

Not even Worth a Bean !!!

**Completely
Unreadable !!**

FEARDROP

Issue 6

Magazine

Mercyful Fate

GARDENIAN
In Flames
Spiritual Beggars
Bewitched
Amon Amarth
Vader
Nightingale
Hemdale
Angel Corpse
Celestial Pain
Possession
Serpent
Opeth
plus tons of
reviews and
gossips !!!

**Features Tons
of Bad jokes
and
Swearwords !!
Not to be
purchased
over 60 !!**

**What is going to happen to this
gorgeous little girl ???**



More inside !!!

Hey Fellas !

What's going on folks ??, it's been a while since we haven't talked. Yes Sir, thy new PEARDROP is finally out. It took ages to be completed and there's a lot of hard work behind it so, if you think it's not good then that's because you didn't have good marks when you were at school !!. you Donkey !. Besides all the boring stuff in this mag, there's at least one good thing : our new recipe column. You'll have to endure that in each issue. this time we unveiled the secret 'meringue chocolate bar' and we hope you'll have fun making it while listening to GARDENIAN. Our next release on LISTENABLE records. This swedes rule totally, chunk and crunch that is all they're about. POWER!. Write to me for infos. Well, you'll also have to suffer from listening to TRUE death metal again with the hyper brutal punishing DEVILYN, probably the hottest newcomer since MORBID ANGEL split !!. Out on LISTENABLE soon !!. It's super fast! I hope this rag will have a nice print, it's supposed to have a good quality print as I'm writing this, so hopefully I won't have been fooled. That's certainly a major

change since our past issues were more like ass wipers than anything else. We intend to keep on delivering a quality rag in the future.

It's funny how the underground world of rough sounding demos has changed into a good sounding Cds plague. Now when you run a fanzine, you're bound to receive more cds than demos, which obviously spoil the whole spirit but that's another story...

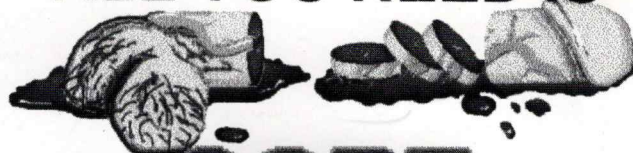
I believe that every death metallor has become a business man, and I can't help to smile because when you think of all the dumb minded assholes in the past!!.

However, the cool thing is that the scene is keeping itself wealthy and energetic, so more is yet to come !. It still needs improvement but never mind..

Well, I'm working on a new issue, all the business men are welcome to buy an ad, we'll lick your ass by interviewing your bands !!
thank you for the time..

PEARDROP / LISTENABLE rec.
Laurent MERLE
18 Quai Duguay Trouin
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CANNIBAL CORPSE VILE BRUTALITY

Who could have believed it ?, CANNIBAL CORPSE interviewed in the pages of PEARDROP ?!!!. Most of you MERLVIS fans know that I've never really been an enthusiastic of the band's albums. It was cool, though I couldn't understand the thrill C.C. were generating to the listener. It was nevertheless brutal for sure..

Their previous album was a slap in the face, whereas the latest one maliciously entitled *'Vile'* reveals some hidden secrets and is more a punch right in your face.. With Barnes 'departure', the band gained in strength with their new vocalist nevertheless familiar ex MONSTROSITY vocalist George, who has the bad habit to grinds corpses. *'Vile'* is a U.S. death metal masterpiece, with its flawless production, its ear-wrenching assault like the infamous opener *'devoured by vermin'* and other mind blowing life experience like *'monolith'*. Definitely not overtinged by originality, CANNIBAL CORPSE nevertheless rules the blasting death metal kingdom. The band has never sounded so good, and their live appearance have never been so brutal.

At last, professional extreme music is coming back to crush the weak sounding bands who plagued the scene these past years. Power and hatred define CANNIBAL CORPSE.

George was subjected to Merlvis 'investigation...The blazing light of the lamp was unbearable. How did you join CANNIBAL CORPSE ?

" Alex called and got my number from Rob, because I knew Rob when I went down in Florida to do MONSTROSITY with Lee (the drummer)..I met Rob and you know, I was still hanging up with MONSTROSITY, Alex just called me up and asked me to do the job, and I said let me think about it, and I came down a couple of days later, that's how it happened".

Whats' happening in Florida nowadays ?

"Not much.., there's few shows, people are more into the bigger bands, the underground is just back to be the underground. Bands don't get a lot of support, there's no turn out at the shows."

Did you get a lot of snow this winter ?

" Oh yeah, in Philadelphia, we had like thirty inches, actually it was more like forty, one time it was thirty inches for a day and half and there was ten more inches here in there. I went for christmas to see my family, and it stopped me from coming back down for a while, the airport was closed. That was crazy."

Have you always been into CANNIBAL CORPSE?

" oh yeah since fuckin 'eaten back to life' !"

Do you get more into the newer stuff ?

"Hmm, yes and no, I still like the older stuff, because I like them before, obviously I really like this new album. so. Actually the music was done before I came down."

It's amazing the way CANNIBAL CORPSE has been influencing the entire U.S. death metal scene with its sound and concept. Also at the expense of MORBID ANGEL for instance...

" I don't know, young bands more or less sound like the bands they listen to because they're still learning their instruments, but yes, most of the bands write more on the gore subject..At the time *'scream bloody gore'*, there was only DEATH doing it and they kind of turned it down on *'leprosy'*..CANNIBAL CORPSE brought it back again.. Chuck was the king of death metal vocals to me..I never really got into NECROPHAGIA and SLAUGHTER..Alex loves them..."

Have you written any lyrics for the new album..?

" No,I wrote a couple of ones, like two and half. Alex pretty much had a lot of ideas and the lyrics were worked on by the time I went down."

Do you expect to reach the charts with the love songs *'orgasm through torture'*?

" the charts ?, hmm probably not haha, that's the problem with the extreme in the lyrical way on the album..In the past, it was more you know men's torture, , we were like, ok, let's do a song for the women..pretty fuckin sick..."

Do you consider the lyrics to be purely fictional?

" Some of the things can possibly happen, but *'monolith'* is about zombies swarming everywhere and killing everything on theyir way..That's probably not gonna happen haha..In *'orgasmm through torture'*, that can happen a woman is tortured by a guy, and she bites his dick and it takes off, but basicallly it's like horror stories.. I want people to think oh shit if that had happened that would be pretty sick"

Could it be taken seriously by the general public?

" No, probably not, for some reason CANNIBAL CORPSE broke out and sold a million copies, MTV would not care and show a video of us with somebody being tortured, they would play it because it would make them money, same would go to radio stations. Obviously that's not gonna happen because I don't think, because the general public can't deal with subjects like these you know, they can watch the news, and see how people get cut down

like a trend, it's like death metal, they say it's dying out, it's not, there's still a lot of bands coming up...But to the general public the people who thought it was getting very big, oh death metal was in every magazine, it was big , you had never expected it to be that big.. Now those people don't read about it, who cares ?, who gives a fuck, the underground is where it started , the underground stays and that's all that really matters, you know, because the rest of the people that are not into death metal anymore that were, don't need to be around anymore, you know what I mean, I've been into the underground for years, somebody can get into it tomorrow and be into it in the next fifty years, and then they got into it, it's not they're into it for the trend. All my friends, well a great number of my friends were like : *"oh GREEN DAY, oh I don't like death metal anymore,"* that's bullshit, that's not what death metal needs. So, you know, even if death metal isn't mainstream, it will always be underground, that 's all that matters. Death metal is definitely established, people who play death metal can play any of that bullshit on MTV, like KORN..I'll tell you what, MORBID ANGEL can play that stuff without even thinking! you know. MONSTROSITY, CANNIBAL CORPSE can play that stuff. It doesn't mean shit for those people. Death metal has established as a musical force and has merit you know, and definitely has merit for the people that are into it."

Any point of view about the black metal scene?

"Most of the time it's like we kill you, or we're more evil than you, or we're more into whatever, and what our countries are about.. It's ridiculous, but there are some really good black metal bands. But I mean I just think it's more like a new black metal, it's not what it used to be you know. It's like some death metal bands are ridiculous, they don't know what is going on. I just had an interview with a guy who didn't know who was in KREATOR. But that's cool, I mean, he might have got it a couple of years later. I was just talking to Michael Trengert about it, if you don't like those bands, that's fine, but at least show some fuckin respect

!! CELTIC FROST, SODOM, DESTRUCTION, they're a part for the reason I'm here, you know what I mean. Just respect the fact that why MORBID ANGEL are around it's because they listened to POSSESSED. Just like all the bands you can think..."

Yes, like most new narrow minded black metal kids who only claim to listen to the old bands..and were not there at the time..

"That's fine, that's an opinion, everybody gets an opinion. All those old bands, I will listen to them forever. There's always be a hint of another band. When I saw DEATH for the first time, that was it for me, he is the fuckin shit, I wanna sound like DEATH."

In europe, people are more into death metal than in America. I love Europe for that. MTV won't play metal music anymore in America, it's a bad situation but the underground was always there, and it is still gonna be here, and then eventually it will swing back around and everyone will be " look, isn't death metal ace ?. it doesn't matter if it gets big or not, death metal will always be there."



everyday..and they would not understand blast beats, big guitars..It would probably be not accepted because of the extreme nature of the lyrics..Moreover, people want to listen to something very simple, they don't want to pick up a lyrics sheet, that takes time, you know what I mean, that'd be too much energy that they would have to waste. It won't get that big, I would love it, It would be great, it'd be

AMON AMARTH

The swedish death
metallers speak about
their favorite JUDAS
PRIEST songs, their passion
for the viking world
and their legends..Merlins
wrote it all down on
paper...

Sweden has been striking us with great bands during the past few months. The funny fact is that it's not always the most experimented and most mature bands that are flowing in the metal market. Still and fortunately, most swedish acts have always been significant of quality death metal music, either in the past with bands like ENTOMBED and their mid paced MASTERcore, or nowadays with their technical cutting edge of bands like AT THE GATES, IN FLAMES...

Merlins investigated AMON AMARTH to know more about the band's concept . AMON AMARTH recently unleashed their scorching debut mini Cd on an Asian record company !! This is an unusual yet effective step forward really.. The unholy Olli answered..

"Our policy is to never contact a record label, they should contact us if they are interested and at that time PULVERISED had the best contract offer."

As you can read, there's no compromise in AMON AMARTH's camp, I like that..

Well, It was surprising to read in the bio that the band formed in 1992, were you lyrically involved in the viking stuff as much as you're now ?

" Yes, it has been the main interest of one vocalist Joka, for a long time, and we all felt this was a very interesting topic to write songs about it. It also made us stand out and different. We always intended to play 'viking metal' ".

What's behind the name of AMON AMARTH ?

" AMON AMARTH is taken from J.R.R. TOLKIEN's novel 'The world of the ring'. It means 'mount doom' !. We took this name because of its mystical yet powerful sound

and meaning."

AMON AMARTH highly respect the viking heritage and many legends yield their interest in writing lyrics about them.

Historians confirmed that Leif Ericksson walked on the american ground in 400 AC, that's a long time before Christophe Colomb, Why don't they do a movie about it then ?

