a preview of the killer work Keith does! -Dale), Witch-Hunt, Misery, Dew Scented, Ablaze My Sorrow, Disciple, Mournful Congregation, Martire, Star Gazer, War Hammer, Conqueror. It's a big issue, I hope everyone enjoys it, I have big hopes for this issue!

On what basis do you choose bands for a releases, on your E.D. records???

Well, if I have the money that's the first thing! I like to think ahead and not to overestimate my budget. But usually I have to know the band or be friends with them and know them as people as well. Of course love their music!, I have to be totally dedicated to their music to want to put out a 7" or a ep of their music.

So you would never release anything you weren't heavily into but you know will sell!???

No! Never! On thing you can say about Eternal Darkness bands is that they don't sell very well. That's one thing I can say about myself, I don't sign bands on the basis of whether they sell, so I have to like 'em.

That is the way it should be!!

Yeah! I just sign stuff that I would like to have in my collection.

Are there any bands at the moment, you have your eye on you would like to eventually release something from!???

Well, Christian of Inverted from Sweden, and I have talked about releasing a 7" but I think that is probably way in the offing now.

That's about it, there's a couple of bands I would have loved to have done something with like Forest Of Proud Slavs from Poland, or Darkened from the US I liked a lot.

Has there been many setbacks financially for the mag & label???

Yeah no money! Ha ha it's always been a big problem. I don't have like a really good job, I um always seem to be kinda in between jobs or in a job that doesn't pay too well. As I'm still in college, I'm a bio/chem major and I'm trying to bachelors in that so I can work in criminalistics.

Very cool!

Yeah nothing fancy, but I always get it out(mag/label releases), I sell enough to keep it afloat. So it's a lot of integrity, a lot of heart.

Have you ever had any printers/pressers give you grief with printing explicit materials!???

When I have gotten the mag done professionally over the years. I've always had problems with printers objecting to the material or going against what I say or what I want so I just choose to do it myself. I've had stuff like printers loosing originals and just outrageous stuff like that, I just can't stand!

How does your distribution go?, a lot of trading with with other distros and labels???

I just trade with a lot of labels and distributions yeah, the first couple months when it(a release) first comes out I do a lot of trading. My mail bill(during this period) is really expensive. Yeah I trade with a lot of labels like Moribund and Merciless and a lot of good labels like that. I sell a lot through my catalogue, that's how I sell most if it after the(initial) big push for it.

Is your label specific to one genre or is it open to anything under the mighty banner of metal!???

It's open to anything under the banner of metal, so far it's just been black/death pretty much. I love all forms of metal from doom to heavy metal to black and death metal. All over the place I love all forms of metal.

Now onto my fave question in this mag. What is your opinion on the powerful Venom and their glorious "Black Metal" LP!???

Venom's "Black Metal" ahhh yes!! I love the album, it is truly a classic. It's not my favorite Venom album, but it's definitely one of my favorite albums of all time. My favorite Venom album is "Welcome To Hell", "Black Metal" is second and is probably in my top 10 of all time. Truly great and a landmark release for the band. Anybody who say they are sloppy hard rock or whatever they are saying this week, can just go jump off of a bridge cause Venom, they are the kings of the scene and always will be!(couldn't have said it better myself, hell yeah!! -Dale).

Okay Keith hold on bro this is a long winded one. I hear a lot of people, who have been around for a long time in the scene, who have been in the scene a long time and are very cynical towards it, saying it is not like the old days. I mean I see there point to some extent but I think they are just being ignorant to some of the good things and great bands scattered throughout the underground scene these days. Yourself being an old timer of the scene, I would like to get your opinion on this and how you see the scene as it stands today!???

Okay...that's very good, I wanted to talk about this!. I think the scene today is good as musically as it used to be...uh...there are some



bands today that I just adore, just as I adored Venom and Exciter, Demon years ago. But, the only difference I can see today is there's a lot more cynicism and eliteism (yes very true, metal is a brotherhood, support each other and we will prosper! -Dale), like especially in the black metal scene, there's attitudes galore. With the bands I've encountered in live situations or on the phone have just been... (pause)...some have just been total assholes. I see a lot of fans like this too. But aside from that I think the scene has the potential to be just as good as it used to be. I like what's coming out today(on the whole).

Have you ever had any hate mail, from the things you have said in your mag!??.

Someone just asked me this the other day, it was my girlfriend, she asked if I had ever received any nasty letters. I don't think I have. I've received a couple nasty letters from churches that have gotten my address. Yeah they sent me literature and said quit the mag and change your ways or you'll be cursed for the rest of your life blah, blah, blah, I'm not kidding either. I wrote the address on their pamphlets and told them off.

What do you know about Canada as a country!??.

I know it's a country with some great bands heh heh...

Hah you don't get off that easy man. I want to hear what you know about Canada as a nation???

I've been to Niagra Falls, the Canadian side and it's pretty much like America I guess, but things cost a little bit more(tell me about it!! -Dale). I would like to live in Canada some day, it sounds like a really nice place, I don't know much about Canada just what I see on t.v..

What are some of the things you see on television!??.

Umm...like Northern Exposure.

That's an American show!

Yeah ha ha. Well just like it's nice and cold up there and I sound like a idiot now! ha ha.

Ah ah ah you did not too bad man, Americans are notoriously uninformed about Canada, on the other hand the average Canadian is very knowledgeable about America. Go ahead and grill me on all the states and their capitals ha ha. Okay back to the music, what do you think of the Canadian scene past and present???

I love the Canadian scene!. They always impressed me, Canadian bands over the years like Slaughter or Razor or Voivod, Blasphemy. Today, Conqueror, Sacramentary Abolishment, Tenebrae these bands impress me. I always thought that god gave Canadians tow dooses of heaviness(Ain't that the truth, ever scene the gut on me!! Ha ha -Dale), cause there are always good bands from Canada. Quo Vadis I like, lotta good bands up there.

Do you think there is quote a 'Canadian sound'???

I haven't noticed one, but back in the '80's bands like Obliveon, Soothsayer, Yog Sothoth...

You go....you do know your Canadian metal!

Ohh I used to love those bands, I still do old Soothsayer that "To Be A Real Terrorist" demo is one of my favorites.

How did you first come up with your moniker???

Eternal Darkness!? Well, I got it out of some old Destruction lyrics, off of "Infernal Overkill". I always found the words Eternal Darkness fit together, I thought it was a good title so I used it.

How do my readers get your catalogue!??.

Okay, all you gotta do in the United States it's free and anywhere else it's a dollar or I.R.C.(take my advise it is packed with cool shit and Keith sells things at very cheap prices -Dale). Whatever you can afford any kind of return postage is great.

Time to wrap...how about some final comments to the Canadian Assault readers!

I wanna thank you, Dale. Also to tell your readers to support Canadian Assault and Eternal Darkness. Stay true to yourself and the music. Fuck the trends!

HAILS TO YOU KEITH! YOU ARE A TRUE METAL BROTHER AND ONE OF THE GREATEST COMPONENTS OF THE UNDERGROUND'S HISTORY!!!

Write Keith at: Eternal Darkness Productions, 145 Mayer Dr., Oakdale, PA.15071, USA.

Canada Tracks of Creation

Web: <http://ratw.com/creation/> • Email: Borcek@ratw.com

The Grimoire of Exalted Deeds # 10

Harken unto the unique voice of this entertaining magazine! Also inside... a drunken interview with Brutal Truth, a disrespectful talk with Ancient, and discussions with Mortis and Fleshcrawl. Other surprises await you! We've re-printed choice moments with Morbid Angel from #4. Send \$3 to: The Grimoire 248 Lakeview Ave. Suite 237 Clifton NJ 07011. Would you like to distribute the Grimoire? For just a little more money, you could have 50 mags. Ask us!

Neil St.Laurent
Producer

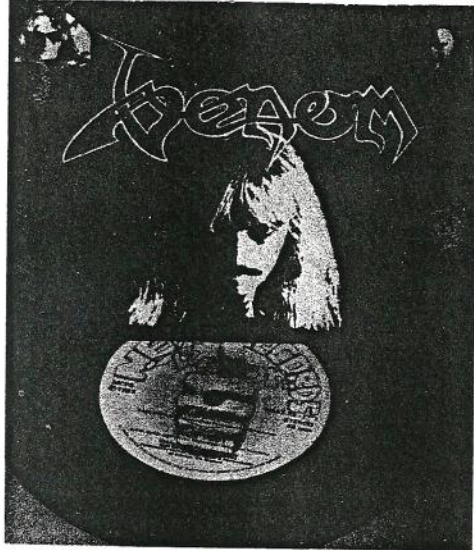
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Hard, Heavy, And Dark Music Magazine

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BEOWOLF PRODUCTIONS HAS BEEN DEDICATED TO SUPPORTING THE UNDERGROUND SCENE SINCE 1994. BEOWOLF PRODUCTIONS CONSISTS OF A DISTRIBUTION LABEL, COMPILATION TAPES, SATAN'S CANDY BASKET ZINE AND A TRADE LIST. I'VE HELPED PROMOTE AND DISTRIBUTE PRODUCTS FOR 133 BANDS, 50 ZINES AND 12 COMPILATIONS. I AM ALWAYS LOOKING FOR MORE PRODUCTS TO ADD TO MY LIST AND FOR REVIEW IN MY ZINE. IF ANY ONE IS INTERESTED IN MY DISTRIB.COMPS,ZINE AND/OR TRADE LIST GET IN CONTACT AND SEND SAMPLES. BURT"BEOWOLF"/644 E HIGH STREET/ POTTSTOWN, PA. 19464/U.S.A.

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VENOM - "Lady Lust/Warhead" 1983 7" EP

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- VENOM - "Self-Titled" Demo 1980
- VENOM - "Angel Dust" Demo 1981
- VENOM - "In League With Satan" 1981 7" EP
- VENOM - "Welcome To Hell" 1981 Debut LP
- VENOM - "Black Metal" 1982 cassette LP + Vinyl LP
- VENOM - "At War With Satan" Demo 1982 (Different version then '84 LP!!!)
- VENOM - "Black Metal" CD (re-release w/bonustrax)
- VENOM - "Self-Titled" Demo 1983
- VENOM - "Die Hard" 1983 12" Vinyl LP
- VENOM - "Warhead/Lady Lust" 1983 7" EP
- VENOM - "Acid Queen" 1983 12" Vinyl LP
- VENOM - "Radio Interview, Paris, FRANCE 1983"
- VENOM - "WMSCU Radio Interview, USA 1983"
- VENOM - "Live Hammersmith Odeon, London, UK 01/06/84" Video Bootleg
- VENOM - "At War With Satan" 1984 cassette LP + Vinyl LP
- VENOM - "Live Hammersmith Odeon 1984" Live Bootleg CD
- VENOM - "Manitou" 1984 12" Vinyl LP
- VENOM - "Live Nuremburg, GERMANY 02/07/84" Live Bootleg
- VENOM - "Live Aardshock Festival, Zwolle, HOL. 02/11/84" Live Bootleg
- VENOM - "Black Fucking Metal" 1984 Live Bootleg LP
- VENOM - "The 7th Date Of Hell" 1984 Home Video
- VENOM - "Alive In '85" Home Video
- VENOM - "Canadian Assault" 1985 cassette MLP + Vinyl MLP
- VENOM - "American Assault" 1985 cassette MLP
- VENOM - "French Assault" 1985 cassette MLP**

- VENOM - "Possessed" 1985 cassette LP + Vinyl LP + Pic. Disc LP
- VENOM - "Day Of The Tiger" 1985 Double Bootleg LP
- VENOM - "Live Hammersmith Odeon" 1985 Live LP
- VENOM - "BBC Radio, Hell Sessions 05/08/85"
- VENOM - "Live Apollo Theatre, Manchester, UK 10/05/85" L.Boot
- VENOM - "Live San Diego, CA, USA 04/18/85" Live Bootleg
- VENOM - "Nightmare" 1985 12" Vinyl LP
- VENOM - "Buried Alive" Live Bootleg LP
- VENOM - "Live At The Kabuki" 1985 Live Bootleg
- VENOM - "Live Toronto, Ontario, CANADA 03/31/85" Live Boot
- VENOM - "German Assault" 1986 cassette MLP
- VENOM - "Scandinavian Assault" 1986 cassette MLP
- VENOM - "Live Metal City" 1986 Home Video
- VENOM - "The Singles 1980 - 86" 1986 cassette LP + Vinyl LP
- VENOM - "Eine Kleine Nachtmusick" 1986 Live Bootleg LP
- VENOM - "Calm Before The Storm" 1987 Vinyl LP
- VENOM - "Leave Me In Hell" 1993 Greatest Hits CD
- VENOM - "Black Reign" (Greatest hits + obscure tracks) 1996 CD
- VENOM - "Venom '96" 1996 MCD (re-record of classics + 1 new!)
- VENOM - "The Second Coming" Home Video + Live CD 1997

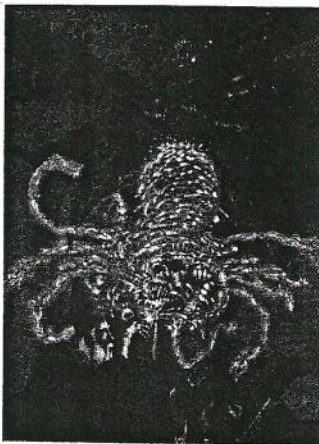
MORE VENOM METAL AVAILABLE ON BANZA! LP AND CASSETTE



ALBUM REVIEWS

POSSESSION - "Scourge And Fire" '96 3" MCD (Independent release)

Damn, this is good shit! So very ferocious and intense! So very '80's influenced! Now, before I scare you off, I'll explain why this is not just another run of the mill retro band coming out of the woodwork. Possession takes the best of the power metal and thrash (Sodom, Iron Angel, Acid...) of the 80's waves and meshes them beautifully with the aggression and stylistic sensibilities of 90's underground music. You may find it interesting, the 3 hymns on "Scourge And Fire" are presented on a cool little 3" MCD. It also features in the mentioned 3 trax, an unlisted cover of a metal song from 1987. I will not give the identity of this song away, as I know the band derives pleasure from sending you scurrying to your rooms and pouring over metal collections in the faint hope of discovering which song it is and by whom. The guitars and song structures of Possession's music are extremely focused but yet, wild and catchy; and, always heavy as hell! All put over the top and in your face with a two pronged vockill attack, along side some stunning lead work! Mark my words, Possession is a classic in the making, and if I had a label I would sign 'em in a heartbeat! Send \$11 US worldwide and receive the killer debut full-length album "Eternally Haunt" + this 3" MCD, postage fucking included!! P.O. Box 3031, Olathe, KS. 66063, USA.



GOTHIC KNIGHTS -

"Self-Titled" 1996 CD (Sentinel Steel Records)

I was very excited to get my hands on this debut album, as it is also the very 1st release on Denis Gilbey's newly formed, Sentinel Steel record label. I knew from Denis' well respected magazine and phone conversations, that he is an extremely picky man who would only release top-notch stuff!. Enter the Gothic Knights riding high on their steeds, swords and shields at guard! The packaging is beautiful, all will be taken by the great cover art of a sorcerer, conjuring up a demon thru a skull in his palm; all the

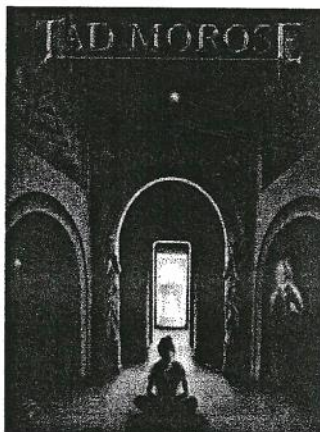
while a poor frightened man cowers in the corner. Fans of '80's epic power metal rejoice! This disc is filled with classic tunes of this style. The song writing is very smooth, catchy and the vocal lines are superb, with memorable choruses and superior melodies. A song like "War In The Sky", with it's cool tune-fun chug riffing, epic and haunting atmosphere, topped by a soaring lyrical performance by Richard Sanchez, that will have you foaming at the mouth. Get this future classic for \$12.50 US (North America) \$14 US world. P.O. Box 123, Rockaway, NJ. 07866, USA.

SARGATANAS - "Self-Titled" 1996 MCD (Wild Rags Records)

This Mexican act was originally formed in 1986, broke up in '91, now have returned. This is their demo tape 're-edited' by Wild Rags. Playing, a murky, dark mix of mid-paced black/ death/doom metal. While, structure wise, nothing is too appealing, they however manage create some heavy and headbangable rhythms and riffage. The vocals are delivered in a flowing and gruff roar from the abyss. Three tracks of blasting melodious metal for \$8 US (postage included). 2207 W. Whittier Blvd., P.O. Box 3302, Montebello, CA. 90640-8602, USA.

UNDER THE PAGAN MOON - "C.D.P. Compilation # 1" 1996 CD

This compilation album was compiled by Kirk at Cyclonic Productions (ad elsewhere, support him a true metal brother!). There are fourteen bands on offer - all are of the dark and obscure black metal demo level (mainly variety). Bands include: Malkuth(BRA), Bishop Of Hexen (ISR), Obscuration(FRA), Ember (USA), Medieval Demon(GRE), Profanum(POL), Melechesh(ISR), Ragnarok(UK), Avatar(BEL), Moonblood(GER), Solstafir(ICE), Crimson Midwinter(FIN), Grimoire (ISR), and Songe D' Enfer(BRA). The packaging is nicely done, sound surprisingly even for the most part, and clocks in at around 74 minutes!. Kirk is currently clearing out of the distribution end of his operations and is selling this CD at believe it or not \$6 CDN/USA. Email him or write to see if



this offer is still on!. P.O. Box 28083, London, Ontario, N6H 5E1, CANADA. Email = cdp@execulink. Com

TAD MOROSE - "A Mended Rhyme" 1997 CD (Black Mark)

Swedish keyboard laden power/heavy metal, at it's very finest. I have unfortunately experienced Tad Morose, for the first time. I already know I must get all of their past releases immediately!. T.M. are master song writers, and somehow they remind me vaguely (especially in the song writing department) Of Sanctuary, on their "Refuge Denied" opus. A track of such magnificence as "Angel's Shine" is an amazing example of how this band has become proficient at penning heavy, ultra catchy, moody and thoroughly interesting songs. These songs are sure to enthrall you with their flowing magic. Also, although I do not often praise keyboards, Fredrick Eriksson's keyboard passages on this CD are nothing short of breathtaking!. Vocalist Urban Breed is a real find, his soaring vocal cords are so beautiful and grandiose. You must have this if you have even the slightest interest in classic progressive power/heavy metal with a slight '90's flavour - tasty one too!. Black Mark, 354 1/2 Younge Street, Suite 463, Toronto, Ontario, M5B 1S5, CANADA.

EXODUS - "Another Lesson In Violence" 1997 Live CD (Century Media)

Well I think you know this story already, the return of the "Bonded By Blood" line-up. Recorded shows in San Francisco which consisted of the songs off the debut album, along side 3 trax from the 2nd one which the old vocalist Paul Baloff had demoed before his departure. What, is there to say but fuck yeah!. The sound is great and clear. The band is tight. Baloff fucking sounds great and this CD rips. Fans of the classic LP get this at all costs!. Those of you who have never heard Exodus in it's original form, prepare yourself for thrash metal that will rip your face off, all over again. Classic and stands the test of time.

FATES WARNING - "A Pleasant Shade Of Grey" 1997 CD (Metal Blade Records)

After a long maligned period of mediocrity Fates Warning is has returned to glory, with one single song, the title track, divided in 12 parts!. You say, "oh my god that will sucketh!?! Know what? You would be dead wrong!. Jim Matheos has created a swirling, emotional kaleidoscope of progressive heavy metal classiness. The piano/keyboard performance of Kevin Moore (yes the ex-Dream Theater member) is superb. Not to be outdone is vocalist Ray Alder who puts in a catchy, smooth, world beating performance. The track compositions and arrangements of Matheos bring tears to my eyes. Confident, flowing, and endlessly interesting are a few words to describe the monolithic musical construction that has gone on here. Never letting technicality suffocate the emotion and heavy catchiness of the track. Sounds good!?, It is. Get it!!.

ALBUM REVIEWS



TESTAMENT -

"Demonic" 1997 CD

(Burnt Offering/Mayhem Records)

Yeah! Testament returns once again from the ashes, with a new recording line-up that includes Gene Hoglan (of Dark Angel/Death and Strapping Young Lad fame). Upon initial listen I wasn't sure about a few things, such as Chuck Billy's almost constant gruff vocal delivery, which has grown on me immensely. As he brutalizes his way thru in a deep and thick, death metal like assault, he does so to killer effect!. The lyrics are really great; and, deal with topics like tales of demons "Demonic Refusal", witch burning "The Burning Times", medieval battle chronicle in "Hatred's Rise", and in "John Doe" a twisted true story of the havoc wrecked on the life of a deceased drug abuser. The guitars, with a bit of the '90's sound, are firmly rooted in heavy as fuck territories. Guitarist, Eric Peterson, has written some of the most immense and memorable riffs ever!, This album is chock full of them. Cheers Eric mate! The sung, sort of outro, sort of song "Nastrovia" ends things on a moody trip, that brings to an end a masterpiece!! I was going to say this matched up against my all time fave Testament album "Legacy", but I stand corrected these boys have outdone themselves and should be proud. Support this band and buy this. It was made by brothers in metal who's vision has stayed true. How often do I get to say that?!. Album of 1997!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

JUNGLE ROT -

"Slaughter The Weak" 1997 CD

(Pulverizer Records)

If you happened, by chance, to be a reader of the Canadian publication, The Sepulchral Voice, you will recall me reviewing J.R.'s first and second demos. 1994's "Rip Your Face Off", was a little rough, but showed promise and I suggested the band should put a little more emphasis on the power sections on their then thrashy attack. Then came '95's "Skin The Living" demonstration, they did just that too, strengthening and bring to prominence more fully their heavy riffing. Now, we have their debut long player out on Pulverizer Records, nine trax of pounding, straight on death metal!. My fave song has to be "Butchering Death" with it's absorbing structure, catchiness both musically and lyrically, which ends in an array of nifty double bass from drummer, Rob. Great packaging and presentation. The only drawback I can see is the length. Weighing in at 30 minutes (an intense 30 at that); but, shit the CD only costs \$10 US(postage included)!.

Order from: Pulverizer Records, P.O. Box 946, Dixon, IL. 61021, USA or from the band at: Jungle Rot, 6618 52nd Ave., Kenosha, WI. 53142, USA (M.O. in US funds payable to Dave Matrise).

SADIST -

"Crust" 1997 CD

(Displeased Records)

I must admit, I was at first glance appalled at the "Crust" cover, being a fan of Sadist's 1st album. The cover looks like a Fear Factory album cover. And, I thought, "Oh no, they've gone fucking industrial/death or some shit!". But, after all, you cannot judge a book by it's cover, right!?. So, I gave the disc a spin and here is what I found. Some heavy riffing here and there that makes me go "hell yeah!". However, those portions are choked and suffocated with heavy industrial influence, keyboard parts, symphonic charged hiccups!. To address their slogan on the album, I took the liberty of rewriting it: Extreme? NOT! Aggressive? YES(When not watered down by flimsy and boring keybores!) Talented? DEFINITELY(But put to use sparingly here!) Sick? LYRICALLY AFFIRMATIVE! MUSICALLY NOT EVEN CLOSE!. So unless you whack off to second rate industrial/death/keyboard music, stay away from this LP!!! Displeased Records, NL-1500 AA, Zaandam, HOLLAND.



