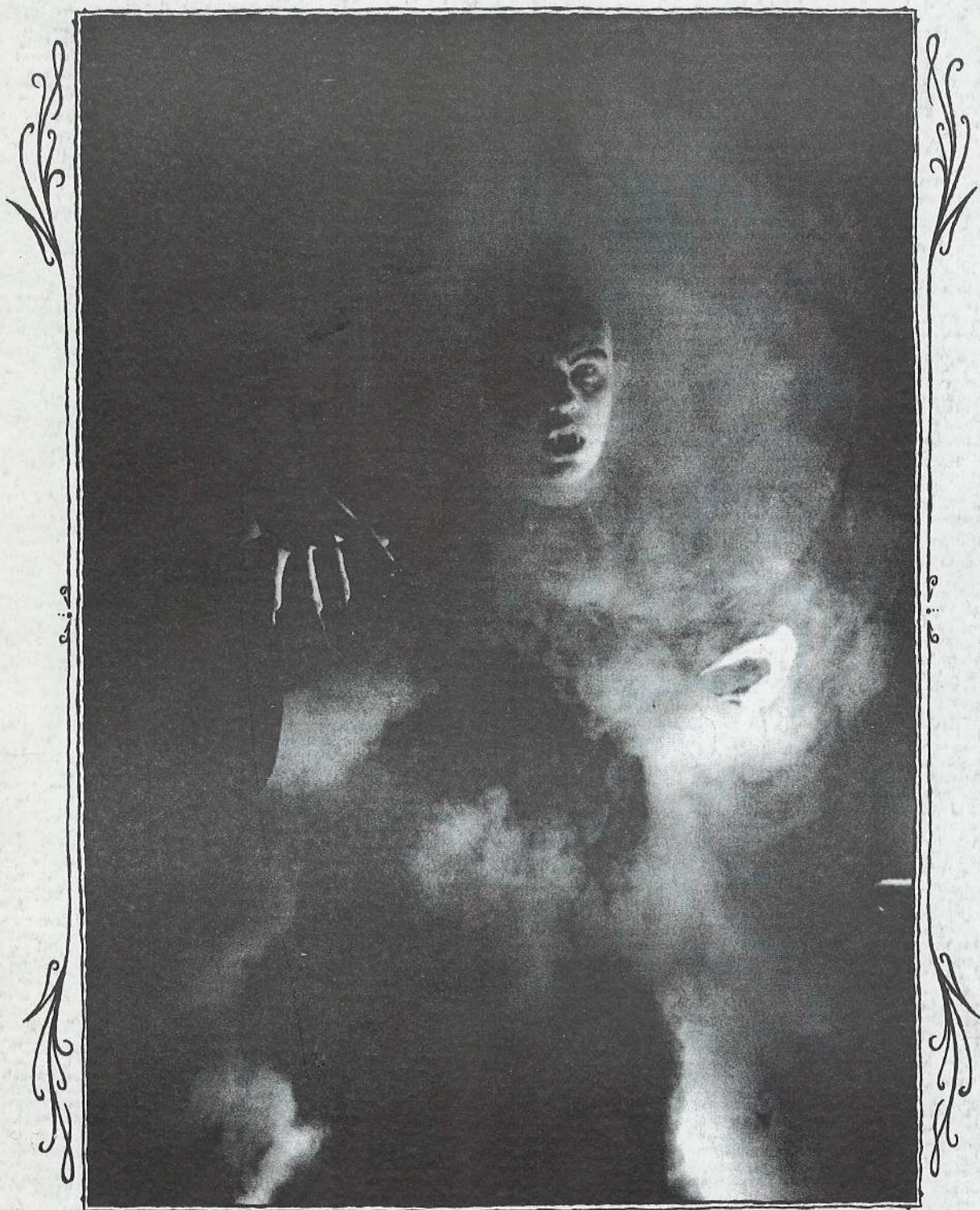


Hear Dark



#4, 1996

Hell goblins!

Do you wanna raise some hell? Then this is the place to be, hotter than hell and harder than steel...

This is our fourth issue and with this one we're satisfied so complaints you can shove...! The intelligent ones of you will realise this is a split-issue and it's the only one for now and the future but for this one time it sounded like a great fucking idea and it was. And as you will notice this scripture contains interviews with two of the originators of the fucking scene whatsoever, Quorthon and Sandro, our gratitude and thankfulness to you both! The price is up, we know but it's printed and we don't fucking feel like doing this and paying for it...

If you like this magazine - tell your friends, if you don't like it - kill yourself!

FUCK THE WORLD - HAIL AND KILL!

ETERNAL LOVE AND DEDICATION TO:
eachother!

SUNSHINE AND A BIT OF SODOMIZATION TO THE FOLLOWING HONEYS AND BUNNIES;

Big Mama Vicka, Agneta Sjödin, Vålnad ur Rymd (The spirit will never die), Kelly Enochs, Al Bundy, Bruno Wintzell, Hans Scheike, Midwinter, Blot Mine, Angela Benanei, Darraghm, Warren, Painon, Mike Bayusik, Björne (Damnation), Lee, Scott, Mika Järviö, Mamselle Hagström (VNP), Darren Anfinson, Ray (Metal Curse), Wermen (Deranged), Lady Rosberg and Madame Aronsson, Lord Vulture, Kimbrell (Marble Icon), Godzilla, Ols-son (Mihnea), Max (Northern Darkness), Ellad (Unicorn), Weinerhall (Mithotyn), Johan (Eternal Autumn), Manowar, Steril Vvrede, Manowar, Nisse (Absurdum), Fitt-Nils (Conspiracy), Fredrik (Cromlech), Ubbe-bubbe (Våmitary), Antoinette and Brian (Deprived), Antti (Cerberus), Septic zine, Mattias (Malaria), Peder (Arotosael), Degen å jänta, Grim (ATM), Krille (Melek Taus), Tilo and Ann (Lacrimosa), Kirk (Cyclonic), Uncle Underground, Petrone (Dawn), Peter (Immortal mag), Crille (Punishment mag), Hippi-Perra (Heathendoom), Curse of the Chains, Agneta Sjödin, Jorghe Fahlberg, Jesper, Ron Jeremy, Mouth of Sauron, Brainfucker zine, Linda Toren (our greatest love!), Ascendance mag, Tantor-Hjalle, Erik W., Bertil (33), Renzo (Zenor), Gerbes, Bätze (Chainsaw Poetry), Jens å Anni x 2, Gucken

AND OF COURSE A BIG FUCKING HAIL TO THE BANDS IN THIS ISSUE.

Quorthon (Bathory), Sandro (Mefisto), Mikael (Opeth), Knarkopervo (Lake of Tears), Schiekron (Ungod), Tony (The Darksend), Stringburner (Headbangers against disco), the dragqueens of A Mind Confused.

THANKFULNESS AND CREAMY SAUSAGES TO;

Timo (for help with layout on releases)
Nattfursth (for the layout in this issue)

and of course a big sucker of a kiss on Nickes belly for being just as fat and metal as we are and for making this "Clash of the Titans" issue come true!

SALUTATIONS TO;

The Pure Alcoholic generation in Sundsvall and of course Henke (Fastest bottle west of Pecos).

NEAR DARK TOP 12 PARTYTRAX

1. MANOWAR - BATTLEHYMNS
2. BATHORY - THE RETURN OF DARKNESS AND EVIL
3. VENOM - BLACK METAL
4. RUNNING WILD - PRISONER OF OUR TIME
5. DEATH SS - HEAVY DEMONS
6. LACRIMOSA - FLAMME IN WIND
7. MANOWAR - METAL WARRIORS
8. BLACK SABBATH - IRON MAN
9. TWISTED SISTER - BURN IN HELL
10. ACCEPT - BALLS TO THE WALL
11. IRON MAIDEN - THE NUMBER OF THE BEAST
12. MAYHEM - THE FREEZING MOON

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Farbror Fällström

NEAR DARK is an unreligious (kind of) and unpolitical magazine dedicated to the exploration of metal. We take no responsibility for actions committed under the influence of NEAR DARK, neither are we responsible for any views other than our own in this magazine. If you don't like what you'll find, suicide is the only solution. We are here, and we will take over...

BATHORY

THIS IS THE COMPLETE AND UNCENSORED CHAT WE HAD WITH QUORTHON ONE RAINY DAY...

Tell us about the new record!

-Everything is explained in the booklet who comes with the record. It's very complicated to tell in short. Even the whole Bathory-story from the very beginning is there. It was recorded feb '88 - jun '89 but the material was never completed. But I received a lot of letters concerning it. So I took the material with me to the studio and put everything on 24 channels (from 14) and added some new stuff. Almost every track was done on acoustic guitar in my kitchen.

It's more metal in the music during the time when *Blood on Ice* was recorded, was there some specific reason for this?

Nah, it was just part of our development. We have progressed from every album to the other so it comes naturally.

***Blood On Ice* was recorded in between *Hammerheart* and *Twilight of the gods* but the vocals sounds cleaner and better than on *Twilight*...**

The guitars and vocals (lead) was remastered digitally and all static noise that the crapmics we used gave us was deleted. We only had two or three mics when we recorded. So everything is re-done digitally.

So there was no singingsessions or practises in the shower?

Hmm... hell, I never shower!

In the bath then?

No, I only read cookbooks there and such stuff.

Wash the manly pride...anyway, why were there a german translation of the lyrics in the booklet?

Because the germans refuse to speak english.

So does the french...

Yaaa, but we don't give a shit.

So you sell more in Germany then?

Yaaa, so the french isn't much to care about, and they're wacko and don't know how to cook. The idea was to have the lyrics in english, german, french and spanish to cover the biggest languages. But then someone thought of chinese since it's so much bigger so we ended that idea.

I think you can find some Manowar-influences, especially in the more majestic parts, something you want to confirm or? When we started with those heavy parts there were practically only "I Love it Loud" and late Led Zeppelin and that there was a band in Newcastle also, who did about the same thing was just a coincidence.

Some parts from the new album are similar!

I've only heard *Hail to England* and besides, this album was mostly recorded eight years ago...

But what do you think about Manowar?

I saw 'em at "Göta Lejon" in 85-86 sometime and they were OK, hairy italians in leathershorts. It's cool that they do their own thing. They don't give a fuck about idiots trying to change them. I've also been drinking some beer with Joey de Maio on a hotell in London when I was out on a promotiontour. I always thought they were something like 2 meters and a weight close to 180 kg but Joey was one of the shortest dudes I've ever seen. He had

highheeled cowboyboots to look taller.

But regarding the music, so you say there's no intentional rip-offs then?

No, but I once took "Skvallerbytta Bing-Bång" on a track called *Pace 'til death* (Blood, Fire, Death), just like Robyn. I've also heard Venom stealing that one so some think I got it from them.

Rumours say that Venom might sign with Black Mark, do you know anything about that?

Really? I thought they had debts over their ears, forcing them to whore by now to manage their economy.

They still sell about 40.000 copies of 'ol albums...

Yaaa, but so do Satans Penis from Frankfurt. But as long as they're off the drugs they might get their act together again.

All the records besides *Hammerhears* are released under the wings of daddy Börje...

I've heard that for so many years unfortunately. It's like this, when they started they got help from us. They took the name from our *Under the sign of Black Mark*, we were their first babies sort of speak. And we could help them and a lot of other bands in turn.

But isn't...

That father and son talk I've heard for 13 years and it comes from the fact that I worked at the office. I had a practican place when I was in school and made coffee, photocopies etc. I of course made a lot of visits in the studio aswell and when I then came back as an artist of course it should because of a family relation. Consider that Börje is 49 and I'm 31...I'm 192 centimeters tall and he's 159, he's blond and has blue eyes which I don't.

Neither is handsome then...

Haha, we have travelled a great deal together as well and that has made it's part to it.

What do you think about the current black/death scene?

It's great!

Any favourites then?

Unfortunately I don't listen to anything, I only get a load of tapes and if you're lucky enough to read the logo you can't hear fuck what they're singing because of the use of harmonizer. But the important thing is that they're out there and never give up. Because if they shave their heads and join the army, overdose or something they're screwed.

Well, ööh...okay! Anyway, you've been around for a while, don't you ever get feed up with everything?

After *Twilight*... I was. Then we thought we had done everything but nobody knows what'll happen tomorrow.

How have you managed to stay so anonymous all these years?

Friends might reveal it...

If you are intelligent then you have intelligent friends. There have been one or another who have known that I played guitar but that's all.

Well, how does it feel to be one of the biggest inspirationsources to todays Black Metal scene?

I don't think you should take it personally. We were among the first and that's all that there is to it. It's not me personally or my songs, it was just something that happened. It was a whole lotta years ago and then you can't sit her masturbating and thinking "Damn, I'm big!"...The important thing is that if Venom, Bathory or Slayer had released their first albums today no one had noticed us really...

Do you still stand for all the things you did in the good 'ol

days?

You have to. The thing is that there were no such thing before. Bands of today, god, here I am 31 years old...they're like 16-17 and can play double bass drums ten times faster than we ever could. The only thing back then was Europe-The Final Countdown...

Not something to put in the christmas tree...

No, you see the problems we had? There were no hardrock culture. There were some Deep Purple fans and maybe some Mötley Crüe rocker. Today they know this music from birth.

Is it true you never had a real job?

Got to think...No, it's true actually.

Haha, why not then?

It just never happened. OK, I had some things on the sides (Not legal) but nothing real no.

So that rumour is true. One of few?

Well there are some. Drinking blood and going to satanic evenings haha...

Sounds fun...

Well, all the best parts are in the book.

So it's all there then?

Well not on the CD you know. I'm actually writing a book. About 1000 pages.

Damn...who's publishing it?

Me!

Yourself?

Yeaa!

Nobody to cash in on it then?

Well, there's noone else with the information either. I've got all the information, pictures and stuff.

Cool...How many versions are there of "The Return of darkness and evil" really?

Four...one on Scandinavian Assault, one on the album, a demoversion we made when recording the first album and a 2 channel rehearsal track.

So four is the official number?

No, it's two!

Yeaa, but there are four...

You know there is this guy in Holland who adds noise to our albums and release them as live shows with us.

I've got this track from '86 (Call from the Grave).

That's on the first album. So it's not live, not with Bathory anyway.

Fake then... Is there any livetapes then? I know you played out in Alvik some times...

Yes, in Alvik '83-84 and jan-feb '85. But after that it just didn't happen. All these gangs of friends broke up. Guess they grew tired of it.

Is there some tapes...

I had three tapes from our rehearsal place and some small gigs but unfortunately I lent it to a guitarist in another band and then they vanished some way. If I really try I might find the old bassplayer, think he got 'em too. But I haven't talked to him since '86 some-

time.

Yes, you have had some line-up changes through the years. Do you still have any contact with them?

Ooo, the last one I spoke to was around '88 I think. He was moving somewhere to start a band and he wondered if I wanted to do some tracks, but no...

How come you see Under the sign... as your louisiest record? Nothing is good with it. The equipment was crap to say the least. Just everything...

But many say it's your best album...

Yes, that's funny...

Did you have any contact with the old bands like Venom, Destruction, Sodom...?

The only contacts I ever had were with Slayer and Sodom. I met Slayer in New York and Amsterdam but there were no real contact

actually. I had Witchhunter visiting in Stockholm at the same time Tjernobyli exploded...I told him to go to the embassy to get pills so he wouldn't get radioactive.

Were the bands better?

More feeling?

At that time everyone wanted to be bigger, play faster and be more satanic...It's another industry today...

But that's the situation today...

They'll disappear. Like Celtic Frost and Possessed and crapbands like that. They just vanished.

???

There are really only three bands left since the 15 years we're talking about. Bathory, Slayer and Metallica. But now Venom is coming back and Celtic Frost will reunite.

If Celtic Frost will be as lousy as they were in the end they might as well leave it be, but they were cool in the beginning.

There were a time, around Hellhammer when they had something fun to come with. Then they took this S/F direction and we all know



where it ended.

Rumours say you are very active in Black Army (Swedish football fans)

...OK, I support AIK but that's something different isn't it? I screw one of their youthsecretarys but that's it...

Where do you stand politically then?

That's uninteresting shitthings besides drugs and God. If you can't have Lemmy for president why bother about politics?

The rumours about a nazi-uniform then?

WHAT?

There is such a rumour actually...

Aaa shit...well, it was fun to hear it too...

What do you say then when people phone and ask you..?

They don't!

They don't?

Nobody has my number.

Someone is supposed to have phoned Peter...

Well, Peter I've heard too. Well, I do know someone named Peter...

Give us a break now...

Rumours. Well some big black metal dude is supposed to have screwed my girlfriend as well. She's supposed to be named Kristin and live in Alingsås. I can't believe people care. Typical Swedish behaviour. Mind their own lives...

OK, but someone called and asked about a cover on their forthcoming album and that was OK...

Yes, but I have secret number. Not more than six people have it. I've had a secret number for ten years...

So that's false too?