"Beats us. Probably because he was a heathen and it's the christian world that dominates today. And they have no interest in making a hero of him."

Do you think the arrival of christianity put an end to the Viking era ?

" Yes, of course, Christianity is a hypocritic religion with lots of double standards and lying."

Could you explain the lyrics of 'the arrival of the fimbulwinter' with its line 'how are the Aesir', what do you mean I know that Aesir were the warrior gods ?

" This part of the lyrics are taken from 'Voluspa the prophecy of the Volva'.. This prophecy contains both the birth and perish (Ragnarok) of the universe. And in this part of the prophecy, Ragnarok is close by and the gods know it. Anyway, this particular phrase is a question from the Volva to Oden."

'Sorrow through the nine world' refers to the death of Balder by his blind brother Hoder who had been tricked by Loki..Balder could have been saved from the dead if everything had wept for him, in fact everything did weep except for a giantess who was Loki in disguise....Do you plan to write a song about the following of this story ?

" Actually Johan has written a text about this, but there is no music for it as yet, we're working on it."

Would you loose an eye like Odin to take a drink at the

fountain of knowledge ?

" Of course, I would, all of us would, what did you expect. I mean one eye more or less, for all the wisdom of the world ! "

What are the songs on the mini Cd that previously appeared on demo ?

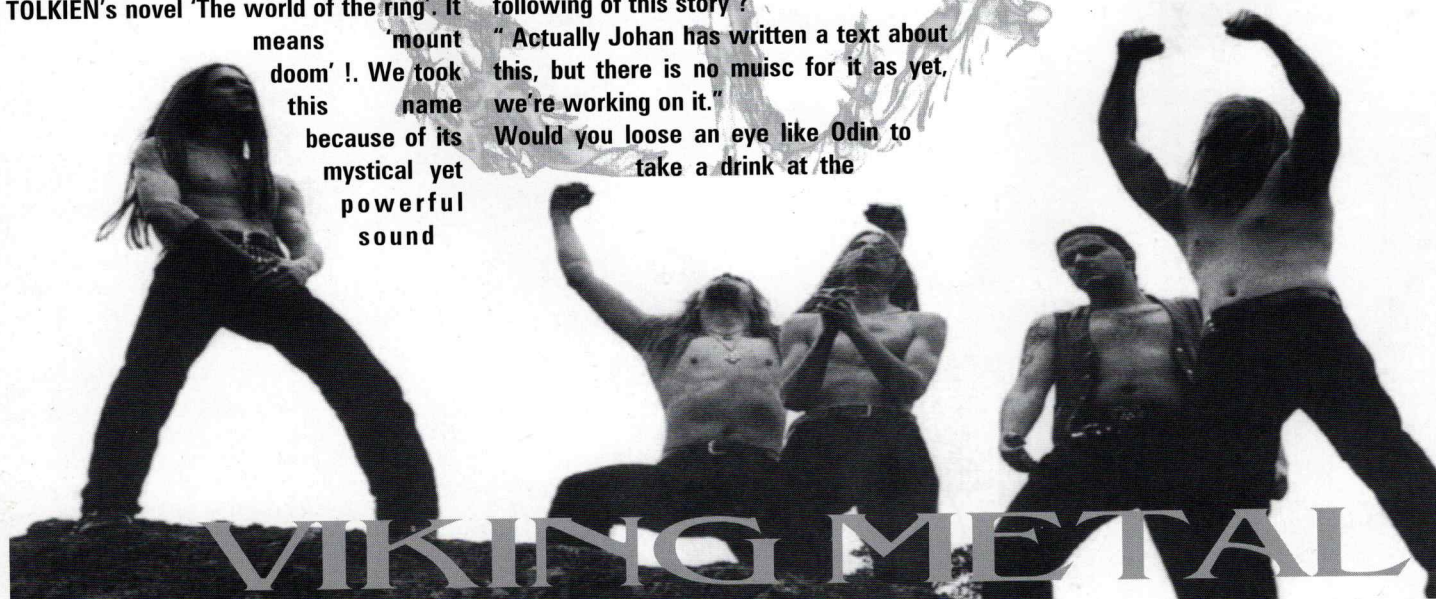
" Burning creation' and 'the arrival of the fimbul-winter' ".

There's a strong heavy metal touch blended in your music , what are your fave songs on JUDAS PRIEST's 'british steel' and 'screaming..' and IRON MAIDEN ' 's 'piece of mind' and 'powerslave' '???? Well, just asking....

" 'Breaking the law' and 'grinder', 'hellion/electric eye' and all tracks of 'piece of mind' and all tracks of 'powerslave'". Could you mention any underrated heavy metal bands from the 80s that never reached the degree of success they were supposed to have ?

" HEAVY LOAD is the only one I can think of right now. But it depends on what you mean by underrated, as I think MERCYFUL FATE should have been bigger than IRON MAIDEN for example."

Drop a note to AMON AMARTH and ask them why swedish people put off their shoes when they enter someone's home, because I haven't still understood....Maybe another one of those Viking legends..They won't trick me another time....Write to : PULVERISED records, P.O. BOX 109, YISHUN CENTRAL,, SINGAPORE 917604.



VIKING METAL

Sweden 's new sensation GARDENIAN are releasing their debut album on **LISTENABLE** records, the band talks about how it all started. Watch out !, **GARDENIAN** is soon to become a classic band!, **PUNCH AND CRUNCH !!!!**

In spite of being another newcomer in an overcrowded swedish metal scene, the band **GARDENIAN** have recorded a sheer class blasting album that 's going to put to shame many of their peers..

Originally formed by Thim (drums) and Jim (guitar), the band 's aim has always been to create something new, incorporating their metal roots and adding the punch of this late 90s. Their debut album out soon on **LISTENABLE** records sometimes hints at the typical sound from Gothenburg, it however offers a thick pounding **REAL** metal sound that few bands have failed to have, especially in the studio Fredman. **GARDENIAN** have the metal power, sometimes hinting at **CARCASS** slightly, and are ready to crush the whole world!.

MEGA POWER !!!

Thim kindly answered to our questions, **MAKE SURE** you buy their album, and re-learn what does the word power stands for !!!.

In spite of having formed a short time ago, your band has a big potential, have you played in other bands before ?

" Yes !, we all have played in several different bands before we started **GARDENIAN**. But none of us has ever played this kind of music, we have all except Hakan played death metal but not as we do nowadays.."

The metal headbangers of **GARDENIAN** taking a break after a full day recording



You had recorded a demo with a member of **IN FLAMES** helping you for the recording of this promo tape, how did it happen ?

" We recorded our first demo in the beginning of the summer 96. It was mixed and produced by Bjorn Gelotte of **IN FLAMES**. The abnd's drummer, we've known him for a long time. He has always helped us out with any band, I've played in, now, he's supporting us more than ever. We have a great relationship with **IN FLAMES** and they've been a big part of all that is happening with **GARDENIAN** at this time. Jesper from **IN FLAMES** is planning a Gothenburg devastation tour in Germany. He's working together with **ARCH ENEMY**, **DARK TRANQUILITY**, and they've asked us if we want to join them. But we don't know I guess , it will depend on the sales of our album"

Your first guitarist left the band and Niklas (ex **SARKASM**) joined, how did you meet up with him?

" Well, Niklas was interested in joining us from the start. We've known him for a couple of years form when he played with **SARKAZM**. After our old guitarist left, we tried him out so now he's playing with us and it works out fine."

How could you explain this inflow of bands playing that similar heavy/death metal style , do you think **AT THE GATES** have started it all ?

" Well, yes!, I think **AT THE GATES** have started a trend but it is not only them cause I think they've grown back in time and brought the music back in a new way. But they are not the only band who does this, for instance, **CARCASS** and **HYPOCRISY** have done it too."

Do you view your style as different from the typical swedish melodic death/thrash style ?

" **YES !**, We feel that our music is different from others but there are obviously some similarities but when we 're playing it we feel that we have something different in our style ."

You've recorded a full length album for **LISTENABLE** records at Fredman studio,

which seems to be the studio needed for this music, a kind of new **SUNLIGHT** studio so popular some years ago. have you ever thought of recoring somewhere else ? Aren't you afraid of sounding like **IN FLAMES** and the likes ..?

" Yes !, we 've looked for other studio but we decided Fredman because as we said we do have our own sound that takes us apart from the other bands."

Could you give us a fair description of the album, a nd its title ?

" A title is not made up yet, the album has got **BALLS !**, and it's gonna be aggressive and fast with the exact balance of melody. We are really excited about it and we think it's gonna be a great album. We've got our influences mixed altogether : from death metal, **BLACK SABBATH**, it even stretches itself to some pop influences , and some kind of **FEAR FACTORY**, **CARCASS**, it is all mixed up to an aggressively emotionnal fas and heavy melodic death metal. We can't really describe our music with one word and not relate it to any particular band, but if you want, you can call it death metal."

What subjects do you approach in the lyrics ?

" Jim writes all the lyrics . Some of them deal with people 's emotions, , abuses, rapes, wars, broken relationships, and lunacies."

What are the band's immediate goals ?

" We want to make killing albums that would satisfy ourselves, and hopefully we'll be able to tour and show our music to a wider range of people."

GARDENIAN are also supposed to appear on a **MERCYFUL FATE** tribute released through **LISTENABLE** records in 97, along with other bands like **ARCH ENEMY**, **IN FLAMES**, **IMMOLATION**, **LUCIFERION**, **ARMAGEDDONa** and others...

Write to the band at the following contact, if you have a zine, feel free to send them interviews , you'll get a free **GARDENIAN** Cd for sure !!.

WRITE TO :

GARDENIAN
JIM KJELL c/o
BLOMGREN
PL. 6343

444 94 JORLANDA, SWEDEN
Tel : 46 31 303 5292
Fax : 46 31 47 32 77

The Underground Demons' Peareview

In spite of the fact that every band may have their own cd out on a tiny nonetheless greedy record company, the world of underground demos will never die and we've been stirred a bunch of times listening to all those length of magnetic propaganda.

From Poland, you had **VADER** and from now on you 'll have to count on the infamous **DEVILYN** too!! They're the eastern answer to **MORBID ANGEL** !!! **FAST RIPPING HELLISH DEATH** !!!!!. Same management as **VADER** !! **DEVILYN** have an album coming out on **LISTENABLE** records in the next few months.....Write to : **MARIO KMIOLEK**, 10-687 OLSZTYN 10, PO BOX 991. Tel/Fax 48 89 41 4801, POLAND. Rapid U.S. death metal with deep grunts has not faded away and we prove it in this column. **DISCUMBRANCE** 's 'the betrayal' is full coloured packaged coarse grind/death attack. Right in your face. nuf said, fans of **SUFFO/C.C.** don't hesitate a second. **DISCUMBRANCE**, 14232IN., N° 143, DALLAS, TX. 75234, U.S.A...S haring the same management as these above believers is **OBULATION**, delivering a less chaotic technical style with a more **SLAYER**esque approach, **OBULATION** happen to be more 'listenable' to me. This is a promising highly professional demo displaying a band with a lot of potential. Still, their thrashy rythms have somewhat got quite old fashioned. Still good !.