ELEND -

"Weeping Nights" 1997 CD

(Holy Records/PHD Canada)

Elend is made up of members from both France and Austria. "Weeping Nights" is the bands 3rd CD, and is really only 3 new songs and 6 songs re-done from their second album, only with only female vocals, the male screams/vocals have been removed. This album is a highly ambitious and complex work of classical music mixed with atmospheric of a somber variety. For instance, a track like "Ethereal Journey's" is like a soundtrack from a suspense movie. With it's low expanding violin sections, flute interludes, angelic utterances and booming percussive pounds buried low in the mix for resonating effect you will feel deep within. I would only recommend "Weeping Nights" to those who are fans of classical music or maybe ambient/symphonic genres. This album is both majestic and brilliant, too bad I rarely am in the mood for this type of thing. Holy Records, BP 59, 77260 La Ferte Sous Jouarre, FRANCE or PHD Canada, 1554 Appin Road, N. Vancouver, B.C., V7J 2T5, CANADA

LOST IN MISERY -

"Carousel Of Memories" 1997 CD

(Hammerheart Records)

Wow! You would think this was the most amazing band of all time, if you were to solely go by the bio. It claims this album is "the start of their path to the metal elite!". This female fronted Dutch outfit admittedly knows a good melody, and have a knack for penning some memorable songs. Disc opener "After The Change", is a fine example of how fluid this band is. They put together some nice hooks and Esther is in fine form gliding her way across the tune very stealthily. L.I.M. is touted as power meta; and, I will admit some nice metallic sections as well as some galloping heavy riffing. This disc can be called a hard rock/heavy metal hybrid as far as I am concerned. "Carousel Of Memories" is a fine album, that I am sure metalheads will appreciate. But, I forsee if this album progresses more in the direction they are headed, they will become nothing more then a top 40 wannabe. I think they will get the recognition they deserve for this piece of work, especially in Japan and parts of Europe will eat this up!. Hammerheart Records, Box 227, 6300 AG, Valkenburg, HOLLAND.

Band contact: c/o Gerben Slegers, Langemeer 84, 5171 WJ, Kaatsheuvel, NETHERLANDS.

PENTACLE -

"The Fifth Moon" 1997 MCD

(Displeased Records)

Very cool!, retro speed/thrash/death band, drawing heavily noteworthy granddaddy's of the scene like Hallows Eve, Kreator, Destruction, Onslaught and huge helpings of Celtic Frost. Is this band very original? Hells no! Can this band write heavy, fast and intense as shit songs that you can bang your head to? Hells yeah!! I think this four song mini will be embraced by fans of old style metal as well as new death/thrash/black metalheads alike. Leather, bullet belts and spikes forever!!!!!!!!!!!! Pentacle, Franse Hoef 17, NL-5531, PD Bladel, HOLLAND

IRON LUNG -

"Chasing Salvation" 1997 CD

(Die Hard Records)

This is a very interesting band, whose members have had ties over the years to bands like Social Disease, Suffocation and the mighty Autopsy!. Now, having listed those bands, the musical direction of Iron Lung may surprise a few people. They play classic doom metal, largely inspired by the colossal Sab's in their early incarnation, as well as stuff like early Trouble, Saint Vitus and The Obsessed. Yes they play doom metal and they play it well!. Often resembling, but unlike many retro bands in this style never seemingly directly lifting anything, though many of songs compositionally are very close. Eight trax of slow doom, with a little groove and heavy production. Die Hard Recs., Vindegade 101, DK-5000 Odense C, DENMARK. Website= www.cybernet.DK/Diehard Band contact = Box 1051, Soundbeach, N.Y. 11789, USA.

POSSESSION

Those of you who love old school metal, alongside thrash and death metal will love Possession. They are masters at combining the aforementioned and executing it with harsh aggression and energy. I had the opportunity to interview Nyk of Possession and jumped at it, you only need to read my review elsewhere of the bands last product "Scourge And Fire" to see how much I love their music and the as of yet unfulfilled success they so richly deserve in one writer's opinion. Without further ado I present Nyk Edinger the multitalented throat of Possession...

Tell a little about Possession and how the band came to be???

Back in 1991, Shayne, Shane, and myself, were in a band who lost it's two main songwriters so after a short hiatus we got together and started writing songs under the moniker Possession. Shortly after forming, Shayne was in an accident. While he was recuperating, Mike joined as a second guitarist and then Lance joined as we were recording our first demo, "Mad Crazy And Violent" in '93. We went on to record "The Unnameable Suffering" in '94 and in '95 we recorded our first full length CD called "Eternally Haunt" which wasn't released until 1996 due to label problems. We left that label and then released "Scourge And Fire" on our own in '97 (Umm... I think he meant late '96 but what do I know ha -Dale). Lance left in permanent bassist ever since. Kansas City is a rather dry well of musical talent, it seems.

At what point did you discover the and 'zines you got into? Does/did underground activities outside of the We didn't really get into the underground look for ways to promote the band. The Feh, Rubberneck, Open Grave, Voices Subversive Agenda. One of the first from Impaled Nazerene as well as the Shaw from 'Fate and Samael. Shayne has zines that is about it.

Looking back at your past releases are what is your opinion on them now? roughly on "Eternally Haunt" and

I've always been pleased with the quality of our songs. I think that is proved, especially by "Scourge And Fire", which has a re-recorded version of one of the first songs Possession ever wrote yet it sounds as fresh and powerful now as it did then. Obviously, we have not had a lot of money to work with which has lead to just o.k. production but not the best that we would have hoped for. I suppose, part of the reason for that was our own inexperience in the studio as well as working with people who were not familiar with death metal. But as far as each song goes, we are very proud of them and are excited for the people to hear our new material. "Eternally Haunt" has sold around 2,000 copies so far but we have plenty left so I think everyone should order it! (Yes do yourself a favor at these dirt cheap prices for such great music! -Dale). You will get "Eternally Haunt", and "Scourge And Fire" for only \$11 us ppd. You're not going to get a better deal anywhere!

I am sure many reading this have seen your full page ads in Metal Maniacs, considering the size of it's readership, how tremendous has the response been from it? What did it cost, for said full pager!???

The response was not as great as we had hoped but we look at it as a building block, a stepping stone to the next level of name recognition. Actually, the biggest failure of the whole project was our inability to release another full length CD in a timely fashion. But we are still moving forward-slowly but surely. I believe each ad was about \$700/issue but there were many factors involved in that price.

Tell me about the scene in your area? Some cool bands from there to check out? Kansas seems to me, as an outside observer to be a little sparse as a metal scene, is this so and has it affected or held back Possession in any way???

Well, you hit the proverbial nail on the head!. Kansas City is extremely sparse. We used to think that it didn't matter but in hindsight I know that it has adversely affected us in three ways, 1. Not being able to replace members easily at all 2. Not being able to meet and get to know people in the underground on a regular basis 3. Not having the opportunity to play shows with bigger bands in the underground. Word of mouth is still the best promotion in the underground and we are missing that being in Kansas City. There is one great band from K.C. (Come on there is more than one, how about Ares Kingdom, Vulpecula, Nepenthe!? -Dale), that is Angelcorpse which has risen on the wings of the bassist/singer's former Order From Chaos. They've played a European tour already and are preparing for another tour with Immortal last I heard (Wonder if that happened I heard Demonaz quit Immortal!, cause of cancer in his arms). But they never play in Kansas City.

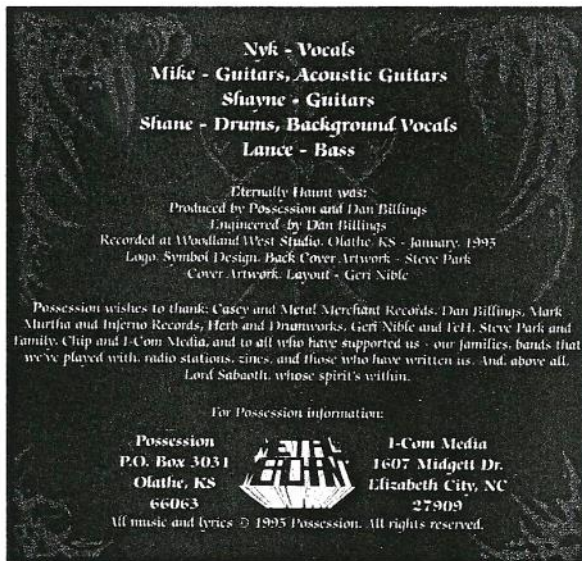
Now onto one of my fave questions, what do you think of the almighty album "Black Metal" by Venom!???



underground? First contacts anyone in the band do band???

until '92 when we started to first 'zines we got into were From The Darkside and contacts we made was Jarno guys from Angelkill and Snowy done some reviews for a few

you happy with them and What were sales figures "Scourge And Fire"???



You are going to think this is blasphemous but I have never heard Venom's "Black Metal" album (Oh my, blasphemous is a gentle word to use, all self-respecting metalheads need that album!! However that is only my opinion, even if it is correct he he -Dale), until I saw them live at the (Milwaukee) Metalfest last year I had never heard of them at all. Sorry (You mentioned Cirith Ungol coming up so you are surely forgiven! -Dale).

Please tell us about the whole deal with Casey and Metal Merchant Records!??.

The whole deal is far too lengthy to into here (I was hoping you would go deep into this and space of no concern, use all you want bro! -Dale) but if you check out our website every gory detail is there for you to savour (Well, actually I know pretty much everything, I have heard your side and heard Casey's over the phone, but my readers may not know it, oh well do check out the website to see more on it -Dale). In a nutshell, Casey is a rip off and we emerged victorious in the end.

It is obvious from your music you guys are fans of '80's power metal and deathrash, care to list some old favorites and maybe an obscure band or two, my readers should search out!??.

Yes! That is our genesis, '80's metal like the old mainstays, Slayer, Sabbath, Metallica, Anthrax. But I also got into Warrior, Warlock, Toxik,

Q5, Apocrypha, Armored Saint, and of course old Testament, King Diamond, Mercyful Fate and old Fates Warning, Oh, and how about Cirith Ungol (ah yes, the "Frost And Fire" & "King Of The Dead" LP's!! -Dale) !?!

What do you know about my country, Canada!? What is your opinion on the Canadian scene? Any bands or mags from here you dig? Do you find there is a 'Canadian sound' so to speak???

I grew up in North Dakota so I took more family vacations in Canada than I did in the States. Mostly to Winnipeg (Manitoba) but I have been all the way to B.C. (Cool I am directly in the middle of those two provinces -Dale). I don't know much about the "Canadian scene", the only bands that I remember from being from Canada are Oblivion and Annihilator (Ugh! I thought being such an '80's metal fan you would have heard of Infernal Majesty, Razor, Exciter, Slaughter, Voivod, Sacrifice ect... guess we always get over looked though he he so what's new -Dale). And the only sound that comes to mind when I think of Canada is "eh" (That was a shot, eh!? Ha -Dale). Sorry.

What were the recording and pressing costs of your brilliant 3" mini CD "Scourge And Fire"?. How did those recording sessions go, possibly you could describe your schedule on a day you recorded!?. Is the new material in the same vein as that release???

The recording ran about \$800 but the entire project ended up at about \$3000 for 1000 CD's. We had the original artwork done and then had to have custom dyes cut to print the cover because of the size (For those who have not scene it, the cover is cool it is like a one piece modified and enlarged match book cover almost, very cool! -Dale). The sessions went rather well and it turned out better than any of our other recordings to date although we were extremely unhappy with the snare sound on it. A typical day of work recording was to get up about 3 pm, begin recording around 7 pm, work until about 5 am and then go home and go to bed. Rather exciting, huh?. Well, "Scourge And Fire" is the new song on that CD but as I hope you've noticed each of our songs has a style of it's own. Some of our new songs are faster than anything we have played before and yet a couple new ones are slower than anything we have done before. The vocals are still varied and I will try to layer them a little more next time. Also, the lyrics will cover a broader range of subjects than our first couple CD's did. But when you put it on your CD player you will know right away that this is still Possession!. We are planning to do a demo for some labels soon and we will release a full length sometime this year (1998) with or without label support.

Are you planning on staying independent (possibly with Euro licensing?), or as I often wonder when a active band such as Possessed was in '95/early '96 becomes sort of quiet, that you are fielding offers from labels and if so which labels have shown interest!??.

We are just now starting to contact some labels in order to get them a demo of new songs and we would like to hook up with someone for the next CD but we are not going to wait forever, when the time comes to record the next CD we will do it regardless of label support. Licensing will be imperative in order to properly promote the next CD.

What do you do in your spare time for enjoyment? What are some of your favorite movies, novels and mags???

I love playing soccer and my movie favs are Exorcist III, The Prophecy, The Hitcher, The Ninth Configuration, and anything from Monty Python, oh, and the Red Green show from Canada is great! (Ha cool, "if women don't find you handsome, they should at least find you handy!" -Dale). I enjoy reading books on demonology and the occult and even the Bible. As far as mags go I read The Christian Research Journal, Metal Maniacs, PIT, and The Grimoire Of Exalted Deeds.



Seen any good live shows/bands as of late? Fave show of all time? What bands have you not seen live that you would die to see???

Lately, I've seen Cannibal Corpse, Testament, were Merciful Fate in '93 and Samael in '95. Diamond 2. Manowar (Oh shit man, those are



Nevermore which were all great but the best ever. The two shows that would die for are 1. King 2. absolutely fine choices!! -Dale.

Thanks Nyk for the interview, last comments plans and merchandise available!??.

Thank for the great questions!. I would and we will send you "Scourge And Fire" for Possession long sleeves with the Possession P.O. Box 3031, Olathe, KS. 66063, USA or E-says, "Stay Heavy!".

Webstie = <http://www.etermallyhaunt.com>

to the readers of Canadian Assault? Future

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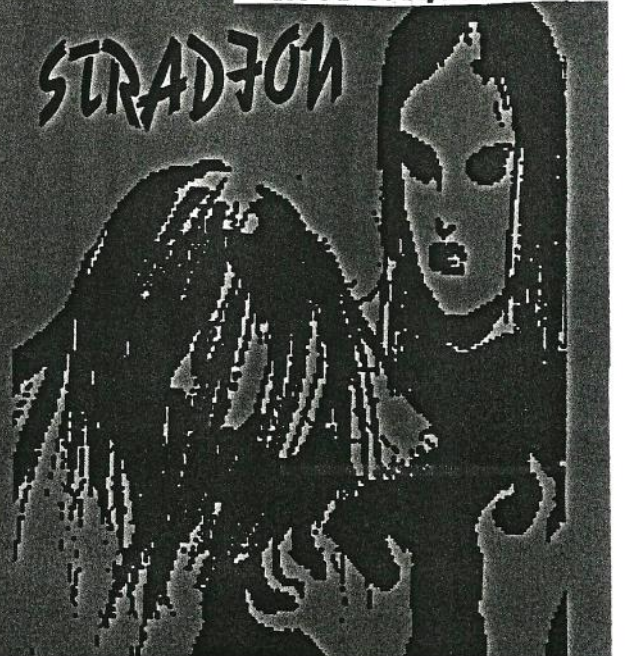
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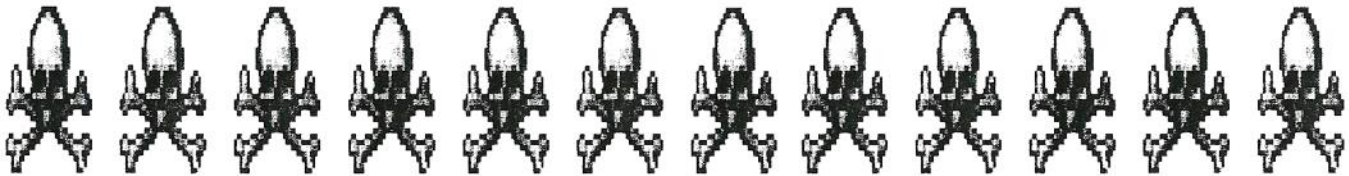
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Infernal Majesty

Here is an interview I conducted with Kenny Hallman, of the legendary black/thrash metal masters. They have been a fave band of mine since their debut came out in 1987!. Their album that has touched me and many other metal heads to the core. Well, Infernal is back and have original singer Chris Bailey in the fold!!!. They have been fielding offers from labels such as: Metal Blade, Mascot Records, Nuclear Blast, Century Media, Displeased Records and of course Canada's own Hypnotic Records. As I type this interview (Jan. 9th, 1998) the band has just entered Signal To Noise Studios in Toronto to finish recording the album, after which it will be mixed in Montreal with the engineer who did Oblivion's (Can) last album!. Read on, I command....



1. Let's start off with the '86 debut demo tape, where was it recorded? How many copies were made???

The first demo was made after being together for 6 months. It was recorded at "The Metal Works"; in Toronto. We self financed it and released 2,000 copies of which we sent out 200-300 out to fanzines, magazines, and record companies. After we sold out, we pressed 1,000 more (shit 3,000 copies of the demo! -Dale) and shortly after, signed with Roadrunner Records.

2. During the '85/86 time line, were you in contact with many bands from within the country (i.e. - Aggression, Slaughter, Razor, Sacrifice, Exciter ect...)? Who was involved with 'The Council Of Canadian Metal Kings'?? I have heard this was a figment of ex-drummer Rick Nemes imagination, is that true!??

We knew Sacrifice and Slaughter. But, knew Razor the best because Sheepdog (Stacey) was a real close friend of Steve and I before he joined Razor. All 3 of us grew up in Kingston, Ontario, Canada and had jammed many times in the past. The whole "Council Of Kings" thing was Rick's doing. Instead of just listing our names as members, he used "Council Of Kings" as if sort of tied into the name Infernal Majesty.

3. How did you get signed to Roadrunner intially?. I have a show you guys played in Detroit, Michigan 10/14/88 on video. At this show you played the bonus trax from the Displeased "None..." re-release. Chris said at this show, that these were new trax due out on your 2nd LP on Roadrunner. From this point on, what happened to sour things with Roadrunner!??

Roadrunner had received a copy of our demo tape and had contacted us. We had several other offers at the time and really didn't know who to sign with. We hired the lawyer that was handling Triumph; and we had him handle all the negotiations for us and we all decided Roadrunner was the best label to handle us. The relationship with Roadrunner could have been a lot better. They never really supported us in any major way. We had to book and finance all our own tours and a total lack of communication from them so we decided that we would go it alone.

4. I also have on video, an appearance by Infernal Majesty on Muchmusic's Power Hour from '88. You were being interviewed by Erica Ehm, afterward they played the video for "None Shall Defy"; and it was the guys first time to see time to see the finished product, what did you think of it (I love that video it rules!)!??

I have hosted Power Hour a couple of times and it helps to promoted us in Canada. The video for "None Shall Defy" was paid for by us and not Roadrunner. So when we did the video, we went to Muchmusic and asked them if they would play it and they agreed. A couple of days before they were to air it they asked if Rick and I if we would like to go on air. And, of course, we said sure. When we got to the studio we were surprised to find out that we were going to be hosting the show, which was fun. Shortly after they asked us to come back with the "Name the mascot" contest and we agreed, but I don't remember the name that won, but we just called him "Bob" (The name that won was "Deadlus" -Dale).

5. What was your reaction, when you found out that Displeased Records from Holland, had bought the rights to the debut from Roadrunner and was re-releasing it for the first time ever on CD!?. At what point, did you find out cause I heard Displeased was trying to find you to tell you guys about it!??

We were really surprised when we found out. The timing couldn't have been better because at the time we were looking for a new deal. We thought that "None Shall Defy" had had it's day. We were even more surprised to find out that Displeased had included 2 songs that were never released to the public. I had heard about it in January of 1996, Ron had given me a call and told me that his label was re-releasing the album because he thought the album deserved to be available on CD (How right he is too! -Dale).

6. **What was happening with the band, at the time of the 1991 demo "Creation Of Chaos"? How come you guys seemed to just disappear after that!?. I have heard rumors that the vocalist, Vince from that demo was arrested for attacking his girlfriend kind of Vampiric assault, any truth to that!??.**

After Chris Bailey left, we auditioned a whole bunch of guys and out of that we hired Vince. At that time he seemed like the right guy for the band but it never worked out that way. Sure we played a lot of shows and recorded "Creation Of Chaos" together but things just never felt right. Then Vince got into trouble with a girl he had met and ended up going to jail. So we were without a singer until we got Chris Bailey back last year and we couldn't be more happier.

7. **Did you have any clue, the profound effect I.M. has had on the underground scene of the late 80's/early '90's? I have heard many death metal bands (i.e.- Seance ect...) claim you as an influence, do you listen to any death metal stuff from the '90's on!??.**

Well we had some idea because we would read about it but not to the extent that it's at now. Dawn (Swe) have recorded "Night Of The Living Dead", and Christ Denied (U.K. I believe?-Dale) have recorded "Overlord". It's kind of weird hearing your songs being played by other bands but we were glad that bands say that we influence them. We think it is a great honor. I try to stay on top of what's going on, but it's really hard to keep up with all the latest releases. I still stick to the early stuff like Slayer, Mercyful Fate, Kreator and Exodus.

8. **To take another trip to the rumor mill, I have heard the forthcoming 2nd LP was recorded some time ago with Scott Burns in Toronto and is now just having the finishing touches put on it!?. How was working with Scott Burns!??.**

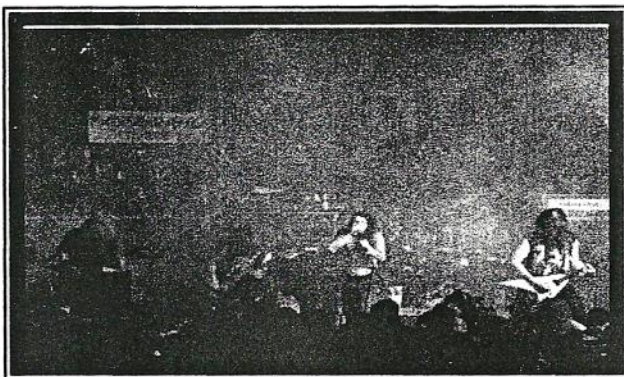
completed. Again, we paid for that ourselves and that's when the trouble with Vince began. Working with Scott was a great experience as we have always liked his work but now that we have Chris back we will release the album early this year.



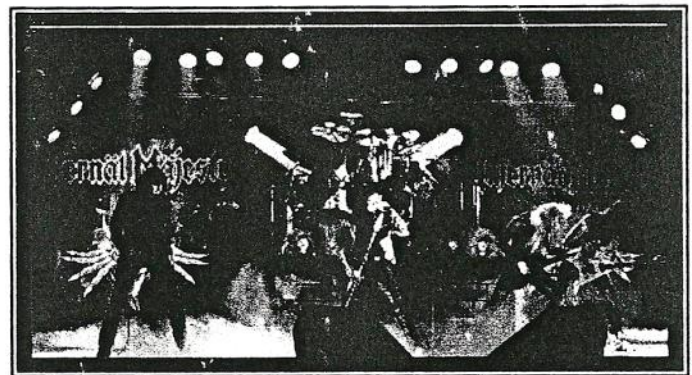
Kenny Hallman (circa 1987)

9. **What does the new album sound like? Is it in the "None Shall Defy" style or the less interesting '91 demo style, or neither?. Will the second album also be released on Displeased Records!??.**

The new album sounds like Infernal Majesty, what I mean is that once you hear it you will know who it is. We played most of the new songs on our European tour which we just completed and the response was great. We recorded 2 of them as samplers and released them on the "Kanada Compilation" (info on our web page) they are not the same versions that will appear on the new album. We have just signed with Hypnotic Records (killer Canadian label, with: Voivod, Mundane, Anvil, Mundane, Razor ect... -Dale) and the album will be out in mid-March 1998.