I've heard the most unbelievable stories. I've been eating raw meat on a plane and been thrown off with a parachute and things like that.

Are there no such rumours abroad then?

Well, that I should live in a cave with satanic bats. I can never get rid of that and I don't know where it came from either. The only important thing is the music, right? And you release that piece of plastic and talk some about it and that should be it.

So you don't live in a cave?

Could be hard...

Well, if it's -30-40C outside it could.

Yaaa, and those satanic bats...

We'll drop it. You've sold something like six numbers of your albums...?

Not that fucking far away. It's just now when it starts to pay off. It takes forever to count everything and stuff like that. I've sold half a million anyway...

Why did you release the soloalbum under the name Quorthon? That's pretty connected to Bathory...

Yes but...if I had released it people would still wonder what I'd been doing for two years. They had wondered what Bathory was up to...

Yes, but...

It's not Bathory, it's me...

Yes, but the name...

Yaaa, it's me but still not Bathory to make people understand.

There's covers being made of you tracks now. What do you think about it?

There are actually four tribute albums coming and I've not heard one of them.

Have they asked you or have you given your permission?

They don't have to. Anybody can do any song they want. There are no laws about this. You just have to state who made the song originally. There's not any money really... Well, if they play it on radio you get 30 SKR for each minute. That's why we always make long tracks haha...

About long tracks...the video to One road to Asa Bay...Last I saw it was on Super Channel many years ago...

I think it showed in the states for months.

Is it true you haven't seen it?

No I haven't seen it. I lost 75.000 of my own money on that one.

Did it help the sales? Did you get it back?

Of course. But it's just that I got so fucked over.

The 75 cl of Citron Vodka every day...

That's actually true. That was over in USA in '87. Fun as hell...Didn't really think about it until I was live on radio with 42 million listeners. Then I thought I maybe should cool down a bit...

Have you ever used the name Quorthon to get groupies then...

No...well yes, but only afterwards. To explain who I was actually.

That doesn't count...How many have you banged on the account of being a hardrocker then?

Hell, if you said you had a band in the early days you just had to go to the bathroom. You just had to have long hair.

What do you think about the other bands at Black Mark?

Haven't heard much. Well, what was it called. Furbowl? They were good.

Not really recent...

Edge of Sanity then...I've visited the studio when Memento (Mori) has been there as well.

Black Mark has done some crappy signings lately...

Yea, but you can't please everyone. They have distribution in 52 countries, they gotta compromise. What sells in one country doesn't sell at all in another.

For how long had you planned to release Blood on Ice, did the shitty response to the crapalbums Octagon and Requiem have anything to do with it?

Regarding Octagon and Requiem, it was suddenly fun to go in and party. It felt fun again and if it's fun you should do it.

OK then, but there have been rather few Bathory interviews available through the years...

I've done at least 4000 interviews through the years. 13 years adds up. I would have a fuckin' library.

Well, you haven't seen much of them...

Well, I prefer zines anyhow. It's more feeling. It can rather be 200 spellingerrors than some fucking fashionfaggot who don't know what the hell he is writing about. And besides, we only talk when we have something to say and that is when we release an album or something.

I've read somewhere that you were influenced by the speed of Extreme Noise Terror and more more extreme punkbands...

Huh, Extreme Noise...Nah...never heard off. But The Exploited and GBH. You know, I had a punkband before Bathory.

That's a pretty wide step...

It's a hell of a difference. I had long hair, they had mohican hair. But that was the late '70s...if you had a guitar you should play, simple as that. No such attitude to divide it into punk or hardrock.

OK baby...that's pretty much all we had. Anything you want to share with us...

Don't eat mushrooms in spaghetti.

Why not?

If you have analsex, it gets inside the foreskin.

What?

Really...the stomach can't digest it.

And that was the words of a wise man.

BATHORY

You all know Opeth, don't you?

Thy mystical Swedish outfit who had a fucking hit with their "Orchid" -album. Well, can one repeat success? Surely they did just that and are now here with the second masterpiece - "Morningrise". We hooked up with DJ Åkerfeldt himself to figure out what's hanging...

Good evening Mikael, how are you and what have you been occupied with lately?

Good day to you! At the time I'm miserable as I've just caught a terrible cold. Boringly enough, most of my time goes to wiping my nose! Opeth is anyway rehearsing pretty frequently at the time as we're going back to the UK for a few gigs in June!

I heard you recently went to record your 2nd album. Can you tell us something about it. What we can expect and when for example.

It's entitled "Morningrise" and is 66 minutes of naked enchantment (are you talking about the album or me?). It contains 5 tracks possessing the usual length, and one of them "Black Rose immortal" is a very old song. We first wrote it in the end of 1991, and today it rests on 21 minutes of the CD! Candlelight has announced it to be released on the 24th of June, however I reckon it will be slightly delayed!

Regarding your first album (Orchid), the response must have been overwhelming. How does it effect your ego when everyone praise what you do so much? How does it feel to finally release the material you've rehearsed for so long?

Of course you get more confident when receiving great reviews, but I doubt that I'll turn into some self-centred shithead as these reviews only reflect the opinions of one single person. However, I know that our music is really good, and as any band, we see ourselves as the fucking best, but I do not get grumpy or angry when people have different opinions. If somebody would say that we truly suck, I'd say it's fine by me! Releasing these old songs felt great, but still strange in a way!

Your songs are all very long. Sometimes it seems like it's several shorter tracks combined to one (In Mist she was standing for example) but also like the tracks all are a continuation of each other. What are your thoughts about this? There is obviously a meaning behind it, all your tracks can't just happen to be that long can they?

We have always been writing long songs, and I guess that we always will! That way they turn out more adventurous than the ordinary 3-minute tune. Actually, there are no connections between the songs on the "Orchid". All of them possess a different theme or concept if you prefer. When we write material today, they actually just turn out to be long. We have gotten used to this, and ordinary peoples' 3 minutes mean 10 minutes to us! I don't think that our songs "feel" like 10 minutes (They don't either. It's like all these women who say my metre-long dick just feels like half a metre...) or whatever, and that is truly important as a long song that feels like a long song most often turns out to be boring.

Also your cover is somewhat different. It's the Orchid obviously since it's your album title. Did you have the picture before you named the album (since there is no song named Orchid unless you refer to the femme fatale in the first track)? And was it your meaning to separate yourself somewhat from other groups by not having the logo on the cover (but instead barely visible on the inside)? What kind of reactions have you gotten on it?

We decided to call it "Orchid" and then we got ahold of the flower pictured on the cover. It symbolises

Opeth



beauty (of course), but also the danger that often is lurking behind! That pretty much sums up the music on the "Orchid"...beauty and danger! The reactions on the cover has been divided! Some think it's a great and original cover, some don't! We want to keep the cover in it's original form and we don't want to destroy the art with text or logos! We won't use any logo on our following albums either.

Opeth has had a rather mystical aura around itself. No demo, just rehearsals. No real explanation of who you guys were but still managing to create such a underground following. Do you think you have an advantage to other groups when having this kind of following and not having released any studiomaterial to build it on?

Our advantage is that we play music that is real and true to ourselves! We don't pretend to be something we're not. People like us only because of our music, and not because of our image. That's the most important thing, and I reckon that we'll be able to keep the followers of the horde just because of this! Too many bands rely on their trendy images instead of their music. This is a way to hide mediocre musical knowledge if you ask me.

I thought I was pretty alone in liking November but I've heard that so do you. They gotta be one of the coolest bands to ever emerge out of Sweden...you don't happen to have some unofficial material with them do you?

Unfortunately I only have the 3 albums, the live CD along with the rare Saga LP, but I know the guitarist Richard Rolf (Eoow, Mikael will you marry me?) fairly well, so maybe I might obtain something through him!

You helped out a bit on the last Edge of Sanity album (Crimson). How come that happened and are you satisfied with your effort? How come it actually happened, was it when Dan (Swanö) recorded your album and he finally took the courage to ask; "Man, you've got such long hair, you gotta help us on our next album..." "No really, they're also supposed to play some gigs. Do you know how this change of attitude came about and will they only play that single track or what?

Me and Dan are great friends as well as admirers of each others work. He really got impressed by my voice when he first heard me sing, and he simply just asked me if I could help them out with the new EoS album. I'm satisfied with this appearance of mine, and I honestly think that "Crimson" is one hell of an album. As far as I'm concerned, they will only do a few German shows and that's it! They won't do the "Crimson" track live by the way!

Also Opeth have played some gigs in England...How's it been? I know you played with some rather wellknown acts. And what about that rumoured tour with Emperor (they sent your reh to Candlelight which meant you got signed to them), so I guess you're on rather good terms with each other...?

I'm in contact with Isahn, but we don't "know" each other yet! I know that they like our music, and I like theirs so... As I mentioned earlier, we're going back to the UK for a few shows. This time with Morbid Angel and Blood Divine! First time we were there we played with Impaled Nazarene, Ved Buens Ende and some more. The gigs were cool but a bit unorganized! Anyway, I hope that a Opeth/Emperor tour will happen, but I can't confirm anything at this day!

You know, the black/death metal scene is by the majority of people generally associated with poorly educated young people who wants to revolt against society. Do you feel like you want to revolt against society haha?

Do you think that Opeth's got poor education? (No...do you?). Actually, my opinion about the BM scene is that it contains mostly of young people that is about to grow up! They're in a phase of denial, and they're all very easy to snare! That's why BM is so big today! Young people follows it because of its' aggressive face but mainly because their favourite bands say so! Opeth just plays without giving a simple thought to society. It has nothing to do with the band. We enjoy to play, that's all!

What do you think about the fact that there is supposedly a poet in every bush. Everybody says they write poems, everybody is walking around

in the forest feeling emotional. Things like this...every popular statement is picked up by the followers, thus meaning separating them even less from each other. What's your opinion? Are you careful what you write in interviews? Trying to have a distance between yourself (Opeth) and others and are there answers you have considered altering from what you really want to say because you fear that people might misinterpret you?

Actually, I am not careful when I answer interviews at all! I do not seek the "cool" answers. I just say/write the first thing I come to think about. Of course it's easy to get misunderstood in interviews, most easily in direct ones like phone interviews, but it doesn't matter that much to me. I reckon that the new trendy bands try to spread their image through interviews by putting on a fake identity. Opeth just answers the fucking questions! About poems...I do not call myself a poet, I'd prefer lyricist. Although I admit that some of my lyrics are a bit poetic. I am infact most often inspired by the woods, and I would be a fool if I'd say something else as my obsession is for real!! People can call me what they will, this is the truth!

Some tracks on your Orchid album are very old (Forest of October was being worked on as early as '92 if I'm not mistaking) and this mean you had an rather unique position having material that would still be outstanding 4 years later...The question I'm pondering about is if you had versions of older tracks you completely rejected or tried to build further on? Surely you must have composed more than 7 songs during this period, does this mean you now have material stored for some time ahead. What we will hear on the next album might not just be as new as we think, or? Actually "Forest of October" was first written in

1990! It used to be called "Mark of the damned" and was one of the first songs Opeth wrote. But it was in '92 it eventually took its' finished form. We used to have lots of songs but most of them were deleted some years ago. Some old songs were "The final destiny", "Dimension of devastated minds", "Children of darkness", "Damned Prophecies" and more. These are some of the lost ones which I don't have no reh-tape with. All our new material is featured on our "Morningrise" CD!

You've said your lyrics are not as important as the music. Isn't that a contradiction? I personally feel that your music is very emotional (and hence very personal I presume) but shouldn't the lyrics be the source from which the music is sprung? Or do you see the lyrics as a clarification of the emotions you want to create with your music? Could you tell us some about your lyrics, what they mean to you personally and what they deal with?

In Opeth the situation is like this...Music is always more important than the lyrics although I feel that the lyrics are growing more important. I use to get ideas about the lyrics when I listen to the music. After that I try to write a lyric that fit into the song. It's not that hard since both our music and lyrics travel inside the same theme which is sorrow and adventures. However, on our possible 3rd album the situation might change as it will be one concept throughout the entire album.

Regarding the very name Opeth. From what source does it come and can you widen the "City of the moon"-explanation? I'm pretty sure I've come across it in some literature but I fail to place it...

It's not impossible that you've read it somewhere, enough said!

I don't know what your opinion about Quorthon is but do you remember that he's spoken about letters written in blood and having received a guineapigs head in the mail. Do you know who sent it? Dead (R.I.P.) of Mayhem. Quite funny huh?

I've heard of that as well, but I am not sure that you or myself would laugh and think it was funny if we'd been the ones to receive this (Well, if you send me one I'll send you one...Nah, just aiming that the two "forefathers" were at each others throats...just gibbering though...)

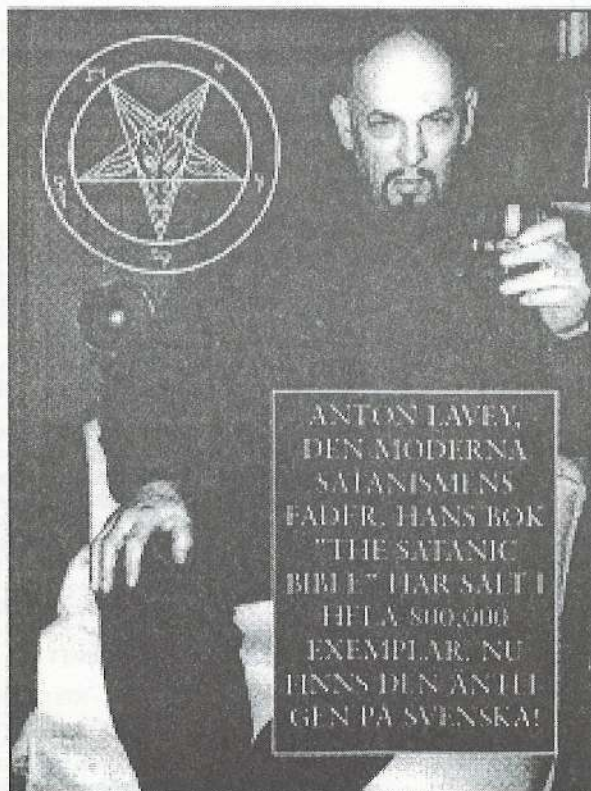
In any case, if it's true it just strengthen the myth of the sick!

This is a rather hypothetical question but...let's consider that we shouldn't have had groups like Bathory, Venom etc in the beginning of the 80's. Do you think we would have the scene we have today. Do you think Opeth would have been different?

I guess, if it wasn't for Venom and Bathory, there should be others. Anyway, I think the scene would have been different if those bands never emerged. Opeth would have sounded the same, or?

Well my friend, that's about all I can think off. Thank you for your patience and good luck in the future.

Thanks to you and good luck with the mag!



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POSSESSION (US) - ETERNALLY HAUNT CD '95

Metal Merchant

Time: 49.59 /10 tracks

Grade: 5,0/10 KI

6,5/10 TF

Always be careful with bands who open an album with a plain Slayer ripp-off... This is a band my friends who love the speed and aggression in Slayers music, praise the playingskills of Confessor and look with envy on the vocalperformance by a certain King Diamond. That's probably why they, according to themselves managed to pick the best pieces of all those albums and turn it into a soup of their own. So I would say it's a rather fun time listening to this and trying to find out where you originally heard the ideas. Nothing to buy exactly, try to steal it...

BEAUTY IN DARKNESS - COMPILATION CD '96

Nuclear Blast

Time: 79.35/17 tracks

Grade: 7,5/10 KI

7,0/10 TF

Look at the playingtime...consider that this CD features unreleased tracks with In Flames, Therion, Amorphis, Pyogenesis, Hypocrisy, Cradle of Filth, Dissection. Add to that bands like Lacrimosa, Sentenced, Tiamat, Theatre of Tragedy... Is this something you should have? Yeapp, would certainly think so...

KOROVA (AUS) - A KISS IN THE CHARNEL FIELDS CD '95

Napalm Records

Time: 41.38/10 tracks

Grade: 6,5/10 KI

6,0/10 TF

This is what probably would be described as symfonic black metal without corpsepaint. (Mmm, I'm satisfied with that classification...)Grrroar...the music is fast and rather wellplayed. Keyboards roam back and forth, hellish screams combined with male "almost talking-like" vocals and female soprano-attacks, makes it a bit confusing really. Trying to be innovative maybe. Let the vocals play out their part before adding another musical element would be a simple recipe.

Well, to put it shortly. The album has a certain charm and if you like death/black in general you'll like this aswell since they at least try to go their own way.

NÄSTRÖND (SWE) - TOTESLAUT CD '95

Napalm Records

Time: 40.28/10 tracks

Grade: 3,5/10 KI

2,5/10 TF

And I thought you had to know how to tune a guitar to get a recorddeal. Have these guys done so? Hardly...Let's see now...they realeased a fair demo, a crappy 7" and now a album. One thing that bugs me like the plague, if you're going to use a keyboard, learn how to really use it. Other than that the music is basic black metal, untight and ugly and not much in new ideas. Their image certainly works better than their music...