UNEARTH are cool, same thing over again but these Albuquerque farmers have instead killed all the poultry and recorded this punishing affair. Raw thrash with a death edge.'Spill the plague' is a four tracker that can be distinguished by the high flown guitar soli. Good work. Brutal.**UNEARTH**, PO BOX 21097, ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87154, U.S.A. BRUTAL !.

Now from Lithuania, You've got that brutal moshy death metal again. It's crazy to see how big is the american influence to the eastern country. **INFECTED**'s 'infected generation' somewhat shifts from a sound similar to **OBITUARY** to the raging speed of act like **MONSTROSITY** for instance. Good production and a coloured cover makes this tape a must have. **MORTAL DECAY** is another lifetime experience. These are no mere mortals, they own this east coast crunch:mosh touch a la **INCANTATION/SUFFO** and top the whole thing with more groovy garlic, it's hot and hellish. The five tracker 'brutalizing creations' is recommended. Write to : **MORTAL DECAY**, Anthony IPRI, 415 OAK Stret, AUDUBON, N.J. 08106, U.S.A. URRGGHH!!

DECIMATION from canada strive to sound original by using a multitude of riff but fail, in my opinion, to deliver the goods in the right way. Their professional tape 'power of the misunderstood' is cool but so clichè. Write for infos about their new tape : **DECIMATION**, Dany Voyer, 5, 11 Avenue Saint-Fabien, RIMOUSKI, QUEBEC, CANADA.

Now back to the continent, **FATAL EMBRACE** is a young outfit typically in the new swedish way, but slightly too complex, at least it sounds like. Their work is flawless, heavily reminding **DARK TRANQUILITY**, but they incorporate too many flowing lullabies, and it just leaves you slumbering. More anger in the music would have made them better to me. The band have recorded an album for the infamous **CANDLELIGHT**. Engstrom, tingsg.9, 432 40 VARBERG, SWEDEN.

Kinda more staright forward but probably as oyung. **AMSVARTNER** include some 16 years old members and definitely showcase as much anger and hatred than an experienced black metal band. **AMSVARTNER** is more in the brutal way, yet melodic a la early **IN FLAMES** but definitely more blackish to say the least. In spite of the drummer sometimes loosing the pace, it's a cool tape. They keep improving all the time. Marcus Johansson, Ostra Kyrkogatan 123, 90346 UMEA, SWEDEN. Featuring a bad **KISS** cover !!.

From Denmark, the country of americanized death metal, you've got a great new comer **AUTUMN LEAVES**, their 'hope springs eternal' displays a thick production and an excellent musicianship. Despite the vocalist being somewhat predictable like any brutal band from Denmark, the music stands out, gathering thrash and death metal styles in a classic manner. Write to: Flemming C. LUND, MOLLEGADE 9 a, SKODBORG, 6630 RODDING, DENMARK.

DARK RITUAL from japan pack their heavy/doom/ grind death metal with a lot of passion. This band shifts from one style to another without making it sound like a series of various imitations. I'd like to mention the killer guitar work here for the catchy soli. Could you have figured a band sounding like **SOB** and **CANDLEMASS** at the same time ?, weird but entertaining. 'gate to hades' can be yours for \$5 i guess from Shorge Lee, 4-12-14 WATARIDA, KAWASAKI-KU, KAWASAKI-CITY, KANAGAWA 210, JAPAN. Germany is getting good at producing killer young death metal bands. **CRESFALLEN** could have been really good, but they somewhat sound uninspired. They sound to pay a tribute to the swedish style and especially **AT THE GATES**, but they fail to deliver the same class. They'll surely be better next time. Bjorn Fink, WINDHUKERSTR. 34, 47249 DUISBURG, GERMANY.

Also from Germany and having recently released an album on **FOLTER** records, **ADORNED BROOD** and their demo 'waper' is quite a refreshing one in the dark metal genre. Not that their metal music is covering any new grounds, but they incorporate the flute in some songs and deal with it as if it were a guitar. This gives a medieval atmosphere to the tape and you'd better experience their album which even more medieval tinged. German black metal answer to **SKYCLAD** ?. Like it or hate it. **ADORNED BROOD**, POSTFACH 110 128, 41530 DORMAGEN, GERMANY.

MISERY from Australia sent some advance tracks of their upcoming album, it's heavy as hell, fast and brutal death metal. The band 's sound still include this uncompromising synth. guitar soli that even made **BATHORY** so catchy. Totally killer, watch out!.

Let's stay in the down under land for another war metal fancy. After **BESTIAL WARLUST** and the obscure **DESTROYER 666**, comes **ABOMINATOR**, they steadily recall **REPULSION** in some places because of the speed and the raw sound. **ABOMINATOR** is about violence and hatred. 6 tracks of barbaric death metal, you had been warned !. The band plans to release an album on France based **EVIL OMEN** records, get ready for that !. Chris VOLCANO, PO BOX 61, GARDENVALE, VIC 3185 AUSTRALIA.

FILTH is even more on the sick side. I suppose some of you checked **BLOODUSTER** on **RELAPSE**, well **FILTH** sound even sicker. They sometimes remind me of **MACABRE/CARCASS** and enhanced the whole thing with scary samplers. What a frightening experience indeed. Total grind. Ask for **FILTH**'s clitoral vision' to : **MIKE F.B.**, PO BOX 50, DOVETON VIC 3177, AUSTRALIA.

More on the musical side compared to their country fellows, **UNEARTHED** remembered **POSSESSED** on their first tape. This band seem to work hard on their music because their second magnetic attempt is definitely a quality product. They emphasize more on groove than on speed for instance. **UNEARTHED** create their own sound with this excellent guitarist playing high flown material. Besides that, the vocals are ok but herd before. Astouding musicianship. Very cool. **UNEARTHED**, 879 HOLBROOK, SIMI VALLEY, CA 93065, U.S.A.

TAETRE from Sweden like **DISSECTION** so much that they unfortunately can't prevent themselves from sounding like the Gothenburg acclaimed quartet. **TAETRE** isn't a bad band and they even sound catchy to my ears. As a fan of the genre, I wish them good luck and I just hope that their next effort will show more identity. In the meantime, write to : **JONAS LINDBLAD**, BARNTONG 4, 421 38 B. FROLUNDA, SWEDEN.

Also from the lower part of Scandinavia is **HYPNOSIA**. They play chunky death/thrash with a 80s edge, somewhat **FLEGM/SLAYER** sounding like with a more death metal approach. It's moderatly paced and crammed with power, just slightly heard before. A cool tape. Mikael CASTERVALL, TRADVAGEN 30, S-352 53 VAXJO, SWEDEN.

PANZERCHRIST from Denmark are more into a more brutal stylke, often remembering early **BOLT THROWER** when they still liked playing fast and their fellows of **ILL DISPOSED** especially in the vocals sick department. Heavy death metal with grinding blast and hammering double bass drums. fans of danish death metal a la right in your face and fuck



originality, will no doubt rave on this **PANZERCHRIST** tape. Michael Enevoldsen, Vistoftparken 49, 8471 SABRO, DENMARK. Muisc for bearded warriors only.

WITHERED BEAUTY are more on the poetic side. Their blend of doom/black metal has aroused more than one metallor. They often remind me of early **ANATHEMA** with yelling vocals and a more balck metal version of **AT THE GATES** on some other songs. They mix some different t styles. However, they sound the best to me when they wrench themselves in some fast black metalish parts. I thought the band's name was weak, what do you think ?, Magnus Bjork, Valbogatan 35 1TR, 803 21 GAVLE, SWEDEN.

SHREDDERED CORPSE is more on the 'smashing face' side of things.. Having somewhat chosen a more modern path, **SHREDDERED CORPSE** grinds all the way without mercy. The production is here excellent and S.C. sometimes recall **FEAR FACTORY** (because of their industrial time shift) if they had hired some **BROKEN HOPE** members. Fans of the genre, look no further. Ask for their professional 96 'exhumed and molested' tape, you can also get it from **BONES BRIGADE** distribution in France. **SHREDDERED CORPSE**, 809 YTOWERING OAKS Dr, JACKSONVILLE AR, 72076, U.S.A. AARRGGHH!!.

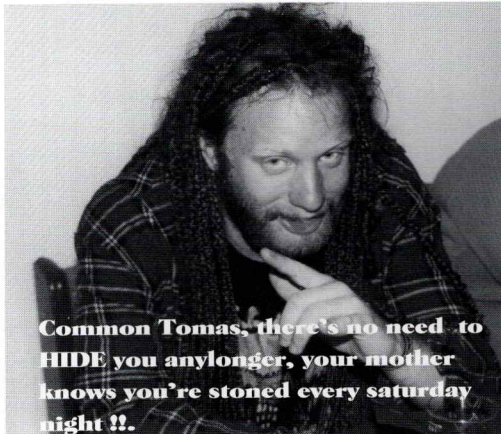
MEADOW IN SILENCE from Sweden have recorded a promo tape to guess what?...to promote themselves..That's a cool tape, I don't like the band's name, but the music is very interesting. It is very musical and moody death/thrash that doesn't sound too much blatant really. They have learned to make themselves out of a copycat scene. Maybe **SENTENCED** and **DESTRUCTION** for their 80s approach would come to mind when listening to them. A very good shot. Michael Karlsson, Vasterlosa England 1, 590 47 VIKINGSTAD, SWEDEN.

ENCHANTED from Norway are young vikings who, after a fishing party play good music. It's cool midpaced black thrash which shows some potential. Unfortunately, there's sometimes a lack of strength in **ENCHANTED**'s material and their sound lacks conviction. However, it's promising so get in touch, they've finished a promo tape for labels. The tape has a full colour packaging and a good sound. \$6 to : **ENCHANTED** c/o Stian Smornolm, SOre Aumening 14, N-5035 BERGEN, SANDVIKEN, NORWAY.

The sickest band on earth is **SZEKI KURVA**, London most wanted sick noise terrorists drop them a line at : FGZ, PO BOX 9806, LONDON SE 10 9ZD. U.K.

The Underground Demons Reareview

AHRET DEV from Poland is one of the country's most DEICEDcore bands along with HATE and some others. **AHRET DEV** re-open the raging death metal unholy book and avoid bad humour. They seriously kick in with frenzy soli, driving rhythmic guitars and occasional blast beats. It's good but fails to really catch the listener's ear really for some lack of originality or the special tiny sound that make a band stand out. \$3 only, and a coloured cover with a silly tree, mother nature bred a lot of headbangers...Marcin Rzeczycki, UL. KOMANDOSOW 2/186, 26-600 RADOM, POLAND. Swedish metal rages again with the young headbangers of **SACRILEGE**. The band showcases strong hints at AT THE GATES which is now obvious when a new Swedish outfit comes up. While very competent, the band is more one dimensional with mid paced songs only instead of bursting melodies with speed. It's a good tape and I thank them for having recorded a killer SB live show on the other side. Good shot still similar to the Swedish style. Check their 'and autumn failed' tape at : Daniel Dinsdale, BACK STIGEN 2, 434 94 VALLDA, SWEDEN.



Common Tomas, there's no need to HIDE you anylonger, your mother knows you're stoned every Saturday night !!.