Infernal live Europe tour 1997



I.M. re-recording the "None Shall Defy" Video 1987

- 10 **Who is handling the lyric writing now?. I mean Psychopath (the old bassist) did the lion's share of lyrics and was responsible for gems like " Marching defiant, the legions bear witness, to stand against evil, means you stand alone!". Is the lyrical content on the new one similar in vein to the old stuff!??.**

Steve Terror is writing most of the lyrics and has been for some time. The lyrical content is a bit different, we have branched out a bit more, songs like "The Art Of War", "Where Is Your God", "Death Roll" and "White Knight" should say it all, it's not just satan... satan...satan. But musically it's in the same vein as our earlier stuff.

11. **What were some of your musical influences when you formed Infernal Majesty?. Have those changed drastically?. Would I be way off in saying I hear a slight old Alice Cooper influence in the instrumental "R.I.P." off the first full-length!??.**

Steve and I have been playing together for so long that we even have the same taste and influences in music. Judas Priest, Mercyful Fate, and early Slayer. To this day we still listen to it because it was great music. "R.I.P." was a thing I was screwing around with just before we went into the studio to do "None Shall Defy" the others said "hey why don't we use that as an intro to Night Of The Living Dead" I thought, why not, but as far as Alice Cooper influence, I don't know.

12. You were scheduled a short time back to do a European tour, did it happen!?. How were the reactions and crowd sizes over there?. Will you ever be touring out in the western Canadian provinces!??.

We just completed a 32 city/11 country tour in Europe with Malevolent Creation, Vader and Vital Remains (Damn that bill kicks ass! - Dale). The tour went extremely well and all the bands got along great. All but 3 shows sold-out and we were really happy with the fan support that Infernal Majesty received, totally amazing to see people remember us after all of this time. The tour promoter wanted us to stay another 6 weeks and hook up with Unleashed but we decided to turn it down because we were getting a lot of interest from record companies and we wanted to sign something now and get the new album finished. Right now our label wants to have the new album out in March, then straight back to Europe and promote it after that, who knows. We would love to tour Canada (Hey Cryptopsy did it twice and Disciples Of Power have done it 3 times, so it must not be that horrible ha ha -Dale) if it was feasible but we would have to hook up with a big band to do it.

13. Last comments to the readers of Canadian Assault!?. Future plans and merchandise available!?. Thanks for the interview Kenny, you rule brother!!!.

Thanks for all of the support that has been given to Infernal Majesty over the years. We are proud to be a Canadian band and always will be. Our new album "Unholier Than Thou" will be released in March 1998, and you can also get the re-release of "None Shall Defy" in Canada as our new label has also agreed to market it in Canada, if you need any further info check out our current web site at : www.cgocable.net/~fish.

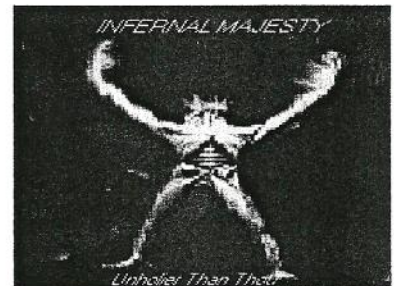
Write the Infernal ones at: 72 Carruthers Ave., Kingston, Ontario, Canada, K7L 1M2
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None Shall Defy (1987)



Creation Of Chaos (Demo '91)



Uholier Than Thou (1998)



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ALBUM REVIEWS

**KILLING CULTURE -
"Self-Titled" 1997 CD
(Edel Records/Attic)**

A now short lived L.A. band had it's shit together. Their debut album, produced by Anthrax' Scott Ian, has some truly powerful tracks like "Twins In Human", "Ironside" and "Lockfist". However, the album lacks a lot of drive as about half the disc is nothing more than fillers. Still, drummer Pat McGrath (who was considered by Slayer at one time) is fuckin' awesome! Watch for him to pop up somewhere else soon now that the band has broken up. -Pat Warner



**LEGENDA -
"Autumnal" 1997 CD
(Holy Records/PHD Canada)**

Finland's Legenda are billed as "the perfect crossing of Impaled Nazerene on the "Suomi Finland Perkele" & Samael's "Passage". Well if you want to give a blanket, intrinsic sort of description, I would say that fits. However Legenda are prone to write a more laid back metallic wave of doomy epicness, that is a bit of a departure for Sir Lutinen(ex-I. Nazerene drummer/composer) as he and his compatriot lead you on a journey of dreamy, escapist travel. Along with some great screamed sort of vox, a little growl, but more shout and black metal rasp ala In The Woods to jar you to attention. All the while the lyrics filling your head with wolves, sunsets and moonlit darkened skies. A must for fans of heavy metal and death/doom of a deep dramatic order! Legenda, c/o Sir Lutinen, PL 17, 90944 Joali, FINLAND.

**GAMMA RAY -
"Somewhere Out In Space" '97 CD
(Noise Records)**

After reading a cool interview with guitarist/vocalist/composer Kai Hansen in Sentinel Steel mag, I was excited about hearing this album!. I have been a fan of Hansen's work in Halloween for a long time. However, my only experience with Gamma Ray is from the double live album "Power Of Metal" that featured alongside G.R., Rage, Conception and Helicon. This album seems to be superior to most of the live material on that album, which had tracks lifted from their entire catalogue!. "Somewhere Out In Space" is a triumph, very heavy and very uplifting. Straight from the explosive opening track, "Beyond The Black Hole"; to the dazzling, "Shine On" with it's catchy chorus and delicate driving guitar stylings. The album is a epic, swirling space story, that at times reminds me of the basic concept of the excellent movie "Stargate". Hansen's compositions are very mature and

heaviness has not been spared. At times the feel and majestic flow and epic grandeur reminds me of Kai's past Halloween days. Very recommended for fans of intelligent a catchy power/heavy metal.

**DOMINUS -
"Vol. Beat" 1997 CD
(PHD Canada/Die Hard)**

This band is totally unknown to me. One thing I enjoy straight off the bat is the heavy riffing and rapid speed of the tunes. However, most everything else on here does not do it for me. Shouted hardcore vocals with a slight rap tone both in sound and execution. The death metal influence in the riffing is quite evident and appreciated. But the aforementioned vocal patterns and goofy samples like record scratching and red necks talking, ruins things. Another saving grace of "Vol. Beat" is some smoking guitar solos, the highs are high and lows are low. It is a mixed bag, so all I have to say is caveat emptor.



**MALEVOLENT CREATION -
"In Cold Blood" 1997 CD
(Pavement Records)**

Too many death metal albums lack the intensity that at one point helped to define the genre. What a pleasant surprise that "In Cold Blood" opens up with a blast beat! Throughout this Album, including the cover art of some guy with nails and hooks stuck in him, reaffirms a position for brutal extreme death metal for some time to come. Derik Roddy is one of those people who has a gift for the genre, having been born with more than two arms. Intricate and extreme, the drumming goes from moderately fast to insanely fast, all with the rigorous and solid execution that even a man named Xy* couldn't do with a drum machine. It just never lets up, and in retrospect that blast beat that opens the album is hardly a blast beat at all!. The dual guitars provide that extreme driving metal feeling -- one usually providing continuous rhythm, which in the end just adds to the insanity, and the other on very modern power metal style lead -- simple and melodious complete with muting. While they simply don't have the chance to match the speed of the drums, the guitars still manage to get some amazing mileage on the short songs. In the end, the extreme of the genre is about raw intensity and raging aggression, both of which are in more then abundant supply on this recording. I often find it hard to say good things about such music, but this album is just done so well there isn't anything bad to say about it. It makes me want to break stuff! -Neil St. Laurent

**UNLEASHED -
"Warrior" 1997 CD
(Century Media Records)**

The Nordic soldiers of death metal storm their way thru with the brand new album, fifth in the line. Their debut "Where No Life Dwells" was/is one of my fave death metal albums. While they added a couple new influences into their music, for the most part they still brutalize and pummel with intensity!. Unlike the once great and now washed up label mates Grave, Unleashed are still heavy as fuck and are out to crack skulls. They spare nothing on this record and have thirteen tracks. My fave tune lyrically is "Death Metal Victory," in which Hedlund shouts out "Death metal is here to stay...my warriors scream for me, death metal victory!" Hells yeah!! Sound the trumpets of battle, arm thy self, mount your steed and ride true warriors of metal, for Unleashed are leading the charge!.

**BRUTAL TRUTH -
"Sounds Of The Animal Kingdom"
1997 CD (Relapse Records)**

Okay here is the thing, I thought B.T.'s debut album "Extreme Responses..." to be an out and out masterpiece and a death/grind bible of sorts. So, in other words, it would be a difficult thing for B.T. to surpass that with me as they are a vastly different band now. I surmised their next release after the debut, the "Perpetual Conversion" EP to be an absolute piece of garbage, a mistake, a blunder and not even worth the mention I just gave!. On their 2nd album (last for Earache), "Need To Control" I didn't mind that and it's heavy and intense moments, but was constantly weighed down with slow bouts of boring industrial/ambient atmospherics. Then the comeback (and label switch), "Kill Trend Suicide" EP which saw a rawer and heavy Brutal Truth emerge, which I quite enjoyed and welcomed. Now with their third LP, we have a melding of "Kill..." and parts of "Need To Control" with a lot more of a hardcore/punk flavour and some groovy sections. Which bring to mind far too much, bassist Dan Liker's side project Exit 13 on their "Ethos Musick" CD. It is very evident on "Sounds..." the Brutal Truth have taken ample amounts of the influence from the American hardcore/punk and to a lesser extent European and Japanese hardcore movements. I do miss the controlled chaos of their debut album, but it seems sadly they will never make a return in that direction. This album as it stands on it's own, is a good record and even rages some with some undeniable might. As well vocalist, Kevin Sharp, shows he is a good vocalist and he uses a lot of tones and ranges, thus far untapped, to bring out emotion in the music. Having said that, they are not overdone. The funky parts ride the edge of the annoying line and if expounded upon in the future, will take B.T.'s music for an ugly turn. This is a good album with a cool muddily live feel to it, though a great album it is not!. I am very interested to see where this band goes next. It could be good, but has the potential for disaster.

ALBUM REVIEWS

ETERNAL SOLSTICE - "Demonic Fertilizer" 1997 CD (Displeased Records)

The cover art totally rocks! You just have to see it. The artist, Paul De Ward, is someone to keep an eye on. Vocalist, Ramon, has some great tools and uses them with growls that are laid back at points and aggressive at others, but always decently intelligible without losing extremity. The drum work is interesting and competent throughout, and the tunes are spiced with some kickin' guitar solos. Eternal Solstice play dirty, begrimed and melodic death metal. While tuneful and interesting they (the band) occasionally slip into monotonous sections and at others fail to land that knock out punch to put them over the top.



DEICIDE - "Serpents Of The Light" 1997 CD (Roadrunner Records)

Well Deicide are back with a new blasphemous platter, to batter and bruise all who dare a listen. Their self-titled debut album was a raw lesson in cult deathrash metal, as well their 2nd record was also an amazing release, with a much more technical flavor, but never backing down one iota on ferociousness. I liked the third record "Once Upon The Cross" for the most part, but I thought it was marred by some very average, filler type of material. So now sits before us "Serpents Of The Light," which has ten tracks and weighs in a bit light at 31 minutes, but it wouldn't be a Deicide record if it didn't hover around the half hour mark. Still here are the trademark killer guitar solos and catchy chorus lines. The songs this time shine much brighter than "Once Upon..." and are much more consistent, with some new spices to the old sound without taking away any of its power or overall appeal. Take a song like "Slave To The Cross", it starts off with a guitar solo in the opening moment of the track, amongst a weird riff, that oddly enough reminds me of a heavier version of the main riff in Twisted Sister's "You Can't Stop Rock 'N Roll". Then quickly breaks into a nice brutalizing trademark Deicide riff with speedy punch that is melded with flowing lyrical passages such as "Reign of the cross, the aggressor, has killed more people than cancer...", and ends in a flurry with Eric and Brian switching off solo piercings. This is a great come back album for Deicide, their most mature record to date and a nice rebound after the not so great third album.

MESHUGGAH - "The True Human Design" 1997 MCD (NBA/PHD Canada)

Do any of you out there recall this bands debut LP "Contradictions Collapse"? I do and I loved it. It was a superb blend of death metal with a little jazz and old school speed metal.

They managed to pull off a hodge podge like that nicely. However, since that point they have totally dropped the old school metal and jazz parts. In addition, they incorporated to the little bit of death metal influence in their music, maybe not incorporated lets say borrowed from heavily from bands like Pantera and Machine Head. Now first I must say they write compositionally sound music. Too bad their music is now garbage that bows to whatever seems to be the flavor of the day metalically. As a result, I have lost any respect I had for them. Fans of Machine Head and Pantera-isms on a second rate level, check into this. There is really only one new song here, the other is a live one and a ultra gay reworking dance/industrial thing that makes me ill. Nuclear Blast America, Box 43618, Philadelphia, P.A. 19106, USA.



ROTTING CHRIST - "A Dead Poem" 1997 CD (Century Media Records)

I became quickly a fan of this band after listening to the first materials released. Such as the '90 Promo/ Rehearsal, '89 + '92 demo tapes "Satanas Tedeum" & "Ade's Winds..." respectively, as well as their 1991 7" EP "Dawn Of The Iconoclast". I was hooked at this point, but became utterly addicted to the dark death/black metal sound on the Rotting ones '92 Mini-LP "Passage To Arcturo" and the debut full-length "Thy Mighty Contract". A band whose atmospherics where both uplifting and suffocating, with a very cult air about them. Now Rotting have chosen a very different path (exit Wampyr Doaloth) and that is one of a mainstream symphonic metal bandwagon direction. It is undeniable some of the new material is emotional and at times extremely catchy. However, most of the qualities that made R.T. a beloved band to me have been stripped away and watered down. Very clear understandable vocals lead the way, upbeat riffing and a very boring trendy sound, that is too clean, too slow. It becomes very obvious over the ten tracks on "A Dead Poem" that R.T. are writing no longer for themselves, but what they think people will want to hear. Just sickening! I didn't expect another "Non Serviam" carbon copy, but I would take that over this at least it would sound honest.

GROPE - "Desert Storm" 1997 CD (Die Hard/PHD Canada)

Well I don't know a whole lot about Grope. The only thing I have heard by them is on the Slatanic Slaughter - "Slayer Tribute" CD. I have heard this band described as "stoner rock" and "Kyuss meets C.O.C." and both are not totally accurate, but a fair description nonetheless. Mid-paced rockers with very normal and groovy riffs. Clean vocals not

unlike the aforementioned Kyuss and drumming is solid but does nothing to stand out at all. Fifteen tracks of laid back hard rock with some of usual trendy sounds of the alterno scene. I really don't like this much and for this being the bands third album, it is sub-par for such a seasoned band. Next! PHD Canada, 1554 Appen Road, N. Vancouver, B.C., V7J 2T5, CANADA

Six Feet Under - "Warpath" 1997 CD (Roadrunner Records)

If you liked Six Feet Under's first album, "Haunted", you will drop your cookies over "Warpath", a more experimental and diverse side of Chris Barnes that must have Cannibal Corpse kicking themselves. Far more consistent, far more intriguing, and far better than "Haunted", "Warpath" is killer! -Pat Warner

CREMATORY - "Awake" 1997 CD (NBA/PHD Canada)

Not to be confused with the killer brutal death act from Sweden (R.L.P.) from the early '90's. This is the German one that plays a kind of part symphonic, part progressive and part metal. All stirred into a mixing pot, and hits on a few nice moments, however few and far between. Actually Crematory is quite average, talented and solid, but still very unexceptional. Any cool sections Crematory comes up with are smothered and overpowered with heavy keyboards, rendering their original intent null and void. The recording is very nice I must say, topped off with a cartoonish cover and lovey dovey lyrics, but I digress...

DECEASED - "Fearless Undead Machines" 1997 CD (Relapse Records)

At a time when even I thought it wasn't possible to do pure power metal and have something interesting, Deceased comes across with potentially the best guitar driven speed metal in a very long time. Right from the start, the first track "The Silent Creature" delivers some very original sounding guitar work. Mark Adams and Mike Smith simply never let up with their driving stringed assault. The solos are somewhat slower than the rest; they engage themselves in some more intricate patterns than the break-neck speed of the remainder of the album would allow. A pleasant interlude, "Contamination", follows the first track and basically sums up the twisted B-rated horror movie theme of the album. Song after song of the living dead walking the earth and killing the living are to follow this eerily melodious introduction. And backing the guitars - The drums pound away relentlessly, complete with double-bass rumbling and thundering blast beats that add to the already deep music. Mike Bossier manages to capture the grandeur of the drums and to mix it such that it accentuates the guitars without being overwhelming and without being lost in the mix. In summary, this album is truly excellence in guitars. If you haven't heard any good power metal since 1989, then this album will be sure to please you. Also, I'm not sure what it is, but this album has a death metal feel to it; any extremist out there should derive great enjoyment from "Fearless Undead Machines". -Neil St. Laurent

ALBUM REVIEWS

**OVERKILL -
"From The Underground And Below" 1997 CD
(CMC International)**

Can another old thrash band, that I loved from the old days, put out something truly brutal, catchy and relevant ala Testament on their new opus!?. In this instance the answer is negative!, as Overkill are sounding very tired and played out now. Some will look back to old albums and recall piles and piles of great heavy as fuck riffing, which now have been cast aside for a simpler, plain and more accessible sound, that is just not Overkill. Bobby Blitz's vocals have far too much effect on them, sounding like a mechanized brat. A lot of mechanized parts are incorporated and for me drain the power and life out of the songs, whose song structures are limp and run-of-the-mill. They also try their hand at a couple of power balladish tunes that sound out of place. I mean, what are they going for?, a heavier version of Alice In Chains!?. Well, in any case, I'm gonna use this for a coaster to set my coffee on, while I listen to a real metal album like "Years Of Decay"!

**FLESHGRIND -
"Destined For Defilement" 1997 CD
(Pulverizer Records)**

"Whacked" opens the disc, in a flurry of grinds, shouldered by the strength of catchy, brutal riffing, starts things off in one hell of fine moshable fashion!. The gory topics mixed with mob violence are vocalized in fine flowing form. Well, that is, they flow as smoothly as an old built to last lawnmower, powered by acid fuel!. Fleshgrind are to put it mildly a brutal death/grind act, who execute some interesting, varied metal with intense heaviness and post-haste!. Long live death metal!!! Arrrgghh!.
See interview, elsewhere for contact address \$10 US(postpaid) from Pulverizer.

**REGENCY -
"Self-Titled" 1997 MCD
(Thunder Productions)**

French progressive heavy rock/power metal, that delves into territories previously treaded by bands like Queensryche, Dream Theater, Fates Warning and the like. Nice production, the sound is full. I hear some moody sections from this talented band, that conjure up "Operation Mindcrime". Singer, Olivier Guillaume, has a silky voice that flows out over the composition's with elegance and ease; interrupted occasionally by Olivier's thick accent and irregular pronunciation. A strong moment for me is the opening section of "Lost In A Hate's Sea", with it's gloomy feel, skillfully propelled along by piano and hand drums, intermingling brief moments of dark silence. All in all, some really good material here, not totally my bag, but fans of progressive hard rock will love it. Thunder Productions, 10, rue d'Auvergne Appt. 8, 51200 Epernay, FRANCE.

**UNLORD -
"Schwarzwald" 1997 CD
(Displeased Records)**

Holy fuck!! This album, straight off the opening seconds grabs you by the throat and bashes you unmercifully upside the head, in rapid succession , showing no mercy!. Unlord play unholy fast black metal, with the ferocity of Dark Funeral and Sodom(i.e. "In The Sign Of Evil") alongside the majesty and class of Emperor and Thy Serpent!. This album is planting itself indefinitely in my CD carousel!. I mean this material is really great and some may beg to differ, but this sounds very fresh and invigorating to me!. I need not say too much more, except this album is destined to be a classic!. Choked full of speedy sections, interspersed with grandiose magic, yes black metal brutality at it's finest!. Contact with the band is only thru the label.



**DISINTER -
"Desecrated" 1997 CD
(Pulverier Records)**

It continues to amaze me how good and prolific the brutal death metal scene is in Illinois!. Champoining this scene (and the death metal scene in general) is Pulverizer records, for that they have my respect. Disinter play a form of dark and heavy death metal, mid-paced for the most part. The band hammer their way thru 10 tracks of death/grind might and mayhem. Highlighted by the gravel growls of 'Evil' Ed, the heavy eroding bass of 'Bats', the twisted riffage of Mike and the pounding thunder of Dave(ex-Funeral Nation). They may not be the most amazing band ever, but they are surely above the average and their ponderously heavy material will catch you by surprise. Disinter, c/o Mike Legros, 4132 N. Melvina, Chicago, IL. 60634, USA.

**SMELLS LIKE TEAM SPIRIT II -
"Displeased Records Comp." 1997 CD
(Displeased Records)**

Another low priced sampler compilation out, this the second installment in the series. I am going to give a brief overview of each band, wish me luck!
Pentacle - See review of MCD elsewhere.
ALTAR - Returning with material lifted from their 2nd LP "Ego Art", Altar played fast, intense death metal on the first album. However, on this new song, they have opted for slower, heavy sections mixed with speedier moments. Adding some weight to their attack, and regrettably loosing some of their brutality and craziness.

God Dethroned - Extreme and heavy blackness with serious death metal overtones. Pounding music barbaric and yet smooth and flowing with abyssic rasps. Good stuff!
Consolation - Spewing riff laden, sharp and torrential death metal wit gruff, understandable vox.
Eternal Solstice - See album review elsewhere.
Unlord - See LP review elsewhere.
Infernal Majesty - What can be said about a track lifted from, one of the all time black thrashing metal classics!?, hail the Canadian kings!.
Nembrionic - Some ragingly heavy and brutal metal, with some serious drums pounds going on.
Red Harvest - A little different pace here, some laid back semi-heavy riffing. With clean dreamy vocals, sporting a slight industrial tinge on them. R.H. have a symphonic flavor to their music and to be quite honest, I really don't like this band.
Sadist - See album review elsewhere.
Hybernoid - Fucking weird shit!, Goofy samples mixed with some sort of tribal beat and kind of happy sounding riffs. Yuck!
Whiplash - Another classic re-release unearthed by Displeased. This track is taken off of the thrash core classic album "Power And Pain".
Website = www.xs4all.nl/~displeas

**SVARTSYN -
"The True Legend" 1997 CD
(Folter Records)**

Fast and raw, Swedish black metal featuring in it's ranks an ex-Dark Funeral drummer. Eight sinister trax of hateful darkness, that is blazing and can be quite harsh. I don't often really care too much whether the production and sound are top notch. But, in this case, the thinness of it is truly a detractor to the overall power of the music. The song structures are not overly amazing, however the tunes are fast and rather catchy. A cool moody mist like atmospheric feel permeates the disc and is quite enjoyable. Folter Records, Kollwitzstr 39, 10405 Berlin, GERMANY.