PROTEST (SLO) - WHAT FOR NAME, WHEN HUMANITY IS DYING CD '95

Metal Age Productions

Time: 34.21/7 tracks

Grade: 6,5/10 KI

7,0/10 TF

It's not often you stumble across an Slovakian band, and seldom a good one.

Protest consists of six members and a guest

vocalist. Well, the intro is promising with its monumental approach that they music itself has difficulties living up to.

Wellplayed (if yet a bit disorganized) metal with fresh and old ideas mixed into one. Rather growly vocals and all performed in a good way with outbursts of speed and guitarsolos. I'm not the greatest fan of this music either, to me Morbid Angel and Decide holds the banners at a height this rarely reaches to...

DIVINE SIN (SWE) - WINTERLAND CD '95

Black Mark

Time: 46.22/11 tracks

Grade: 7,0/10 KI

6,0/10 TF

Well, looks like Black Mark tries to create a new trend among the labels (failing but none the less trying). Signing bands with that certain heavy metal feeling, deep rock'n'roll voice and a final depressive approach. Lake of Tears made an impact with their 2nd album, Cemetery continued the exploration with their "Sundown" album and Divine Sin...yeeaa what about Divine Sin? If the before mentioned bands weren't around I would probably rank this higher than I do now. It's a journey through places we already visited, this time we only get to know it a bit better.

NECROPHOBIC (SWE) - SPAWNED BY EVIL MCD '96

Black Mark

Time: 16.44/4 tracks

Grade: 7,0/10 KI

7,5/10 TF

Four tracks. One Slayer, one Venom, one Bathory-cover and one little track signed by Necrophobic themselves. This is a appetizer of the coming "Darkside" album and what a album it promises to be. This is simply a tribute to the old godz of darkness and evil...

Not totally necessary in the collection but ett rent jävla antikrist-mangel är det.

EDGE OF SANITY (SWE) - CRIMSON CD '96

Black Mark

Time: 40.02/1 track

Grade: 8,0/10 KI

7,0/10 TF

Have you ever complained about the low number of tracks on an album? Well, on Edges latest there's measely one...

If you've heard their melodic death metal before it's simply a continuation of their earlier releases...but...it's quite clear Swanö liked his Nightingale soloflight. Sometimes both the vocals and guitarsound is identical and surely it sounds fantastic but I rather have them separated. Mr Åkerfeldt from Opeth is one of the guestmusicians (Anders Måreby, Unicorn is the other) and that man surely has one of the coolest vocal-attributes around. This wipes the asses of most wanna-be black metal bands today. If I haven't said it before Swanö is a musical madman, and with support like this he can create history...this isn't it but I'm afraid it'll hit us hard very soon.

RENDISSANCE NOIR (FRA) - BEYOND THE CIRCLE OF LIGHT CD '92/95

Darkside Records

Time: 13.14/5 tracks

Grade: 7,5/10 KI

7,0/10 TF

Peculiar thing...Originally recorded in '92 by the man behind it all, Thierry Duclos, and remastered and released through Darkside Records.

"...these 5 tracks are all dedicated to the same

theme, relating to Autumn, nostalgia, mystery." Well, enchanting music it is. Like an ancient mass. Keyboards floating around, being captured by monotonous guitars, a massing voice. It's apparent this individual has some original ideas regarding music. Anyway, the problem is that it's to short. Like it's only an introduction. Quite uncomparable anyhow.

INCUBUS (US) - SERPENT TEMPTATION CD '96

Nuclear Blast

Time: 37.37/8 tracks

Grade: 7,0/10 KI

6,0/10 TF

They're back...If your not one of the "new kids on the black" you have probably encountered Incubus before. Formed in 1986 they were one of the originators of the death metal boom and now, at their 10th anniversary they hit us once more. Uncompromising fast deathmetal the way it was meant to be. As you all probably know, Serpent Temptation was their 2nd album (1988) so what's this? Well, the same thing but re-recorded vocals and guitartracks. It beats the crap out of the black metal mafia (age14).

MOCK (NOR) - VINTERLANDET MCD '96

Hammerheart Records

Time: 12.31/3 tracks

Grade: 7,5/10 KI

7,5/10 TF

Yes, this is the Mock who reportadly have split-up so many times it would be ridiculous to retell. Well, this is their final release and by far the best they've done. Metal riffing in their black metal approach, gutwrenching vocals and splendid drumming, not to mention the good use of keyboards. Not many, but good...

Well, no matter how good it is it's to short. An intro and two tracks. My hopes for a full-length with them will probably never be but they sure made an impact on their way out.

HELHEIM (NOR) - JORMUNDAGAND CD '95

Solstitium Records

Time: 49.22/8 tracks

Grade: 7,0/10 KI

6,0/10 TF

This is Viking-metal pretty much in the vein of Enslaved. But, when Enslaved lean on the razor-sharp vocals of Grutle Kjellson Helheims Vanargandr have a shrieky voice that doesn't really suit the music (1:st impression).

I found it somewhat surprising that the drummer "counts in" on 4 tracks out of 8 because they seem like good enough musicians to me (2:nd impression).

Atmosphere is built upon piano and synth melodies which of course works very well. The use of jewsharp is also pretty innovative on the track "Nidr ok Nordr liggr Helvegr" which makes that one very folkmusic inspired (3:rd impression). The last track "Galder" seems like a fill-out. (4:th impression).

END OF GREEN (GER) - INFINITY CD '95

Nuclear Blast

Time: 45.05/9 tracks

Grade: 7,5/10 KI

8,0/10 TF

These guys has been somewhat hyped in some bigger metalmagas and that's normally a sign to take caution but this is really, really good. I personally don't know what Depressive Subcore is but it sounds nice none the less.

Uncomplex music, pretty basic actually. A good clear production which gives it a certain heaviness. Lonesome downtuned guitars wailing in the background accompanied by low depressive vocals. It's simply real heavy hardrock and a progression from this would knock anyone over.

GROPE (DEN) - THE FURY CD '96

Progress Records
Time: 52.06/13 tracks
Grade: 5,0/10 KI
3,5/10 TF

Danish Grope sure knows how to make silly gestures on photos...

Well, it aint as bad as I feared, it's even a bit heavy. Some kinda mix of metal, the awful hardcore thing and industrial. Wellplayed but the vocals sux big time. I would not buy this even if I had money but maybe you would?

C.S.S.O.(JAP) - NAGRÖ LÄUXES VIII CD '96

Morbid Records
Time: 38.08/20 tracks
Grade: 1,0/10 KI
2,5/10 TF

Japanese grind! No matter how hard I try I can't find something positive to say. Roughly two minutes for each song and that's too long for me. Undoubtedly this will sell good in Japan and Germany where you can sell anything but like fuck I'm going to listen to this again.

GOREFEST (NL) - SOUL SURVIVOR CD '96

Nuclear Blast
Time: 44.46/10 tracks
Grade: 3,0/10 KI
1,0/10 TF

This will doubtless be played on Headbangers 'til you puke if 'ol bitch Vanessa still has a crush for Mr Big Mouth Jan-Chris.

This is Gorefests most polished, laid correctly piece of audio to this date. Some kinda rockstar feeling over this....

What the hell happened to the brutal frenziness I remember on the older albums? This could aswell be called POP....

ELEND (FRA/SWI) - LES TENEBRES DU DEHORS CD '96

Holy Records
Time: 63.29/8 tracks
Grade: 9,0/10 KI
7,0/10 TF

I was pretty anxious when I got this, their previous album (Lecons de Tenebres) was nothing short of a masterpiece....and this? Well, nicely put....! Forget all the synthbazed dark/dungeon or whatever music you call it, this is the band. Atmosphere as you've never heard it before, arrangements nothing but equal to the ones of the classical masters and incredible beautiful soprano vocals.

Visely enough Holy have put up a big budget and it shows on the killer production. There is no way I can praise this enough, this will be a monument. Violent Luciferian Music.

NASTASEE - TRIM THE FAT... CD '96

Idiot label...
Time: not short enough
Not worthy of a grade

What a fuckin' moron would send a hip hop/tecno album to us. Fuck off and die and crucify this fucker...

EXOTO (BEL) - A THOUSAND DREAMS AGO CD '96

Black Mark
Time: 51.40/12 tracks
Grade: 5,0/10 KI
4,5/10 TF

A long time has passed since I heard Belgian Exotos "Ashes..." 7". It was pretty mediocre aswell. Not that much have changed with this album. It's basic boring death metal influenced by Unleashed/Dismember and 1000's of others. The lyrics...well, what can I say. Could someone write these guys a decent lyric. I'd say time passed this one years ago.

MEMENTO MORI (SWE) - LE DANSE MACABRE CD '96

Black Mark
Time: 43.55/8 tracks
Grade: 7,0/10 KI
5,0/10 TF

A wise man once said "doom or be doomed". Well, Memento Mori are here to doom us yet again. Personally I don't think it's as heavy as the previous release, mainly because big boy Messiah is missing. Kristian Andren from the nerd band Tad Morose is the new singer and he does it quite good to be honest but he's no Messiah. And Mr Wead is no Yngwe Malmsteen either as he tends to think on some occasions. Melodic guitar escapades? Well, not in Memento Mori you toffell! There is a large dose of keyboards on this album and that I dig a lot. Really spooky atmosphere. Quite peculiar ending though.

VOICE OF DESTRUCTION (SAFR) - BLOEDRIVIER CD '96

Morbid Records
Time: 53.19/11 tracks
Grade: 7,5/10 KI
7,5/10 TF

I seldom have high hopes on the releases from Morbid these days but whoa, this explodes in your face. What happened Morbid? This is so good I wouldn't believe it if the evidence were't here. Wellplayed melodic death/trash metal. And the vocals...yaarrgghh, the normal ones should win a prize. Really wonderful. There's a lot of amusing spaceriffs, strange ideas, vocalic class act performances...by far the best release on Morbid. But where are the two bonustracks? Is that the stuff included on the last track? Or am I out on limb (like walking down a gayclub with the sign virgin on it...)

SARCOPHAGUS (US?) - FOR WE...WHO ARE CONSUMED BY THE DARKNESS CD '96

Die Hard Music
Time: 31.07/9 tracks
Grade: 2,0/10 KI
3,0/10 TF

Haha, are these the worst amateurs I've heard or...they can't compose anything interesting nor paint themselves correctly. "grinding Apocalyptic art"??? Yaaa, sure...gimme' some sugar baby! I'm quite oldfashioned 'ya know...first the music must be interesting and it surely helps if the band in question didn't learn how to spell the word black metal a year ago...!

LOVE HISTORY (CZE) - DESIRES MCD '95

Northern Darkness Records
Time: 22.49/5 tracks
Grade: 8,0/10 KI

7,5/10 TF

Love History delivers (besides a peculiar name I must say) a atmospheric doom/goth combination with several classical influences and the surprising part is that they succeed very well. The vocals are a combination of growly and spoken ones, and it works quite well, especially when combined. Flute, clarinet and violin are instruments I wouldn't mind hearing more of in the future either.

Let me put it like this, it's like sex, if you're in the mood it's fantastic and if not it's great (Isakssons words of wisdom # 1)

ACHERON (US) - HAIL VICTORY CD '96

Metal Merchant
Time: 43.52/17 tracks
Grade: 4,0/10 KI
3,0/10 TF

And how may I ask have something like this begot all the succes and having all these nice words uttered about them. This is pure amateur deathmetal with nothing but boring riffs and typical US-vocals.

9 of these 17 tracks are just some joyous keyboardtunes while Vincent "no bass in his voice" Crowley speaks the nine statements by Lawey, really dreadful I can promise...

Avoid....

AMON AMARTH (SWE) - SORROW THROUGHOUT THE 9 WORLDS MCD '96

Pulverised Records
Time: 24.45/5 tracks
Grade: 8,0/10 KI
8,5/10 TF

Finally their MCD is upon us...shake those hips baby! Darn, this is much better than I thought it would be.

Double bass drums, catchy guitars and frustrated vocals, add to that a great production. And believe it or not, but a real metal introduction of the drums in "Under the grayclouded winter sky". "2 of the tracks are from their demo by the way, matter not to be honest. Top class...

DARKLANDS (SWE) - CHRONICLES MCD '96

Heathendoom Music
Time: 18.49/3 tracks
Grade: 7,0/10 KI
5,5/10 TF

Hometownboyz Darklands is back with a MCD on Hippiie-Perras Heathendoom label. 3 tracks (2 are old demotracks in new versions) is offered and if I say Type O Negative/Danzig and My dying Bride you got 'em in a nutshell. The violin vailing in the background is really great, it adds fucking much to the music.

Anyway, this is a damn good release (and you get the ultimate "Dead but dreaming") and if Perra continue to sign bands like this Heathendoom will outgrow itself.

CENTINEX (SWE) - MALLEUS MALEFICARUM MCD 94/95

Wild Rags
Time: 31.32/6 tracks
Grade: 5,0/10 KI
5,0/10 TF

Three new tracks recorded in May '95 + old demo tracks. The first track (new) is crap, just industrial noise. Simply blaha...The impression on the other two new tracks are that they're too long and the mix isn't good. The demotracks are much better but still a bit uninspired. Speedy death metal with

screamy vocals, rather chaotic. I think you know where to place this by now.

SACRILEGIUM (POL) - SLEEPTIME MCD '95

Wild Rags

Time: 31.32/6 tracks

Grade: 5,0/10 KI

3,0/10 TF

You gotta hear the first intro-track. Some synth bass line and something that are supposed to be wolves or dogs but just makes you giggle like hell. Black metal of course and among the better in what Poland have dug up in the black metal scene over the years. Sure beats the crap out of Polish Damnation, but again, everything does....

KONKHRA (DEN) - LIVE ERASER CD '96

Progress Records

Time: 50.17/11 tracks

Grade: 5,5/10 KI

4,5/10 TF

Recorded live at Roskilde '95 actually....Since the only official live-CD I see justified to exist is Slayers "Decade of aggression" this baby faced difficulties at once.

The sound is a bit dull and so is the music. Danish downtuned deathmetal that I never bothered to plunge into. But it is wellplayed and tight, the vocals are ok and the crowd seems to be partying. But who understands danish? It's not something I'd bang my head to in front of the mirror but if you like Konkhra you might (and if so, send me a photo of it...)

INHUMAN (POR) - STRANGE DESIRE CD '96

Art Production

Time: 44.56/9 tracks

Grade: 8,0/10 KI

6,5/10 TF

Of course we're all familiar with Portuguese Moonspell and now their countrymates Inhuman release their first CD. And damn, fucking cool...Gothic hardrock with lotsa' keyboards and atmospheric elements. Heavy metal solos, now that's something that works if you wanna charm the Darkish boyz and a few can be found here. Smart move....

CAPTOR (SWE) - DROWNED CD '96

Roasting House

Time: 47.58/12 tracks

Grade: 4,5/10 KI

4,0/10 TF

Tecno death metal...Know what I'm talking about? Me neither....

I'm no fan of Captor (have never been either) but I must say they're capable musicians. Wellplayed and with a glimpse in the eye. The vocals are low and with dist, no points...

Since I don't want to call this deathmetal I'll say industrial popmetal with aggression. Harhar, I kill myself. Nothing for uncle Isaksson and probably nothing for anybody else either...Damn ugly cover by the way.

DETEZLOZATE (?) - THE SENECTOUS ENTRANCE CD '96

Pulverizer Records

Time: 33.36/10 tracks

Grade: 2,0/10 KI

4,0/10 TF

Öhh...?And this is? I would guess on blackmetal

in the most crappy way possible. Soundwise it's an disaster (everything is lower than Mysteriis intelligence). Very, very uninteresting and with absolutely nothing you could call a new idea. And the vocals...? Well, a disgrace is a too kind word to use here.

Actually I only listened to the first 4 tracks but who will blame me?

KATAKLYSM (CAN) - TEMPLE OF KNOWLEDGE CD '96

Nuclear Blast

Time: 42.47/10 tracks

Grade: 6,0/10 KI

4,5/10 TF

Again I have the doubtful pleasure of reviewing a Kataklysm album. Not that they are bad but it doesn't appeal to me. Deathmetal in a chaotic way, not totally unlike Sadistik Execution if I have to compare to something. The lyric theme and concept are however very worked-through and quite interesting so they get an extra lollypop just for that.

NECROMANTIA (GRE) - FROM THE PAST WE SUMMON THEE MCD '95

Wild Rags

Time: 9.40/3 tracks

Grade: 4,0/10 KI

5,5/10 TF

Well, this is supposed to be cult but that's hardly my opinion. A certain atmosphere maybe but not very good. The last album is way better and besides, the Wampyr-fella said this was a bootleg version and maybe it is, but I don't know, I'm just the fella who types the reviews.

EMPYRIUM (GER) - A WINTER SUNSET CD '96

Prophecy Prod.