Tomas (as known as TOMPA), the angry AT THE GATES vocalist left his band and recorded a new project for EARACHE tentatively called **HIDE**. The recording is said to be a lot more hardcore and pop friendly than the man's previous band. Fans of AT THE GATES may be disappointed, as for me, I'm pretty sure that **HIDE** is another killer act. Eyes on !!.

Finland has produced some heavy rockin death bands during the past years like DISGRACE, XYSMAS and even AMORPHIS. **SUNRIDE** is even more doomy rockin...Thick guitars celebrate this sludgy rockin 5 track 96 demo. I'm sure fans of the above mentioned bands will find this tape entertaining. I did !. **SUNRIDE**, Wille Naukkarinen, KARSILKOTIE 7 A 23, 40340 JYVASKYLA, FINLAND.

I reviewed **BODYBAG**'s previous demo some years ago. The band was playing a mixture of death/thrash at the time. Now the band strayed a little bit to an uncompromisingly gory style. **BODYBAG** now joined the ranks of the usual gory grinding U.S. bands. Yes, there's been more in Oregon than WEHRMACHT and DEAD CONSPIRACY since. **BODYBAG**'s music is nothing new but those zombies do it with so much anger that there's no originality needed. Blast beats freaks write to them now!. **BODYBAG**, 4335 SE MAIN PORTLAND, OR, 97214 U.S.A.

In L.A besides the gods of SADISTIC INTENT, There's also the raging ultra death metal abdn **INFAMY**. they've been around for a while and they're angry !!. **INFAMY** has it all, shrinking riffs, a smashing double bass drumming and frightening growls. They have a demo available, one of the best death metal bands from L.A. I've listened in ages, good luck. Write to : **INFAMY**, 3145 SHEFFIELD AVE., LA, CA 90032, U.S.A.

MURDER CORPORATION may be from Sweden though they're nothing like AT THE GATES and DARK TRANQUILITY. They are more along the lines of the original style bands like ENTOMBED and DISMEMBER made popular. Featuring some members of DERANGED, it says it all about the band's punishing fast and straight forward style, right in your face as some old bean would say, the band also reminds MACABRE in some places on their first adv mini Cd. the

band recorded a new mini Cd for PULVERIZED entitled 'kill' which reminds me of TERRORIZER this time, I must be deaf sometimes. Good straight forward stuff anyway. Dan Bengtsson, SIMRISHAMNS GATAN 3, SE 21423 MALMO, SWEDEN.

ESQUARIAL from Poland remembers early SINISTER and also MORBID ANGEL for some parts. All in all, it sounds quite old fashioned a la POSSESSED, just the vocals sound more like 90s death metal. There's a multitude of catchy breaks and you never get bored really. While offering nothing new, it sounds Ok to me. Old death metal fans will find this tape very stirring and I find it killer !!. Wojciech 'SUJ' Obuchowski, UL. MALA 2, 59-230 PROCHOWICE, POLAND.

AGATHODAIMON hails from Germany. They showcase various styles but they should fit the black metal sound mainly because of the vocals. The band strive to unleash slower attempts giving more emphasis on keyboards, and also give way to fast songs. They sound to create a particular atmosphere which is good. Overall, it's quite basic really. Check 'carpe noctem' at : Martin Wickler, Westring 18, 55120 MAINZ, GERMANY.

CATASEXUAL URGE MOTIVATION have a full length Cd coming out, and I thought that all of you disco rockers out there should know that. If you really want to experience the insane grindcore style, wait no more or they'll get you, write for infos to : Tomoaki Kanai, 1-26-3-204, MIYAGI, ADACHI-KU, TOKYO 120, JAPAN.

Listening to an old and scorching DEEP PURPLE live show just made me think that I had almost forgotten to rave on the **RUNNING GUTS** debut demo. yes, many things have been done since Nina Simone or even VILLAGE PEOPLE and NAPALM DEATH. However, the time is always good to experiment. Bearing the infamous name of **RUNNING GUTS**, these froggies are going to hurt more than one. Shifting from psychotic ritual incantations to ultra fast industrial grindcore, **RUNNING GUTS** will drive their listeners completely insane and begging for more of their merciless noise. LOW VOLUME UNNECESSARY!!,

massive murdering here. Grab a copy of this specially packaged limited edition cassette for \$7 from BONES BRIGADE distr., 688 RUE DU COUCOU, 62140 CAPELLE LES HESDIN, FRANCE.

Ask about their slaughtering mailorder list !!!.

From Argentina, we got serious grindcore freaks too.

EXTERMINIO redefines the good old style a la TERRORIZER / NAPALM DEATH with no shame. Get their latest demo 'epitaph' for \$5 which features a coloured cover which front picture shows some real frozen shrunk cadavers, that's a tasty one. FERNANDO GRIPPO, VENEZUELA 5240, VILLA MARTELLI (C.P. 1603), BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA, SOUTH AMERICA. Yes, there's more in life than eating pan cakes with chocolate all the time. there's the Swedish bands. **DRACONIAN** offers a slower combination than their country fellows, more doom metal orientated with a black metal touch. A little bit like early KATATONIA for instance. Like the German act ADORNED BROOD, they've also incorporated a flute, how, blasting...\$5 to : Anders Jacobsson, Vadursgatan 22, 661 33 SAFFLE, SWEDEN. Not really my style, still a good tape.

Ultra rockin grind from Canada with **GLUHTHER**. It's a one man band who sometimes wander in various soundscapes. Sharing some similarities with industrial metal mainly due to the repetitive drum machine assault, **GLUHTHER** also throws in some rockin moment. Rough sound, full coloured cover, guttural vocals and a basic drumming machine. , to: Benoit Rainville, 5145 RR 1 SUD, St HYACINTHE, QC, CANADA, J2S-8B1... **CIANIDE**'s newest tape entitled 'rage war' rehashes the band's previous style. This band will never change and that's kinda cool. This is Plodding CELTIC FROST like rhythms with maximum evil. The band is actually getting better and better, once you put the tape on, then you're thrown 7 years back. Basic but effective. 'rage war' should gather a lot of fans in Europe and I recommend it to you. \$6 (pro tape) to: Mike Perun, 2446 W. 54th St., CHICAGO, IL 60632-1558, U.S.A.

VIOLATION from Germany, are somewhat down into older death as well. their 'carbonized' demo is a nice effort. The drums recalls DEATH's 'leprosy' because of its loud snare

thumps. the addition of keyboards renders them pathetic, otherwise names like MASSACRE and the recent BENEDICTION style comes to mind. Chopping stuff. Write to : Claudia Reich, AM LENNERHEIM 4, 95482 GEFREES, GERMANY.

BIG WOUND is the absolute audio massacre. The band is formed of two ex LIERS IN WAIT and GROTESQUE members, those who play in the awesome DIABOLIQUE. (album soon on LISTENABLE), and they created one of the most violent music I have ever experienced !!. Total modern techno metal with so much anger that anybody listening to it will sure have a serious headache. **BIG WOUND** is a band you always remember. Watch out for a Cd release early in 97. In the meantime, write for infos to : Johan Osterberg, SOMMARV.12, 427 37 BILLDAL, SWEDEN.

ABUSE is a highly memorable band from California. they recorded a quality cassette ep which was produced by CROWBAR's frontman, I assume. The vocals sound like CARCASS / KREATOR and the music is both slow and ripping fast with unholy thrash rhythms cast in. The production is full which makes this tape and this band so memorable. Check their 'gruesome tales of sex and madness' before they get signed !. Nice cover !. \$6 to : Brian Strong, 3500 DIVISION ST. APT 28, METAIRIE, LA 70002, U.S.A... this is a winner...Based in the same area are also the furious hardcore sickos of **ABSTAIN**. they have the U.K. punk feeling tinged by some U.S. thrash a la EPIDEMIC (RIP) for instance. They occasionally blast off with hellish yells. Sort of a more thrashy version of DROP DEAD who they do one cover. 'superiority complex' is their latest sonic hateful attack, get it for \$4 to: Brian M., 5281 PEMBURY LANE, LA PALMA, CA 90623, U.S.A.

SPIRAL ARCHITECT's promo tape shows an extremely impressive band. Whereas most bands from Norway lack conviction and ability in their sound, the almost unknown **SPIRAL ARCHITECT** comes up with a FATES WARNING / DREAM THEATER mixture that rips !. Tight bass, crystal clear guitars and incredible drumming. They know how to write a catchy melody for sure !!. Fans of progressive metal and technical stuff, look no further, this is the real thing. I'm now totally addicted to them. Future classic band : **SPIRAL ARCHITECT**, CHR. KROHSGSGT.30, N-0186 OSLO, NORWAY.

More on the progressive side is **EIDETIC**. The band has been around for quite a while and get better and better. I have the feeling that their latest promo tape is more mellow than what they did before. It could well be radio friendly, almost completely drowned in the progressive rock shores, **EIDETIC** kicks in with hints at RUSH and DREAM THEATER. the vocals department sometimes recall the weirdos of ALICE IN CHAINS but not too blatantly. Very good stuff. Write to **SERIOUS ENTERTAINMENT**, TORVEGADE 29, 6700 ESJBERG, DENMARK.

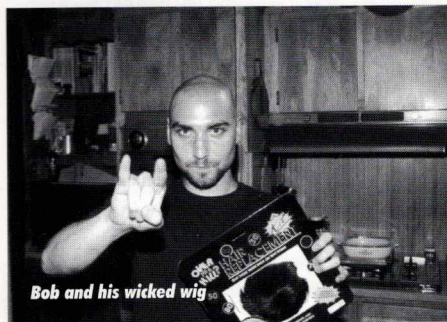
For those who thought that DARK FUNERAL's now popular debut album wasn't fast enough, then you now have **BATTLELUST** to track down. The band's debut demo 'the eclipse of the dying sun' is such a bloody three tracker. Forget the dexterity of Swedish heavy metal and give taste to the straight forward, hyper fast crushing black metal of **BATTLELUST**. No compromise and totally bewitched. Satan's worshipers have now found a soundtrack for their next black mass. Write now to : Aberg, Blabarsstigen 1, 97451 LULEA, SWEDEN.

Another black metal fancy from Germany, **LUNAR AURORA**, who already have an album coming out on VOICES productions, certainly another Frank Stover's fancy as well...**LUNAR AURORA** fit more to the ambient BLACK METAL style because they don't rage on at full speed, no, they put more thought in tinging the material by the use of atmos keyboards and slow / mid paced tempos. Slightly hinting at bands like ANCIENT. very good. Sabine Gепert, AM MUHLBERG 34, 83093 BAAENDORF, GERMANY.

Bands ! send your demos for intrusion in this column, we review everything we find tasty. For example, if you send a pizza with chorizo, ham, tomato and cheese, then we'll certainly review it. Furthermore, we'll consider your stuff for LISTENABLE records...It's up to you really !!.

DOWN WITH THE GOSSIPS !

People always talk about the things they know !. Especially when it comes to smudge the reputation of a well known rocker!! They're right to voice their objective opinion so we can have a good laugh. First of all, one



Bob and his wicked wig

must reckon that the black metal scene is infested by wigs !! No only those kids sell their soul to the devil before trying to do an EAGLES song on guitar, but they also still have their college prick short hair before buying their first make up gear !. People in Norway lie to their record company. One man isn't afraid to show the reality : Bob of the well known proudly rockers of IMMOLATION..(See pic above). Bob also tried to use the wig on stage but it immediatly took off after the first seconds. That's the reason why Bob doesn't bang his head anylonger when playing live. For sure, wigs make a new life..