**GRAVE -
"Extremely Rotten Live" 1997 CD
(Century Media Records)**

Well, this was recorded live on the bands North American tour during a show in Corona, California. It features 15 tracks highlighted by "Reborn Miscarriage", a song from their old demo tape "Corpus Humani". Which is cool, though it is unfortunate after the departure of Jorgen Sandstrom, they went gay, with the "Hating Life" album!. Which was hinted at on their truly sad cover rendition of a Celtic Frost tune on the Dwell Records tribute "In Memory Of...". I have in my collection, a glorious live video bootleg of Grave from 1992, in Minnesota. Which was a lordly, commanding performance of intense death metal ferocity!. Now I listen to this, and first off the vocals are sub-par, dry and forced sounding, to the point of it being painful to listen to. They plod their way listlessly through some grand classics of yesteryear. Along side their "Hating Life" sleep inducing material. I really wish these boys would have kept their integrity intact (ala Carcass members changing their name to Black Star), and changed their name!. I hope they put it to rest before they disgrace themselves, and further soil the mighty Grave name anymore!. Century Media Recs., 1453-A 14th Street #324. Santa Monica, CA. 90404, USA.
Website = www.centurymedia.com

ALBUM REVIEWS

DE INFERNALI -
"Symphonia De Infernali" 1997 CD
(NBA/PHD Canada)
 Ha ha! Oh man, what a load of crap!
 This is a keyboard only ambient project by
 Jon of Dissection; and, I find it quite
 funny. If anyone used to read an old mag I
 wrote for The Sepulchral Voice, in issue #
 14. Ali The Metallion interviewed Jon
 where he had this to say and I quote "metal
 has nothing (to do) with wimpy, soft
 instruments. That's why we (Dissection)
 don't use keyboards, because it's a wimp's
 music's instrument!". What does that
 make you Jon?, a wimp and a hypocrite!?.
 This album mixes the usual brand of
 keyboard/ambient with a big dose of
 techno/dance music and slight gothic and
 industrial sprinklings. The industrial parts
 make Ministry sounds as heavy as shit!
 Jon does vocals on some trax, some
 mechanized vocals and some cleanly sang
 vocals. This is really gay. I love Dissection
 but this is just plain awful!. Just as an
 aside due to recent developments, it truly
 does appear as though Jon, has warped
 values and no mind of his own...

MANGLED -
"...In Emptiness" 1997 MCD
(Wild Rags Records)
 Dirty death metal that gives these ears
 pleasure. I hear the band incorporating
 '80's metal guitar leads and doomy
 sections of gargantuan proportions!
 Singer, Pepjin Howen, does a great job as
 he blasts and bellows his throaty growl,
 through two studio + one live track of
 grisly "grave rock". \$8 US(Includes
 postage) from Wild Rags.

RAZOR -
"Decibels" 1997 CD
(Hypnotic Records)
 The Canadian speed/thrash metal kings
 return, with Bob Reid, the vocalist from
 last few Razor albums intact. Composer,
 Dave Carlo, throws out killer riff after
 killer riff as he shreds his way through
 these ten tracks. I can't say enough about
 the riffing - it is so heavy and catchy!
 However, there are a few things that bug
 me about this album starting off with the
 effects on Reid's usually great vocals -
 they dampen things a bit for me. Secondly,
 some of the lyrics are cool, but some
 others are just too contrived sounding,
 such as "Jimi The Fly" and "Goof Soup".
 The songs are good, heavy, solidly
 structured with a nice production job.
 Brought to you once again by Hypnotic
 Records the Canadian retro metal
 resurrectors, with such other acts as Anvil
 and Voivod. Check this out!
 Email = dave.carlo@sympatico.ca
 website = www.caiv.nl/~craey/razor

MEMORY GARDEN -
"Tides" 1996 CD
(Heathendom Records)
 Well, the Swedish meisters of clean doom
 ala Candlemass return, in a bit of a
 disappointing fashion. Memory Garden
 have polluted their pure classic doom
 metal style with '90's flavor riffing in
 spots, not so far removed from acts like
 Machine Head and Meshuggah. The
 vocals are no longer disparate and

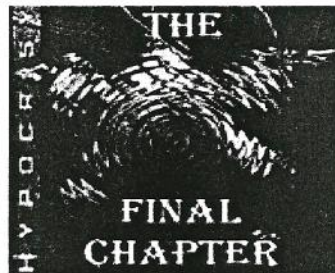
melancholy as in the past, but more like a
 clean gothic/progressive metal styled.
 M.G. surely know how to structure and
 compose some splendid songs. However,
 they are badly mired by these new
 elements that have been forced onto the
 tunes. Classic doom fans steer clear you
 will be disappointed!. Heathendom Music,
 Box 36, S-114 79 Stockholm, SWEDEN.



VOLATILE -
"Quarantine" 1997 MCD
(Warhead Records)
 Well he he... fucking weird kiddies!! Oh
 man, what this band throws into a blender
 - large doses of death/thrash
 metal/hardcore/punk with small sprinklings
 from the black metal and crust
 movements. There are some really cool
 things going on and these boys have some
 killer ideas, along with the odd sweet riff.
 However, their style seems very unclear
 and a real mish mash. I know this is a
 MCD, but I think the band should have
 worked on things a little more before
 issuing something on disc. One thing is for
 sure, these blokes are having some good
 fun and let us in on it with some good
 laughs, the pigs ha ha. You just never do
 know with those Aussie's do ya!?.
 Australia rocks!. Volatile, c/o Frog, 21
 Coleman Avenue, Homebush NSW 2140,
 AUSTRALIA or Warhead Recs., 1B
 Smith St. Parramatta NSW 2150,
 AUSTRALIA.

HYPOCRISY -
"The Final Chapter" 1997 CD
(NBA/PHD Canada)
 Enter into the final chapter of a great
 Swedish death metal band. A fitting and
 heavy handed maelstrom like end it is too!
 For me it is hard for Hypocrisy to top their
 debut "Penetralia". I remember going nuts
 over it when it first came out. Hypocrisy
 of today is a scarcely slowed down entity,
 who's maturity shows in spades. The
 fluidity and texture of compos are superb,
 and the execution top notch. Hypocrisy's
 main man, Peter Tagtgren, produced the
 record in his studio with dizzingly clear
 and mighty effect!. Some of leads and
 guitar exploits are weaved in a very gelling
 and effective, heavy and catchy manner.
 Fave song for me is "Dominion" with its
 heavy and rapid Swedish style riffing,
 killer soloing intro, straight into a flurry of
 hard hitting and precise drum beats and a
 singable chorus line. For my personal
 tastes, this stomps holes in everything
 Hypocrisy has done since the first LP!
 Large points also for the crushing cover of
 "Evil Invaders" by Canada's own Razor.
 Slight demerits to Nuclear Blast or
 Hypocrisy whoever was responsible for the

bare bones CD booklet with lyrics to only
 the title track, three pics including the
 cover and not much else!. Lyrics, by the
 way, still very much in the
 paranormal/extraterrestrial vein. Check
 this out!!.



DEATH PENALTY -
"Bitter" 1997 MCD
(Wild Rags Records)
 Not very good at all. Weak metalcore
 stuff, with slight industrial overtones. The
 singer kinda bugs me. He sings with very
 little depth and conviction, and sounds like
 a toad doing a death metal voice while
 pretending he is a vulture ha ha. Anyway,
 the music is fairly heavy, not brutal, and
 mid-paced. The material is very minimal,
 and always seems like it is missing
 something like we have the skeletons of
 the songs still being fleshed out. Overall, a
 weak release. Avoid it. Same price as the
 other Wild Rags CD on this page.

SKINLAB -
"Bound, Gagged And Blindfolded"
1997 CD (Century Media Records)
 I was interested to hear this, as there has
 been a lot of talk on this band. It features a
 former member and music composer,
 Steev Esquivel, of an old thrash band I
 liked Defiance with their "Void Terra
 Firma" album. Skinlab is a melodic,
 mid-paced sort of thrashcore act. I like
 Skinlab's heaviness but they sound far too
 contrived for my tastes. Skinlab knows
 how to make catchy music, but sound like
 they are trying to be what everyone wants
 to hear and not what they love to play.
 They blend elements from bands like
 Machine Head, Kyuss, Alice In Chains,
 Meshuggah, Pantera and the like. Also, the
 vocals are very reminiscent of Phil
 Anselmo to the point of embarrassment.
 The musicianship is very good and if you
 like what I have described check 'em out.
 If you are like me and do not care for crap
 like this, pass it up in a hurry cause it
 chews man!

PANTERA -
"Official Live 101 Proof"
(Eastwest Records)
 Pantera, who have dethroned Metallica as
 kings of Heavy Metal have always been
 renowned for their killer live shows. On
 "Official Live", the intensity of a Pantera
 gig is showcased on a powerful, extreme
 70+ minute opus that will convince even
 Pantera's biggest critic that they are a
 premier live act. Dimebag, Rex, Vinnie
 and Phil Anselmo have never sounded
 better, as have live albums. "Official
 Live..." is the shit! -Pat Warner



Interview with Arch Enemy

Interview by : Arto Lehtinen with vocalist Johan Liiva

1. Hmm to start out this interview process I could ask firstly what you have been doing lately with Arch Enemy !?

J: Eh, not much really. We've had a period of relaxation since we got back home from the European and Japan-tour this spring, but just recently we started some intense songwriting for our next album (yet untitled !), so I guess we now have about 6-7 new songs that's gonna blow everyones head off, of course...

2. Arch Enemy have been described and advertised as some sort of reunion of Carnage because of consisting of you and Michael Ammot, even originally you were supposed to come out with the Carnage name, but turned down after all. Obviously you were not practically keen and pleased with that kind of reunion?!?!

J: Nah, that's true I guess. It was meant as a "return of Carnage" but it felt a bit pathetic, so we decided to do a totally new band with another name and line-up and all that. ARCH is much more "modern" in many ways compared to Carnage, much due to that fact it's been half a decade since we did Carnage and that we now have matured and developed in many ways, musically as well as personally. Arch is a 100% more improved band than Carnage ever was or would be. It feels more complete nowadays with new ideas and influences, Mike's brother Chris' fretboardvirtouosity to fresh up the sound with... yeah, the widening of limits for what we feel that we can achieve means a lot when it comes to this band. I guessreuniting Carnage would feel strange in a way.

3.What circumstance lead to make you gather together to start playing again?! And how did you end up in picking up this Arch Enemy name?!

J: Well, Mike and I had talked about this for a while, so when our first recordcompany WAR offered us a deal we got down to business so to speak and wrote "Black earth". We felt very inspired to make music together again and I feel that the result represents 5-6 years of our individual development/improvement when we had very little or non contact during that period. It feels great to play to Mike again, and not to forget the great guys we play with, they're totally professional considering the experience that they have.

About the name, we got it from a band who did only but one rehearsaldemo late 80's, american sado-deathmetal, yeah !

4.Michael's brother is also involved in Arch Enemy as the second guitarist...hmm... Do they find a lot of common as brothers usually do, or do they have a clear picture of how to play and what to play that no content would arise between them? Does Michael's brother have any background in the past?!

J: Chris has played for just a couple of years now, but his development as a guitarist is extreme. His way of playing is similar to Mike's, but at the same time different; he's not as sadistic in his style as Mike is (haha) and he's much more faster when it comes to technical stuff. They are very tight and well-played together during solos, pedal-work stops on a dime and as far as I know they really enjoy being in the same band.

Background... well, Chris has been in a band or two, I am not really sure, but he's getting into the action pretty well in Arch.

5. How did you get hooked up by Wrong Again Rec. to issue the "Black Earth" cd!? Have any so called bigger labels pointed out their interest by signing Arch Enemy now?!?

J: As I said earlier, Mike and I started Arch and then our friends at WAR released and paid for the album, so... that's about it. ...Yeah we've been contacted by a couple of bigger labels as well as smaller ones, but at the moment we take it cool you know, we're not on WAR anymore, so we'll just wait and see who comes up with the best offer and if all sucks we release it by ourselves. No big deal, we are not stupid.

6. Back to Carnage...Did you ever get entirely annoyed with Michael and other Carnage dudes in the first place when the only



L To R: Mike, Daniel,
Johan, and Chris



one Carnage album was recorded and done completely without you and the current Dismember growler Matti Kärki teamed up with them to do the whole job instead ?!?

J: Of course I was totally pissed off with Mike and Fred !! Who wouldn't get annoyed when you were about to record your first album ? I had this idea of a totally brutal album because a lot of people really liked Carnage, but then all of a sudden they wanted Matti to do the vocals on the album so I was out. But when looking back and so on I must admit that the kind of death metal that you hear on "Dark recollections" suits better together with Matti's voice than my grunting-style, so... but in my personal opinion that album was held-back by the sound, it lacks a bit of power and savage brutality that for example Dismember managed to get on their debut. But it's history now really...

7. Does it bother you in one way seems to keep comparing quite older Carnage stuff !?

J: No, that doesn't bother me one guys liked Carnage, and if there's ok, I mean, Mike and I made most same with Arch, so it's not so Spiritual Beggars you won't find complicated, haha...

8. It seems that all the Swedish have changed their style or are in their beginnings (F:ex think that Arch Enemy IS the true today?

J: Of course... We had a break for a few years so we kept our who seems to keep up with the old named their album "Death metal" haha... seriously neither anything to do with deathmetal bit sick of it now I guess after tons around the world... ect ect.

9. After the old-school Swedish Grave, Dismember, Carnage, etc, came out of Sweden and conquered the world: the New Wave Of Swedish Black Death. What do you think about all these bands like AT THE GATES, DARK TRANQUILLITY, IN FLAMES, DISSECTION, etc, etc?

J: Most of them are very talented and brutal, At The Gates were excellent, In Flames sound very good, Dissection is much better than Rabbits Carrot(R.I.P)... We played with Dark Tranquillity one gig and I think they're quite good really... Sorry but some bands are really good, but their statements in magazines and so on are so pathetic that I feel sorry for them. Who gives a fuck about what they believe in anyway ?

10. After dismissing Carcass Michael Amott formed Spiritual Beggars, has his spiritual beggars been put on hold for a while or just ceased to exist entirely ?!

J: Beggars just finished recording their new album in June, so they are still rockin'... The heaviest shit ever heard !

11. Well you used to work on your Furbowl at that time !?

J: Yeah, that's true. We managed to release 2 albums ("Those shredded dreams" and "The autumn years") and 1 demo ("The nightfall of your heart") + 2 more demos for promotion only. We also toured a lot with Therion (life metal you know haha) and the last show was at the Hultsfred-festival (One of the biggest festivals in Sweden A.L.) in '94. It was great to play with Furbowl, but I was very tired of music after 3 years so I quit in the fall '94... They formed a new band called Wonderflow and signed to MNW and released a 5-track cd, they played a melodic version of metal/hardrock/pop with rather normal vocals and so on, pretty good actually but not my cup of tea in the long run. Furbowl was cool though, we recorded all our stuff in a small "cottage" with very simple equipment and very low-budget... I am very pleased with most of the songs on "Autumn years", check it out if you can find it, distribution is extremely well taken care of !

12. Arch Enemy did a tour with Cathedral in the "land of the rising sun" aka Japan, apparently the tour turned out to be such a magnificent experience, right ?!?

J : Yeah, it was fucking great really ! We played 3 shows with Cathedral (2 in Tokyo and 1 in Osaka) and had the best response ever and can't be compared to the European crowd (paralyzation guaranteed). We had at least 1000 people in the crowd each show and on day 2 the Japanese MTV filmed the entire show and interview that became half an hour broadcast together with Cathedral. The whole arrangement and organization was a 100% professional, there were 20-30 people involved in everything



or another as the metal public still openly the Arch Enemy cd to the

bit. I don't care. I know that a lot of similarity between the two bands it's of the stuff in Carnage and it's the strange. But if you mix Furbowl and Arch Enemy so it's really

death metal legends (Entombed...) really tired and less convincing than Dismember, Unleashed...). Do you old-school Swedish death metal

from deathmetal and its underground distance in a way. The only band style is Dismember, they even so they are totally "old school", Entombed or Unleashed has nowadays in my opinion, they are a of albums released and sold, touring

death metal mania (Entombed, etc), a new important music style came out of Sweden and conquered the world: the New Wave Of Swedish Black Death. What do you think about all these bands like AT THE GATES, DARK TRANQUILLITY, IN FLAMES, DISSECTION, etc, etc?



so it really moved smoothly all the way. The best thing was that the sound on stage was crystal clear and that the sound out was extremely loud ! It reall felt powerful...

13. As far as I know you have done some dates in Central Europe, mainly in Germany. What sort of respond have you received from the audience, have people shouted at the top of their lungs f:ex the Carcass name because of Ammort or have they asked you to perform tracks of either Carnage or Carcass !?!

J: I think I heard Carcass quite a few times, haha... some wanted to hear Crnage as well, but we hadn't rehearsed "Torn apart" at that time, so... The respond was OK I guess, especially in Weimar it was total chaos (well...), Berlin was cool because of the atmosphere and Holland (can't recall city's name) was total skunk !? We played with a few bands, Dew Scented and Orth, cool guys and some Italian band which I can't remember... It was truly "wild"...

14. Mtv and Viva have shown your videoclip on occasion, how did a chance of making a video come about ?!? Did Wrong Again label support financially or how ?!?

J: Yeah, WAR had to clean their bank accounts entirely when they received the invoice from th Dick. So it's been broadcast already ?! Amazing ! Everything happens so fast around here... heh...

15. This one has always been my mandatory question; What sort of music do the Arch Enemy guys usually listen to nowadays ?!?!

J: Peter (drums) loves technodeath, Dark Angel, Cynic, Atheist but also some funky shit, Jamiraquay (I got that right of course) and stuff like that. Martin (bass) loves Manowar and Maiden, well, he listens to everything that's got bass on it. Chris (guitar) is into a lot of guitarstuff, Maiden, Helloween and Ozzy. Almost everything with complex solo's... Mike (guitar) is hot on Sabbath, Free, Trouble, Slayer and old death metal (Master/Deathstrike) etc. Myself, Johan (vocals), I am into Cathedral, Soundtrack or Our Lives, Nefilim and some death metal as Master, Devastation/Sindrome, Repulsion etc. The whole band listens to a lot of different stuff and it changes from day to day...

16. Ok when can we expect to hear a new cd by Arch Enemy and what else shall the future look for you and some funny words to conclude the interview ?! Ok Tack så mycket och lycka till med Arch Enemy !!

J: The next release will take place late this year/ early '98, check it out. It will be ten times heavier and more melodic than "Black earth", still totally metal ! Cheers Arto for this interview and for being one of my first penpals in the underground !(Thank you...I am flattered now !) STAY LETHAL-STAY METAL

Canada



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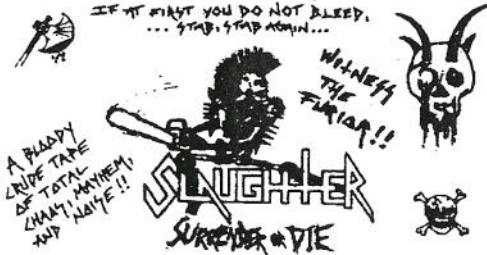
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DEMO REVIEWS

SUNRIDE - "Self-Titled" Demo 1996

Imagine, if you will, a heavier and simpler Kyuss/Down/C.O.C. type band with clear, understandably harsh and gruff vox. There is little doubt these Finnish flashes are talented, but this shit just ain't up my alley. However, the song structures rarely vary and the main buzzy riffs of each tune starts to grate upon you quickly and almost immediately begin to sound identical; and the songs interchangeable which ultimately leads to me branding them mediocre... whether they float my boat or not!. c/o Janne Julin, Valiaitantaku 9 f 60, 40320 Jyvaskyla, Finland \$6 world.



MOMMY MUSN'T KNOW - "Comp. Tape Vol. # 2" 1996

A nice looking cover, but beyond that this compilation appears only half completed!. A monstrous total of nine bands and a running time of about 40 minutes - as well as no contact addresses, no other vital info. on the bands, or where each track was from!. Bands included seem to be mostly well known underground acts (and aren't underground comps supposed to have lesser known bands for us to discover or check out!?) like: Usurper(USA), Pyrexia(USA), Exhumed(USA), Scattered Remnants (USA), El Pacado(USA) plus a few others. Like I said nice job on the cover, but a cover does not a compilation make!. Dagger Tapes, Box 380152, East Hartford, CT. 06138-0152, USA \$5US everywhere.

NUNSLAUGHTER - "Face Of Evil" Demo # 5 1996

"What's old is new again", - or something like that applies here as the old bastards known as Nunslaughter (Who released their first demo, "Ritual Of Darkness" in 1987) grace us in '96 with their fifth and newest demo tape. Not much has changed. They still play old school, primitive and unholy death metal - and as in the past maintain their trademark dirty sound. What can I say? I respect these guys so much for permeating the underground for nine years without once following the trend-of-the-day, compromise does exist in this bands vocabulary!. Send \$5(US)\$6(World) c/o Don Of The Dead, 132 Old Village Lane, Bethel Park, PA. 15702, USA.

SHOLOMANCE - "Promo Tape" 1996

Aww shit, a drum machine - I hate those fucking things. Luckily the other facets of

Sholomance manage to nicely keep my mind off of it. The riffing on this three track cassette, while enchanting, brings back a nostalgic feeling which harkens back to mid-80's metal bands - without sounding dated whatsoever. I think what I enjoyed most was the powerful and rich vocal styling of Jimmy Pitts, which slides effortlessly between the black metal whisper/ gurgle into a death metal type growl that comes off both dark and obscure. Considering this promo was recorded on a 4-track the sound is quite acceptable, but overall I think Sholomance have a ways to go structure-wise. However, once they mature (and a suitable drummer is secured) they will annihilate most of the currently signed black metal outfits - and will do so in the coming years. I haven't gotten a copy yet, but this band now has a new 5 song '97 demo out called "I Am That Which Is" and can be ordered for the same price as this tape \$5 US worldwide. c/o S. Crinklaw, 8118 N. State Hwy. AC, Willard, MO. 65781, USA.



OSCULUM INFAME/FUNERAL "Split Demo" 1996

Starting with Osculum Infame, we have what sounds to be well executed material; a really superb band - which has to be the best black metal demo I have heard in some time!. They don't sound too much like any one band in particular - which is good but to describe them I would go as far as crowning their hymns of anger and hatred mid-to-fast-paced epic black metal. Kicking off side two is another French band whose venomous attacks live under the moniker of Funeral. Fast black metal with keyboard's. The music is decent and brings to mind such illuminaries as C.O.F., Immortal and Marduk, however the vocals I'm afraid to say sound similar to Donald Duck as if possessed by rabid demons!. As I said above the music is cool but at any case this is a absolute must have for the Osculum Infame they rule!!. \$7 US everywhere. A.M.S.G. Label, b.p. 1206, 76177 rouen cedex, FRANCE.