Time: 48.58/7 tracks

Grade: 8,5/10 TF

9,0/10 KI

O lala, this is goooood! Really good, ultramelodic, sad and melancholic doomy metal. It's a bit like Katatonia but without screamy vocals, this band uses normal ones instead which in fact don't sound so good all the time but it doesn't matter 'cause of the music. Will this be a new trend? At least all of you should waste your savings on this 'cause then you can masturbate to it all weekend, drinking tons of beer (which we of course are doing already-setting the trends!)

THY SERPENT (FIN) - FORESTS OF WITCHERY CD '96

Spinefarm Records

Time: 48.24/8 tracks

Grade: 7,5/10 TF

7,0/10 KI

If you have heard this band before you know they play some mid-paced black metal. It used to be a one-man band but not any longer and the new members give it a more "complete" feeling. Especially the adding of a real drummer makes a big difference compared to the old demos. The bad thing is that the material gets a bit boring after a while and it sort of goes into one ear and out the other. Recommendable in small doses.

AVATAR (BEL) - ...MEMORIAM DRACONIS CD '96

Woodnymph/Shiver Records

Time: 67.29/10 tracks

Grade: 5,5/10 TF

4,0/10 KI

These guys (and girl) gets high while listening to

Emperor, that I guarantee. Of course it's a synth-intro and then it blasts away with a synth-based type of black metal. Not outstanding at all and far to unoriginal for my taste but at least they've rehearsed the time they needed. This one won't make them stars, maybe the next one will?

NIGHT IN GALES (GER) - SYLPHLIKE MCD '95

Selffinanced

Time: 20.20/6 tracks

Grade: 6,5/10 TF

6,5/10 KI

Have these guys been on holiday in Gothenburg? Their selffinanced MCD has sold about 2000 copies so they sure knows how to promote themselves and even to handle their instruments properly.

It's six tracks of Dark and Tranquil death metal with lots of melodic tunes (hint, hint!).

A 7" called Razor should be out now, slightly better than the MCD...

IN MEMORY OF CELTIC FROST

Time: 71.29/14 tracks

Grade: 4,0/10 TF

3,0/10 KI

Well, every band needs a tribute, right? On this we have two very good covers by Opeth and Enslaved, the rest is mediocre crap who shouldn't even get the opportunity to be on this tribute. Mostly average american death metal bands and Emperor of course, and then we have Warriors new band Apollyon's Sun who does a cover of "Babylon fell", it sure must feel odd not being able to do even a good cover of the song you once wrote...

SERENADE (SCO) - THE 28TH PARALLEL CD '96

Deviation Records

Time: 51.17/10 tracks

Grade: 8,0/10 TF

7,5/10 KI

Well well, a land from the Whiskeyland, but are they drunk and unable to handle their stuff?

No way Jose, these guys are good. Everything from potsmoking flumtunes to aggressive and straight metal, always with an historic feeling within the riffs. This is not like anything I've heard before and these days I always find something new I didn't notice before. Pure pleasure for me!

IN MEMORIAM (BRA) - INSANTIFICATION CD '96

Heavy Metal Rock

Time: 24.11/7 tracks

Grade: 6,5/10 TF

5,0/10 KI

I couldn't help myself laughing when I first heard the intro of this one and it sounds really funny. Then it bursts out into a Heavy/Death/Black metal that is performed with a certain feel of hatred. They are better than many of their European colleagues but they will probably not gain the same popularity as they're from Brazil. Sad to say as they are really worth listening to, especially the slower parts which sounds like they have been given more time for practise. Welcome to the jungle, enjoy the metalsamba.

we also listened to the following records...

DETESTOR (Dracma Rec) - In the circle of time

Grade: 3,0/10 TF 2,0/10 KI

SABBAT (Evil Rec) - For Satan and sacrifice

Grade: 3,5/10 TF 3,0/10 KI

THERION (Nuclear Blast) - Theli

Grade: 9,0/10 KI 7,5/10 TF

THE DARKSEND

Have you heard the name The Darksend? No? Well, have you heard their album? No? Well, they've been around for some years and I was pretty surprised when their album was released by Head Not Found and since it was a nice surprise I hooked out with the bodybuilder of the group, Tony Ritcher my friends...

Good evening Tony, how's the summer threatening you?

Well, when I'm writing this it's cloudy and windy, just the way I like it. At the time this will be published though, I'm sure it's hot and unbearable, just the way the damn summer usually is.

The Darksend are unfamiliar to most I presume but now you have a album out on Head Not Found. Tell us about the album, your relation to HNF and the somewhat unusual title (Unsunned) and what happens if you translate it into our native tongue hehe...

We feel we have done a decent album competitive to alot of other black metal albums out there. However, it could have been a lot better too. We'll do our best to make our next album THE ultimate Black Metal album. Our relations with HNF have been good I guess. Once the album had been recorded we have dealt mainly with the distributors Voices of Wonder though, since Metalion (HNF-boss) went to Australia for a couple of months. But things have gone well so far. "Unsunned" was a word I found in a dictionary once. I like the word and its meaning, which in Swedish will be "ej solbelyst, skuggig" (or "osolad" (fhi...)). I used it for a songtitle in the past, "The Unsunned Kingdoms", and it fits well with my lyrical concept.

Regarding the cover I see the link between art and title but to me it's a bit of common thing with covers like that (there have been a few resembling it quite honestly). In your opinion should the cover be representative of the albumtitle or the concept of the album? Is there exceptions?

I'm not sure if you mean that our concept have been used before or just that the idea of title and cover linking together have, but anyway...I think that an albumtitle should be linked with its artwork if there is some drawn artwork for it (or like in our case, a photo). There are of course exceptions like Possessed's first album for example. There you have their logo and the title only. You can also put a picture of the band on a cover, that's also an exception. But if you have a picture of a forest it would feel wrong to have a title like "Satans Blasphemy" or something. If you meant that our concept have been used before I can of course only agree...it's not very original with the Moon. Truth is we had no money to have a real artwork made, so we had to do something ourselves. And, if anyone in the band should have drawn something it would have looked like a pathetic polish Nazi-Black metal album or something. Therefore, we took a photo that would fit with the title and what is more "Unsunned" than the night and the moon?

Who is Larson (composer of the Unsunned-track) and could you tell us about the lyrics to it (hence revealing the concept of the Unsunned-theme preferably)?

Lale Larsson is a guy from Helsingborg whom we know briefly. He have studied music at several musical universities around the world, as well as played as studio musician for some to us unknown jazz/fusion outfits. He also had the opportunity to join Dream Theater once but declined. I guess he's the most talented musician I've ever met. He thought it was kind of funny to be featured on a Black Metal album. Weird but true. The lyrics to the track "Unsunned" is just some closing notes supposedly spoken by the Tyrant-The Darksend, as he returns to the mortal world to reclaim his rightful kingdom. I think you need to be within my mind to (in empty space then harhar...) fully understand the concept.

Regarding your lyrics which are quite interesting. You told me you hated vikings but in "A brewing storm" you state that the vikings is what would be the later mentioned "true evil". That doesn't add up to me...Anyhow, some say the lyrics should be considered of equal value to the music and some say the music is more important. What do you think? How much time do you spend on your lyrics? What do they mean to you? Why isn't the lyrics to "I" and "Unsunned" enclosed since the others are?

It's true that I don't like vikings and viking themes. I'm totally bored with the Swedish mythology side of things. Bergman likes it though. However, when I wrote "A brewing storm" I had just listened to "One road to Asa Bay" by Bathory and found those lyrics were kind of sad. Quorthon tells of the time when the christian pig Ansgar sets foot on the Swedish soil and turn the Swedish people's lives into something else. Christians forced their beliefs upon the people with sword in hand, something I found very contradictive since their religion is supposed to be based upon piety. Anyway, I found those lyrics a bit sad but started to think about what could have happened if a few men had escaped the christians and vowed to return with a vengeance. It was obvious that their former god Oden was weaker than the christian God, otherwise he would never had let it happen. Therefore, these men had to find a new Master, and this they did in the forest. You see, they may have been ordinary Swedes when they left but when they return they will be of the Ancient Race. True servants of the Master that have always been and that always will be. Similar things could have happened in any country but I wrote about Sweden since I was put in Sweden.

Well, as a vocalist and the writer of lyrics I of course find the lyrics very important. But, a band that does not write good music is not interesting to me in the first place (or anyone other I would say...) The music is what is most important. Then if the lyrics are also very good...that is when you have found a really great band. The time I spend on my lyrics varies. Often I start out with a theme which I have a few phrases about, then I develop it once the music's been made. It all depends on inspiration though. Sometimes it will take me months until I'm fully satisfied and sometimes I can write something in ten minutes. The lyrics to "I" and "Unsunned" weren't included since drummer Vires thought the intro and outro should be a bit mysterious. Since I didn't write the lyrics to "I" it's of course only good that they don't get displayed...hahahaha!

To me believing in darkness, evil and death is not the same as believing in Satan. Do you consider yourself a satanist? This is no assault on you but isn't it strange that people calling themselves satanists (black metal bands most likely) are so unwilling to talk about it. The usual comment is -"That's personal, I don't want to talk about it because I know close to nothing and if I say something wrong I might reveal myself as a fake". And if opinions never are discussed there could no such thing as a satanic way (identical for all) but only individual thoughts on the subject which are not part of the overall picture. Your opinion? I see an obvious connection between darkness, evil and death with Satan. (Sure, there can be an connection, but certainly not obvious) Bear in mind that throughout the centuries the common man have always considered "devil-worship" and satan to be things that occur in darkness and that are evil (Depends from which point of view you look

on it, does "uncommon" people consider themselves to be evil? Hardly...)

Such matters were also considered equivalent to death. To answer the other part of your question I guess we first have to define what a Satanist is. Perhaps even what Satan is. Satan was an fallen angel, spoken of in the bible. Hence, Satan was invented by the same people who invented God and wrote the bible. Therefore, to believe in Satan is actually the same as accepting the bible as truth. Some people may disagree and claim that Satan have been around longer than the bible. It is true that there have been documented cases of demons and entities appearing to humans long before the bible, but I have never heard that those beings were known as Satan. Today there are those who follow La Vey's Church of Satan and call themselves satanists. They also openly confess that they do not believe in Satan, but in themselves being their own god. I partly agree with them. I too do not hesitate to use Satan as a symbol in my quest against christianity. However, I find Church of Satan no better than the TV-preachers or any other religious cult. Then there are your traditional "devil-worshippers" who conduct rituals in order to give them power. This is something I don't think you should deal with until you are fully prepared. Even if there is no opponent majesty towards God called Satan, we must never forget about the demons and entities that have been known to appear to people at different times. If you don't know what you're doing, to summon them could mean disastrous consequences. I have studied witchcraft, occultism, satanism and various religions for almost 12 years, but I still don't feel that I am ready to partake in a ritual (Don't spook the kids...there are certainly some rituals to perform without getting the resemblance of slapping your dick against the barb wire...) Then there are of course certain people within the Black Metal movement who claim to be satanists and accuse other bands of being fake and untrue. I agree with you that most of them probably don't know what they are talking about. A lot of them probably started to play Black Metal because they thought it was cool to talk shit about other bands in the zines and claim to be the most evil people on the earth, instead of being really into the music and it's true message (Thank you Tony, you just made my day...). Since originators such as Bathory and Venom never were real satanists but made good music and sang about things that interested and influenced people they are still hailed as "real" and "true" bands. They never had to brag about how true or evil they were in comparison to others either. In other words, I don't give a fuck about popular opinion or if other bands are true or not. I know that I am highly anti-christian and do my best to work against it. That is far enough for me. There was of course a time in my youth when I called myself a satanist but after years of self-examination and serious thinking I think I prefer the term "anti-christian misanthrope". I know that there is something else out there waiting though (I feel it too, like a great blonde woman with big tits and a huge appetite for sex...ah, I can feel the presence). Something more powerful than anything created by human mind. I have sensed its presence and had vague visions of it. I refer to it as "The Darksend".

One thing I find peculiar is that you had an interview with The Darksend in your zine (Nekrologium) and from what I gather there you were not a part of TD then (or were you?) but your bio states differently. And if you were in TD then isn't it a bit hypocrit to interview yourself or at least enclose the interview in your own zine. I mean you

probably had reasons but it would be like if I interviewed Tobbe about Near Dark...And your co-editor was also in TD right? This you gotta' explain...

It is obvious that you refer to the interview featured in Nekrologium #1. Like most things about #1 it sucks (more likely the idea to do it...!) Truth is we had just begun writing music which we were really satisfied with and we thought it was time to spread our name. Since I had just started a zine we of course thought of the idea to use it as a way to let people know about us. There was a slight problem though...we couldn't very well interview ourselves, that would have felt wrong (???And what did you do then?). So, I tried to get everybody I knew to do it but since the only people I knew who liked this type of music were in the band, I failed. I saw no other alternative than to try to interview us myself, trying to imagine I wasn't in the band. It all turned out 100% shit and I've been trying to forget about it ever since (and here I am peeking right into it, feels good I'd say...) Back then I also tried to separate my zine from my band by assuming two identities, the zine editor and the musician. It worked out well until someone contacted both my alter egos, believing I was two persons (like Tobbe, but that has to do with his size!). Then everything went strange and wrong and I was beginning to feel schizophrenic. I have stopped trying to be two persons but I still don't see anything wrong with giving your own band publicity through your own zine as long as you don't interview yourself. We did another interview in #3 but that was done by Marianne Ekebol, someone I learned to know later. She also did the review on our album in #4. She's not in the band so hopefully she's more objective (I still say this is the wrong way to go...)

Onward we go...how come Bergman plays guitar AND bass since you have a bassplayer? And why didn't he do the guitarsolos himself? And how come he dropped the sur-name Einherjer, because of a certain Norwegian band maybe?

Yes, this may seem a bit strange. However, it has to do with musical ability. When our bassplayer joined us he didn't have that much experience. He had never really played actively in a band before and it took him a while to catch on. The album was actually recorded in two sessions. When we did the first he had only been with us a month and were far from tight. And at the time of the second session one of the songs were finished just a few days before. Therefore, Stefko only played bass on two songs on the album and with Bergman being the composer and also former bassplayer of another band, he had to do the basslines for the other songs. Since then Stefko have improved a lot and in the future we also hope to rehearse the songs better before entering the studio. The guitarsolos had to do with Bergman being a perfectionist I guess. Bergman is a very good guitarist but don't like to do solos. He don't think that he's any good at it and therefore he wanted someone that was to do them. That's the reason why we borrowed Chrissie of the death metal band Agretator to do them. We now have two guitarists but none of them is that great at doing solos. I guess they'll have to work on that till the next album. In the past all members had aliases, fake names if you wish. There came a time however when some of us no longer saw any reason to continue with them. At the moment the drummer and the new guitarist has aliases, but myself, Bergman and Stefko decided to go with our given names. What's in a name anyway? We don't create music with it and it doesn't make us more Black Metal to use an alias (and it's so fucking common I just hate it!) It's up to each man to decide whether to use one or not.

I've noticed you use the word "true" alot. What does that word mean for you then?

Hahahaha! True is just a word that means truthful, real, genuine or actual. I use it when I need something to describe something like that and when that word sounds better than any of the others. I didn't realize I used it a lot...do I (use it a lot) is the understatement of the week...? I guess you tried to not me up here since the word have been gravely misused by a bunch of other bands and people always want to know how true you are.

This is an important one. You used to work at the postoffice. How much time do they (you?) spend on searching for glue on stamps? What happens if they find some little bastard doing

just that? Not that I've done something ILLEGAL like that...

Well, I don't know if they have somebody that is actually looking for it...but there is always the risk that some wiseguy that has a bigger conscience and a perverted loyalty towards what is right or not to find a glued stamp and decides to report it. I know of people within the underground who have been sued for it but I don't know if the postal system got anywhere with it. Each letter that you put in a letterbox in the streets though are being handled manually by people who sort them after size and the way they have been stamped. When I did this I could always spot a glued stamp but I don't know if the others were as observant. I never bothered though. How was I supposed to know if the poor letter writer had accidentally dropped his stamp in a can of glue just before he used it or not?

If I would ask you if you had ever slept in your bulletbelt I would find that pretty humorous and hopefully the answer also. You do a zine, would you say humour is important in what we do or should it always be strictly formal? Well, have you slept with it?

I think humour is a welcome element, but it must never become too much. I've seen examples of zines where the editors seemed to think it was more important to know what the bands thought about "fat cows in pyjamas with red shoe-laces" than about their music. (Well, humour is something we will never introduce in Near Dark...) Another thing I find totally uninteresting is the repeating subject about beer and liquor. What do I care what other people prefer to drink? But, humour with modesty is never wrong. And it don't make me less of an evil black metallor to say so! Unfortunately I have never slept with my bulletbelt on. One of my inverted crosses nearly smashed out my teeth once I was headbanging though but that don't really qualify as funny do it?