Mike and his wicked habit

For those who thought that bands who used to do lengthy tours were all g a y s , you're wrong !. Michael of DARK

TRANQUILITY broke the hearts of no less than 50 women in a row during their latest tour !. Our photograph caught him in the act of boasting his tongue ability when singing..What a bad boy !!.

Life is hard even for the heavy metal stars of SPIRITUAL BEGGARS. Still eagerly waiting for their royalties, the BEGGARS spend the whole day lying on the pavement !. Ex CARCASS Michael Amott is looking for a job as a knitter. If you can provide him with any info concerning this job, please write and send a \$100 IMO to support them to : SPIRITUAL BEGGARS UNIVERSAL FAMILY, TORSGATAN 3c, 302 36 HALMSTAD, SWEDEN....Thanks.

A new Breed of Thrash...

In spite of being a new band, german thrashers NIGHTINGALE have secured the interest of NUCLEAR BLAST with their self produced mini cd issued last year and entitled 'Syphlike'. NIGHTINGALE is the kind of band that energetically spend their spare time to promote themselves. This band doesn't sound like your typical german third rate death metal act, they deliver full fledged riffs with a yelling vocalist, surprisingly reminiscent of the bands from Gothenburg. They definitely don't need a manager to make them deal with record companies and people involved in the business. One of the main songwriters and guitarist Jens enthusiastically answered MERLINS's list of questions...

What made you release a mini Cd instead of a demo. It must have been a tough decision since you were quite a young band at the time ?

" Well, the decision wasn't that hard cause we got a very good offer for cost of two and half days of studio and the first 500 copies and all that together. It was planned as normal demo tape, but we thought we have better sound, better outfit, and we can sell it for regular tape price, so what's the problem ?, and I think it was the right decision.."

Yeah, and it's good to see that you got rid of them rather easily..Were the sales figure expected ?

" No way !, we expected something like 1000 copies, because of bands like CRACK UP or DEW SCENTED who both sold around 1000 copies of their tapes. But now we've sold more than 2100 copies of 'syphlike' and there are another 400 for

sale. But I can tell you , we wouldn't have sold so many Mcds without the help of dozens of distro labels !, thanks to all of you cool maniacs."

One can't help to notice an heavy Gothenburg heavy metal sound influence in your music..Would you have rather lived in Sweden than in Germany ?, there's a lot of cool cartoons in Sweden too, plus most of people have MTV..and they have attractive fair haired pretty girls in Sweden while you have sturdy women in germany, aren't you?

" Oh no, we'd rather stay in Germany because we won't pay 8DM for a can of beer ! haha!.But, there's a lack of good ideas in the big german scene of course. However, there's a lot of pretty god bands like UNDER BLACK CLOUDS, ETERNAL DIRGE, THE CHURCH BIZARRE or GOAT OF MENDES, who sound more original than the usual german sound."

Does it piss you off to be compared to the swedish bands ? " in the beginning, when we read the first four reviews for the mini Cd, it was nice to read something like this : 'N.I.G. is the german counterpart of DARK TRANQUILITY, or 'they sound exactly like AT THE GATES, I N FLAMES, DISSECTION...' But now that we sold a lot and people know us, it's another situation. We are proud of what we reached and people should know that we are no fucking copy of any Gothenburg band ! It was true on our first demo, now we're still developping.."

NIGHTINGALE have released a 7"ep for MMI records in Germany, called 'razor' and it includes a SLAYER cover. too bad that it doesn't include a RAZOR cover, that would have

been a better choice indeed. The cover is 'raining blood'. It's weird because I heard it was supposed to be a MAIDEN cover...So, what's going on here Jens ?

" You're right, we planned to put the 2 new songs and anew recorded version of 'mindspawnd' and the cover of MAIDEN's 'IRON MAIDEN' on it. But we got a few problems, so we took this live cover song of SLAYER. I think it's a killer 7"ep. Its playing time is about 10 minutes long an there's no boring sound on it. It's limited to 1000 copies in white vynil."

As the time the interview was conducted NIGHTINGALE were talking to NBR about a deal....

" Oh no, we haven't signed so far, we just stay in contact. They want to see us live next saturday in Koln at the POP-KOMM. It will be the first time with our vocalist BJORN, so we need good luck !. The 7"ep was planned and recorded just before, we heard about the NBR interest. There is no deal or something for MMI. they just release the ep by means of paying the manufacturing costs. Nothing more."

Not only NIGHTINGALE put an emphasis on the music side, but they also have a good lyrical content for each song..

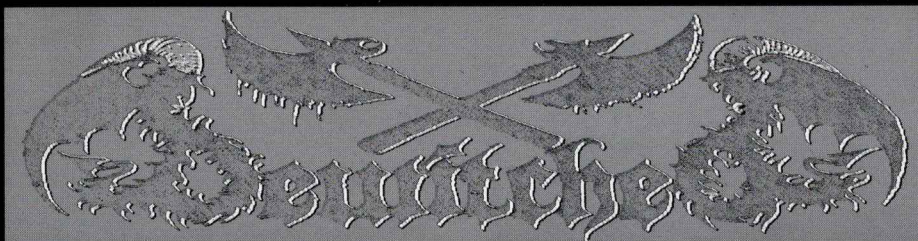
" All our lyrics are written by Christian Bass, our drummer. they deal with personnal things, dreams, emotions and feelings..often described with pictures."

What stands behind the word 'syphlike' then ?

" The word 'syphlike' means a special form of the human spirit and the soul. But there's no real intention of spreading a message here..the lyrics just have to fit the music, and it works pretty well. I think."

I highly recommend anyone reading this to purchase a copy of their mini cd before it's too late, for \$10 or the 7"ep for \$6 to: NIGHTINGALE, KALBECKSWEG 41, 46562 VOERDE, GERMANY.





Rooted in the eighties, the metal mongers of **BEWITCHED** are re-writing the book of real evil metal.

Our reporter, after having endured all those years of pathetic black metal has had the goose flesh again.

BEWITCHED's sound may turn out to be wimpy if you consider the extreme and most aggressive metal bands. Either you dislike them for being old fashioned and switch on your Cd player to jump on the latest FEAR FACTORY opus, or you dislike them because the band carries that silly masked faces black metal image and you're sick of it, or you hate the fact that BEWITCHED sounds like a cover band, rehashing the almost the same old riffs without attempting anything new.

That's easy to drag them down in the black metal stinking drain, or to prove their lack of originality I admit. However, what I also shall reckon, is that BEWITCHED produced a killer rockin album with passion and enthusiasm. It's chunky, rockin and I'm sure John Travolta would have danced listening to it if he had been keen on BATHORY's first album 11 years ago. This is metal for the retired ones.. Eventhough it's hard to see those guys smiling on pictures, Vargher greetfully answered the list of questions he was subjected to.

Who are the members of BEWITCHED ?, Do you originate from other bands ?

"The hellcult are Vargher, Blackheim, reaper, Wrathyr...The warriors of Satan. As you may know, Blackheim is also in KATATONIA and DIABOLICAL MASQUERADE while I'm preparing the next ANCIENT WISDOM album. Wrathyr and Reaper only plays in the almighty BEWITCHED !"

I was surprised to see that you did a cover of MERCYFUL FATE on the recently released 'encyclopedia of evil' mini album. the last time I heard a M.F. cover was maybe on the VOIVOD 's 84 demo if I can remember well...

" what can I say ?, It is brilliant !, the reason why we chose 'evil' is just because it is a masterpiece. Although I do not consider 'melissa' to be the best MERCYFUL FATE album, 'don't break the oath' is probably the best album ever made..."

I can't say I've found the right feeling I had when listening to the first DESTRUCTION or SODOM albums for instance, in the 90s black metal movement, they're by far too silly, How do you like the current scene ?

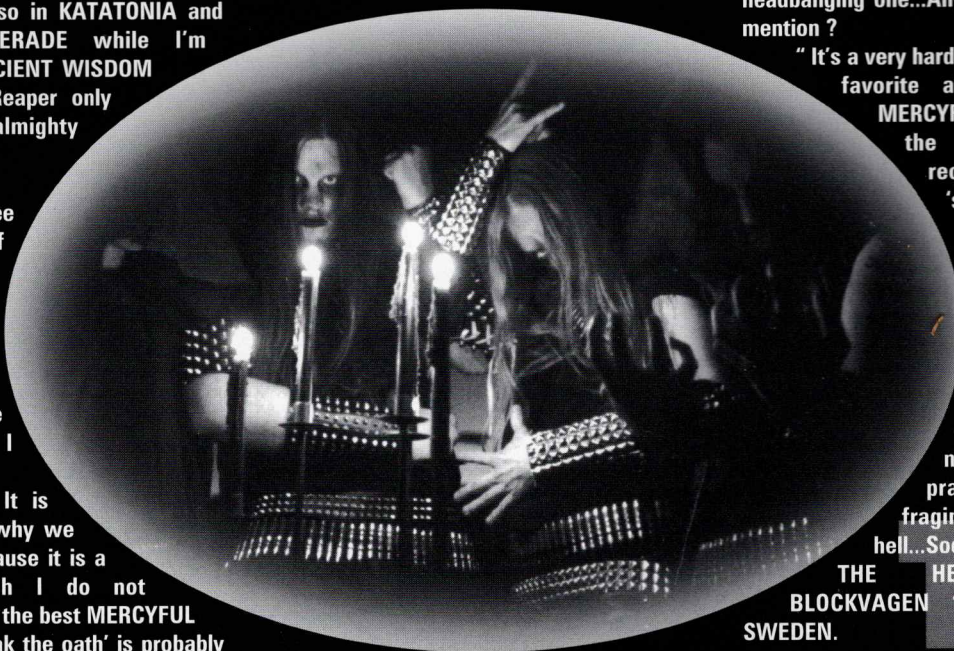
" To put it in another way, there's (almost) no bands who play quality music, therefore we want to show the world how it should be done. here in Sweden, it totally sucks, there are only christian, light sounding bands here and the Hellcult will poison their hearts with our plague."

Who does the vocals on the Celtic Frost cover on the latest mini album, Have you listened to the CELTIC FROST tribute on Dwell records ?

" It's both me and Blackheim who do the vocals but it's Blackheim who does the Warriorish vocals. About the tribute, a very few bands do good versions. But I haven't listened to it that much, I prefer the original versions."

It looks pathetic to me if everybody suddenly found themselves fans of the eighties as they just discovered black metal with IMMORTAL for instance. Nowadays, there are many kids in the black metal scene isn't it ?

" Yes, there is. But recently BEWITCHED were on a tour together with SACRAMENTUM, ANCIENT RITES and ENTHRONED and there was a lot of older people in the audience enjoying BEWITCHED and it was for those people we performed, NOT for the trend feeders...Fuck Off !."



The March, the Battle, the Victory

Do you believe in an eighties revival ?

" It seems like it's an upcoming trend to play old school metal, But BEWITCHED will always stand above."

Any favorite JUDAS PRIEST album to mention ? (this is undoubtedly our reporter most redundant and irritating question...)