FROZEN SHADOWS - "Empires De Glace" Demo 1996

Frozen Shadows, features in it's ranks Myrkhaal former vocalist of Tenebrae on their godly "Serenades Of The Damned" demo!. Well, F.S. are straight on furious black metal. Played at hyper speeds, near the pace and not far off in style from bands like Immortal, Marduk and Dark Funeral. The packaging is well done and

the five trax come on a chrome cassette with printing on the shell. Now onto the compositions whose arrangements are decent but can use some improvements. Keyboards are mixed in with speedy and fairly catchy riffing, a glitzkreig drum performance, and not to be forgotten the great gurgling venomous spew of Myrkhaal. This tape is recommended to those with a taste for dark and evil, black metal attacks of only 2 speeds (fast and faster). Send \$6 CDN/\$6 US elsewhere. CP Atriums, B.P. 32128, Montreal, Quebec, H2L 4Y5, CANADA.



NECROPOLIS RISING - "The Everlasting" Demo 1996

From the packaging of this demo and cover, things looked promising. Unfortunately, we have a bunch of tunes with some good parts, but the compos seem like they were just thrown together at the last minute. Some of the playing seems loose and quite untight. No one in the band is credited on the inlay with the vocals. I can see why! They remind me of a third rate Chuldimer ala the "Human" period. I would suggest to you guys that a little more time and hard work be put into the next tape as there lies talent under this rough, unpolished deathrash outfit. 1128 Gleason Circle, East Rochester, NY. 14445, USA. I wouldn't pay more then \$4 US for this.

MOONRISE - "Engrafting Feelings" Demo 1997

Have you ever gotten, as I have, a little tired of the constant barrage of neo-doom metal!?. It seems to be spewing unto the scene at a alarming rate with My Dying Bride, Amorphis, Pussydise Lost, et cetera wannabe's inbreeding like a hudereit colony!. Moonrise play six sorrow filled songs with a nice production. Along with heaps of cheese in the form of clear/ gruff vocals, as always accompanied with clean sung vocals. During this audio induced slumber, it is undeniable that Moonrise have some talent. It shows, when they don't rely on simple and overused keyboard passages. I found the song structures fail to go anywhere, any sort of direction is lost in mire of confusion. Hey!, I just realized there are no female operatic vocals, maybe Moonrise are in fact taking a step towards re-defining symphonic doom metal!?. ha ha ya right!!. c/o Faccoli Alessio, Via Venezia 14 - (TN) - 38062, ITALY.

**EXTREMITY OBSESSION -
"Self-Titled" Demo 1996**

Gaze upon this Greek four piece and their eight song demonstration tape (about 32 minutes of material). E.O. are pleasing to the ear, playing a kind of deathrash, with a very enjoyable guitar sound. The vocalist/drummer growls along in a rather intelligible, cool manner, if not slightly one dimensional. Extremity Obsession like to keep things around a mid-paced level, rarely speeding up, though never dragging into a doom's snail pace. At times I hear a very imperceptible amount of punk influence in the riffs and rhythms. The bad thing here, is sometimes the riffs are over killed and repetitive, rendering a lot of the material as uninteresting upon continued listens. Extremity Obsession, Ermou 81, 20100 Korinthos, GREECE



**NOVGOROD -
"In My Eyes The Black Light Of The Sun" Demo 1997**

Present are three trax of Italian black metal, in the form of Novgorod. The title track starts off the cassette in a fast flurry of oddly timed guitar. On top of that is bad and sloppily played, horribly out of time drums (a problem that crops up throughout, guys get a new drummer or make this guy practice!). The song then breaks into a slow soothing riff, with some symphonic keys that are dark and sorrowful. Slow down the stretch into a Cradle Of Filth like break with some competent, if uneventful vocals from Nadhir dancing about. The tune finishes as it begun, with ghastrly drumming intact (sorry to harp on it, but this is just sad). Drums excluded, Novgorod have some nice tools and ideas, however this 4 song tape shows seasoning is needed. Novgorod, c/o Jacopo De Simone, Via Aquileia 15, 30027 S. Dona Di Piave (VE), ITALY.

**MIDNIGHT SUN -
"Self-Titled" Demo # 1 1997**

I love the cover of this tape. It pictures a cold and harsh wind blowing hard on some trees that dot the landscape... looks like it was taken from my area!. Four tracks of death influenced black metal, with a nice production and fold out, color cover. Midnight Sun play with plenty of heaviness and class as their blackened metal flows along with some killer rhythms and riffing. There are some strong and proud sounding clean vocal sections, but mainly features a b.m. cackle, with a slight growly edge employed with depth and conviction. Even the song arrangements are fairly solid (a rare thing

in a band so young). All instruments are handled nicely throughout the twenty minutes of majesty on this tape. \$5 US to: Midnight Sun, c/o Mikko Oksanen, Huittulantie 197, 37700 Saaksmaki, FINLAND.



**ARMAGEDDON -
"Forever Darkened Sky" Demo '97**

Armageddon have some decent ideas and talent. They display both on this totally pro 7 song album length demo tape. Some of the riffing is very good, and the vocals, other than the fact of dropping out of key, here and there on the cleanly sung parts. Armageddon play a mixture of most prominently death metal mixed with some black and traditional metal influences. These young guys have potential, all the tools are there, just in my opinion they need to build a tool box to house them all in. One problem is the song arrangements. They are a hodgepodge of parts juxtaposed on top of each other without any real hooks to weave them together. The drumming is not great, both in performance and the fact that the drum parts seem all wrong for this kind of music! All I can say guys, is practice a lot, play out and don't be afraid to loosen up and get a little groove going in the compos. Armageddon, c/o Moshe Ozkaragoz, Kaplinsky 19, Rishonhe Zion, ISREAL.

**NEAR DARK -
"Compilation Tape # 1" 1997**

Out of Sweden, something wicked this way comes. I like the cover and the inlay is nice and includes something that makes all good comps worth their weight, contact addresses of all bands, a must!. The tape suffers from usual comp tape problems of big swings in sound from band to band. The sound on a few tracks being particularly bad, such as the murky and rehearsal type sound on songs from Thy Serpent(FIN) and Cabaret For The Bereaved(FIN)... The bands presented deal mainly with death/black metal of a blasphemic nature, thankfully steering clear of keybored laden bands!. Other bands include: Beseech (SWE), Funeral Frost(SWE), Dissolved(SWE), Chambre Noir (SWE), Nahash(LITH), Melek Taus (SWE), Chained And Desperate (GRE), Gotterdammerung(GER), A Mind Confused(SWE), Withering Surface(DEN), The Marble Icon (SWE), and Imperial(FRA). I think \$5US should more than cover it!. Near Dark, c/o Nackstavagen 34B, 853 52 Sundsvall, SWEDEN.

**THINE -
"Journey's" Demo 1997**

This tape has two tracks, and a time of about 18 minutes, comes with a nice fold-out cover with lyrics. Thine play well crafted and executed epic metal with clean male vocals and some sporadic female parts. Now the problem I have with Thine is not their craftsmanship or execution, but the music lacks any real feeling or atmosphere. It just hangs there, listless and unmoving. I also dislike the lead vocals by Alan. He sounds like Povaratti singing a viking song! Yeah, amusing to say the least. \$4 to: Thine, 39 Rectory Drive, Birstall, West Yorkshire, WF 17 0PL, ENGLAND.



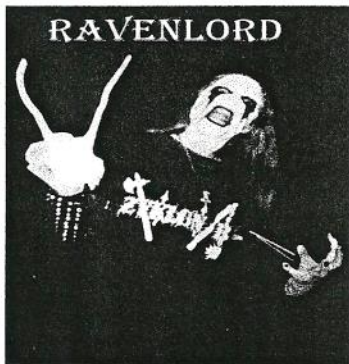
**UNHOLA -
"Musten Syvyyden Tuulet..." Demo '97**

This is the second demo (the first was never truly released) from this young black metal band. There are four tracks and an intro, with a nice recording and a member of Crimson Midwinter in the band!. Unhola play a great blend of epic dark metal mixed with folk influences and powerful melodies. The band are a little rough around the edges but are great and show signs of great things in the future. Marko insures me "the new songs (made after this demo) are much more powerful and atmospheric than ever". Unhola construct some nice obscure and catchy rhythms and heavy riffing, all backed with Margoath's killer croaky, gargle vox and a very solid drum performance. I cannot wait for the next release by Unhola. It is gonna fuck you up!. Order it for \$5US world or a blank tape + 1US dollar or I.R.C. Unhola, c/o M. Hyytia, Tanhuakajua 8 as 21, 23500 Uusikaupunki, FINLAND.

**VIOLENT DISORDER -
"Demon Society" Demo 1996**

There are a few spots on this tape here and there I dig, but those are unfortunately few and far between on this muddily recorded demo. They play mid-paced death metal mixed with some thrash and large hints of hardcore influence. I like some of their guitar tinkering, but it ends up being really of no consequence, with a back drop of sub-par riffing and uneventful song writing. Guys rehearse lots, get some gigs under your belts, see what parts the audience seems to dig the most and keep them in mind throw away the rest and don't be afraid to be a little adventurous with your arranging. Violent Disorder, c/o Jonathin Houchin, 613 Georgia Dr., Bethal, Ohio 45106, USA.

DEMO REVIEWS



SHAKE DEATH'S HAND - "Compilation" Tape # 1 1997

This comp. out of Sweden was put together by Ravenlord (see pic above), and he has done an exceptional job. Starting off with the full color glossy inlay, which looks great and has band addresses and all the pertinent information. Did I mention yet the tape is pro duplicated with print on the shell? Did I also mention it is \$7 US everywhere? Now I did, bitch!. This compilation deals in black/death metal bands (of an obscure nature, the mark of a true underground comp. tape). Bands include: Nagelfar (GER), Tortura (PORT), Blazing Eternity (DEN), Crimson Midwinter (FIN), Apolokia (ITA), Withering Surface (DEN), Bishop Of Hexen (ISR), Mundanus Imperium (NOR), Thule (??), Black Mist (SWE), Poles Apart (SWI). Write: Ravenlord, Glassgrand 119, 90624 Umea, SWEDEN.

FROM THE DEPTHS - "Promo/Demo" 1997

This band was formerly known as Blood Of Christ (Dismal recs. have released all the B.O.C. demo material on one CD but under the new name, there is a Blood Of Christ from Canada who released a album on Pulverizer, hence this one's name change). F.T.D. play an aggressive blend of black/death metal with keys and raspy black vocals. Throughout the four tracks present, this band showcases their talent, experience, and ability to pen complex and interesting music with nice rhythms and heavy riffs that crush. Luckily, the keyboards are kept far enough back in proceedings so as to not overpower or drown out the songs. Some titles include: "Bereavement", "Absentia", "Anagoge", and "Last Dawn". I think the lyrics in the future could be worked on a little and be a bit more imaginative and interesting. Then, they would match the amazing, supreme music crafted on this offering. Latest news on the band is they just recently signed with Candlelight Records!. Order this tape for \$3 USA/4 US world and shirts for \$12 USA/15 world. From The Depth's, P.O. Box 34414, Cleveland, OH. 44134, USA.

ROBED IN EXILE - "Serenity Fades" Demo 1997

Opening with an acoustic medley the odd sensation of the band becomes immediately present. What on the surface sounds somewhat like standard black

metal, "Serenity Fades" is somehow different from the masses. The often overdone keyboard element has been replaced by nothing more than a guitar. A clean or acoustic guitar melody placed in the middle of the song, or an actual lead guitar sound, not just that blazing rhythm we're so used to, maintains that raw sound so many in the genre hoped for, while at the same time adding the dimension of atmosphere. There is a focus on structure and transition rather than simply excessive speed and high pitch shrieking; with the only known parallel to be drawn is to Ophthalamia, without of course the benefit of such a level of production. It is black metal minus the cheese and monotony. Robed In Exile's "Serenity Fades" is a fresh approach to this usually uninventive genre. This demo has an excessive amount of energy and aggression maintained in the very raw, yet at times strangely atmospheric music. This band has a lot of talent and a lot of potential to become a well recognized name in the genre. -Neil St. Laurent
Email: bludgeon1@juno.com web=
<http://www.aimnet.com/~matth/exile/mai.n.html>



SUBVERSION - "Foul" Demo 1997

I had heard something about this band, what perked my interest was it was said to feature the killer ex-Process singer. I could tell right off the first foray of this 5 tracker "Murder Most Foul" that the rumors were in fact correct. The music itself is fast and intense, while granted the chaos made a few compos come off as muddled. Subversion has a wide mix of punk/hardcore/thrash/death metal with a few speedy grinds peppered throughout. Yes, a mixed bag, but an explosive bag of tricks. Things don't get any clearer with vocalist Jim Huhn, a true talent. He effortlessly switches from insane half spoken/half sung vox to punk/hardcore shouts to pure clean ones to a couple different textures of the death growl. Fucking crazy, huh!?. Damn right and this rules too!. Very energetic, catchy and fast shit, all produced by Canada's own musical genius Devin Townsend (Strapping Young Lad ecetera ecetera). Last note: try this on for size, the bass player of this band has apparently just joined Grip Inc.!. Subversion, P.O. Box 42858, # 105- 1005 Columbia Street, New West Minster, B.C., V3M 6H5, CANADA

STRADION - "Impulsive Reincarnation" Demo 1996

Some pretty cool but very simplistic tunes, not much to be said in the arrangement area, however some nice riffing will have your head bobbing. The vocals I am not sure if I like or not, they are patented after Tom G. Warrior but have that kind of D.R.I. flavor to them and don't always come off as convincing or as in your face as they need to be. This music is kinda old metal late '80's style, sort of a commercial style really. Having said that, any commercial stabs musically are made null in void lyrically by songs such as "Blah! Blah! Blah! Kill! Kill! Kill! Kill!", and "Fuck You All -Worldaphobia". Good for a laugh and headbang or two but not much else. Stradion, P.O. Box 1505, Cahokia, IL. 62206, USA.

SATAN'S GOD - "Golden Kale Of Rayziac" Promo/Demo 1997

S.G. have been labeled in the past as experimental noise, when I heard their '95 "Wicked Arrival..." CEP I had to agree. However, if this promo is something to go by as a sample of what is going to be on the album; then I think the noise part can be dropped and could just tag it as experimental music manipulation. The material present on this tape is one 20 minute plus song titled the same as the tape. It consists of moody music with catchy string plucking, dreamy on one hand and rabid on the other vocalizations, general bass and sound effect manipulation. None of which will amaze anyone, but it is quite an interesting listen and perfect for when you are in a surreal mood created now and then in everyone's twisted cranial crawl space. The music manages to create a very surrealistic atmosphere and general weirdness, created by the spacey music and meandering pace. Only 100 of these printed so write and ask about the album instead. I am sure it will mess you up. P.O. Box 23215, Helleville, IL. 62223-0215, USA.

THE FORGOTTEN - "Self-Titled" Demo 1997

This tape has 2 trax titled "The Black Forest" and "Beneath The Grave" and comes on a pro tape and full color fold out cover. I like this. I mean it has room for growth; but, yeah this is some good shit bro. Extreme, loose and raw metal that is very fervid and impassioned and always in your face. I even hear some European black metal influence in the riffing, which is done quite nicely. The vocals of Ed Weaver are brilliant - fucking maniacal screams and gurgles with that touch of the death growl and black metal rasp without ever committing to either. They throw in a few atmospheric slow parts with bits of synth like in "Beneath The Grave", with it's plodding crawl as is snakes it's way and builds some cool anticipation then just goes nuts and hammers with a large blast of metal speed to keep you off kilter. Keep an eye on this band and send \$3 USA/4 world and get this. The Forgotten, Box 354, Commack, NY. 11725, USA.

DEMO REVIEWS

DEMO REVIEWS

ARES KINGDOM - "Promo Tape" 1997

I won't go on about who makes up this band. It is quite interesting, but read the Eternal Darkness interview to find out more. This is one truly powerful band. The sheer extremity is thoroughly steeped with some intense, catchy, and melodic music. This is the promo tape for the cassette EP which is being released on Eternal Darkness Creations as I write this. The vocals here are very similar to Order From Chaos, however, mimic the great rhythms of the music and have a little Bathory viking era tinge to them. I really cannot say enough about Ares Kingdom. They are just great! The riffing is heavy and the drums pounding, the structure and flow infectiously headbangable. Top notch metal from veteran undergrounders. Get this and find out why Ares Kingdom rule the land! \$6 US world to Eternal Darkness (see addy elsewhere).

HOSTILE - "Behind The Eyes" Demo 1998

Hostile is an all around metal band; but, it leans heavily towards slowish doom, mixed with the types of riffs often seen from bigger death and thrash bands (i.e. - clean and heavy, chugging, stop-on-a-dime, hell you know what I mean! Ha ha). Hostile is a six member band with two vocalists. The male vocalist mainly sounds like an old bearded pirate - hoarse and gruff. His vocals are done in a kind of half spoken/half sung manner. The female vocalist, Lina, does mainly clean vocals. I am pretty sure she does the black metal vox, which are very powerful! On the opening track "No Life," both vocalists sing simultaneously juxtaposed on top of each other to a very cool and kind of chilling effect. I feel Hostile probably are not quite at the level they want to be, but all of the tools are there and this tape showcases the band beginning to really put those tools together. My fave song on here is the title track, a really emotional song which has a killer chorus that is perfectly in sync with the music. The forceful and bombastic black metal shrieks on this song are some of the best ever! This tape is 5 songs encompassing about 25 minutes and a great fold out color cover, yours for \$5 US world. Did I mention the sweet solos? Hostile, c/o Jonas Asplind, Bergragen 6, 79020 Grycksbo, SWEDEN.

TWISTED TOWER DIRE - "Triumphing True Metal" Promo Tape 1997

As you can imagine from the title of this tape, I got my hopes up and very excited to check this out. My copy has 3 tracks, 2 that were on the original "Triumphing..." promo and a new '98 (I believe?) tune entitled "Mourner In The Mist". T.T.D. carry proudly the day of '80's metal bands such as Maltese Falcon, Iron Maiden, Acid, Mercyful Fate, Grim Reaper, Oz and Manowar to name a few. I have never heard anything by this band, but know that they have out a split seven incher with Cold Mourning, which I am very

interested in checking out. Something people will note straight off is the vocalist is a woman - and a very talented one at that! To my surprise, her voice does what few other female voice's can do to metal music and that is compliment it. Her voice is pure silk and she slides across all the needed ranges with such ease and agility, while still embodying the emotion the music commands. T.T.D. tend to slip now and then into the hard rock arena but generally stick with some great heavy/power metal gallops and chugging, that makes my head violently bang! The music on here is hard to convey it is so smooth, heavy and emotional in nature and features stellar guitar pieces, slick and precise drumming, some cool bass lines that form the back bone; and, of course, those vocals - those gorgeous vocals! The pacing is mostly of the quick and assailing variety, but in "Home Of Darkness" things are slowed down and deeply poignant. It makes you peer profoundly into yourself, only having your shallow breath distant heartbeat as companion. This band has just been signed to Near Dark Productions (See addy under N.D. comp tape review) and deservedly so. Write and find out more about that. This band I feel would be amazing live. I hope I get the chance to experience that one day! Twisted Tower Dire, c/o Scott Waldrop, 10021 Scenic View Terrace, Vienna, VA. 22182, USA. Email = ttoc@ids2.idsonline.com

FANZINE REVIEWS

METAL DEFIANCE Issue # 5 *52 A5 pages* *Photo-copied* *Center glued* (Greece)

Outta Greece comes the fifth issue of Metal Defiance, and it's debut in the english language. There are only about 25 demo/album/zine reviews and are quite cursory. The interviews are relatively interesting - and now this is only a personal pet peeve... they are all very short in length and have mainly the same 5 or 6 questions repeated. One thing that shines brightly though right from the cover statement "The Real Underground Lives..." is that the editor Alex Belphegor is a dedicated undergrounder and a true metal brother! Bands interviewed: Exhumation(GRE), Grief Of Emerald (SWE), Black Wailing(GRE), Funerary Call(CAN), Twilight(GRE), Mortify(GRE), Deviser(GRE), Nocturnal Howling(GRE), Cyclonic Productions(CAN) and Macabre Omen(GRE). Probably \$4 US should do it I would think, maybe write cause issue # 6 should be out by now. Metal Defiance, Iraklitou 94, 122 43 Egaleo, Athens, GREECE.

GRIMOIRE OF EXALTED DEEDS Issue # 9 (USA) *64 A4 pages* *pro-printed (newsprint)* *Center glued*

Allright!! I love this mag! If u are not easily offended, you will laugh your ass off all the way through! As editor Bill Zebub manages to single out everything loves and hates and ridicules (yeah kinda like an episode of South Park ha ha) both

vehemently with deadly sarcastic death strikes. As always a nice and funny cover with blasphemous touches. Interviews are usually of a good length and the questions are always humorous but more importantly probing and knowledgeable. Only about a little over 25 reviews, but good for the most part nonetheless. Other features include: a letters page, metal column on underground radio shows, Metal Dave's advise column, a short story, scantily clad/nude women photos sent in for the Grimoire Girl contest in each issue, poetry, 8 yes count 'em an 8 page Necropolis records catalogue in the center and some free classifieds. Bands interviewed: Opressor(USA), Broken Hope(USA), Impaled Nazerene(FIN), FMU Radio Station Manager(USA), Usurper (USA), Acheron(USA), Skepticism (FIN), Dean Adams(USA) (Jailed former member/leader of the Unholy Death Trinity cult crimes), Corpse Vomit(USA), Mortal Decay(USA), Deceased(USA), Paeton & The Gore Whores(USA) and Internal Bleeding (USA). A steal at \$3 US worldwide. New issue out now. Grimoire, 245 Lakeview Ave, Suite 237, Clifton, NJ 07011, USA.

MOROSOPHY Issue # 1 *58 A5 pages* *Photo-copied* *Corner stapled* (FRANCE)

60 plus reviews, a little short but not too bad and they get the point across. Interviews are interesting, moderate in length. Sometimes kinda chaotic, but the questions for the most part are very informed and specific. Plain looking with only a few photos. Bands interviewed: Moonblood (GER), Blessed In Sin(FRA), Amon Sul(??), Desaster(GER), Aggressor (FRA), Elbereth(SPA), Curse(FIN), Ragnarok(NOR), Goat Penis(BRA), Demonic(NOR), Nauthis(SWE), Adnauseum(USA), Susscrofa(FRA), Saboath(PAR), Trom(SWI), Asmorod(FRA), Necronomicon (SWE), Malthus(FRA). Labels interviewed: Evil Omen Recs.(FRA), Impure Creation Recs.(FRA), Undead Productions(SWI). \$4 US should do it for this one. Morosophy, c/o David Dorai, 7 Res. Pierre Garry, 47350 Seyches, FRANCE.