One thing about Nekrologium is that you work very fast. I mean, you've released your 4th issue in less than one and a half year (and in this business that's like lightning), how do you manage to keep that speed? Are there some things in Nekrologium that get neglected that you have regretted afterwards?

Ah, the things you can do when you're loaded with cash and don't have any other interests than music! Well, I haven't really had any shortage of cash since I had a well-paid job. I also have a cheap rent and I don't drink alcohol, so this save me a lot of money. About time to do it...when I worked I either worked from 5.00 in the morning to 13.00 at noon or from 13.00 to 21.30 in the evening. Which meant I always had a half day off. Now that I am unemployed I have a lot of time but we'll have to see what happens about money. There are always things I regret. Most of the time it's the layout which I am not satisfied with.

This is a favourite of ours...can you play black

metal if you're circumcised?

A trick question I guess. Since circumcision is a jewish and muslim tradition and they are not very well known for being into Satan and Black Metal. I guess the answer should be no. It's physically possible though since I've never heard of someone that is playing with his dick. (Hehe, ten points to you Tony...)

You know what happened to deathmetal and what has since happened to blackmetal. Now it's back to the roots heavy-speed metal...do you think there will always be this kind of cycle. What is underground becomes a trend, becomes big, becomes shit, becomes underground again etc...As I tend to do most times I find it rather amusing that people are so naive....

I don't know. Personally I only listen to what I consider to be good music. Trends are a plague though. Here I have been listening to bands like Kreator or Sodom ever since I first heard them back in the good old days and then all of a sudden I'm considered as following a trend for listening to "old-type" stuff. It's insane. No one around my parts bothered about Bathory when they first started out but now all of a sudden I see alot of snottosed brats wearing their t-shirts just because they've seen that people of Burzum, Mayhem or whatever did it and spoke of how good they were. If I approached one and asked him if he thought the Scandinavian Metal Attack version of "The Return..." was better than of the album itself he would probably not understand what I was talking about.

Before we end you could tell us about your new guitarist and what he's meant for the music or will mean for it in the future. Will you play live (which you haven't so far)? He calls himself Phamarus. Played drums in a Black Metal band in Småland, as well as had his own one-man band there. He knew our bassplayer so when he moved here due to personal reasons we got him to join us. It's better with two guitarists since you can have two different guitarlines at the same time. It's obvious isn't it? So far, he have written 95% of one song as well as contributed to a couple of others. Even our bassplayer and drummer have started to write music a little so Bergman will not have to do everything himself anymore, which I'm sure is something he faces with mixed feelings...hahaha!

We have played live before and will do so again.

Well Tony, that's what we had in store for you. G'd luck in the future and we'll see ya in grandpa Satans partyhouse. The final setting is yours...

Well, it was a very bad interview but I guess that's what you can expect from a shitty mag like Near Dark. People should buy Nekrologium # 4 instead (I prefer toiletpaper from the shop instead...) Nonono, just joking...humour is always welcome right? It was a good interview...thanks a lot! May the darkness brighten your path!





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HEATHENDOOM MUSIC ➡ ZENOR RECORDS

MEFISTO

Not long ago we ran into Sandro of the o' so very old and o' so very cult band Mefisto in Stockholm. And if it really didn't lead to sex it lead to an interview anyway. Mefisto is currently "hot" once again with the re-release of their two demos ("Megalomania" and "The Puzzle") on CD and no matter if you're new or old to the game this is essential listening.

How many times in a lifetime do you think there's a chance that you will actually run into an old metalhero at a bar? And would you find it flattering if we had actually succeeded in stealing the chair on which you sat?

No, it's not so very often we run into these "metalheroes", but not so long ago we actually ran into Heavy Load hahaha (and we ran into you. The same thing huh?). They must have had the worst time of their lives mixing the second Mefisto demo. They were so pissed off at us when we left the studio...Regarding the chair, of course it would have been flattering if you managed to steal that chair. I'm glad as long as you don't take my arm or something...

Tell us a bit about the CD with your two demos...I understand they will feature a lot of goodies like rare photos/lyrics etc... And while you are at it, do you remember how many copies you actually sold of your demos?

There are a lot of goodies but we actually don't know yet where and when they will appear. We will also make a few T-shirts with a print in gold and a very limited edition picture disc, so keep your eyes open! We sold about 100 copies of the first demo, and about 200 of the second one. But as they say "Home taping is killing music...but it makes your demo spread worldwide".

You're not a satanist, that much I know...but when writing Mefisto you always writes the I like an inverted cross. Is that something from the past you won't let go off or what? And your lyrics, now your an old fart and have a bit different perspective I presume, so do you regret some things from your youth or wish you had done differently?

The inverted cross is an cliché that I just can't let go. The lyrics wouldn't be any different today with the older guys. We didn't deal with satanism in our lyrics, but more of abstract lyrics. So the only thing that would change since then is a better use of the english language in the lyrics. The one and only thing that I regret these days is the split-up off Mefisto, we were on the scene just a bit to early.

This rumour that said you were sick in cancer and maybe even dead. Where did it come from (except that Quorthon have said it in some interviews...)? Did they confuse

you with Omar and when he left they supposed you were dead or what? When I told you I got the impression you didn't even know about this rumour...

I had no idea that I was supposed to be dead...hmmmm...maybe I'm a zombie (It would explain your looks hehe...)...I wonder...I don't know where this rumour started and I didn't know about it at all.

putting together a stage show with Mefisto today it would have been a Kiss show. While Omar would probably have done it in a Metallica style and Robban the Pantera way, which I'd also prefer if I couldn't pay for my Kiss show.



Sandro and Quorthon 27/2 1986.

I know Mefisto just slowly vanished after the 2nd demo, but didn't you stick to some of your underground contacts or do you to this day still have contact with someone from the 'ol days. Didn't you and Robban ever think of reappearing under some other name, your interest in music didn't just die did it?

When we split up all of us headed for different directions. The only ones that we speak to now and then is the Entombed guys. We thought about playing again a few times as Mefisto, but we couldn't get hold of Omar.

Gigs? To my knowledge you did two gigs. Tell us about what you remember about them. Do you think it would be the same if Mefisto appeared on stage today?

The things I remember about the gigs is that the audience was mostly punkrockers freaking out, jumping around and kickin' each other. The other gig is a total blackout. If I was

Before Mefisto you were called Torment. You didn't release anything that early did you? Tell us about the formation of Torment/Mefisto, what were your ambitions etc. Something I don't know if there ever were some line-up changes, were there?

Torment was actually a name we had while we were searching for members. So there wasn't any material written then. When we found the final line-up, we also changed the name to Mefisto. And there were never any line-up changes in Mefisto.

MEFISTO

Vinyl before CD! We talked about that and I thought your point of view summoned it pretty good. Would you mind retelling it to our readers...

Well vinyl contains a much better bass sound, more feeling to it. The CD sound is always to clean. So when you hear a CD from some old album, you often get disappointed. But the way to overcome that would be to do the master from the vinyl and not from the studio master tape, as we did with the Mefisto stuff. And also the cover of the LP is a much better size. Imagine for example a poster with a CD, it must be folded about a thousand times.

Did Mefisto have any groupies?

Since we weren't playing to many gigs we didn't have much of a groupie harem after the gigs, but we always had girls hanging out were we rehearsed. And of course a lot of letters, but those people we never got a chance to be intimate with.

Kiss? I know you're an fan and collect anything. How big is your collection really? How much have you spent on it? Is there something that you desire more than anything (regarding Kiss...)?

I've got loads of Kiss stuff, my own little Kiss museum. Records, posters, stamps, videos, chewing gum, bootlegs, japan singles, earplugs, Kisstory (the book) and so on. So I'm longing to get my hands on the dolls and the flipper. So is there anyone out there...contact Near Dark.

Hehe, 'ol farmer Quorthon denies he's ever been to football. You and I knows better...Did you see Bathory live out in Alvik maybe? Do you ever meet him these days...As he'll read this mag as well as the rest of the world here's the chance to send secret messages...

No, I haven't ever seen Bathory live. And we haven't meet Quorthon since the old days, hope they are doing OK! I thought the first album was the greatest album ever made. Brilliant! T Quorthon then "We're finally out with a Mefisto CD. I'll send you a copy! Still saving bones when I eat chicken. Hahaha!

Sandro, the honour's been all mine...Anything you'd like to add? Salute compadre...

Well, I'm amazed the interest in Mefisto is still so big after all these ten long years. I just

wanna say thanx to all "fans". So now we're finally out with a CD of the two demos that I hope you'll enjoy! Thanx also to Near Dark and all other magazines who keep the movement alive...



HEADBANGERS AGAINST DISCO

Are you dirty? Are you alone? Are you metal to the bone? Then there is a organisation even for you! Formed by Stringburner from the drunkards of Gehennah, here he is to inform you about his HEADBANGERS AGAINST DISCO organisation...

What made you form this supreme Idealistic organisation?

I don't know, I guess we just felt that the time was right to start a thing like this, it was necessary.

How many members are there today? How many do you plan there should be before the end of '96?

Oh, it's not that many, we don't accept all the applicants of course. We will be millions by the end of '96!

Isn't there a chance that non-metal people might copy the answers to your test from a metallor who's shitfaced on the sidewalk, then put on a wig and take a photo, send it to you....have you had many frauds like this? What happens?

Of course it is possible. We had a kid who wanted to be member who's photo made us a little suspicious. When we called to all the members next friday night to check out what they were doing, when they should be out drinking, his father answered and told us that he was on his floorballpractice!! We were shocked so we hung up but called him back later and his mother answered, so we asked her if she knew that her son used to borrow her eyeliner, bang his head 'til it explodes and that his favourite band was the very satanic Immortal. She was shocked, and I'd like to hear their breakfast conversation the morning after haha!

The money contributions? Are they just so you can get free beer?

Yes, of course! Well no, we don't get that much contributions, 'cause our members are either too poor or too smart to send us any. The few money we gets is spent on postage, but I still have to pay a lot myself.

A) What is the minimum of alcohol a hardrocker should consume daily? Any exceptions?

What!? I didn't think it was possible to use the words "minimum" and "alcohol" in the same sentence! Today I got an application

from someone with a serious liver-damage, so he can't drink that often, that's one of the few exceptions.

B) How many times a year does a hardrocker take a shower? With or without the bulletbelt?

A hardrocker taking a shower? Where have you heard such a silly thing? That's what rain is for, right?

C) Should a hardrocker keep his bulletbelt on in the few times he sleeps in what might appear to be a bed?

You mean that pile of porno-mags in the corner of the room? Well, I'm mostly to drunk to remove my bullet-belt before I pass out.

D) What happens to a hardrocker when he dies?

"Rockers go to hell!"

E) Could there be something as silly as female hardrockers? I could name a few...

F) What does a hardrocker do when he see disco-kids?

Try to put on "Witching Hour" on your ghetto-blastor, that should do it.

What is an acoustic hair-cut really?

Take a look at the new Dark Tranquillity record, you'll see. They've got some pretty acoustic sun-tans too...

What's the latest news on Gehennah? You're recording your second album soon, right? Something to inform us about?

Yeah, we'll try to enter the studio the 9th of July with ten new songs. We've got about twenty songs, but we'll only record the best ten. We are now on Osmose, so we'll have some improvements concerning our distribution, even though I like Primitive Art because of its underground feeling. We should also be appearing on a Misfits tribute soon. The very latest news is that I was at Hultsfred last weekend and burnt some of my fingers (fingerburner!), so I don't think I can play guitar on our last rehearsals this week.

The end...Anything to add about Headbangers against Disco? Hail and Kill!

If you're feeling lucky, give our organisation a try, you won't regret it! Thanx Kim for the interview, great questions!! Rock until you drop!



Hola baby! I know everyone wanna know the truth - has Richard ever been without facial hair? And hola hola to you! Hmm...I guess he didn't have it when he was born, but he has had it ever since then if I remember correctly.

You know, I know that you know that I know about your "Out of Chaos spawn" 7" as much as you know I could know but why don't you tell everybody else about it. The songs/the recording/ the result...

Well, the songs on the 7" are entitled *Out of Chaos Spawn* and *Enchantress of the dark*. We also recorded a track called *Nightheaven* which is for the Near Dark compilation CD. Anyway, to explain the songs a bit I think the word I'm looking for is intense and maybe aggressive. The only song you could call midpaced of the earlier mentioned ones is *Enchantress*... but it got its intense parts as well. And we choose to put it on the 7" because it represents AMC really well. But then again, all songs that we decide to put on any kind of release represents us really well. The recording went really well. We entered the studio Avalon on May 16th and recorded everything the same day. Then we spent the next day mixing. The result turned out to be the best so far, both song and soundwise. Unfortunately the release of the 7" got slightly delayed but it's out when you read this.

So, *A Mind Confused* is now legally equipped with a new singer AND a new bassplayer. Introduce little Juanita-devil and that other bloke will you... This means that your already amazing speed in creating new songs will double (or will they not take that big part in the composing?) Livegigs?

You're right about that you old fart! We had to remove our old bassist because of his lack of interest and dedication towards the band (and because he used an eyeliner...don't miss the details baby!) Let's start with the vocalist, shall we? About a month or two after the departure of our bassist a bloke by the name of Johan Thörngren (aka Juanita devil!) got in touch with us concerning our add about a vocalist and we decided to try him out. Anyway, it went really good and after some rehearsals we pronounced him the new vocalist. I also wish to add that he's shorter than me. He's going to kick my ass for that hahaha! Over to the bassist then... His name is Nicklas Eriksson (alias Nikos) and we got in touch with him through Johan who has known him since birth. Since this was about a week before we entered the studio and we had already agreed on that I was going to take care of the bass, and we didn't have time to teach him the songs and didn't know if he would suit the band, we then decided to try him out after the recording. Did it make any sense? (No, not really!) Anyway, he turned out to be really good and we got impressed by the fast way he learnt the songs so of course we decided to keep him. Personally I don't think that the songwriting will increase but it'll remain the same. And yes they have started contributing some which will be seen and heard on the MCD *Livegigs*! Yes, if it happen... We are currently rehearsing our strings and also learning the older tracks to the new members, all to be able to play live!

There's really jackshit I don't know about you so I thought I should ask you these filosofical

things and such, if that's OK with you? Hnummm... Okay!

Death! What is death to you? A phase, a beginning, an end...what? Is suicide to be considered justified (when, if ever...). Do you actually think you can understand death (OK, the very theme death - understandable...but what if the things you believe in turn out to be so totally wrong...) while alive?

What death is to me? (Yaaa, can't you read?) To a certain extent beauty and sorrow corresing. But also an end obviously. A beginning, I wouldn't know since I haven't been dead (Funny, they say fucking someone from Stockhom is like fucking a corpse...hahaha...dedication to Richard!) even though some rumours speak otherwise hahaha! I won't go to deep into my personal view of it and it's not because it's something mysterious or anything like that but mainly because I don't want any critizism on my point of view from assholes who think they know the mysteries of the universe (Who? Me?) Every man/women (politically correct or what?) have their own path to walk. Yes, I think suicide should be justified. I think that the reason it's illegal and condemned is because that christian morals are indoctrined into the system of laws. I don't know if you have thought about it this way, but here goes nothing... God gave man life as a gift, and by committing suicide you deny his gift to man and yourself and therefore suicide is a terrible sin (in christian eyes of course) that must be stopped. But also, isn't it survival that makes one elit in the raw nature. So suicide can also be weakness, but it depends upon the reason when one decides to end her/his life. I think you can understand death to a certain point while alive. The rest will be revealed when truly dead.

You and I talked about misanthropy (remember?). All these little painted black metallers run around stating "I'm an misanthropic, I'm in a group of misanthropes (?) and so on. This is so fucked up. I've met real misanthrops, and now we're talking reality (locked up in hospitals, asylums...). Should such a theme be treated like that, what if they are right and society is not? Is such feelings to be encouraged? Don't you ever need another persons support (generally speaking and if you say no you are a liar...either you've gone through it already or you will and believe me...you will need someone/something) Would you say you are a misanthropic if there are other entities but human?

No! I don't think it should be treated like that unless the persons wants it themselves. And I think that there are misanthrops who are comfortable in how they act and feel so I don't see any reason to make them change. Pretty funny is that the opposite emotional state is highly encouraged by the society. Why one must ask himself. Maybe because so called "negative" emotions aren't good for one. But how would they know unless they have been there? And if they had they would know that creativeness is spawned from it. And yes, you can say if and mean it even if there are other entities.

Your lyrics. Very good, damn good to be honest. Very wellthought and dare I say educated. Can you relate as much to what Richard is writing

A Mind Confused, the new dragqueens show without limits. See them perform their erotical dances by music tuned to darker chords of life... Kosta gave us some of his time...

and vice versa or would you say you deal with different aspects of the same topics?