" 'defenders of the faith' is totally great !..."

Are there any old vinyls you're looking for and you would die to purchase at a fair price ? Maybe the readers can give you an helping hand...

" Ok, here you got some : THOR - only the strong, THOR - live in London (video), WRATCHILD (UK) - early demos...(glam freaks from hell!! /P) "

BEWITCHED certainly spend their spare time in the record stores, trying to buy any old rarities that made their childhood an exciting headbanging one...Any 80s favorite albums to mention ?

" It's a very hard question, but my all time favorite album is, as I said, MERCYFUL FATE's 'don't break the oath'. Other brilliant records are SLAYER's 'show no mercy', KREATOR's 'pleasure to kill'..This list could go on forever..."

Since you somewhat live in the past, any plans for the future ?

" Right now, we are writing material for our new album, 'pentagram prayer'. That's about it, fragin' this world towards hell...Sodomy 666..Hail Satan."

THE HELLCULT, NORMAN,
BLOCKVAGEN 14, S-904 34 UMEA,
SWEDEN.

About the lack of originality in BEWITCHED writing style, the man energetically replies:
" We don't stand for originality, we stand for quality."

The HELLCULT

The grannies' killer is back

Having been an unconditional fan of the band since their early beginning, it was a great pleasure to have a phone chat with the living legend of Hank Sherman.

After having resolved some problems with the wailing fax machine and the usual troubles that happen with a disorganised life, I could finally spill over my coffee cup to hang up the telephone and get ready to record. And I'm not talking about Michael's threatening swearwords.....you freak...

So, it seems that within the past few years, MERCYFUL FATE has been more productive than ever, has it been easier to work with each other when you joined forces again for the release of 'in the shadows' ?

"Everyone went more mature. Everything became so much easier, we were really relaxed. In spite of the fact we're all mid 30 years old, We really wanted to do a good record again. I think it's more like a family, because we've known each other since 1979 or 1981 something like that"

Have you been involved in bands before the band's reformation ?

"In 85, just one week after we split MERCYFUL FATE, I was involved in 2 bands, one was called. The first band was called FAUNT (I'm not sure about the orthograph here), and the second was FATE, which was more american / hard rock stuff. That was something different that I wanted to do. There was no hard feeling after we split MERCYFUL FATE. We just said OK, it is now so.. Then I did two albums with FATE, then the next one, I left the band in the middle of the recording because the producer was not a nice person so.., and yeah, I formed a new band with Michael Denner called SOCIAL MESS, which was in 1990. We released one Cd on our own record label and there's only two thousand copies available, and that was more 70s kind of heavy rock also. That eventually leads to the fact that we were writing heavier songs which KING heard in Copenhagen. He said he reminded him of the old MERCYFUL FATE stuff. Then when he came back to the states, he called us and said why not reforming MERCYFUL FATE ?.

And that was exactly what me and Michael had in mind because our singer was not

Mercyful Fate

not available. Plus, we had all these really, really heavy songs that were better fitting with MERCYFUL FATE which was kinda perfect, and then we decided that it would really be killer if we put the band together again, and that was the beginning of that."

I couldn't help myself not asking some questions about some old vinyl bootlegs I've been owning for years featuring some demo material. There's one called *'the curse of the pharaons'* which features a song called *'running free'* later entitled *'leave my soul alone'* on the Roadrunner release *'return of the vampire..'*

"The title has been either wrong, or...like we had a song one of these bootlegs called *'love criminals'* and the title has been changed to *'into the coven'* because KING has changed the lyrics. That was the very first song we wrote for MERCYFUL FATE."

What about the song 'hardrocker' ?

"Yeah, that was a song that has never been titled 'hard rocker' in fact, it's probably the bootlegger who did that. I'm not sure what song it is but that song was from a demo that was recorded with Michael's band, when he was not in MERCYFUL FATE. He formed a band with Tim Hansen on bass, then he invited me and King to do a guest appearance on that demo, and then we did it and King did all the vocals. Since we were feeling good and we eventually became MERCYFUL FATE, and that band was called DANGER ZONE. So, it was kind of pre- MERCYFUL FATE."

What about that song 'combat zone' ?

"This song was also never extra recorded. It was a demo song and appeared on the *'curse of the pharaons'* bootlegs only. I used to have these lps, I think King has them all. We were not acquainted with the guy who did that. But it was ok for us, it gave a sort of promotion. We had all our demos on vinyl, that was cool."

Now, regarding the recording of the *'into the unknown'* album, Do you feel comfortable recording and mixing in the same studio..?

"This time for *'into the unknown'*, we changed the studio, but it was the same building, we moved from studio A to studio B, which just means a different room, and various possibilities. We also recorded differently. We recorded the guitars, the bass, and the drums at the same time. For the previous *'in the shadows'* and *'time'* albums, we recorded one instrument after the other. I don't know if I feel more comfortable recording and mixing in the

same studio."

What differs the production and style on *'into the unknown'* from the previous album ?

"It's definitely more aggressive on this new one than on the *'time'* album. We don't have any keyboards on these songs, we have an intro for the whole album. When we did *'time'*, we were not experimenting but we were just, you know, trying something else. We did maybe some softer songs. During the *'time'* album, everything went wrong, we had one big problem with the tape machine, there were tons of technical problems, and we had to fight during the recording session against time. Maybe we also lost inspiration in the mixing process, I don't know, at least that was a MERCYFUL FATE album.."

When MERCYFUL FATE are not releasing albums, are you playing in some project bands ?

"Yeah, since King leaves in the U.S.A. and our bass player leaves in Gothenburg in Sweden.(!) Me and Bjarne the new drummer of MERCYFUL FATE, we've started a band called GOT...(??) and have recorded an lp at Los Angered studio (Andy Larocque studio) for a label called CYNEMITE records. There's also a band formed with our bass player and Snowy Shawn called ILL WILL, they've just recorded an album too. Yes, we have so much time left like six months, so we write music. You'll probably hear about those bands sometimes later in the year."

What about the band's touring ?

"I want to tour as much as I can. This year we're playing a big fest i Copenhagen with Richie Blackmore's RAINBOW. We have a 10 dates tour in south America, Brasil, Argentina, Chile. Then in mid October, we're going to the U.S.A. to do a six weeks tour there and then we tour in Europe in February 1997 together with KING DIAMOND. That's going to be exciting."

KING DIAMOND has always been a multi racial band...

"King has three guys from Dallas, and

then Andy is the only guy from Sweden. King leaves in Dallas. In the old times, it was more a combination of Swedish and American guys now it's more american."

Since you've been playing for a long time, have you ever tried to incorporate some elements in MERCYFUL FATE's music. Like this new sounding metal with bands like PANTERA or FEAR FACTORY.

"No, it's not something that excited me. I'm more into the classic kind of rock from the 70s like early JUDAS PRIEST, DEEP PURPLE, BLACK SABBATH.. Also from the 80s, with bands like QUEENSRYCHE made some good records, But rarely, I'm not inspired by the new stuff. We could easily do it, but that's not our style, we've always followed our hearts, people may say that we are so old fashioned because we sound like a band from the 70s..I don't know...But that's what we like...All those styles like grunge, alternative rendered the situation of heavy metal more difficult, but heavy metal will eventually come back. By the way, did you listen to our tribute to JUDAS PRIEST? (hey!, he knew I was a fan!!)."

Yes, I really like your cover. What tickles me is that most bands on this tribute only



try to sound like JUDAS PRIEST.

"We have so much respect for JUDAS PRIEST. It's also an honor to sound like JUDAS PRIEST when you have the chance to do it. We tried to sound like JUDAS PRIEST, it was an honor for us to do it." As it was an honor chatting with you Hank....

Spiritual beggars

Initially put together by Michael Amott, who was still playing the guitar in CARCASS back then, SPIRITUAL BEGGARS started as a hobby band. After having recorded his work on CARCASS' 'heartwork' album, Michael immediately bought a flight ticket to join his fellows in Sweden for a full jam party. The result of the parties that followed ended on a mini Cd released by Wrong Again in May 94. They stopped begging on the streets when Toy's Factory, a Japanese company licenced this mini Cd and added four new songs on it. The band eventually inked a deal on MUSIC FOR NATIONS which resulted in the release of their first full length album 'another way to shine'. SPIRITUAL BEGGARS play that kind of groovy, dull 70s hard rock with a lot of fun, fans of CATHEDRAL should take note by the way. Throbbing and sweating music really. There are definitely many ways to shine as you may have understood. From the state of a

beggar, each band member suddenly became acclaimed musicians, moreover, they now are attractive to many hot girls, and they can have a good time on their limousine with them !!! Definitely the life goal of every rock player I guess. The ugly Michael Amott speaks...

It was certainly surprising to see you joining SPIRITUAL BEGGARS full time since it's quite a drastic change in style, I have the feeling that playing the music you play nowadays is something you had had in mind for years....

"Yeah, I guess a few people thought it was strange that I left CARCASS just after completing the 'heartwork' album...But I was just sick and tired of the whole thing at that point. I was very interested in trying out different musical ideas and try to base the music around a more 'loose' vibe, rather than the pretty strict and static style of CARCASS. Not that I'm putting CARCASS down in anyway, they were a truly great and classic band and I believe the work of CARCASS will be remembered as some of the best from that genre. It was more a case of me needing to branch out a little bit...I'm really happy that I got out though, because I've improved my guitar playing so much with SPIRITUAL BEGGARS...I wouldn't have reached that point if I would have continued with CARCASS. SPIRITUAL BEGGARS was actually formed in

my mind long before I actually got a line up together etc. But you know it's hard to find good musicians with the right attitude. But I was very lucky finding Spice and Ludwig - cause we interact so well together. It's a blessing really to work with people like that."

So, did you feel restricted playing with CARCASS?

"As I said before, I did feel restricted by the music of CARCASS...yes. But I have to add...that I enjoyed playing with the guys very much. They gave me a break when I really needed it, and for that I will always be grateful to them. I wish them luck with whatever they choose to do in life....I think they took the CARCASS sound to its limit really...I don't think there was much room left for growth...But that's hard for me to say as I wasn't involved in the 'swansong' material...I guess they decided

material is weaker than his playing abilities. But he's still cool !. It's hard to pick out a fave Lizzy record, there are quite a few killer ones to choose from...But, hey, I don't know if you can beat the 'black rose' album for sheer guitar power !. Gary Moore is hot on that record !". What's the guitar that has the crunchiest sound?

"My guitar. haha!, Seriously, there are also so many different types of guitars with different tones that fit different moods...I play two guitars : a Gibson Les Paul and a Gibson SG...and right now I'm thinking about a Fender Stratocaster....But you'll have a hard time finding a heavier tone than a down tuned Les Paul with strings !."

The painter who did their fantasy concept cover had formerly worked for ABBA, the ultimate discocore gods, which was hard to believe at first...

"Yes, well...He did the artwork for their first



Another way to shine

'greatest hits' album...I don't know

if he ever met the people from

ABBA. Hans Arnold also did/does illustrations for book and magazines etc..really cool stuff !. We love his art on the 'another way..' cover."

to go for a more rockin sound than the heavy metal style of the 'heartwork' album. Extreme music like death metal etc..is pretty hard to work with because as you grow as musician from playing...you often lose that primitive touch that made you extreme in the first place, some bands retain their feel for brutality even though they go on playing for years..But it's rare I think."