I CAME FROM DARKNESS Issue # 4 (FINLAND)

32 A5 pages *Pro-printed* *center stapled*

A very pro looking mag with clean layout, though it doesn't matter to me personally whether it is pro or not as long as it is good! The innards here are above average with some nicely lengthed reviews (numbering 80+). An article on Burzum and bands interviewed are: Azubham Haani (SWE), Malign(SWE), Bethzadia (NOR), Mortis(NOR/SWE), Septic Flesh(GRE), Necromantia(GRE), Setherial(SWE), Helheim(NOR), The Third And The Mortal(NOR). As well as a label interviews with: Solistitium Recs.(GER), Lowland Recs.(HOL), Misanthropy Recs. (UK), Entropy Productions(ITA) and Necromantic Gallery Prod.(HOL). I Came From Darkness, c/o Northwind arhumaenkatu 1, 53850 Lappeenranta,FINLAND.

Just as an intro to this interview, I must say a few words. This is a rather old interview. It was originally intended for *The Sepulchral Voice*, a mag I wrote for. Anyway, Mike the editor of the *T.S.V.*, decided since Rotting took a fairly lengthy period to answer that he wasn't going to bother printing it, saying "if they don't care to give it any priority getting done, I don't want to print it." So, whatever! Mike and I disagreed on many issues and this was one of them. However, we were good friends through any differences. To make a long story longer (ha!), I am printing it now. I feel I owe it the band and I called Kory (vocals) the man interviewed and we discussed things. And, I have included a short update following the interview to bring this interview into a fresh time period.



1. Could you give a brief history of the band and it's members? What do you guys do outside the band for entertainment???

Allright. Well, we started in the fall of 1992. Since then, we've had 3 demos: "Christcrusher", "Human Race Liquidation", and "Drown In Rotting Flesh". We played numerous shows, with such bands as: Mundane, Oppessor, Incantation, Kataklysm, Suffocation, and many others. Myself (Kory), I do the vocals. Jeff White does guitar. And Keith Devry plays drums. At the moment we have two guys (Derek and James) helping out. I can't speak for anyone else in the band for entertainment outside the band. I'm into horror movies, wrestling, drinking beer and young girls(you sick bastard you!! ha -Dale).

2. What's the scene like in the Newmarket area ? Also, I know you did a few shows with Gorguts/Opressor on their mini-tour of Canada. How was that? Finally, a mini-tour promoted by yourselves which was to include Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec and a few stateside dates, did this happen yet???

I'm not sure what the scene is like here in Newmarket yet. We really haven't actually played a show here yet. I do know a lot of people here are into the heavier side of music. We're planning on playing a heavy music fest here soon. We done one in Barrie two years back, and shit loads turned out. The Opressor/Gorguts thing was pretty cool. The mini-tour promoted by ourselves has not happened yet, but will soon!(I am quite sure it has not happened still as of yet -Dale).

3. How many copies of the last demo "Drown In Rotting Flesh" sold thus far? How have individual buyers reacted to it? How was the recording process of "D.I.R.F." like? And, what did the recording costs amount to???

An actual number is unknown, but it is quite a bit. The reaction from buyers has been great! Most people that have wrote have said "D.I.R.F." is fucking brutal stuff. The recording process was only like 3 days to record and one and a half to mix and master. The recording cost like 800 dollars. It's a totally different story with our album coming out. So far we have been in the studio for like over two month's! (Fuck! Who do you think you are, Metallica? ha ha -Dale).

4. What do you think when people say the "death metal is dead or dying out"? Or is it more like the trendies are (both fans and bands) leaving or jumping onto the next bandwagon (i.e. hardcore/punk or black metal)? I think the scene is that much stronger for it (the trendies leaving I mean)!!!

There is no fucking way death metal is dead! Yeah, it has slowed down a lot (for now) I will agree. I think the big problem is the press (such as one American mag I won't mention) talking so much shit. Maybe if they'd just shut their mouths, it wouldn't be as bad. I do think death metal will come back as strong a force on the music scene again within the next two years.

5. What are some of the bands that influenced Rotting in the early days, and what are you personally into these days? Also, on a completely different note, what do you think of Displeased Records re-releasing the mighty classic "None Shall Defy" by provincial mates Infernal Majesty (at the time of this interview it was just about to be released -Dale)!??

Some bands that influenced Rotting in the early days were Carcass, Slayer, Autopsy, Deicide, and many others. Personally, I am into almost everything. Some of the bands I'm totally into now are Dying Fetus, Six Feet Under, Tragically Hip (ugh -Dale), Weezer (Say it ain't so! -Dale), Pyrexia and Christ Inversion. Yeah, that's real cool about Infernal Majesty's "None Shall Defy" being re-released. They were a huge influence on Keith, our drummer.

6. You mentioned to me in your letter, that you were in the process of recording 11 songs to be released as a full-length entitled "The Unholiest Of All Penetrations" (See update plans changed-Dale). Since you mentioned no label I presume maybe you'll go the route of say Cryptopsy and get a Euro. label to release it over there and do the North American distribution yourselves? Also, what can people who heard the demo stuff expect from the album!???

We're talking with a few labels about licensing deals. Other than that, I can't really say much about that. Anyone who hears the demo (material) can expect something way different. Off the(D.I.R.F.) demo we re-recorded the songs, "Voices" and "In Vain" for the album.

7. I know you hate christianity and consider them sheep. Care to expand on that, and share your opinions!??.

As far as I am concerned, any form of god-doers have no place in society. Anyone that calls themselves a christian is a fuckin' liar! Anyways, christians are hypocrites with no minds. I spit on their book, their cross, their church, and on them! Nothing, but extreme hate, to god-doers. Jesus was a retard!

8. Thanks, Kory! How about listing merchandise and some last words for the C.A. readers and Rotting listeners!??.

We have "Drown In Rotting Flesh" T-Shirts for \$12 dollars. Soon to be out will be "I'm A Born Against Christian" shirt (Not really sure if they ever made this shirt write for details -Dale). Support the underground, and cast out christ! Thanks.

UPDATE

To bring things up to snuff here is what Kory relayed to me over the phone yesterday. Rotting shortly after the recording of the album split up for a few months and now have reformed with the following line-up: Kory Arnold (Vocals), Rob McAulay (Lead guitar), Rick Van Wissen (Rythmn guitar), Jeff White (Bass guitar) and Keith Devry (Drums). They are rehearsing and get shit back together, and plan to play shows at the start of the new year. By Feb. 1998, they will release a demo, which will be the aborted full-length CD on tape and can be ordered from Kory for 4 US everywhere. Said demo will not have the aborted album title. It will be entitled "Nothing But Attitude", and feature the following songs: "In Vain", "Sexually Tortured", "Laid To Rest", "Unholy Penetration", "Soul Burn", "Let Them Bleed", "Christian Castration", "Blood", "Guts", and "Evil I". Then they will prepare their new material for a release probably late spring or early summer - maybe in the form of a debut or another demo tape (we will see). Kory tells me everyone is dedicated to doing shit right and the new stuff is not a huge departure of brutal death metal style on the "Drowning In Rotting Flesh" Demo 1995. So, write and/or email them and check their website.

Rotting, c/o Kory, 58 Roxborough Rd., Newmarket, Ontario, L3Y 3K9, CANADA

email = rotting@interhop.net

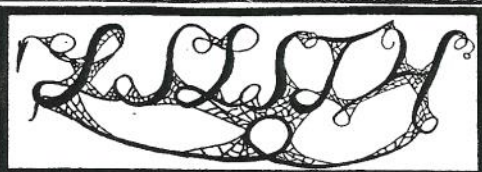
website: <http://www.fortunecity.com/tinpan/bunnymen/39/title.htm>



Sabbat



"When worshipping the Devil, the witches assume different postures. Sometimes they beg on bended knees; sometimes they fall down on their back; sometimes they kick their legs in the air and bend their head to the belly, always moving so that the chin points to the sky."—Guazzo (1626).



The story of Lilith is prominent in Jewish legends. Lilith was the first wife of Adam before Eve. Adam and Lilith were created from filth and therefore were equal. So when Adam and Lilith first encountered sex she felt that Adam lying on top was dominating her. She preferred sex lying side by side.

Lilith had discovered the secret name of god and using this had forced him to give her a pair of wings. So she left Adam and flew to the Red Sea. Hoery Jehovah, realizing he had fucked up, sent three angels, Savy, Snavy and Sangif after her. They found her and threatened her that if she did not return to Adam a hundred of her children would die every day.

However Lilith refused, and suffered the consequences. But she was able to loose one hundred offspring a day as she copulated with the fallen angels and demons of air and sand, giving birth to thousands of progeny. This is why she is the mother of many demons and all incubi and succubi.

Despite her huge brood, Lilith being a caring mother felt the need to avenge herself by destroying the children of Adam and Eve and their descendants. So she would attack newborn boys in the first eight days of life, and girls in the first twenty days (if not death). To try to prevent this, mothers would place talismans and amulets (often the Seal of Solomon) around the child's crib.

After the incident with Adam, Lilith married the mighty demon Samael/Asmodeus.

The biblical records give clues to the symbols and nature

of Lilith. In the book of Isaiah Lilith is alluded to as the shriek owl (according to Albertus Magnus, this owl has numerous magical qualities), demonstrating her nocturnal nature.

Sumerian sources refer to Lilith as 'Lilit', where she is cast as a succubus invading the beds of men. The Necronomicon states that she cometh upon water and it gives her sigil, which bears resemblance to the symbol of Sumerian royalty she is holding in the picture below.



Shemhamforash?

Shemhamforash is a word that is gaining prominence in the Satanic underground - it is frequently used in conversation, and Lupoed Nazarone released a rehearsal tape using it as a title. But what does it mean?...

No doubt most people come across it in Anton LeVey's Satanic Bible and The Satanic Rituals, where it is mentioned alongside "Hail Satan" as a conclusion to rituals. But nowhere in either book does LeVey mention its meaning. (Well, I haven't found one).

However, through my independent research I have come across two definitions - the first from The Encyclopedia of the Occult by Lewis Spence: "Shemhamforash - In the Talmud the external term representing the hidden word of power, by whose virtues it were possible to create a new world. But it is lost to men, though even sounds approximating to it have a magic power and can give to him who pronounces them dominion in the spirit world. Some of the Kabbis say that the word of power contains twelve letters of the divine alphabet which god created from certain luminous points made by the concentration of the primal universal light. Shemhamforash is in fact the name of this word."

The second from The Dictionary of Mysticism and the Occult: "Shemhamforash - In Judaism the seventy-two syllable name of god which consists of 216 letters. According to Jewish tradition the source of this name may be found in Exodus 14:19-21 which contains three verses containing seventy two Hebrew letters. At a later stage Shemhamforash was simplified to the form y-h-w-h, known as the tetragrammaton."

These two statements cover the same ground in explaining that shemhamforash relates to the name of god or something to that effect. So the question arises, why has this word become associated with Satan and Satanism? - to say a name of god at the conclusion of a Satanic ritual must surely render the ritual pointless and powerless. What the hell was LeVey thinking when he included it in his rituals? - Maybe Gostlord of Tapedity is right in what he says about LeVey.



FLESHGRIND

"I think some bands should practice more before they put out a demo, they are very untight and too sloppy to have a demo out" -Steve Murray/webzine interview

1. Can you introduce the band and give a quick history, to those not yet turned onto the 'Grind!??.

Okay. Well, I, Steve Murray, play guitar; Rich Lipscomb - vocals/guitar; Dave Barbolla - drums; and Ray Vazquez - bass. We formed in March of '93. In November of '93, we recorded our "Holy Pedophile" demo. We played lots of shows, did lots of mail, and then in April of '95, we recorded our "Sorrow Breeds Hatred(Bleed On Me)" demo. In January of '96, we replaced our original bass player, Casey Ryba, with our current bass player, Ray Vazquez. We then signed to Pulverizer Records; and, in August of '97, we put out our debut album, "Destined For Defilement".

2. How is the scene in Illinois? The death metal scene there seems fertile. Are there a lot of death metal bills? How are the crowd sizes and reactions at the gigs???

The death scene in Illinois is pretty killer right now. Lots of good bands, such as: Opressor, Jungle Rot, Lividity, Sapphist, Euphoric Evisceration, Deaden, Broken Hope, Gorgasm, Hot Stove, Disinter, Sarcophagus, Num Skull, Artic Symphony, and others. The shows are usually pretty killer - good turn outs and crowd reactions. The major tours just started coming back here, cuz there was no where to play for a bit. But, it is back on track.

3. Describe the differences of recording your demos, as opposed to having a label budget for the album!?. Are you happy with the sound and production job by Brian Griffin (Guitarist of Broken Hope)???

Well, we felt a little bit more pressure with us not paying for it. We had a very low budget to record our album. Brian Griffin went beyond the call of duty. He is amazing in the studio. I think it sounds great for a rushed low budget album. It was recorded and mixed in less than a week.

4. Do you like the recording process? Describe a day in the life of recording your debut album "Destined For Defilement"!?. Do you have all the songs completely finished and fleshed out (pun intended) before going into the studio???

I hate the recording process. Actually, it is tedious - rewarding, but tedious. We did the drums first, then bass, then guitars, then vox. When we recorded the drums (which were all done in one day) our drummer just played while I played the scratch tracks. It was quite the long day I must say. We have everything down before we go into the studio. The only thing that really changed was some harmonizing parts that were not planned out before we went into the studio.

5. What do you know about Canada? Your opinions on the Canadian scene and some bands you dig from here? Do you find there is a 'Canadian sound'???

We have played in Canada a few times. We have played London, Ontario (once), Montreal (twice), Quebec City (3 times), and Rimouski (once) (all in the province of Quebec -Dale). We love it up there! The shows, when promoted right, are very good. Some killer bands are: Blood Of Christ, Rotting, Obscene Crisis, Cryptopsy, Kataklysm, Necrotic Mutation, Gorelust R.I.P.) were killer, Summertime Daises. I guess Canada has that hyper blast sound.

6. Now onto one of my fave questions. What do you think about the album "Black Metal" by the almighty Venom!??.

Sorry, I am not a Venom fan (gasp -Dale). Our drummer and bass player love them and that album though (Your drummer and bass player have good taste! -Dale).

7. Have you or would you like to do any out of state/country shows? At most shows do you at least break even or maybe make a couple bucks, to put back into the band or future show promotion???

Like I mentioned, we have played Canada a few times, and love to play out of state shows. The only time we make money is if we play around here. Otherwise, we usually lose or break even. But, as long as we have fun that is all that matters (Fuckin' eh, bro!! - Dale).

8. What is the sickest thing you have ever seen or witnessed? Any funny or weird shit happen at gigs to tell us about!??.

I knew theses medical students, and they took me into a room full of cadavers that they work on. It was great! A funny thing... Let's see. When we played Montreal this year, Rich was stomping on the stage and the stage broke and he fell in. That was quite hilarious!

9. Your lyrics obviously dwell in the gore field. That said, what are some of the sorted tales the lyrics go into? Are you of the opinion, that the vocalist should write the lyrics he sings???

I wouldn't call the lyrics that I write gory. But, our bass players lyrics are on the gory side. My lyrics are based on true stories, usually about the Mafia or sex crimes. I don't think it matters who writes the lyrics.

10. What age/year did you discover metal and, then later, the underground scene? What were some of the first demos/zines you ordered or came across? Do any of the members do any activities in the underground outside of the band???

I was 16 years old, it was 1990 when I bought Death - "Scream Bloody Gore" (album). Before that, I was really into Slayer. My first demos were from local bands, such as Broken Hope. They turned me onto the underground. The band takes up a lot of our free time.

11. How does the writing process go? Does each member contribute, or does one person do the lion's share of writing and arranging the songs!?? Any new material written for the next LP; and, will it be on Pulverizer!??

I guess I do the lion's share of the writing process. I write the majority of the riffs and lyrics. And me and the drummer work it all out. The other guys throw in occasional riffs and opinions. Currently, we have 2 songs written for the next album. We are taking it one album at a time with Pulverizer.

12. Do you see underground 'zines as a useful tool for labels and bands alike? Are they a vital part of keeping the scene alive and well!??

Zine's are an integral part of the underground. They let everybody know what is going on with little bands like us. Without them, promotion would be VERY hard.

13. Last comments, future plans and merchandise available to the Canadian Assault readers!??

Thanks, to all our existing Canadian fans. You guys are great!! Our two demos are still available. But, we are on our last pressing of them, so hurry up if you want them. Check out our new album, "Destined For Defilement" on Pulverizer Records. We also have breast logo shirt available with the saying "THE FEW THE PROUD THE BRUTAL" on back and sleeve prints. Thanks for everything! STAY METAL!!!!!! (Thanks to you Steve, for the words of wisdom. You rule, brother!! -Dale).

Fleshgrind, c/o Steve Murray, 755 Merrill Ln., Grayslake, IL. 60030, USA.

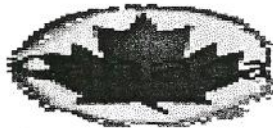
Pulverizer Records, P.O. Box 946, Dixon, IL. 61021, USA.

Email = f1shgrind@aol.com

website = <http://www.graymist.com/Deathbanger/Fleshgrind>



A MOMENT OF



MISELLANIA (Nonsense?)



For years the electrical utility companies have led the public to believe they were in business to supply electricity to the consumer, a service for which they charge a substantial rate. The recent accidental acquisition of secret records from a well known power company has led to a massive research campaign which positively explodes several myths and exposes the massive hoax which has been perpetrated upon the public by the power companies.

The most common hoax promoted the false concept that light bulbs emitted light; in actuality, these 'light' bulbs actually absorb DARK which is then transported back to the power generation stations via wire networks. A more descriptive name has now been coined; the new scientific name for the device is DARKSUCKER.

This newsletter introduces a brief synopsis of the darksucker theory, which proves the existence of dark and establishes the fact that dark has great mass, and further, that dark particle (the anti-photon) is the fastest known particle in the universe. Apparently, even the celebrated Dr. Albert Einstein did not suspect the truth.. that just as COLD is the absence of HEAT, LIGHT is actually the ABSENCE OF DARK... scientists have now proven that light does not

continued on next page

really exist!

The basis of the darksucker theory is that electric light bulbs suck dark. Take for example, the darksuckers in the room where you are right now. There is much less dark right next to the darksuckers than there is elsewhere, demonstrating their limited range. The larger the darksucker, the greater its capacity to suck dark. Darksuckers in a parking lot or on a football field have a much greater capacity than the ones in used in the home, for example.

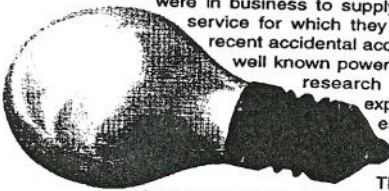
It may come as a surprise to learn that darksuckers also operate on a celestial scale; witness the Sun. Our Sun makes use of dense dark, sucking it in from all the planets and intervening dark space. Naturally, the Sun is better able to suck dark from the planets which are situated closer to it, thus explaining why those planets appear brighter than do those which are far distant from the Sun.

Occasionally, the Sun actually oversucks; under those conditions, dark spots appear on the surface of the Sun. Scientists have long studied these 'sunspots' and are only recently beginning to realize that the dark spots represent leaks of high pressure dark because the Sun has oversucked dark to such an extent that some dark actually leaks back into space. This leakage of high pressure dark frequently causes problems with radio communications here on Earth due to collisions between the dark particles as they stream out into space at high velocity via the black 'holes' in the surface of the Sun.

As with all manmade devices, darksuckers have a finite lifetime caused by the fact that they are not 100% efficient at transmitting collected dark back to the power company via the wires from your home, causing dark to build up slowly within the device. Once they are full of accumulated dark, they can no longer suck. This condition can be observed by looking for the black spot on a full darksucker when it has reached maximum capacity of untransmitted dark... you have surely noticed that dark completely surrounds a full darksucker because it no longer has the capacity to suck any dark at all.

A candle is a primitive darksucker. A new candle has a white wick. You will notice that after the first use the wick turns black, representing all the dark which has been sucked into it. If you hold a pencil next to the wick of an operating candle, the tip will turn black because it got in the way of the dark flowing into the candle. It is of no use to plug a candle into an electrical outlet; it can only collect dark... it has no transmission capabilities. Unfortunately, these primitive darksuckers have a very limited range and are hazardous to operate because of the intense heat produced.

There are also portable darksuckers called flashlights. The bulbs in these devices collect dark which is passed to a dark storage unit called a battery. When the dark storage unit is full, it must be either emptied (a process called 'recharging') or replaced before the portable darksucker can continue to operate. If you break open a battery, you will find dense black dark inside, evidence,





Just a quick introduction to set the scene...This interview was conducted Halloween night with many Hallow's Eve parties going on all around. It took place in a dimly lit walkway, in between two buildings, with Verminaard and Paulus, following their proclaimed "last ever" live show in Edmonton at Area 51 (which, on a side note, was also the night of the release of their 2nd LP "The Distracting Stone").

The set was tight and powerful. The awesome performance was highlighted by Verminaard, who had brought an actual pig's head out onto the stage. After ripping into it with a battleaxe, he then pitched the severed, mutilated head into the rabid crowd. The enthusiastic fans proceeded to beat it against the stage and stomp on it, sending chunks of bacon flesh flying!

This interview was conducted in conjunction with Dale Roy of Canadian Assault mag and Neil St. Laurent of Tracks Of Creation internet 'zine, who would like to send out many thanks and hails to Verminaard and Paulus, true brothers in metal!!!



C.A. Mag - Let's start off by telling us a little bit about the new album!?

Paulus - Buy it!

C.A. Mag - I did, but I haven't listened to it yet.

Paulus - What, did you pay for it? We don't know the price yet.

C.A. Mag - Cheap, ten bucks!

Paulus - Good. Canadians get it for ten.

Verminaard - Americans have to pay fifty! (laughter all around...) ...On the new one, there is a three song trilogy. The trilogy is kind of like a prequile to the "River...(Of Corticone)" saga. The main character in "River...", was Amemnon; and, the prequile is basically about how Amemnon was born, his rise to power and everything else. The other eight songs are individual stories, in their own right. They are not connected in any way.

Paulus - There will be another album to come as well.

Verminaard - Oh, definitely many more to come!

C.A. Mag - Cool, just no live shows eh!?

Verminaard - (Quickly snaps) Not in this town!

Paulus - Not in this town. There will (still) be live shows.

Verminaard - We'll still be going on. There's no way we are quitting. What you witnessed tonight was, probably by far, 10 times better then the other shows in Edmonton.

Paulus - Edmonton is dying. This metal here is shit! People are shit! That is what I have to say...there are true people here, some people, not many mind you but...

Verminaard - You can count them on one hand.

T.O.C. - Where, do you find the better scenes around Canada, or anywhere?

Verminaard - For the Canadian scene, it's not a big mystery that the Montreal area is the place to be...(pauses)...just cause they are full of freaks...(laughter)...but, I dunno. I talked to a lot of people around the world, and people complain about the scene wherever they live. Like...if you live in X, the scene in sucks in X. If you live in Y, the scene sucks in Y.

C.A. Mag - Ya, the scene sucks in Sweden, even though they have a million bands!

Verminaard - That's it! I've talked to people from Norway that say there's like 10 people at shows, and no one cares. And, there's this

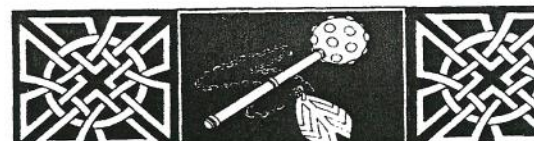
big wealth of bands there and still no one comes to shows.