Thank you very much for those kind words (Well, always kissing up you know!) Yes I can relate to his lyrics to a certain degree and I think it's the same for him. You see, we write differently and Richards lyrics are more of "here is what I think and feel nature" depending upon what he writes of course. Mine on the other hand is more hidden (So is your intellect baby!) And why? Well, usually I write about personal experiences, thoughts and emotional states and therefore try to make them complicated in a poetic way so that people don't always understand what I mean. And yes, sometimes we do deal with the same topics, but his eyes are not mine and vice versa.

Occult imagery - in that vague zone your lyrics dwell. Is it so important to have complete knowledge in what you are writing (and no, not in the demonic invocations area...but just...you know...you can write a lyric like a fantasy tale but could you do the same with the occult theme)? And dear sir, kindly explain to the infidels how extremely pissed you get when you stumble upon a child who's been to the library and found some "cool" names to be used fucking everywhere and is literally ignorant to the meaning behind...

I don't know! I guess that's personal and up to each one to decide. Personally I wouldn't write about something that I can't stand for or know about in order to be "cool" or any other reasons one might do it for. And I don't get pissed off anymore, don't know why. I rather smile cause they usually prove with their own words that they have stumbled upon a "cool" name in the library.

I've been thinking about Gods of Griefs (hehe, wet dreams...). You know, you gotta have had certain ambitions/feelings when playing in that band but did they change when jumping to AMC or are they basically the same and will they be and how's Pernilla doing?

You, been thinking!? Well, we (Thomas honey and me) were pretty young when we started playing with GOG. Anyway, I would say that our feelings and ambitions have grown stronger with AMC. And basically I think they are the same with the difference that they are like I said stronger because AMC have more dedicated members than GOG, had. Pernilla was sick for a while but she's allright now (So she's started to beat the shit out off ya again huh?)

You lying bastard...you told me that the fucking flute on the Poems...tape which I told you reminded of the At the Gates beginning in "With fear..." was a mistuned guitar. But oh no, now I read in little girlie Timos zine that it indeed was a flute...make up your mind, is it confused?

Confused you are indeed Kim Kim Kim (what a girlie name by the way) (Sure, I got the name of a girl and you the body...). I have never said that it's a mistuned guitar. I've said that many who have heard it mistake it for being a guitar. And I assure you that it is a flute (I know...but you didn't did you!!). So my guess is that you have misunderstood me on that point. Am I right you sorry ase? (No, you told me, TWICE and I've got the dildo in my pocket to prove it...) Who's the confused one now...eh? I got you, didn't I?

Where do you think we're heading? A violent bloodsoaked future or some utopia? What would

you rather see?

Well, since the summer is almost over I would say we're heading towards the autumn (wiseass...) if I'm not mistaking. I haven't thought that much about it really... I think segregation will take a new approach. People with different values, morals will start groups, societies, organizations depending on their beliefs, mainly political, racial and religious aspects. And the consequence will be hostility and segregation towards their opponents. Satanism versus christianity, right wing versus left wing etc. Personally I wouldn't mind seeing the extermination of certain humans. The world is overpopulated anyway.

We, the proud metalmen of Near Dark would like to state that you're a bit of a sissy. What the hell is the meaning of avoiding porno...Humm, if you're into metal that means you're into alcohol and women (Porno!) aswell, hasn't anyone explained the rules to you?

Kim Kim Kim, you have misunderstood me again. You're good at that aren't you? (Kinda hard to hear what you say with a dick in 'ya fuckin' mouth...) Anyway, I have never stated that I don't like porno, on the contrary I enjoy it. But I have said that I'm bored of watching pornomovies. I guess that's the result of having cabel and being unemployed for six months. And as much as you keep talking about it even hearing it becomes boring. But I guess it's the result of never getting any, am I on the right track? (No, but I would prefer if you were, would have saved me a lot of trouble I tell you...)

Let's annoy people, shall we...? Satanism is simply a degenerated form of christianity and why do they run around with inverted crosses that originally were a christian symbol? So fella, would you like to comment on that statement? Do you think satanism is treated the way it should? What does the mere word mean to you? Why they run around with inverted crosses I think depends upon who they are, so you have to ask the ones who wear one. (Hey Mysteriis you christian fool...why do you wear one?)

I must say that I like the idea with inverted crosses since you desecrate christianity's holiest symbol (Isn't that Mysteriis?) But unfortunately I think that they have lost their effect and meaning. I remember for about 5-6 years ago when one wore an inverted cross he usually had a purpose or a deeper meaning to it, more than a "cool" necklace. Today I would say that the majority wear it because their idols do (Well, Kosta your my idol...should I wear womens clothes too?) But I totally respect the ones who do it for a purpose or a meaning. But the inverted cross is also the cross of Saint Petrus. (And Paulus was crucified upside down which led to that his followers wore an inverted cross to show who they followed...) If Satanism is treated the way it should? Yes sometimes or the majority of time. But also the opposite unfortunately. But what irritates me the most is that some band use it as a selling gimmick. And I don't mean the ones who totally treasure the satanic doctrine but the ones who try to

ride on the shock of it and wear it out, then becoming a parody of themselves. The mere word means pretty much in my opinion and covers more aspects than just worshipping Satan. I also think it has a very big symbolic value.

Will you join Headbangers against Disco?

I have thought about it and it would be cool to do so, but I don't know since we use acoustic guitars. What do you think, should we join? (You should start by destroying your Strebers-albums...)

Do you still love us after this interview?

We will try to!

You don't hate us do you?

I'm starting to. But I'll tell you what. Give me a sticker that says "If this VAN is rocking don't come n' knocking". Half a banana, three pictures of yourself nude wearing nipple clips and we'll call it even, ok? I almost forgot, I got one more request (No, I refuse to lend Tobbe to you anymore, he's mine!). Send me a tape where you sing jingle bells wearing nothing but pumps.

Oh well darling...give my love to the boyz and share the AMC happiness and joy with us...Up the Irons...

Thank you very much for the interview Kim, and hope that the answers are at your satisfaction (Sure thing sugar!)



Boyz...girls...junkies and whores... I'm back! Well, reportedly you dig a bizarre perspective upon your life and others since the bizarre-page became the most popular thing in the last issue. You make uncle proud I tell you. Nice young boyz and girls so mature, it's pleasant. Well, for starters this time I watched something called **WATERPOWER**; an early 80's movie which is half porny, halfly serious. Stars an wellknown pornoactor as a wacko who when visiting a whorehouse sees a "babe" being forced to take an enema. Well, do you think he digs it? Do you think he digs it so much as he starts a personal crusade to give all the women out there the same treatment? Got it babe...! He goes rampage, breaks into houses, fucks 'em, give 'em some enema etc etc. Kinda' what we do up here when we're bored.

FORCED ENTRY; is another little treat from the early 80's. Vietnam-vet goes slightly more crazy than he's ugly and starts harrasing girlies. Soon he forces some tramp to a blowjob and does he have the best "movie"-dick I've seen or what? He's ugly and unwashed, the archetype for a hardrocker. Well, then he rapes someone but when he tries to rape two bitches higher than Lee Dorian they start to laugh at him and the poor sod of course can't stand it and puts a bullet in his brain. Now what kind of ending is that? Blääh....

A DIRTY WESTERN; the same fucking thing as above only in western-environment. Where the fuck is Clint Eastwood? Not here....

From big daddy Hagström I've got **GIRLS AND ANIMALS** and **DE VILDA FLICKORNA PÅ LANDET**. What do you think they're about? Tramps fucking dogs, horses, eels and whatever they can put up their ugly black holes of pussies... Anyway, there's a lot of dogs here but you have probably done the same thing to your dog so you know the story...licky, licky...do the dog like to lick? No! Would anyone like to lick these "things"? No, wouldn't fucking think so! The poor doogies hardly ever gets to fuck 'em either. Poor doggy! When he gets the chance he fucks 'em on the leg!!! Stupid dog!

Then we have the eels. Have you seen a german fat whore fuck an eel? Do you think the eels die? Do you think the eels want to die? I would say that yes is an safe assumption. Then we have horses...she-males and horses, that's something to watch with your parents. Bet they haven't seen anything like that! You'll get a hard-on (or wet-on depending on your gender and if your lucky you might get both ...) immediatly. Anyway, when a horse come they

J.S.

BIZARRE

DEDICATED TO KNARKOPERVO

fucking come. We're talking waterfalls here baby! I mean, you wouldn't fucking have to buy milk for a year (milk is white too you know!). By the way, I hate horses, they make good hamburgers but are lousy lovers. And then the highlight...a muscular negro son of a bitch nails an COW in the ass. That's fucking romantic I tell you. I have another film by the way where a farmer fucks a pig. That's quite romantic as well I guarantee. I want an animal! I'll buy an elephant! There is in particular one movie I laugh until I choke and that's the little masterpiece **MONGO**. Now this is an little amateur movie from Sweden, (Skåne, not Sweden) where two incredible ugly bitches who got their bodyproportions and looks all wrong to start with, pick up an retard, an real retard in swimminggear. You know the stuff divers wear, and it turns out that someone has stolen the poor retards clothes, and I got a hunch the filmmaker got a finger in that theft. Anyway, they drive off to this remote house where they make him lay naked on a bed and masturbate. The comments from the bitches makes the whole fucking movie; "It shall STAND, it shall STAND I said". "Do you want to see my tits?" (Whereupon she shows her belly, intelligent babel) Anyway, they torment him with comments like this for about fifteen minutes and then he gets to fuck 'em and it's no fun anymore. But if you know anybody who's appeared in this movie (and no, neither Tobbe or Kim is the retard!), you'll get free sex for sure. Another film with incredible comments are **WALLBERG AND UNOSSON**; from the name you should understand that we got an amateur movie from Linköping (Sweden) where this slut starts by smoking a cigarette with her pussy... Then this guy comes in (both rather drunk and lots of people in the next room where there is a party and where they will look at this film later with their friends - this is absolutely true!) and when he dress off she puts her hand in his croach and wines, "It's not big, is it?" Hahaha, come here baby and you'll taste some meat! Then they have some oral experimentation,

proceeding to some fucking and those comments fly all over the place; "I'm allergic, your transparation makes me itchy"! There is no stopping this couple I tell you. The fun thing is that afterwards when the party was over they all left and there was a burglary where all they took was the tape still inside the VCR. We got the babes adress (look in the fucking list) and you could try contacting her but do not fucking say we sent you, we take no responsibility for such actions.

Do you have the gutfeeling to watch something real extreme. Then there is a fine little church movie called **DEUTSCHE KAVIAR SPIELE** (I think...) and if you know what Kaviar means in deutsch you're prepared. Here we have little gals and typical german bizarre fat fucks of pornoactors. They eat, consume, divulge in shit. They shit on plates and eat it up, they shit on the floor and eat it up, they shit in each others mouths and enjoy it, there's no fucking limit baby. When you thought the peek was reached an even uglier german whore comes and does something even worse. This is not recommendable at your dinnerparties I can assure you, but every other party ought to be a succes (at least one lame sucker is bound to throw up...)

Taste the word **LATEX**, tastes good? You know, this film is all about people in leather, rubber, plastic and whatever and it's just some harder kind of hardcore but there is this gal who's dressed in a rubber version of a nuns cloak, I say jiihaaah brother...besides the usual degradation scenes they fuck all and everything. But the nun man...couldn't sleep on my belly for a week.

I don't know if you have ever heard of a man named Hans Scheike! Have you? In Sweden he's famous because some years ago he was sentenced to prison because he had molested some girls, and here is the vital point, he runs a sect where they spank eachother on the ass with rise. Scheike himself got to be close to 70 by now and those sluts who wants his 'ol hands spanking their butts looks like an uglier version of any medieval witch. Brrr...not even your poor old

uncle could get a hard-on when he saw them.

This sect has recorded some films and **SE OCH GE** is one of them. There's no sex in this one kids, only your favourite grandpa Scheike. It's supposed to be cast in the early 1900 and the story line is to stupid to even mention, it's all to spank the little girlies up. And when Scheike present "Stjärtlyftaren UNO (Asslifter UNO), every mans dream" out in the forest the applause will never end. This is the ultimate partymovie. Fat whoremama Hagström promises he'll record it to you for 120 SKR. Safest investment ever kiddos!

And finally to close this page up for this time we got something called **ANAL LADIES**. Now this is a movie to watch again and again. A german ugly whore lives by the rule "What fits in the pussy, fits in the ass", and when she can swallow nuclear missiles with her oh so scary hole you understand what I'm talking about. She masturbates with dildos shaped after hardrockers, she gets fistfucked in both holes at once and she puts eight (8) candles up her ass. Now that's something that will light up your lonely evenings. She's old enough to be my mother, ugly enough to work in a church, perverted to the bone...if this slut isn't a hardrocker then no one is.

That is all from big daddy today. I had to skip a few movies but the favourites are all here. I hope you liked my little escapades and remember **Sex without perversion is like a fistfuck without hands...**

I love you all!



Mr. Pervo

Lake Of Tears featured in our 2nd issue, but we've learned all kind of fun things lately so we had to sort some things out with drummer Knarkopervo...

Lake of Tears

Hey you dildosucker. How are you doing today? Maybe some stoned moments of yesterday are still torturing you and your poor head? How have you gotten the nickname "Knarkopervo"? Hello Träsk-Tobbe! I'm doing quite fine, despite the fact that I just

talked to you. Knarko-Pervo? Sorry, I don't even know the meaning of those words.

So now your 2nd album has been out for a year or something and it's selling pretty good if I'm not incorrect. Why haven't Black Mark printed any decent T-shirts? Those they've made looks like shit! Are you satisfied with the promotional work of Black Mark or are they just caring about their big bands?

We think they did a pretty good job in promoting *Headstones*, especially if you compare it to our first album *Greater Art*. But of course there's still a thousand things to be done: more ads, decent video-clips, more tours etc. Since we now are one of the "big bands" on Black Mark plus the fact that we now have a manager I believe they will put quite much effort into promoting the next album. You're right about the T-shirts, they're a disgrace! The new ones will be better.

You've also been on a tour lately, tell us all details! Was it sex, DRUGS and Rock n' Roll? What about the German metalheads, are they just as we all have heard? Give a description of a typical German metalhead. Have you returned the bass to The Gathering?

We have been touring Germany with Edge of Sanity and after that we took part of the "Summer Metal Meetings" along with among others: Tiamat, Savatage, Gathering and Rage. Was it sex? Not if you don't count your own fist or the private cabins on the Reeperbahn...

Was it drugs? Well, we usually had cocaine for breakfast and lunch, just to move on to the harder drugs in the afternoon/night. The answer is of course yes!

A German metalhead? You take the ugliest hockey haircut, a pair of stretchjeans, a jeansjacket (which colour of course matches the jeans), complete with backpatch, then just add a "mofamustach" and you have a Heinz Möller. But although they are ugly, they are METAL! The bass is back where it belongs, I returned it on a Slayer gig in Amstetrdam.

I noticed that you were not against drugs when you were in Sundsvall for that shitty gig! How was it to smoke a "burk" on the backside of the policestation? What is it with drugs that appeals to you?

The burk on the backside of the policestation is a classic! It was terrific! Anything that can help expand your mind is good, no matter if it's drugs or a book...

Has the diet with carrots and tuna made any

difference to Jonas weight? What's his weight peak? Has he reached the magical 0,1 tons yet? He passed the magical 0,1 tons quite some time ago. I believe he peeked at about 0,104 tons but hopefully he's going down.

Do you have any plans for your next album? Will it be more dreamy like Tiamat's "Wildhoney" and have a lot of Pink Floyd influences in it? Any songs or titles ready? Will you stay on Black Mark, or are there any other labels that want to work with you? Will you use the same studio again?

The new album will be very varied and quite weird. I don't think it will sound like "Wildhoney", hopefully it won't sound like anything else. We will stay on Black Mark, we are still in contract with them. We will use the "Wavestation" studio again.

Talking about Black Mark, do you have any idea how many labelmates you have? Do you think they're mostly crapbands that will disappear after one album? Which are your favourite labelmates?

127? Got no idea, but they do sign a lot of crap, too much power metal and crossovermusic. The best ones has to be Edge of Sanity, Cemetery and Bathory (at least some albums are GREAT!)

Your keyboardplayer Kricke is a wellknown ladyhunter, how many different babes has he nailed now? He didn't do very well in Sundsvall did he? How is it going with the drugaddicted "babe" that is terrorizing him?

I think he's been with approximately 67 babes (Waaaaa...) not including the blow jobs (How the hell can it be? He's not even charming...) He failed and fell flat in Sundsvall but this was because we had set a curse on him. He wasn't able to break the spell until much later! The drugcrazed bitch is now behind locked doors (Your place huh?)!

Why is Germany so big in producing bizarre pornomovies? Did you find any interesting movies during your tour there? Any special movie that you want to recommend? Everything from "Dino's blue movies" use to have some good entertainment value in my eyes!

Well, someone has to take the responsibility in producing what the world wants. I can recommend a German film called "Das KaviarDinner". Kim will soon get a copy of it, and it's guaranteed to change his life. You're right, "old Dino" is always trustworthy!