Do you put off your shoes when you enter a house as in Gothenburg?

"Yes, I like to keep a clean house, that's why! You dirty french bastard, haha!."

Are the extra songs on the mini Cd on the full length album?

"There are four bonus tracks on the Japanese version of our debut disc and three of them are featured on 'another way to shine' But it's from a different recording session, so they sound drastically different..."

Do you like John Norum's work ?, I enjoy the second album which has some kinda THIN LIZZY riffs, what's your fave THIN LIZZY record?

"John Norum is a great player, but I feel his

The beggars definitely made it, they sleep with more women than MANOWAR, they have the cover of the first album done by someone who maybe actually played in ABBA !!, Moreover, they have a 7"ep limited edition of 500 copies to be issued on Wrong Again records soon (\$10 Postpaid).



The FreeBies PeArEview

SKYCLAD : 'irrational anthems' (MASSACRE)

It's more tinged by irish traditionnal music. SKYCLAD are a unique band. I've never really bought their releases but I always respected them for being different. It's very danceable, there's plenty of choruses to hum and the violin is astonishingly groovy. 13 songs of moving music, definitely a background music for birthday parties!! Well, gimme another pint mate!!

INCUBUS : 'serpent temptation' (NUCLEAR BLAST)

Intense death/thrash with anger. This is undoubtedly INCUBUS's best album to date. Being their first and self produced opus, the production is rough, but the feeling is right and it's powerful enough to squeeze the balls of every 90s black metal kid.

CANNIBAL CORPSE : 'vile' (METAL BLADE)

After a few months of ungroovy masked men's music, this is a breath of fresh air indeed! Gee, it had been a long time since a raging death metal band had not released another sadistic folly. Well, you can't really say I've been addicted to their joyful music and concept since day one. But, this new album is a standout. First of all, the faceless with long hair on stage Chris Barnes quit the band, which helps really. To me, it's their strongest album to date. Their new vocalist : the more dynamic and multi dimensional vocals wise George, reknown for having a good memory for any lyrics in the world, is cut off for the job here. 'devoured by...' greets you nicely, and 'monolith' kicks you back. Too bad the cover is awful.

METAL MASSACRE XII (METAL BLADE)

It's always hard to put out a compilation Cd with underground bands and I understand that you easily get some bands that don't really seem to deserve their appearance on the same piece of work that made us aware of METALLICA and SLAYER's existences. But, you have to give a chance to the better bands...and unfortunately for the listener, those latest are, in this case, not really the better. PAINGOD are cool, ANCIENT, AVERNUS, CRISIS...PIST ON is cool but slightly too poppy. LEVEL EULOGY is alright. Overall, it's really average but it's all because there hasn't been a good band in the past few years who strived to get a record deal...Every fuckin band gets one so easily, no matter how popular they are. So, don't imagine you'll ever discover a great band on such a compilation, such a band is bound to have a bunch of albums under their belt already..

NAPALM DEATH : 'greed killing' (EARACHE)

They made it again!! I think it sounds better than their previous album which, by the way, my teddybear thought to be unlistenable. ND keep wandering in new territories, which is cool. We're now far from the straight blast beat, and their new ear injections feature fresher ideas with an emphasis on groovier structures. It's way colder than their past material. 'Self betrayal' recalls some industrial bands. Overall, it's mechanic and angry..

NAPALM DEATH : 'diatribes' (EARACHE)

It's their full length album following the mini Cd 'Greed killing'. Well, some of the tracks on the mini Cd were more right in your face and more deathly, here it's all those mechanic rythms where every song is embedded in. I think it's a shame really. It definitely lacks feeling and diversisity. However, I reckon this is packed with power and anger, so that strikes a balance. As for my teddy bear, who knows?, he can't speak!

REINCARNATION : 'seed of hate' (REPULSE)

I know that everyone at the Milwaukee fest would mosh on that band had they played live. This is U.S. death metal from Spain!! If you like early BROKEN

HOPE, add a clearer bass, an annoying one and make a grimace, you got it!! Too much generic really..four songs here..

NAGLFAR : 'vittra' (WRONG AGAIN REC.)

There's really a drastic difference between Swedish and U.S. death metal. NAGLFAR proves it. It's melodic : in fact a bit too gentle and it affects the brutal background. They got spike and they play heavy/hard riffs. It's way more evil : no gore, no blatant provocation, just a little girl whose ghost is haunting the woods. Well, it's all very cool and moody...This album is a bit lengthy and some parts of it sound repetitive. Overall, it's a very cool debut effort and I'm sure this name should be remembered.

EXCRETION : 'voice of harmony' (WRONG AGAIN REC.)

I usually enjoy what the guys at WAR sign. Sadly, EXCRETION, who are yet a cool band, don't do anything to me here. This album suffers from a weak mix which renders the vocals terrible. Melodic and fast...somewhere close to early AT THE GATES without the vitamin. Hey, no more salami for breakfast, ok guys? Cool, but something is missing...

LAKE OF TEARS : 'headstones' (BLACK MARK)

Pretty much tinged by PARADISE LOST's success...Anyway, LAKE OF TEARS do it quite well...But how can you evaluate that kind of band? They're good at what they do, they play a convincing mixture of doom and gothic but they blatantly recall another well known act. The vocalist is slightly more melodic, he's got a raw voice and he's desperately melodic...a bit like Mr HOLMES I presume.. Anyway, better having that than a guttural vocalist on gothic/doom music, which gives out the silliest effect. Ok, evaluating them is saying they're a shameless sub PARADISE LOST band but they do a good job. It's cool but they're silly after all...Final evaluation : they have a commercial potential...

NECROPHOBIC : 'spawned by evil' (BLACK MARK)

black moon of DARK FUNERAL rubs off the paint on his face and re-enters the NECROPHOBIC's domain. Dammit!, time is going fast, I thought they're were still a young band, but they've been around for a while. NECROPHOBIC's death metal is cool, thick, relentless, angry...and wicked. They launch a killer new song with an effective keyboard intro and gather three covers of VENOM, BATHORY, and SLAYER's classics. Four songs in all. It's ok, but they don't match the feeling on the original BATHORY's 'enter the eternal fire'..I guess nobody does...

EDGE OF SANITY : 'crimson' (BLACK MARK)

One song in more than 40 minutes. However, it's not boring really, it speeds up, slows down, gets moody, angry, sexy, whatever..I think it's a silly idea for death metal but in this case, it's well sown and rounded up. Surprisingly, it doesn't sound like one song with a multitude of various parts with so much difference that it becomes pointless. Here, if you don't listen to it carefully...you don't mind the song length really...I like the 23th minute, it's cool...hehe...same goes at the 32.55th minute...Well,...groovy...

IMMOLATION : 'here in after' (METAL BLADE)

Hey!, the boys are back!! The fans couldn't wait any longer. It's definitely worth the wait. It was actually hard to ponder about the band's sound nearly two years after their Roadrunner debut album. Fortunately, they haven't cut their hair to look like METALLICA...Well...besides BOB but he's a tougher guy than Heldfield for sure!. Anyway, their sound has just gained in evilness and malignant powers. 'Burn with Jesus', 'under the supreme', 'christ's cage' or the infamous opener 'nailed to gold' showcase ultra raw, dark and heavy death metal. IMMOLATION have an

unconventionnal sound which is really bizarre and makes you feel an unease.. If it happens to you when listening to this, then it means that you're addicted to them...Buy it and follow them in their dark world...

MORTICIAN : 'house by the cemetery' (RELAPSE)

No!, Will has not had his balls cut off and he has not wimped out!!! Will's voice is as guttural as ever!!! The band, featuring 2 zombies, is helped by a machine which gives the band an even scarier musical carnage. Unafraid of not opening for MADONNA this year again, MORTICIAN fills the blanks between songs with horror movie samplers. MORTICIAN are re-spelling the name grindcore throughout this 10 tracker. Also including covers of NAPALM D. and CELTIC F.

BEWITCHED : 'diabolical desecration' (OSMOSE)

Opening the album with a song entitled 'hard as steel hot as hell', the listener can expect the band's musical aspirations. BEWITCHED truly stand out and what they do is just a plain re make of some riffs, and structure originating from the 80s bands like MERCYFUL FATE, DESTRUCTION, MOTORHEAD....The vocals are more 90s with that evil shriek backing the heavy rockin wall of guitars. It's a very cool album and it ironically sounds fresh and innovative compared to the overcrowding and pathetic black metal scene. It's bad that they wear make up...TANK meeting BATHORY...

SADISTIC EXECUTION : 'Demon with wings' (OSMOSE)

I'm sure that SADISTIC EXECUTION will reach the top of the international charts with this 2 song single. These aussie haven't tried to write a slow and romantic song this time which is a shame really. Ultra brutal death/speed, right in your face and you're not supposed to lounge a complain, only the devil knows what they'll do with your souless body...

BLACK MARK ATTACK: various (BLACK MARK)

It starts with the bizarre and legendary BATHORY to end with the more run on the mill metal of LAKE OF TEARS. It's a good selection of catchy song featuring an EDGE OF SANITY song only previously released in japan. I could listen to CEMETARY's newer song from their latest album, it was a disappointment. MEMENTO MORI have a cool song here with their new line up. AGRESSOR is way beyond anything good. Finally, BLACK MARK have some killer bands but fail to produce an impressive catalog besides having the great BATHORY and MEMENTO MORI on their roster.

BRUTAL TRUTH : 'kill trend suicide' MCD (RELAPSE)

At first, I thought it was a new album, but it only got 33 minutes long with a ghost track 10 minutes after the pretended end. BRUTAL TRUTH seem to be celebrating their departure from Earache on this raging release. Faster, more modern than ever, the band got rid of their 80s U.S. thrash roots. They sound more convincing and brutal than ever blending ultra speed with some sort of industrila post hardcore guitar twirls. The vocals really torture the mic badly here. Raw and MEAN sounding...

EXIT 13 : 'smoking songs' (RELAPSE)

This is their long awaited latest full length. Jazz, piano, and devilish made this release smoking. It's definitely a lot better than the band's past release. EXIT 13 should win an award for this hilarious release. My fave cut is 'wille the record releaser', totally astounding voice a la SINATRA...eating chewing with weed. These ugly boys have done their most offensive audio mayhem on this 13 tracker. Beware of the ghost haunting the cabaret !!

Thank you for you bad humor, it's a lot funnier than a TWA flight crashing.

The FreeBies PeArEvieW

ILL DISPOSED: 'submit' (PROGRESS)

We are all used to be delivered some gross sounding and punishing death metal assaults from the PROGRESS camp. One can't say they like to wander in the woods and make the devil sign. ILL DISPOSED don't either. This danish outfit have always been regurgitating an horrendous death metal adding more precision and finesse to their style as time flies by. They've got the thick wall of guitars, which recalls BOLT THROWER, just check 'a frame of mind'. ILL DISPOSED kind of delve into melancholic 80s classic guitar soli with 'memories expanded'. It is a varied album if you really pay attention to it when listening, otherwise it's a run on the mill grindcore death album which GRAVE could have written had they the musical abilities.