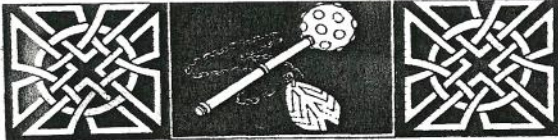
Paulus - There was an explosion, basically an explosion of this new scene of black metal, that is where the new scene came fuckin' from...(pauses) And, mind you, I cannot talk. I haven't been there myself, but I've read interviews and so forth where they say the scene is shitty. They are happy when 50 people come...a hundred people come.. We had two hundred people here tonight!

Verminaard - Well, basically the scene over there, where there's a wealth of bands, is the same kind of live scene there is here. And, there's no bands (in Edmonton). Ya know, this town is getting better.

C.A. Mag - Ya, I have a lot of death and black metal shows from Europe, and lots of the time, they only get 75 people at these shows!

Paulus - You got that on video? I might have to write and get some stuff.





C.A. Mag - Sure...So, are you happy with the production of the new album?

Verminaard - Oh, yeah!

Paulus - Yes, it blows "River..." away. Playing is much better. And production is much better.

Verminaard - Ironically, it was in a technologically inferior studio then we recorded "River..." in, but it is amazing how an engineer who understands where we are coming from helps. The guy that recorded "River...", he's ummm...(pauses)...adequate and he refuses to go beyond adequate, like I'm at this level and I don't care to go anymore. I mean, he's got an amazing studio and he can't use it. I mean he just can't! If we had the engineer, we used this time in that studio, I shudder to think what it could have sounded like!

C.A. Mag - So, you are not of the opinion, that certain bands such as Dark Throne, Swordmaster, and Grand Belial's Key need a dirty sound to play this kind of music!?

Paulus - I like raw production myself. I don't think our production's clean by any fuckin' means! I like raw production. That is what horde metal is, raw and nasty and fuck you in the face!

Verminaard - Ya, like not overproduced glam/terra fucking garbage.

C.A. Mag - Morrisound, home of the plastic sound!

Paulus - Mind you, our music is a bit more...

Verminaard - Extreme.

Paulus - ...Chaotic. You have to have you. Can't have that production on our sort of music...

Verminaard - It would be stupid.

Paulus - ...It would be jumbled. I do like raw. I love raw production. I do my own project, too, on a four track...pure rawness!

C.A. Mag - What's the name of the project?

Paulus - Pure Beligerence. I dunno. It's going to be like a 4 song demo. That's in the future.



SACRAMENTARY ABOLISHMENT (Top to bottom) : Wor (Chainsaw, Hatred), Verminaard (Rumble, Spitfire), Paulus (Armageddon, Terror)

C.A. Mag - Are there any plans, for licensing for European distribution?

Verminaard - Plastic Head (U.K.) have basically bought the rights to our stuff. And, we do lots of trading with smaller labels, like Avantgarde moves an amazing amount of our stuff. Like, who would have thought?!

Paulus - Ya! More then anyone else, eh? (looks at Verminaard).

Verminaard - Ya! Pretty much Avantgarde and Cold Meat Industry.

C.A. Mag - Does Plastic Head Canada move any?

Verminaard - Ya! Them and C.D.N. (Civilian Death Network from Ontario, Canada -Dale), they are the biggest ones in Canada, we just basically (go) with trading...(at this point, we are interrupted by someone dressed as a pirate, saying "You guys seen 'death' (a.k.a. Grim Reaper) go thru here?")...(Verminaard glares at him)...No! We haven't seen anybody...(looks in the direction he wants the pirate to quickly leave, and he does so with haste).

C.A. Mag - Where do you find the biggest response coming from?

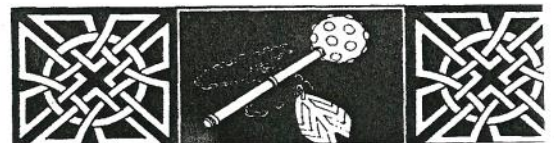
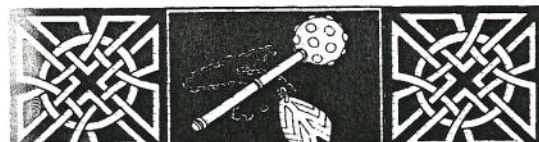
Paulus - It seems pretty fuckin' global to me!

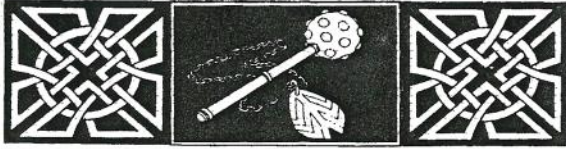
C.A. Mag - Ya!?

Verminaard - I get mail from all over the place. If I was to separate the envelopes that I have into countries, I betcha it's damned even. Like it's all over. Like even eastern Europe and Asia and it is kind of neat because I didn't even know they had any bands. But, people

are writing, emailing (from everywhere)! Some guy in Israel has our disc. Like, what?! Okay how did you get that?

T.O.C. - Do you ever get a chance to really talk to the fans?





Verminaard - We prefer not to!

Paulus - I prefer to keep distance from everybody.

Verminaard - We prefer solitude basically.

Paulus - Hence, the term 'last show ever in Edmonton'. I am sick and tired of people trying to kiss my ass.

Verminaard - Since the band's inception, this is probably the 3rd live interview we have ever done, everything is pen and paper. Like, we got off stage and people I don't even know, for all I know got into metal last week or something...(Mimicking them)... "Oh wicked show, I wanna shake your hand".

Paulus - Fuck off!

C.A. Mag - What are some of the bands you take your inspirations from, past and present?

Paulus - No one, mind you...

Verminaard - When were writing songs, we don't sit there and go let's do something (like this)...

C.A. Mag - I mean, do you find them, subconsciously, coming out?

Paulus - I don't know, you tell us.

Verminaard - Truthfully, I don't think so but, uh, but it's bound to happen. **Paulus** - I read a lot of reviews, that say we sound like Behirit and Order From Chaos.

Verminaard - Ya! I have a whole whack of Order From Chaos discs, and I don't think we sound like them!

C.A. Mag - I don't either.

Paulus - Somebody wrote you (beckoning in Verminaard's direction), and said "How do you, get this weird production?, I wanna do it".

Verminaard - Ya! I had some guy from Sweden, "Your disc sounds really weird, I'd like to know how you did it?". Get an inadequate Engineer. That's how we did it. Hire some guy off the street.

C.A. Mag - Do you, see 'zines as an important part of the underground?

Verminaard - Definitely, yeah.

Paulus - Ya. Totally.

Verminaard - People like me, when I see an ad or read reviews or whatever that's the kind of stuff I'm gonna look for first. Specially if it's a bad review. I think as a rule if it's a bad review I will probably like it...(laughter)... Like, not to knock them down, but S.O.D. that magazine every single review "aaargghh fuck ten fucking skulls ceerrrrr..." that's it for the review. That doesn't tell me anything.

When they cut it up, the guitar sounds blah and oh the vocals sound blah, then it's more interesting. I get more from it. I'm like, oh I wanna check this out. Nine times out of ten, I like it!

C.A. Mag - Yeah, I get a kick out of S.O.D. too. They interview an old well known band like Slayer, and "Can you give a history of the band!?"...(laughter)...

T.O.C. - Do you do correspondence, with any particular 'zines at all, or not since you did only three interviews... so not really?

Verminaard - Umm, we do a lot of written stuff. Like I said they ('zines) send me questions in the mail...email. If anyone sends me an interview in email, I do it. I'm not gonna push people away.

C.A. Mag - How does your writing process go? Does everyone contribute?

Verminaard - I would say, 98% of the time lyrically is Wor. Obviously we have full feedback. If he presents us with lyrics and there is a line or word we don't like...

Paulus - I think "River..." was all written by Wor wasn't it? (Looking at Verminaard).

Verminaard - Yes, the entire thing (lyrically) was written by him. There's a couple songs I wrote on the new album. But, still it was mostly him. Musically, it is a total band thing. Like I would say...

C.A. Mag - Everyone comes in with their own stuff?!

Verminaard - Yeah, definitely! Like Wor and I present riffs to each other and "so that's lame and that's good", whatever. Get it down, show it to Paulus, and he's like "Oh, that's good and that's lame". We just throw stuff out and just go from there. It's a total trio.

Paulus - If something sucks, we don't use it.

T.O.C. - Are you looking at adding anyone else to the band to round it out?

Verminaard - Well, if there's any, how shall I word this...(pause)...worthy, worthy guitar players, we used to have another guitar player...

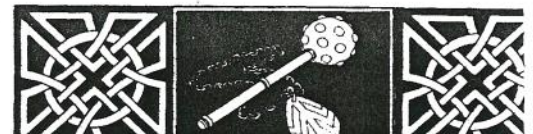
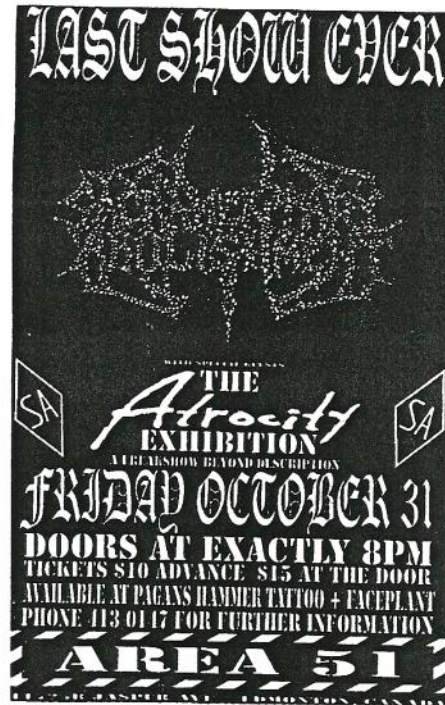
Paulus - Actually, we've had two different guitar players, it never seems to work, we work very good as a three piece.

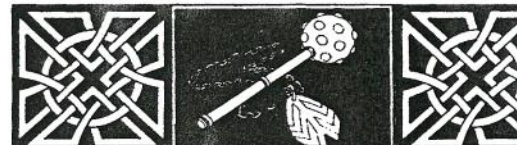
Verminaard - We're willing to try people who have the same kind of philosophies as us. If we were to try somebody out, it would be a hanging out process before we would even have them come to the rehearsal space. Just because, there are so many people that appear to be into it (the music and the scene) and when it comes down to it, they are full of shit!

T.O.C. - So, a new player couldn't be a fan, cause you hate the fans?!

Verminaard - Yes, a one way ticket into our band is...(jokingly)... "I heard that new disc, it sucked!!", your in!

C.A. Mag - (The guy would go) "I can play better than that!"





Verminaard - Well, then you wouldn't be in. We're antimusician musicians. I hate the term musician. Music sucks. I learn how to play and I'm going to sell my instrument. Musicians, take all of the feeling out of it and turn it into music. What an ugly term!

T.O.C. - So, what do you prefer to call yourselves?

Verminaard - Nothing.

Paulus - Apocalyptic nuclear hate filled blackness. There is no denying it is pure fucking metal!

Verminaard - Metal way of life, live it, die it!

C.A. Mag - Have you found, your music, has evolved a lot from the "Misanthropy" demo, to the first album, to the new one?

Verminaard - Yes, for sure. The writing style on the demo was a lot different. It was actually more technical...(Woman dressed as a cop, comes up the walkway and yells "Stop police, give up all of your goods...(pause)...you all fucking ignore me")...good! (spits Verminaard).

T.O.C. - Is that, one of the stupid people, you are talking about?!

Verminaard - That's one of them!

Paulus - These fucking rotting human beings...

Verminaard - ...(picking up where he left off)...it's a natural procession, you play with people long enough, we all think the same, like showing Paulus a riff or something and he puts drums to it. Like he already knows it's gonna go. Oh yeah, he already knows the second

part, how it's going to go, where as like on the demo it was a feeling out type thing, it was more mechanical, but now it just...

Paulus - Flows

Verminaard - Right!

T.O.C. - So, when you are recording an album, are the songs planned out a hundred percent ahead of time, or is it just whatever

flows out as you record?

Verminaard - No, it is all written a hundred percent.

Paulus - People who listen who doesn't know this music, it may sound chaotic...

Verminaard - A lot of people say the vocals don't seem to fit...

Paulus - But, we do it the same everytime.

Verminaard - We think it fits, obviously, we wouldn't write it that way.

Paulus - Then again, who cares what everyone fuckin' thinks! I play metal for myself.

Verminaard - Anyone, who plays music for other people are scum! I kind of appreciate how the French black metal scene (France not Quebec - Dale), is coming about now. They are like fuck you to everybody. The Imperial Horde (black metal circle of bands - Dale),

I totally respect that. They are like on their CD's no contact! Fuck off! We don't go that far, but I understand where they are coming from and I respect that. They get total hails from me.

T.O.C. - Do you not see that that can potentially hurt the fan base, and people won't care anymore?

Verminaard - People, who are truly into it...

Paulus - ...Well, understand where we are coming from!

Verminaard - You see a CD that says don't write us. If you are truly into it, you will understand...(Three dressed up partiers approach,

one points to the others costume and says "Come on, gentlemen, does he not look like the Esso tiger? (Mascot of a large gas station chain in Canada - Dale)...(Verminaard glares at them)...We are busy here, excuse us!

Paulus - We need a holocaust of people like that. Global holocaust now!

Verminaard - The only way to save this world is to eliminate three quarters of all the people. They used to say half...that's not enough!

C.A. Mag - Any areas you are thinking of going to play live?

Paulus - Anywhere but Edmonton.

C.A. Mag - Maybe, like B.C. (Province of British Columbia) or somethin'?

Verminaard - Tentatively, we have planned in the spring a Canadian stint. That is, what we would like to do for now, then after that...

Paulus - Some members have legal problems with crossing borders, into other countries. We were offered a tour...

Verminaard - We were offered a tour with Destroyer 666 and Dark Funeral, but a court case is pending. I love Australian bands...just Chaos...fellow commonwealth (country too).

C.A. Mag - Is there a chance of maybe going out with maybe a band like Conqueror (a B.C. band on Evil Omen/Osmose records, who have a member(s) from the Edmonton area, that are known to S.A. -Dale)?

Verminaard - Well...(pauses)...a band 'like' Conqueror probably, anything is possible. Let's say in the past we (themselves and a member(s) of Conqueror) agreed to disagree on issues. There is not a lot of communication between us. That may change. Who knows?

Paulus - I like their music. Fuckin' great music...(The conversation, goes into band tours and money ect...for a band to do on it's own)

...we have a very respectable person fronting us money to do our albums. Hail Troy!

Verminaard - Yes, definitely! Troy from Catharsis Records (the label which released both the bands albums, also the man who helps run Area 51, the club which housed the show on this night, a great guy and dedicated supporter of underground metal!! - Dale), get's nothing but...

Paulus - Total gratitude from all three of us. But, there is no way he could front that kinda cash (for touring).

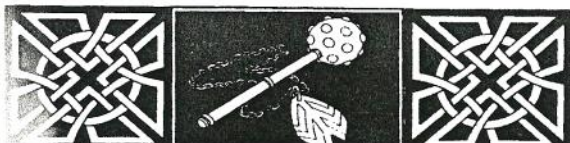
Verminaard - Who knows?! With this new CD you get a whole new wack of interest. People are crazy man. One day I will get an email,

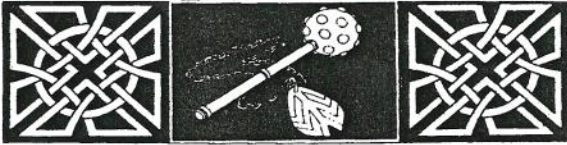
"If I sent you the money would you come over and play". I would have to think about that...for about four seconds!

C.A. Mag - Well, I think that is about it. Some final comments and future plans?

Paulus - Thanks for the interview. Hail everyone that is true to metal! Fuck off to anyone who is not! Fuck off to kiss asses!

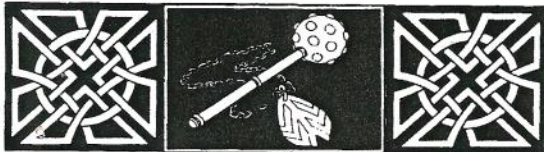
C.A. Mag - Many more albums to come?



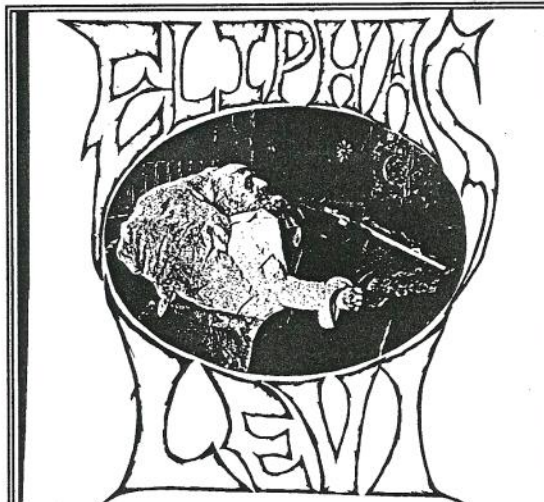


Paulus - Definitely.

Verminaard - Many! We are going to keep going until: a) either of my hands fall off, or b) I learn how to play!



OCCULT STUDIES



Eliphas Levi is a controversial figure in the world of modern occultism. He is both highly regarded as an authority by some while others see him as a derivative romanticist.

Alphonse Louis Constant (Eliphas Levi) was born the son of a shoemaker in early 19th century France. He was taught in the ways of the church at St. Sulpice, becoming a deacon and taking the customary vow of celibacy. However he became disillusioned with church dogma and began teaching alternative doctrines. This resulted in his expulsion from the church and his mother's suicide. From then, Levi became a journalist with minor involvement in revolutionary politics, until in 1839 he was imprisoned after writing a pamphlet entitled *The Gospel of Liberty*. Following his release he married a girl of 16 who later had the marriage annulled.



Then in 1850 Levi met J.M. Wronski (pictured left) a Polish sevant who studied gnosticism and the qabalah. Wronski related to Levi his theories on interpretations of the qabalah and his belief that by the practice of ritual magic one could achieve semi-divinity status. Levi now took on his mystical pseudonym and dove into the study of all the occult sciences - alchemy, magic, astrology, cartomancy, qabalism. He voraciously perused the libraries of Paris for esoteric and ancient books and manuscripts. After his extensive research and conversations with many mystics, he theorized that ancient treatises on alchemy and magic were written in code and if one was able to break this

code they would be able to discover the eternal secrets of the universe.

In 1853 Wronski died, an event that did not phase Levi, as he had already surpassed his master in knowledge. The following year Levi felt that he had attained enough knowledge to carry out some occult experiments - he decided to evoke the spirit of the 1st century occultist Apollonius of Tyana. He prepared himself for three weeks by eating only vegetables, avoiding people and having imaginary conversations with Apollonius.

At the end of the three weeks Levi performed a ceremony of evocation in which he successfully made Apollonius appear before him. Apollonius did not speak verbally to Levi but communicated with him telepathically. On two more occasions Levi evoked Apollonius who answered Levi's questions on the occult sciences. A few months after the meetings with Apollonius, Levi published his book *The Dogma of High Magic* and its sequel *Ritual of High Magic* the following year. He went on to write many more books, *History of Magic* (1861), *The Key of the Grand Mysteries* (1864) *Fables and Symbols* (1864), *Le Sorcier de Mendon* (1865) and a few more. However, Levi's books sold only moderately during his lifetime and his magic attracted only minor attention. But posthumously he has become a major influence on western magic and he returned reincarnated in the form of Aleister Crowley who (like Levi himself) surpassed him in knowledge.

So was Eliphas Levi master occultist or an extravagant romanticist? Well, I have great respect for Levi, his books contain vast tracts of occult knowledge and are pretty much required reading for any student of the occult. However, it must be pointed out that Levi has little, if not no, relevance to Satanism because, despite his disillusionment with the church, he persisted in his enslavement to Nazarene ideology. So be wary when you peruse the works of Levi.

Eliphas Levi held three fundamental theories or dogmas.

(I) THE DOGMA OF CORRESPONDENCE

The soul of a human is a microcosm - a miniature universe that reflects the larger universe (macrocosm) in which we abide. Every part of the universe has a counterpart in our soul. Through occult practices the magician can change the world outside by changing the world inside.



(II) THE DOGMA OF ASTRAL LIGHT

The link between the inner and outer worlds is the astral light - an invisible but universal force. Each physical object has an astral twin that in a sense is the original - therefore, to the magician the physical world reflects the astral world. By manipulating the astral light it is possible to influence the physical world and the invisible world.



(III) THE DOGMA OF IMAGINATION

The manipulation mentioned above can be achieved by trained imagination. Will and imagination are real natural forces and when properly harnessed are capable of spectacular events.

ALBUM REVIEWS

VOIVOD - "Phobos" 1997 CD (Hypnotic Records)

Voivod are back, straight off touring, for the magnificent "Negatron" album. The band wasted little time putting together this new platter of flowing soundscape. One thing is certain with Voivod, they surely are not an immediate band. You don't put them on in one listen and love it. After the initial spins, you are left scratching your head in uncertain puzzlement. It takes a number of listens as well as a little effort. So, those with a short attention span may just not get "Phobos" at all. The sounds on this album are so rich and sublime, it is hard to put into words what this band has transformed and beautifully mutated sonically, married with pure aggression and speed, performed with dizzying expertise. The vocals of Eric Forrest are superb and a perfect fit to the music. I have 3 video bootlegs of the "Negatron" tour shows, and this guy is almost better live!, a welcome addition after the departure of Snake. Take for example the title track, it starts off with soothing otherworldly space sort of lead-in. Then breaks in a slow galloping riff that makes my adrenaline build in anticipation. The vocals kick in mimicking the song, slow and obscure and then the music takes off with speed and vigor and the vocals are more aggressive and in your face. The textures on this tune are so encompassing and stir many emotions in me: exhilaration, uneasiness, hypnotic suspension of thought, free flow of passionate feeling, anxiety, and fuck if the galloping main riff doesn't make me bang my fucking head!. This album from beginning to end is so good, songs like "The Tower", "Neutrino", and "Forlorn" are sure to win over the most hardened critic. Along side Unlord, this album for me ties for second best album of 1997, just a hair behind the new Testament!. I have tried hard to find detractors to this great album. After an exhaustive search I have found only two. The first is a trivial one - the cover artwork of Away looks childish and amateurish. The other and only musical weak link is M-Body with it's monotone simplicity, is a tad lame sounding. You need to buy this!. Website = www.shmooze.net/voivod email = voivod@inforamp.net

MORTAL DECAY - "Sickening Erotic Fanaticism" 1997 CD (Pulverizer Records)

Out on Pulverizer is South Jersey's Mortal Decay, a brutish and immensely heavy death/grind band. Contained within the disc are ten tracks of heavy grinding death metal, melded with slow arduous guitar chugs and dancing catchy riffage. The drum work is brisk and snappy along with some nice dense growling from ex-Deathrune vocalist Kelley Izquierdo. I really dig the irrevocable, almost impatient atmosphere. I get a feeling from this album... I can't pinpoint the exact reason, but that this band would kill live!. This is much recommended. Fanatic death heads will love this. Nice cover too boys!. Mortal Decay, c/o Kelley Izquierdo, 43

Amberson Ave. - Apt. 3-C, Yonkers,
N.Y. 10705, USA.