Why have you chosen the name Lake of Tears? Who did mention it the first time?

We sat down, the four of us, one dark and cold night and thought of a name for our Heavy Metal band (You have another band as well tihi?). After not so much thinking we decided on Lake of Tears, it fitted our music (at least back then!)

You look extremely funny while you're playing, you're stiff as a door. Why the hell can't you relax and look like a "normal" drummer? Haha!!! I'm stiff whatever I do!!! I promise, I'm more relaxed now!

Can one be circumcised and play in a Black Metal band? You are no "evil black metallor" can you give your opinions about the scene as far as you're familiar with it?

Black Metal has committed suicide the same way as Death metal did, by getting too big. I'm not interested in Black metal, most of the music is bad, too bad sound, too unoriginal, too untight, too much... Nowadays you can be Christian and play in a Black metal (Why does the name *Mysteriis* come to mind?), so why not?

Danne is singing much better on "Headstones" also his lyrics are more mature. Did he take some singingleasons or was it the shower that was his rehearsalplace? What's his lyrical inspirations besides the drugs? Any new texts ready that you can explain something about?

He hasn't taken any singing lessons, he practises singing during our rehearsals and in the shower (true!). I believe he will sing better on the new one.

The lyrical inspiration comes from things you experience and thoughts you have. Sorry, haven't read any new lyrics of his yet.

You did a videoclip for "Ravenland" that MTV refused to show! Did Börje cry blood then when he couldn't squeeze some more money out of the poor German metal kids with hockeyhaircuts? But it was shown on some other European channels right? How was it to record a video, did you feel like rockstars?

They showed the video on Viva, a station that is bigger than MTV in Germany/Switzerland. It was a lot of hard work recording the video. No we didn't feel like stars.

Why have you chosen the monicker "Lake of Tears"? Do you cry that often?

Today I guess we would have chosen another name. Lake of Tears sounds a bit pretentious.

If you could choose a way to commit suicide what would you choose? And why?

By burning at the stake. If you're gonna go, go with style! A guy here in Borås chained himself to the bottom of a pool in the swimming centre. He died a quite original death.

Other bands play, Manowar kills!!! Time to sum everything up, is there anything you'd like to say to our readers. See you in hell... Enjoy life!

LAKE OF TEARS FREAKSHOW



One of the few german bands who hold their metal banners high today is Ungod, a bunch of bizarre pornoactors with mainman Schiekron explaining what makes ém beautiful...

Greetings Schiekron! What's happening?

Well, everything is great here. We just finished the work on our selfbuilt rehearsalroom and are now working out some new material for the upcoming releases. It took us again quite a while to do something for the band, but now we're back!

So tell us something about your latest release "Conquering what once were ours"? When can we expect a fulllength album and who will release it? Will there be more split 7"s in the future?

Conquering... was released in january on WoodNymph Records from Belgium. It is our most mature release so far and it contains 5 tracks of pure fuckin' Metal in the 80's vein which means that there are no Neo Black Metal influences like Depeche Mode or Modern Talking. Our next fulllength album will come out under the Wood Nymph banner as well since we are very pleased with their work so far. In the meantime we plan to release some split EP's as well. One with *Impending Doom* from Germany will be out soon, I hope.

What do you want to say with the title "Conquering what..."? Is there a special message to it or did you come up with it and simply thought that it was cool?

The title of the new MCD has of course its meaning! We don't wanna spread any bullshit within our lyrics, concept etc. To put it in a few words; the MCD concept blames the jewish God, as well as all other feeble spiritual gods and their religions, for the downfall of the once strong, selfish and intellectual man into weak, cowardish and stupid sheeps by manipulating human minds with false prophecies and false moral.

Man, and with that I only mean strong individualists, should be the only one to create the law of his own existence.

How do you describe your progression throughout the years? I think you've developed to a more oldstyle playing band, what do you think about that?

Of course we have matured as songwriters and we know exactly what we want. We have been an old style band from the very beginning but now even more since we are very tired of all those fucking hardcore bands from the north. Now it seems that this old school thing is turning into a trend as well and I'm happy that we already talked about Heavy/Trash/Speed influences more than three years ago. So no one can say that we jumped on the wagon

now! Just listen to our split EP's with Cabal and Disaster. It's pure trash! I think the main difference between us and the other so called old school bands is simply that we really experienced the 80's metal scene and that we don't use the riffs of the old bands like many others are doing nowadays. We do our own thing here and we know that we are no megasellers. But that doesn't matter so much since we have been into it for a long time without earning a single penny and because we do this with our heart and soul.

The MCD wasn't released by Merciless Rec as all your other releases have been, why? Merciless Records don't want to release MCD's. That's it!

You've gone through several line-up changes during your years of existance, do you have any contact with those people today? How has this had affect on the band? Positive? Have you been slowed down much due to this?

Yeah, we had many line-up changes in the past. And indeed it slowed our activities down. I think we could have released 2 or 3 fulllength CD's in the meantime without those fucking line-up problems. I only have small contact with our old singer and our guitarist from the MCD. The others are out of sight.

What feelings go through your mind when you put a record on which you're playing on yourself? Have you used the "musicweapon" when you've tried to fix a babe? Do you think one should?

No special feeling when I listen to my own record. Only when I get a new release with us. After listening to it a few times I hardly ever put it on. I never used the band to get hold of a pussy. But other people seem to like to tell every girl that I'm the one of Ungod. It didn't help much either hehe! I'm not so much into this "Hey look, I'm playing in a band so fuck with me!" (I use "Wanna buy sex?" thing. I don't care what others do.

Why is the 80's kind of metal so huge in Germany? Lots of Running Wild t-shirts and patches etc. Very funny haircuts and Zebra coloured tights. Do you want to comment this? Are you into 80's sounding metal yourself?

I don't know why this thing is so popular in Germany (Maybe because the bands are german, I dunno!) But I think it has alot to do with local patriotism. Of course I like the 80's (How about the music then?)

UNGOD

What a question. I don't like the mentioned outfit too much but it's always great for a good laugh aswell as some old lyrics from old german speed bands.

There seems to be a trend to use fascism within the concept of Black Metal today. Do you think it's the right thing to mix politics with Black Metal? What do you think about immigrants?

Politics should not be mixed up with Black Metal or to be more exact with no music at all (Well said...) Some people think they are more extreme if they mix their weak creations with right wing attitude. But in my eyes they are nothing more than hardcore bands. And I hate hardcore!

I hate immigrants for forcing their cultures upon us and for not accepting our cultural background and our laws. I especially mean people who pray to Allah here. (For those with low intelligence he means muslims.) Anyway, I think they should stay behind their own borders where they belong.

Why did you choose the monicker "Ungod" for your band? It seems very atheistic to me. Or is it just meant to be antichristian?

Ungod means the opposite to any spiritual Gods. Instead of Ungod you could also say Mangod since it means pretty much the same to me. We are the reals gods of flesh and blood! The bandname represents very good what this band is all about. It is easy to spell and easy to remember. Perfect for our meaning.

If you could choose a way to commit suicide what would you choose? And why?

I would never commit suicide because it is a sign of weakness. So why think about things I would never do? (Hypotetical?) I rather say show some courage and face your problems.

Which was the strongest album, demo, zine release during 1995?

Album: Ozzy Osbourne - *Ozzmosis*

Demo: Parricide - *A future for suffering*

Zines(s): *Tales of the macabre*, *Voices from the darkside* and a few more.

OK I really don't have that much to ask you so you'll have to end this yourself.

Tobbe, thanx for your support! Keep the flame of pure Metal alive and never let anyone put you down.

I see it, I want it, I get it! (What! Me?)

Waaoo, wanna exorcise some demo(n)s?
Yeaap, here we have 'em. Some may think that the reviews are uninformative but we write what is essential according to us.
Also there's grades...1 is crap, 5 is hoooot!
The price is 5\$/30 SKR if not otherwise stated.

ABSURDUM (SWE) - THE EROTIC ECLIPSE DEMO '96

Death metal is still alive...kind off! It's what these hombies play but there is something missing...fresh ideas maybe...It's really predictable but they do it as they want it I presume, and the result is OK. So if you don't feel like dusting off those old death metal records maybe some audio-tape would suit you?

Available from NDP.

Grade: 3-/5 KI

ABYSSOS (SWE) - PROMO '96

Well, these boyz are sort of local and I really couldn't care less if I didn't know Gucken who's been into metal for a long time. Earlier they were called Insalubrious by the way (grind-type of death) but now it's swedish black metal in the melodic school. This adv contains two extra tracks from the demo which is out now...And tih, they succeeded in using the "famous" Setherial/My Dying Bride etc riff, fantastic.

Grade: 3-/5 KI

ACID DEATH (GRE) - PROMO '96

Greeks either play Rotting Christ black metal or awesome death/trash metal and this is of the latter kind. After some absence they're back with this promo and I dig it alot. Quite technical and they dare to try some new ideas, the only thing is that the vocalist should try to put some more power into his voice. This one is for labels/zines but feel free to write...

Grade: 3/5 KI

AMSVARTNER (SWE) - UNDERNEATH THE THOUSAND YEARS GATE DEMO '96

Amsvartner is a band that consists of very young members from the Swedish north! The first thing I think about is that the name sounds like a horse... Well, it's a bit hard to grip when you listen to it at first but after a while it becomes really enjoyable. There is nothing new in their music but they don't sound like another clone either. The cover of "Detroit Rock City" is very good and I think they caught the feeling with it. Above average and available from NDP.

Grade: 3+/5 TF

ANCIENT WINDS (SWE) - REACH MY JOURNEYS END DEMO '95

Ouuui, take away the drummachine!!! Fast nordic black metal with some slower parts here and there, have you heard it before? Yes you have, but who comes up with originality in these days? The slower parts are better than the fast ones but maybe that'll change now when a real drummer has been added. One

strange thing is that no song has a real ending, all fade out...Why? But all in all a good debut.

Available from NDP.

Grade: 3/5 TF

ANGELCORPSE (USA) - GOATS OF AZAZEL DEMO '96

Can you get closer to Morbid Angel than this? Shouldn't think so...Fast, aggressive and hellish death metal with solos so fast that a nigger hunted by a lion wouldn't catch them. Titles like "Perversion enthroned" doesn't make it worse, this is something that brings a tear into an REAL death metal fan like me. They'll have an album out soon

on Osmose. The only bad thing is the soundquality but it doesn't matter since the songs are this good.

Grade: 4-/5 TF

ANTAEUS (FRA) - SUPREMACIST DAWN DEMO '96

French black metal in the C-league. I mean, even the opening riffs been used a thousand times, they're not exactly virtuosos on their instruments either. Boring, boring, boring...some years of rehearsing would do just fine.

Grade: 2-/5 KI

AZATOTH (SWE) - THROUGH THE HALLS...DEMO '96

Whenever a groupie of the band sends you their tape it's time to watch out...but, for once it was something cool.

You know a group called Deicide? They play an evil form of death metal with a singer with two voices. Well, that's what Azatoth is about, only they were second to it... It's a very good demo but the guitariffs are too similar and way to repetative but I'm sure you don't mind to much, we're talking death metal baby

Quite recommendable.

Grade: 3+/5 KI

BELENOS (FRA) - NOTRE AMOUR ETERNAL DEMO '96

Wellplayed and catchy black metal in a mix of southern european and nordic ways of playing is performed by this french combo. The only sad thing is that this type of music doesn't offer anything new at all in these days. It's repeating itself only. Belenos try to do something different but they don't reach what they desire. Anyway one of the best bands I've heard from France. If you don't care if music should be a musical revolution you could buy this.

Grade: 3+/5 TF

BETRAYER (ISR) - ...THE TRUTH IS OUT THERE DEMO '96

Hardcore? Well, this is how I imagine HC would sound (daddy never listen to shit like that...). The vocals are worthless really, the music itself rather pointless. And above all it's strangely mixed. On the plus-account we got the singers accent (is it legal?). If you like HC

you're reading the wrong paper and if you don't...congratulations!

Grade: 1/5 KI

BISHOP OF HEXEN (ISR) - ANCIENT HYMNS OF LEGENDS AND LOVE DEMO '96

Circumised youngsters on Black metal, it's obvious that they'll use a lot of keyboards isn't it? The keyboard is mixed louder than the guitars and that bothers me a bit but then the keyboard parts are very wellperformed so you can stand it even if it's hard sometimes. They're offering wellstructured and interesting music in a way that reminds me of their countrymates Grimoire. Melodic keyboard oriented black metal. Available from NDP.

Grade: 3+/5 TF

BLACK SWAN (FIN) - DEMO '96

Yummy, this is good. One of the best black metal demos I've received for a very long time. Varied with fast, melodic and acoustic parts. Even the drumcomputer sounds rather satisfying on this one, not good but well programmed. Every part has a thought behind it and that certainly is not common today. Add it to your collection at once.

Available from NDP.

Grade: 4/5 TF

BLAZING ETERNITY (DEN) - OVER.SORTE HEDER DEMO '96

Beer, red sausages and Blazing Eternity, that's three things that all come from Denmark. And what do they have in common? Nothing at all. Black metal is the style and they're a good band for the future but this won't take them to the stars. But they have talent and the songs have potential. Good (!) black metal.

Grade: 3+/5 TF

BLOODSTORM (US) - IRON FLAMES OF BATTLE DEMO '95

Synth intro! This couldn't be black metal could it? Well, wadda you know...it is! The american style of black metal to be precise. Got this trashy sound. American groups always have this trashy feeling to the music, why? The production is weak but the music is fast and I dig the screamy vocals. Whenever a black metal group puts a death-grunt in a song they are worthy of checking out.

Available from your friendly NDP-boyz.

Grade: 3/5 KI

CLANDESTINE (POL) - UMARLE KONIE CASS. '96

Colour cover and pro duplicated tapes. Looks promising...a promising intro as well but then what? Booooring death metal in the vein of Vader but it's not even half as good. They must have been in a coma since the early 90's. Never I would listen to it many times in a row. Nope guys, it takes more to impress me.

Grade: 2-/5 TF

CROMLECH (SWE) - AND DARKNESS FELL DEMO '96

Besides the extremely clichée title they also managed to open with the wellknown opening by Eucharist, remember that one? And then it bursts out into that death/black metal crescendo which is so popular. Cromlech may not be pioneers to this music but they know their schoolbook well enough to create some interesting shit. The sound is not really fantastic but fuck...I heard a new song and it's an helluva improvement. The future is as open as Michael Jackson's ass.

Grade: 3/5 KI

DARKNESS IS MY PRIDE (GER) - LITANAL DEMO '96

Why does almost every demo have a lousy sound nowadays? This isn't an exception, it seems like people don't think it's important to have a decent sound on their releases anymore...The guitarparts are really good but it's hard to hear them sometimes due to the before mentioned sound-problem. What can I write? Black fucking metal with great ideas and guitarparts but with bad sound. Won't listen to it very often due to the sound.

Grade: 3/5 TF

DEMOGORGON (SWE) - OCH DÖDEN FÖRDE DEM TILL MITT RIKE DEMO '96

Punk? How the hell can you use the most boring punk-comp while drumming in a black metal band? The guitars are slow and extremely uninteresting, the keyboards help a bit (especially on the calm places) but it's far from any hiteeling on these six tracks. Besides, this got production value of zero success as well. And the statements with the eight "Svart är...(Black is...)" on the cover is simply to much.

Grade: 1/5 KI

DOOMFLIGHT (UK) - THIS WORLD I DESPISE DEMO '96

Eurostyle death with growly vocals isn't really my favourite kind of music so I don't have to tell you that Doomflight won't reach high on my list of favebands. It's not bad performed but sometimes it sounds a bit untight and as they were in a rush when recording this one. If you're into this you might like it, I don't.
Grade: 2/5 TF

EMBRACE BY DARK (BUL) - INLAID DARK ARCHES DEMO '96

I've heard the intro before...This type of My Dying Bride-metal seems to be popular over there, and surely the music performance is great but it becomes oh so boring in the long run. And since the vocalist doesn't have the most personal singingstyle he adds to that conclusion but on the plusaccount the acoustic and synth played parts are very good...
Grade: 3/5 KI

EMBRACING (SWE) - WINTERBURN DEMO '95

These guys have already released a CD on Invasion, but this is the demo prior to that one. They play melodic swedishtype death/black and they also try to experiment some in their songs which makes this kind of interesting. Don't think this demo is as awesome though so it would be interesting to hear their album. Don't know if this is still for sale.
Grade: 3/5 TF

EMERGHAIL (FIN) - IN DREAMFUL SUPREMACY DEMO

Could there be something worse than an copy of Memorium. NO!!
Grade: 1-5 KI

ENSEMBLE NOCTURNE (SWE) - MAESTOSO DEMO '96

This is their second demo and I must say I'm impressed. With a better production and less boring vocals these guys could make it big. They play melodic death with some really incredible solos for being a demo band. They'll probably end up with a deal with this one. They're far better than many bands with albums out. Buy or die... Available from NDP.
Grade: 4-5 TF

ETERNAL AUTUMN (SWE) - PROMO '96

Now this I like...real fucking metal. A splendid mix of something surviving from the NWOBHM and something that came screaming out of Germany in the early 80's. Influences would be something like Helloween, Iron Maiden, Running Wild and whatever. The vocals are screamy and suits the music so fucking well. Trash...wreck...
Grade: 4-5 KI

ETERNAL AUTUMN (SWE) - MOONSCAPE DEMO '96

Oooow...the instrumental opening is so much Iron Maiden you'll kill yourself happily. This is like the promo only better, and longer, and more, and better, and something to get and soon too. The best demo I've gotten for ages.
Grade: 4+5 KI

ETERNAL HATRED (US) - VENGEANCE FROM THE GRAVE DEMO '94

Almost two years old this one but what the hell, it's good anyway. It's catchy as fuck and in some strange way the soundquality is very "fresh" that's the best word I can come up with. A drumcomputer is involved but it's VERY well programmed so it doesn't take away too much of the impression. But overall this demo lacks of interesting parts. He's

found an drummer now and is working on a new demo which sounds promising.
Grade: 3-5 TF

ETERNAL OATH (SIN) . PHYSIKA KAL MYSTIKA DEMO '96

Duke Asman and his compadres are back in business. They were interviewed in ND #3 (the int no-one understood) and that's a proof of quality. It sounds like very "nordic" inspired black metal, reminds me a bit of early Burzum at some times. But a very thin production destroys much of the impression, I think it's a sad fact 'cause this could have been really good with better production. Some of the best of southeast Asia anyway... Available from NDP.
Grade: 3/5 TF

ETERNAL TEARS OF SORROW (FIN) - BARDS BURIAL DEMO '94

EToS are signed to Extreme records now. Smart move, but from whos side? Melodic death metal with much Heavy feeling to it. It sounds very good, the melodies they play are very enjoyable and the production is also good. Wouldn't hurt with a more personal approach in the vocal district though.
Grade: 3/5 KI

FORGOTTEN SILENCE (CZE) - THOTS DEMO '95

14 trax and about 40 minutes of quality is offered by these czech dudes! A whole album on one tape and it's not a shitty thing that doesn't fit in. I would call them the death answer to Masters Hammer if I could and I surely can. Very varied and interesting music and good death metal vocals is also on it, female vocals, slow parts, fast parts. You name it and FS got it! This is simply very good! Available from NDP.
Grade: 4/5 TF

HELLENT (SWE) - ANGELRAPE DEMO '96

First I mistook the name for Hellsent which of course is funnier... Trash/Black metal which is the style of the year and the trend of next year. The "Hellsent" track has a great chorusline were they go "Hellsent...the hordes of Satan...Hellsent", sticks to you like a venereal disease. Raw satanic aggression, that's Hellsent for 'ya. Released by senora Hagström and even available from NDP.
Grade: 3+5 KI

INTO OBLIVION (GER) - II DEMO '95

With a sound almost as fat as Isaksson these germanische Jungen deliver Trashmetal that should appeal to guys into Sepultura and such acts. It's tight, wellplayed and VERY uninteresting after a while. I'd rather listen to old Kreator in comparison. Get cool guys!
Grade: 2/5 TF

KORP (SWE) - UTVALD DEMO '96

Read the Demogorgon review, it's the same band with a new demo. The sound/production is way better this time around but that's about it...The drummer improved so now he's as bad as the guitarists. The vocals doesn't work at all, no power and the talkative kind. I got an advice, don't be so eager to release material, rehearse, rehearse and rehearse...it's the key to everything. Now it's way to unstructured. Sorry guys!
Grade: 2/5 KI

MALIGN (SWE) - DEMO 1 '95

The first track "Blod skall flöda" is a really great one but after that this demo hasn't much to offer.

The following tracks don't reach the same standard and it's getting boring after a while. You could put on any other demo and hear about the same thing...As usual in these days they play black metal and one thing that annoys me is that the bass is louder than the guitars. But if they start to do song in the vein of the first one this can get interesting but for now it's rather anonymous. Worth to have for the title track anyway.
Available from NDP.
Grade: 2+5 TF

MELECHESH (ISR) - AS JERUSALEM BURNS DEMO '95

Assyrian Black Metal. Midpaced. The musical capabilities of this band is OK but there is however one thing that makes it stand out from the crowd, the keyboardist really play...now, that's not something you find every day is it? The music (g/b/d) would have trouble avoiding the famous "bellydive" if it weren't for the mentioned keyboard. The music becomes rather varied instead. A 7"EP is out now by the way, and a CD is on its way. They wanted me to mention that they are neither Jewish or Israelian. But are they circumised I wonder haha!
Grade: 3+5 KI

MEMORY GARDEN (SWE) - TIDES ADV TAPE TO CD '96

Well, finally Memory Garden have taken the final step upon the throne. This is doom fucking heavy metal girls...and great! What I like is that they don't fall into the "all doom"-trap, they mix with heaviness from 'le Metal sources. And of course Stefan is an incredible singer. Messiah and Co. have to come up with something out of this world to bet this. Released by: Heathendoom Records. Available for 16\$.
Grade: 5 /5 KI

MIHNEA (SWE) - TOTENMOND '96

Ritual industrial music. I'm of the firm belief that you have to create the music itself to fully appreciate it. The first track is OK, a bit repetative but rather cool. The second is like static noise, garbage...I don't know how to describe it, take a dare if you'd like to give it a try.
Grade: 2-5 KI

MITHOTYN (SWE) - PROMO '96

When I told one member of this group that some parts reminded of In Flames, a riff had been used by Dissection and that one opening reminded of Isengard he got sort of cranky but fuck...it's true...and it's great. Powerful and hateful viking metal with quite some melody. Not like the gods Merciless but Mithotyn have chosen their own viking-path. Really recommendable... Released by VNP and available from NDP aswell.
Grade: 4+5 KI

MORNALAND (SWE) - THE JOURNEY DEMO '96

Black/Death metal in the most common style. Rather fast with nice melodies and a couple of acoustic parts. The normal vocals aren't good, just plain bad but the screamy one is alright. A bit of a messy production but I do think it sounds untight on some occassions. The drummer disappears on the fast parts and the guitars are pretty timid. But it is however a big step in the right direction.
Grade: 3-5 KI

NAHASH (LIT) - WELLONE AETERNITAS PROMO '96

Deathish metal with keyboard overtunes. Quite strange riff construction at times. They don't have

the production needed either, a bit chaotic. And the vocals...ch, they suck! Growly/screaming but with no feeling. A change is a must. It takes your attention from the music.
Grade: 2/5 KI

NECROPSY (UK) - BLIND FAITH DEMO '96
These guys mixes Eurodeath with some american and metalinfluences and the result is good. They are as tight as my mothers panties and the solos they have are above average but still no Yngwie! Yngwie who??? Yngwie fucking Malmsteen, that's who!! Some clear vocals are also used in the song "The Harvest" which must be my favetrack from this tape. Death metal isn't dead...
Grade: 3+/5 TF

NEGLECTED FIELDS (LAT) - SANSARA DEMO '96
Now what's this? I've gotten 4-5 demos lately from the 'ol East block and all had printed tapes and glossy colour-covers...isn't economy bad over there? Are we the only ones with bad economy? This is varied melodic deathmetal with originality. Some female vocals of course, OK but nothing more... The breakes fits well, jazzy...The only minus is that the vocalist doesn't have all the strength in his voice that you would wish. This goes well recommended.
Grade: 4(+)/5 KI

NEUROPATH (AUS) - DESERT OF EXCRUCIATION DEMO '95
Aggressive as hell, professional as hell and boring as hell is what I think about this. Death/Grind in the most horrible way. The slow part in the second song is listenable though. It should be forbidden to send out demos like this 'cause poor zine editors can hardly defend themselves against crap like this. Grind 'em down...
Grade: 2-5 TF

NIGHTSKY BEQUEST (BUL) - UNCOUNTED STARS...CASS-EP '96
Released by Counter Attack Prod.
Dreamy doom metal. Great musical creations fill the void, expand, dissolve and impress. Very catchy with great melodies and nice arrangements. Nothing to complain about.
Grade: 4/5 KI

NOVOGOROD (ITA) - IN MY EYES THE BLACK LIGHT...DEMO '96
Released by Northern Darkness Records.
Black metal with many (untight) changes. The guitars and drums hold different paces, smart... I don't think it's very interesting either, you forget it while listening to it.
Keyboardal black metal
Grade: 2-5 KI

O ORACULO DE ASARADE (BRA) - ASTRAL DOORWAYS PROMO '96
Melodic doom a la My Dying Bride etc. but not with as growly and boring vocals. If I didn't know I would never have guessed that they were from Brazil because I have some prejudices against music from South American jungleboys. But hey am I wrong...these guys can be something in the future if they just vary their stuff a tiny bit more. Available from Sound Riot Productions.
Grade: 2+/5 TF

PANTHEON (SWE) - BY THE MIST OF NIGHTFALL DEMO '96
Ooooouuuuuu, where's the noise guys! This is as weak as the intelligence of Mysteris/Setherial! It's so thin that you can't imagine, almost like my sto-

mach. These guys isn't offering any groundbreaking black metal news but I think that they should rehearse and record some new stuff (which in fact they have done and it's way better than this.)
Grade: 2/5 TF

PSYCHO HOLIDAY (AUT) - IN YOUR MIND DEMO '96
This won't stay in my mind for a long time I can tell you. The music sounds good at some places but then there's some hardcorish vocals that I can't stand. I can't tell you how much I hate these kind of vocals 'cause it'd set the paper on fire but I can say; Boooooo shouts and spread whistles. Keep your savings, kill Pantera, obey metal... Other bands play, P.S suck...!
Grade: 1-5 TF

SAD ENTHEUS (ISR) - MOURNFUL BEAUTY DEMO '96
Beautiful, gloomy, doomy, yummy! To start with I don't think that the rather growly vocals fit to the very melodic music. There is always something melodic on top of everything else on this one and I find it very relaxing to listen to it, it's so moody. Sit back, take a beer and enjoy damn it.
Grade: 3+/5 TF

SHADE (POL) - LIGHT DEMO '93
Do you like the sound that games to the almighty Commodore 64 brings... Well, then get this. The intro for starters and then the synth goes like that all the time. Laughable...
The music is booring death metal and a crappy vocalist lowers it even further. This music was dead even when they recorded it.
Grade: 2-5 KI

SONG'D ENTER (BRA) - MY VISIONS IN THE FOREST DEMO '96
Brazilian black with a keyboardplayer named Hashcloud up next. Holy carumba! These guys are impressive. Black metal is the style and talent is the middlename. Fucking great with slight touches of early Burzum and a rather nordic feeling over the whole production. If you want to check out a good black band that aren't from the Nordic wastelands you should check out these guys.
Grade: 4/5 TF

TAETRE (SWE) - ETERNAL ECLIPSE DEMO '96
These guys have sniffed some Dissection I should say. But Taetre has something more to offer as well... Good songs! They're not just another clone, they try to do something different and sometimes they succeed in doing it. The opening track has a real killer first riff that I think is rather similar to a Darkthrone riff but I can't really swear on it either. Nah, a couple of beers and this, voila' you have a party.
Grade: 3+/5 TF

THE MARBLE ICON (SWE) - SOMBRE EPIGRAPH DEMO '96
Ööh, what happened? I liked their first demo somewhat but this is...well, not very good! Far and outmost it's a crappy mixing. The music has a certain groove tom it but I really don't think they have taken care of their ideas as they should have. I expected more to be honest. Rock'n' doom...
Available from NDP.
Grade: 2/5 KI

THYRFING (SWE) - SOLEN SVARTNAR DEMO '95
4-channel porta recording doesn't stand for quality as far as I know. Neither is it soundquality here to talk about either. Much synthstuff on this and it

really bugs me because I know I heard the tunes before but where? The same goes for the guitarlines...where? I won't comment on playingskills since it might be the bad sound but the drummer certainly is a uncertain fella'. Once he's set the pace he'll stick to it...no matter what. The 3rd wave of black metal is here, are you interested?
Grade: 2-5 KI

TWISTED TOWER DIRE (US) - PROMO '96
This is headbangers heaven!!! Pure metal with stench from early Metal Church and also some doomy parts here and there. These guys have what it takes to make it as a metalband and this is a great start indeed. Maybe the wil do something on Near Dark and that's a sign of extreme capability.
Available from your hunks.
Grade:

WEREWOLF (SWE) - THE WEREWOLF IS UNLEASHED DEMO '96
Fasten your seatbelts and hold your hats 'cause here we have a Black metal band that plays in about 200mph... I wouldn't put my nose in the armpit of their drummer after he recorded this even if I'd gotten 1000\$. But it's still not as uncontrolled as shitty Immortal or something like that. They seem to have better thoughts behind their material. I think it's better than the drummers other band Malign. Interesting.
From NDP, you guessed it!
Grade: 3+/5 TF

WIZARD (FIN) - I AM THE KING DEMO '96
A couple of days after receiving Black Swan I got another highquality tape from the land of drugs, liquor and knives!!! Trash n'roll like it was done by Bathory, Venom and the most famous Eurotrash bands in the early/mid eighties. This is pure headbanging mayhem for real metallers who remember those good old days...this'll be big. Available from NDP.
Grade: 4+/5 TF

WITHERING SURFACE (DEN) - UNIQUE PROMO '96
The title of this promo must be the most unique one in the history of metal! Hmm, the music is rather technical and varied death/metal with even more varied vocals. Growly, screamy, normal you just name it and it's in there and it's damn good performed too. They've earned themselves a deal as they're one of the most qualitative bands I've heard from Denmark, though there aren't many I would label qualitative. Wrapped in glossy cover and printed tapes (6\$).
Grade: 4-5 TF

WITHOUT GRIEF (SWE) - FOREVER CLOSED DEMO '96
Melodic and aggressive deathmetal. Got to be the first...har har...but certainly among the better for a while. A couple of acoustic parts are included in the aggressiveness and it works very well. The vocals are of the screamy kind...
Colour cover, spare no costs huh?
Obtainable from NDP.
Grade: 4-5 KI

WRATH (SWE) - AMONG THE COLD WINDS DEMO '95
Another VNP-release. 3 tracks of black metal inferno. I'm stuck what to write. The performance is rather good but I've heard it a thousand times before. It's too anonymous.
Grade: 2+/5 KI

XASTUR (BEL) - COUNT OF TRANSYLVANIA DEMO '96

How many Xastur's are there? A few... I've been in contact with these guys for a while and I think they've progressed a lot since their first rehearsal tapes. This is suffering from a few uninteresting riffs and badstructures but they'll overcome those problems in the future as I can hear they got potential if they just rehearse hard. Nordic style black metal and then you should know what to expect. Available from NDP.

Grade: 3/5 TF



SORHIN(SWE) - SKOGSGRIFTENS RIKE MCD '96

X - treme Records
Time: 18.16/4 tracks
Grade: 9,0/10 TF
8,0/10 KI

After a very long delay this brilliant masterpiece of majestic Black metal is finally released! It contains two brand new tracks and also two classic ones from their former releases. This band have what most of today's Black bands don't have: FEELING! It always gives me a certain feeling when I listen to it and that's not common today. On this release they have borrowed Mr. Tägtgren from Hypocrisy to torment the skins but they have recruited a "real" drummer called Zathanel now which made their sound even better. This is one of the best Black metal releases during 1996. It's no wonder that we on Near Dark Productions have fought hard and now signed these guys for a Pict. 7" and a LP/CD!!! It's raw, it's violent, it's...Sorhin. Buy from Near Dark Prod. or cry blood. Brutal Fucking Dalmas Black Art.



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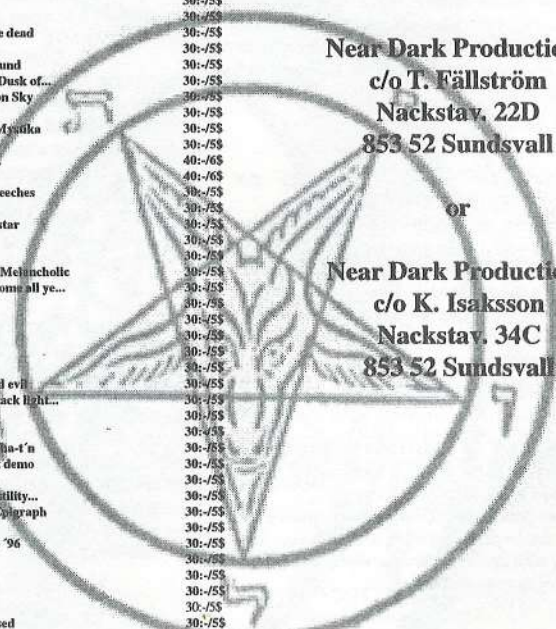
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