AETURNUS - "Beyond The Wandering Moon" 1997 CD (Hammerheart Records)

After having heard and enjoying Aeturnus' '95 MCD, I was quite happy to see their album arrive in my mail box. It of course has the fine packaging one comes to expect from Hammerheart Records. Aeturnus have lessened the pure black metal attack ever so slightly, incorporating symphonic touches along with epic structuring. Pushing the envelope of the overall pieces of black art, while still steeped with a nice cold atmosphere. I hear in the new compos and riffing some influence, though not overbearing of mostly Burzum and later viking era Bathory. The drums are war like distant thunder (were they purposely buried in the mix, whether or not it achieves a grandiose effect!). The ever present acid rasps and bestial deep murmur, offset nicely against the loud symphonic guitars and weighty bass lines. Ten songs of grand black metal darkness. Band contact: c/o Ares, Box 189, 3062 Bones, NORWAY. Label contact: Box 277, 6300 AG, Valkenburg, HOLLAND.

SACRAMENTARY ABOLISHMENT "The Distracting Stone" 1997 CD (Catharsis Records)

This is the second album for S.A. and it shows them keeping their total chaotic whirlwind style of their debut "River Of Corticone". While branching off an exigous amount into a thrasher direction, with a tiny smattering of slower more brutalizing sections. However, don't be swayed, S.A. play raw and lawless, brutal black metal insanity. The sound of this album is superior to the last album. Everything can be nicely heard, while still retaining a crude edge to it. This album is not for those who like clean commercialized candy coated extremity; but rather for those who like harsh, chaos filled, brutal metal with a strong underground air. Check the interview elsewhere and order for 15 CDN/ 11US Worldwide (postage included). Catharsis Records, Box 539, Edmonton, Alberta, T3S 3S2, CANADA.



ICED EARTH - "Days Of Purgatory" 1997 CD (Century Media Records)

This is a remastering with some re-recording of guitar parts and completely new vocal recordings. Of the bands first 2 LP's ('91's "Self-Titled" debut and '92's "Night Of The Stormrider"), along side a couple trax from the third album 1995's "Burnt Offerings". This is the single disc North American release, with the Euro one being a two CD set with 21 instead of 15 tracks like we get. Now why is it that European releases always get the royal treatment with xtra content!?. Are we being snubbed?, Or, more likely, do they loyally support their shit in true form over there!!!?. I was excited about this as I had only heard "Burnt Offerings" and their latest full-length "The Dark Opus". Were my expectations fulfilled?. YES and then some!. What we have is an amazing, emotional power/heavy metal with some unreal captivating gallops and twin guitar harmonies, that will have Maiden and Priest fans writhing in ecstasy!. Vocalist Matt Barlow, who was absent on the early material, steps up with a superb performance as he glides his way through all 15 catchy, heavy cuts that will go beyond satisfying the genre masses! Cheers, mates!



JUDAS PRIEST -

"Jugulator" 1997 CD (BMG CANADA/CMC INT'L)

The mighty Priest return!. New vocalist "Ripper" Owens is in tow, after a very lengthy delay and the departure of the once great Rob Halford (who now resides in his own little goofy world of bad music). Judas Priest did surprise me. I kind of expected something like a cross of "Painkiller" and "Stained Class" albums. But, to my surprise, things are heavier then ever! I mean, heavy as hell!. "Blood Stained," for example, has razor sharp heavy riffing, pinpoint stop-on-a-dime execution, back dropped with, and a nice drum pound. What can be said about "Ripper" Owens!?. He hits all the appropriate vocal ranges like a hot knife through butter!. Does he sound similar to Rob Halford?. Yes, he does. But, after all, he was plucked from a J.P. cover band. Know what else?! He is almost better then Rob ever was!. I mean he does have some of his own qualities, but shit I don't know what else to say except damn this boy can fuckin' sing!. This album is a metal monster!. The only thing I can find lacking in this album is it misses some of old Priest melody; but, I think that will return next album cause this is the album they needed to make!.

ALBUM REVIEWS

DEMENTOR -

"Kill The Thought Of Christ" 1997 CD (Immortal Souls Productions)

From Immortal Souls in Slovakia comes Dementor. This relatively unknown band has been struggling to get noticed since before 1988, and it's about time that it did. Glen Benton aside, nobody serves up quite the same degree of brutal hatred and harsh discourse as Dementor. Driving guitar force pushes and pulls sounds from your ears at mid to high speed rates with rapid riff changes. While quite distorted it propagates quite a clear melody. Enticing and alluring, the fluctuating flow of the sound, accentuated by a very skillful bass track, keeps your attention and makes it tough to turn it off. Unfortunately on first listen, it's difficult to see the "beauty" in this album and it comes across as being rather boring death metal. I'm not quite sure why that is, but at some point driving around in my car - probably the fifth listen to the CD - it just clicked. Quite active on the drums, Pike brings to life the tempo and often somewhat weird time signatures. Not wanting to be left in the shadows he at times even manages to accompany the lead rather than just holding down the beat. Some work needs to be done on the transitions however - they are often either lost in the mix or simply nonexistent. There is however quite a lot of quality death metal here, mixed alongside with a lot of standard death metal. Nonetheless Dementor has some very unique approaches to the music and "Kill The Thought Of Christ" comes across as a very good recording. -Neil St. Laurent

DISMEMBER -

"Misanthropic" + "Death Metal" 1997 MCD + CD (Nuclear Blast America/PHD Canada)

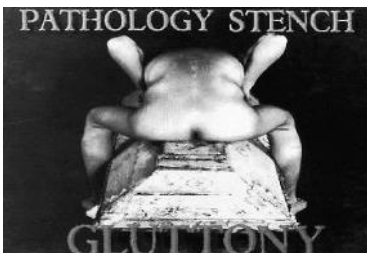
First off, I must say I am a longtime die hard fan of Dismember. They are, along with old Grave, the best death metal ever out of Sweden bar none!. Sound the death metal trumpet, striding defiantly and victoriously is Dismember with Unleashed at their side as the two lead the European charge!. Man oh man, this new material fucking kicks! It is like a beautiful cross between the all out heavy extremity of the debut "Like An Everflowing Stream" and the brutally groovy and harmonic "Massive Killing Capacity", leaving nothing but chaos and bust ear drums in it's wake!. What's even more is on the MCD, they bust out an old Autopsy cover song "Pagan Saviour", a great in-your-face job too! Just when I thought it was impossible for this band to any more endeared to me than they already are, they do an Autopsy tune!. You guys fucking rule!. For the uninitiated, Dismember play brutal death metal at break neck speeds with stop-on-a-dime precision and emotional feel, killer catchiness and superb semi-understandable growls. All this in one serious explosive package that has been honed to razor sharp clarity. This will knock you on your ass!!.

INCANTATION -

"The Forsaken Mourning Of Angelic Anguish" 1997 CD (Relapse Records)



I have always liked Incantation and have always said in past reviews of their past material in other mags that Incantation are a good band who, with a little more focus and maturity, will reach their potential and become a great band. Well, I think with this release they have taken a large step towards my vision of them!. Original (i.e.-former) vocalist, Craig Pillard, is employed on here as a session vocalist, as he rips his lungs through the 11 trax on tap. The riffing reminds me a lot of '80's style speed metal, but still has a nice brutal tinge of early '90's chainsaw down tuned plowing. Incantation are a driving band - sorta like a juggernaut slowly building steam, battering your skull with drum blasts, yet finessing their way through with some great soloing, flowing riffs. Your only hope of warning being the battle growls you hear just before Incantation run right through you. This is an excellent album. But, mark my words, their future output is gonna floor you!.



PATHOLOGY STENCH - "Gluttony" 1997 CD (Immortal Souls Productions)

It appears as though extreme bands are beginning to run out of decent available names; what exactly is a pathology stench? Even though I'm a big fan of death metal, it is getting harder and harder to be impressed by the vast number of death bands that are out there, especially those leaning towards the old school teachings. Too much of it is unoriginal lifeless crap. Fortunately with Pathology Stench's "Gluttony" I can find originality and a generally energetic sound. One thing that immediately stands out on "Gluttony" is a very clean production. Each track maintains its own richness while at the same time blending to the overall music. I often find myself complaining about the mixing of an album, but not in this case; the levels of each track in the mix do vary quite a bit, but always in a manner to add to the richness of the sound, not to detract from it. The credits don't mention an engineer or producer, so we can assume that at least one of the band members has some impressive talent in this area. The music

for the most part hinges on the guitar work of Lubo. While no individual riff is very complex, the song structure is achieved by the integration of several riffs and their transitions. The energy of the sound comes directly from the guitars. It is kind of hard to describe but each guitar riff contains its own driving force and when combined together the effect is very extreme. There is a certain degree of technical mastery that has to be admired in guitar fare. While the hinge of the music may be the guitars, the other elements are lost certainly not to be left out. Indeed in "I Believe Indians" there is a brilliant tradeoff from guitar to bass in the flow. At times the guitar actually loses its power and is taken over by nothing over than the requisite death metal blast beats. While the very low end, occupied by the double bass and bass, doesn't have the opportunity to shine through, it maintains a very solid foundation for the music. Overall the music is very strong. In the end it may really be the wonderful production job on "Gluttony" that makes the sound so appealing. With a strong focus on the guitars, and their level of energy, the mixing of all components provides a very tight recording that is technically pleasing. Immortal Souls Productions has a decent distribution channel, so Pathology Stench shouldn't be too hard to find, and you should definitely be looking. -Neil St. Laurent c/o Báro Barancik, Tulska 16, 974 01 Banská Bystrica, SLOVAKIA.

ESOTERIC -

"The Pernicious Enigma" 1997 Double CD (Aesthetic Death Recs.)

Esoteric is a band that is very heavy and immense, almost purely in a dark atmospherically trippy way. I am not talking about just plain old boring ambient/trance/synth garbage. No! They are so much more than that...much deeper than those bands could ever hope to be! Esoteric employ a whole array of instruments, but use the guitar and drums as the main thread of the weaved magical, and all encompassing world of aggression and somber sadness. This release is their 2nd label release and the first in 1994 was also a double CD album. Between the two discs present, we have close to two hours of velvet soundscape. Most tracks weigh in between the ten and twenty minute marks; and, most have vocals - but never stand out from the music, instead blending in and becoming just one of the instruments of the musical whole. The music is very heavily emotional and introspective in a very brooding and surrealistic way. Though not the same style exactly, for me Esoteric triumph where bands like My Dying Bride, Paradise Lost, and Therion have failed. Esoteric will touch every part of your inner workings, leaving you mentally naked as they peel back every layer of your subconscious. Experience the euphoric high of emotional enlightenment that is Esoteric. Aesthetic Death Records, Silwood, Pershore Road, Eckington, Wocestershire WR10 3AP, ENGLAND. Band can be contacted at the label addy or at this email=esoteric.sp@virgin.net

ALBUM REVIEWS



**NAPALM DEATH -
"Inside The Torn Apart"
(Earache Records)**

If Barney Greenway had left Napalm Death for good, who knows what may have happened to the grind-core legends. Anyways, their little spat is over, and the band reformed and released their most focused effort in years. Producer Colin Richardson once again did a stellar job, matching the excellent work Napalm Death once again put in. All in all, a candidate for album of the year!
-Pat Warner

**DECEASED -
"Fearless Undead Machines" 1997 CD
(Relapse Records)**

At a time when even I thought it wasn't possible to do pure power metal and have something interesting, Deceased comes across with potentially the best guitar driven speed metal in a very long time. Right from the start, the first track "The Silent Creature" delivers some very original sounding guitar work. Mark Adams and Mike Smith simply never let up with their driving stringed assault. The solos are somewhat slower than the rest; they engage themselves in some more intricate patterns than the break-neck speed of the remainder of the album would allow. A pleasant interlude, "Contamination", follows the first track and basically sums up the twisted B-rated horror movie theme of the album. Song after song of the living dead walking the earth and killing the living are to follow this eerily melodious introduction. And backing the guitars - The drums pound away relentlessly, complete with double-bass rumbling and thundering blast beats that add to the already deep music. Mike Bossier manages to capture the grandeur of the drums and to mix it such that it accentuates the guitars without being overwhelming and without being lost in the mix. In summary, this album is truly excellence in guitars. If you haven't heard any good power metal since 1989, then this album will be sure to please you. Also, I'm not sure what it is, but this album has a death metal feel to it; any extremist out there should derive great enjoyment from "Fearless Undead Machines".
-Neil St. Laurent

**INTESTINE -
"Gastrointestinal Pathology" 1997
Cassette LP (Sick Creations)**

Intestine is a one-piece from Australia that will slowly break-down what your mind

has consumed over the course of the day. There used to be more people in Intestine, but they lost interest, so it's just Ian de Grussa for now. Self-described as "groovy-death-grind" this demo tape shows a very Old School Death Metal sound, with limited variation and transitions and an increased emphasis on intensity over technicality. A combination of tuned down guitar and audible bass make GP a very deep album. A continuous rumbling with guttural growling, Intestine will be sure to please the pure death extremists, but a lack of originality will make it seem like just another death metal band to everybody else. Intestine is Ian de Grussa. -Neil St. Laurent
Contact: Ian de Grussa, PO Box 772, Esperance WA 6450, Australia.
Email: ramsgate@gei.net.au

**ISVIND -
"Dark Waters Stir" 1997 CD
(Solistitium Records)**

Triumphant black metal in its purest and rawest form is what emanates from Norway's Isvind. Strongly played and executed material, a dark and obscure atmosphere, which really sets the mood. The vocals are raspy, acidic spews in the early Bathory tradition. Isvind produce some killer blackened metal. However, they really fail to develop much of an identity of their own, and come off sounding a little too strongly like early on material by bands like Bathory, Emperor, and Dark Throne. So, those looking for originality look elsewhere; but for those that like undiluted (by keyboards and such things...) blazing black metal art in the early '90's style look no further. A strong and powerful release that will conjure visions of darkness and death. Solistitium Records, Box 1210, 26802 Moorerland, GERMANY.



**HAMMERFALL -
"Glory To The Brave" 1997 CD
(NBA/PHD Canada)**

Arrrggghh!! Classic power/speed metal in the vein of old bands like Halloween, Manowar, Iron Maiden, Grave Digger and so on. With members in bands such as In Flames and Dark Tranquility, you just know the musicianship is right up there. The performances really are solid, concise, and at times stunningly beautiful. Vocalist Jaocim Cans is a quite a find! His silky voice floats through the music with immense emotion and varied range. The metal spirit reigns supreme with great tracks such as "The Dragon Lies Bleeding", "The Metal Age", "Child Of The Damned" and "Steel Meets Steel".

The twin guitar harmonies are catchy as hell, and awe inspiring in their flawless brilliance!. Is there possibly anything bad to say about this album? Not really, except Hammerfall sounds almost too much like all of their heroes and need to in the future, put their own twist on things and grab an identity they can call theirs. To all dedicated power/speed metal fans you NEED THIS!.

**SACRAMENTUM -
"The Coming Of Chaos" 1997 CD
(Century Media Records)**

Oh, yes! Now just how many quality bands can Sweden spit out before the well finally runs dry!?. Sacramentum appear with their second full-length (first on Adipocere records), in which they summon the powers of darkness and fury through their instruments. Sacramentum is defined as "Satan's oath of allegiance rendered in crimson script, a decision of free will and uninhibited mind", no special reason for telling you that it just sounds cool doesn't it!?. "The Coming Of Chaos" is one neatly spun web of intense black/death metal sickness. You know what you are dealing with straight off when opener "Dreamdeath" spews forth with breakneck speed matched step for step by heavy riffing and a great chorus belted out with extremity and feeling, by bassist/vocalist Nisse Karlen. The production job handled by the godly lead guitarist for King Diamond Andy Laroque at his Los Angered studios is crisp and clear. Sacramentum are very adept at writing fast, intricate, and heavy songs while never losing intensity and never being scared to slow things up for a moment or two for short periods to really pound things home. I can recommend you check out this razor sharp band and hail in the entrance of the final chaos to follow!.



**VISION OF DISORDER
"Vision Of Disorder" 1997 CD
(Roadrunner Records)**

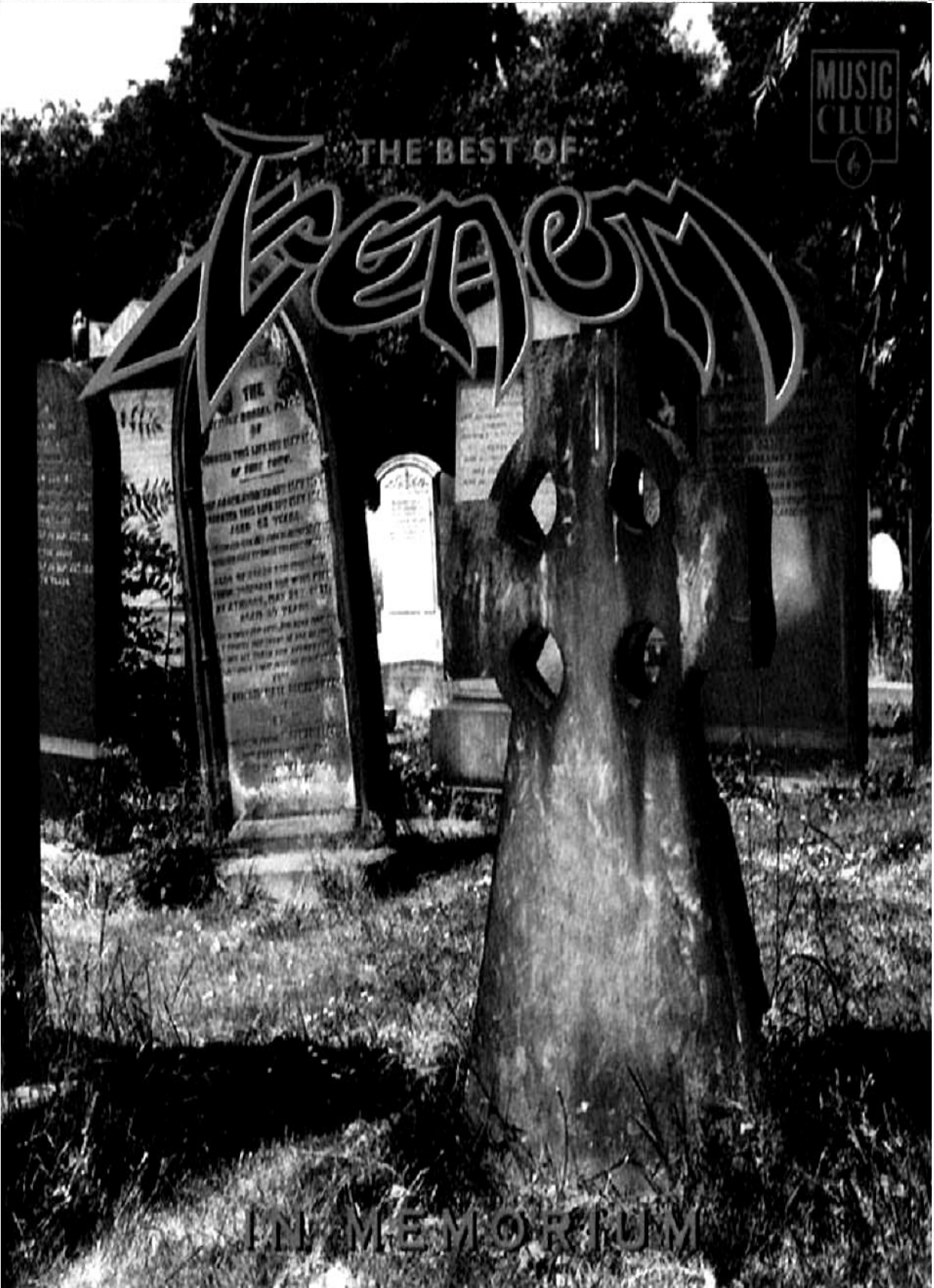
HOLY FUCK! HOLY SHIT!
This is the best debut I have heard since Machine Head's "Burn My Eyes" lit a fire under my ass in 1994. These New Jersey hardcore lads have really got their shit together!!!! I thought my CD player was skipping after the break-neck fast tempo changes. I thought Alice In Chains' Layne Staley and Slayer's Tom Araya were the same person when I heard the excellent vocals of Tim Williams. Intro cut 'Element' is one of the best songs I have heard in my life, while the rest of the disc hits harder than any other hardcore release I can think of. Can you say debut of the decade? -Pat Warner

MUSIC
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THE BEST OF

TRACON

IN MEMORIAM



CANADIAN ASSAULT

Issue # 1
Winter/Spring '98

WOULD LIKE TO SEND MANY THANKS
OUT TO THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE
FOR BEING AS COOL AS THEY
ARE (YOU ROCK!!!!) :

Alexis Gagnon
(I miss you so much
man, I know wherever you
are you are finally happy, I am also
sure Iron Maiden plays the soundtrack to
your afterlife...this issue is for you...R.I.P.)

Cynthia (My beautiful
fiancee, thank you
for always being
there and
supporting me
thru thick and
thin, without
you this
would not
be half
as good!.)

ALL LABELS AND BANDS WHO SENT
IN PROMO MATERIAL FOR REVIEW!!!

Norcturnal Necromancer (Hails my brother of pure meat!!!), Dave and Malkira, Randy and Pulverizer Rees, Steve Poupart, Dominic Simard, Sean Doran, George "Reverse Moonsault" Hayashi, Keith Dempe, Pat Warner, N Arto "Dale are you dead!?" Lehtinen, Mikko and Unhola, John and Scepter, Jon Kenny and Infernal Majesty, Arech Enemy, Stratovarius, Nyk and Possession, Troy and /Sorm/Area 51, Verminaard and Paulus of S.A., Kirk Dolbear, Darren "The live bootleg master" D.O.P./Section VIII, My Parents, Mike Campbell (Are still alive man!?), South Park Creators, K. Ghost and The Forgotten, Bill Zebub (for the laughs), Tamara "Metal Priestess" Barnes and What? Twisted Tower Dire, Richard C. and Wild Rags, Cristhians and The Black 'zine and all the S. Am and to anyone I forgot!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING 'ZINES FOR
THE READING ENJOYMENT AND FOR THE
INSPIRATION TO PUT THIS ALL TOGETHER:

Netherworld(USA), Peccatus Altar(LITH), Necropolis mag (USA), Metalcore(USA), Eternal Darkness(USA), T.S.V(CAN), Holocaust(POL), Sentinel Steel(USA), Screams From The Gutter(USA), Enthroned(P. RICO), Stress Related(USA), Exhume (USA), Vital Wound(LITH), A View Into The Abyss(USA), The Grimoire Of Exalted Deeds(USA), Dark Oath(PORT), Counter Attack(BUL), Headfucker(ITA), BW & BK(CAN), Devourment Of Souls(MAL), Forces Of Chaos(CAN), Petrified(USA), Where's My Skin?(USA), Metal Defiance(GRE), Deo Occidi(FRA), Terrorizer Mag(UK), Metal Mania(USA), Metal Maniacs(USA), and last but not least Proscriptor and Black Mountain Of The North(USA).