GROPE: 'the fury' (PROGRESS)

This is a quality band indeed!! When you first get your ears on the opening track you can't help to tag them as another kind of MESHUGGAH clone but then you're terribly wrong. GROPE have much more to offer. They don't cling to your mind with repetitive and mechanical rhythms, GROPE throw in more atmosphere without being slow. Eventually, they remember METALLICA more than PANTERA. This slab is a winner...

AVULSED: 'carnivoracity' (REPULSE)

This is the kind of band who people either love or hate. AVULSED did it again with this collection of demo songs and live shots. Dave's effects-less vocals always cover the guitars a little bit because they're so crude and brutal, certainly too much. The vocals have always been a major and distinctive factor in AVULSED which the listener is forced to rely on them so as to make his opinion. Like it or hate it. Besides, their style is good old east coast 90s U.S. style death metal. Surprisingly, they don't throw blast beats so easily and focus more on mid tempo structures. Well, this is anti black metal music..

THE ROBOTS: 'songs that satan...' (STEP ONE)

Great punk rock from Sweden featuring Piotr, the majestic vocalist behind SERPENT and a THERION member. THE ROBOTS are not your poppy west coast punk band, they've got nothing in common. THE ROBOTS are a lot colder and harsh sounding, very late 70s and 80s almost remembering U.K. bands like MAJOR ACCIDENT or something. Right in your face, moving and punishing a la MC5 sometimes. STEP ONE, P.O. BOX 202,114 79 STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN. Fax 46 8 72 68 475.

GOLGOTHA: 'melancholy' (REPULSE)

More melancholic gothic doom from Spain. Well, I reckon having enjoyed the latest TIAMAT, I've always been into PARADISE LOST. However, I fail to appreciate the new bands alike. Without doubt GOLGOTHA have a valuable potential, but it's a boredom to me listening to that. I think it's all about a lack of events through the music. Anyway, the production is Ok and the artwork is, this time, a stunning one. I'm sure they will draw more fans with their next release.

ABSCISS: 'urine junkies' (RELAPSE)

Teenagers definitely don't have the same hobbies as they used to when I was younger. The first thing that came to mind every saturday evening was to pick up a beautiful and nicely dressed lady with my shiny yellow car. Now all they do is just watching those terrible and senseless gore and unpure porno movies at home. Now, the dance clubs are empty and the teens are into drugs instead of being in love. Where's romanticism? The worse happens when they buy an ABSCISS album... This is the band that killed romanticism.... Diet urine only please... keep rotting you pussy...

ETERNE: 'still dreaming' (CANDLE LIGHT)

It's been long awaited, finally it came out pretty good with a nice lay out. ETERNE heavily recall their label fellows: THE WHOES OF BABYLON. However, they sound slightly more into that current gothic/metal stream which seems to grow especially in countries like Germany. The music is obviously wrapped in a mournful atmosphere but it lacks variety in the rhythmic department. The drumming machine is sadly too one dimensional to fully catch up the listener's ears. Nice singing though.

CRIMSON RELIC: 'purgatory's reign' (NUCLEAR BLAST)

that's a great surprise. I thought the lavishing about DIVINE EVE was quite exaggerating but it reveals to be absolutely deserved with their new formation. CRIMSON RELIC are drowned in the eighties. In each part, they largely hint at DESTRUCTION and CELTIC FROST in the riffing department. The guitar soli totally recall Tom Warrior in his early and best time. It's extremely catchy because it's not ultra fast or ultra slow, it's just an association of rightly located tempos. It's really killer besides the fact that it sounds too much like a tribute to those bands because it sounds exactly the same like the percussions on 'the solemn and the wicked' for instance. Otherwise it's a crunchy effort.

LIPKIN: self titled (STEP ONE)

Alternative metal from Sweden. Those dudes don't follow the dark side but they have a certain force I presume... LIPKIN share some similarities with ALICE IN CHAINS and earlier SOUNDGARDEN. It's almost a combination of both. It's blunt on 'the temple' for instance. It's all well rounded up and the production is good. Now, as time flies by so quickly so do trends, LIPKIN soon sounds outdated. Their sound is embedded in such a particular thing that they can hardly escape from it.

VADER: 'sothis' (REPULSE)

thanks to REPULSE for bringing this release in the international market. VADER are probably one of the ultimate death metal bands of all time. This mini cd precedes their full length album 'de profundis'. It contains a freezing intro that recalls MORBID ANGEL's debut which perfectly starts the slaughter. 'the wrath' is an old song that kills totally. They ends up with 'black sabbath' which is not truly essential but well done. VADER rule.

PSYCO DRAMA: 'the illusion' (MASSACRE)

QUEENSRYCHE, FATES WARNING, QUEENSRYCHE, FATES WARNING. It's really strange that U.S. heavy metal bands are easily to be compared to. This band is ultra competent and showcase a great deal of conviction. Moreover they have a brilliant production. Everything is very clear, 'head free' caught my attention. It's a shame that besides 'flames' which is a bit heavier, they don't throw in faster songs and try fresher things.

IMPRECATION: 'the urgia goetia summa' (REPULSE)

Blatant death metal from Texas. IMPRECATION were one of the few bands emerging from the cowboys land with ABSU, THE MAGUS, CRUCIFIXION and the likes. This slab gathers the band's demo, their 7" ep and a more recent promo tape. It's raw and underproduced and slightly sounds like early INCANTATION. What we just need is just fierce speed and demonic screams, then we're satisfied here.

ANCIENT RITES: 'the diabolical serenades' (MASCOT)

This is the first band's album remastered and re issued through MASCOT records from Holland. The band refreshes the same riffs one song after another. It terribly lacks catchiness and hooks to get into the band. They're like the SODOM of the eighties. The disc offers a bonus track recorded with Magnus

something of NECROMANTIA and it terribly sounds like a bad ROTTING CHRIST song. Good production though.

CATHEDRAL: 'hopkins' (EARACHE)

Marvellous, totally great. CATHEDRAL entered the rank of my fave bands with their second album and I'm sure they won't disappoint me in the future. It's got every ingredient of a good release. Variety, power, fresh ideas melted in an old sound and before all a massive dose of groove. CATHEDRAL dominates and I'm sick of not seeing them topping the pinnacle of the metal church. GREAT, GREAT, GREAT, GREAT!

END OF GREEN: 'infinity' (NUCLEAR BLAST)

A waste of time and money. Pathetic childish vocals over a equally pathetic blend of various musical styles that, when mixed together, don't go anywhere.

DECREPIT: 'creation of sin' (Self produced)

Ohio's DECREPIT is one of those bands that will never really alter their sound. This collection of songs which dates from 93 and 94 is a raw and kicky death metal often remembering bands like INCANTATION, and BRUTAL TRUTH for the hyper blast parts. It's rather generic as I had expected. However, the band strive hard to offer a killer riffs, well rounded up together. Evil fast american death metal right in your face. Too bad about the weak production.

HYPOCRISY: 'abducted' (NUCLEAR BLAST)

Finally an HYPOCRISY album that don't sound like a common thing. I've always been surprised about their success. After all, HYPOCRISY has always produced cool but run on the mill death metal album. This time is different. Not saying it's avant garde but it's got more crunch involved. The vocals shifted into a raspy, almost CARCASSESque voice and the music became more significant. They even throw a nice chorus on 'the opening track, and keep their bloody roots of 'buried'. Nice choppy death for the fans.

TORQUE: 'self titled' (MASCOT)

What have become the other part of VIOLENCE after the creation of MACHINE HEAD?, well most of them founded TORQUE. Obviously, you know the recipe from their origin. It's a new breed of metal and I'm not really into it. It's packed with semi catchy part and chunky guitars and drums. Besides that, it's very generic which is a shame really. It's too bad that bands like BIOHAZARD killed great artists like FORBIDDEN... OK stuff for tough guys only.

SOUL CAGES: 'moments' (MASSACRE)

This kind of progressive hard rock sounds slightly too much poppy to me. The vocals of a stubborn wailing singer irritates me a bit. The americans do it better I guess. Otherwise the musicianship is truly impressive. SOUL CAGES are beyond bands like FATES WARNING, they're more progressive than them. Sadly enough, the singing is too yag and really irritating.

SLAPDASH: 'actual reality' (NBR)

Formed from the ashes of ROSICRUCIAN, SLAPDASH strayed from their original path a bit. They've lowered their experimentation factor and take a more modern thrash bandwagon. I don't complain really because it's truly well executed. The soli are particularly deft, their rhythms are SLIGHTLY PANTERAesque. Some members of MISERY LOVES CO. joined in for good measure too. It's one of those quick and easy 90s metal release, but we can't blame them really coz they have a huge amount of talent. Groovy with guts..

KATAKLYSM: 'temple of knowledge' (NBR)

they have a weird sense of knowledge really. There's some anger here, some riffs and blast parts are entertaining. What isn't is the pathetic and dumb vocals and the song structure. From this point of view, KATAKLYSM is funny to listen to. HILARIOUS.

The FreeBies PeArEvieW

CEREMONIAL OATH : 'carpet' (BLACK SUN)

They have killer skills and CEREMONIAL OATH is probably the first band bearing that heavy metal flag high above a mass of painted faces. The production is very neat, and it wouldn't be unfair to compare them to IRON MAIDEN in each of their songs. They cover 'hallowed by' sung with Tomas of AT THE GATES.

NILE : 'festivals of atonment' (ANUBIS) their sound contains less crunch and chunk than before. Overall, NILE play more in the death metal vein here. The vocalist's cruel screams and the power packed guitar sound still recall the band's awesome demo. However, NILE chose to express their music in a much faster way. The musicianship is outstanding. Some soli give a hint at their previous killer band MORRIAH. (No, I don't forget), they enhance the atmosphere with sounds of traditional instruments sounds which come out pretty good. NILE have a lot of potential but their style should be updated to make them succeed.

UNDERCROFT : 'twisted souls' (TOXIC)

Chile owns some killer death/thrash bands. UNDERCROFT were really promising at their demo era. The band's music showcases a fair amount of professionalism. However, it's a bad thing that the vocalist sings in such a guttural way (understand U.S. death metal way). I'm sick of those bands sounding the same just because some band thought it was cool to do that thing and succeeded with that... Well, the influence is so blatant here. It spoils the whole album. It's a shame really because those guys have a lot to offer. Don't be so 'brutal' next time please... Nice cover....

WARLORD U.K. : 'maximum carnage' (NUCLEAR BLAST)

Announced as a thrash outfit, WARLORD U.K. quite disappointed me. However, there's a massive dose of punch that permeates through this recording like in the punkish 'no where to run'. Besides that, WARLORD U.K. are just a blatant hybrid of earlier BOLT THROWER and BENEDICTION (understand MASSACRE). While being obviously unoriginal, they nevertheless impress the listener with their chunky sound. It's just good that some labels are still releasing powerful death metal albums with heavy guitars... fuck originality....

NAPHOBIA : 'of hell' (CLUB FEAR)

These U.S. deathers have decided to release their first appearance on a digital slab by themselves. The Cd looks very professional. The production is quite rough, it's kinda muffled. Anyway, they kick some serious ass with their cyber metal : technical dynamic death metal. They're joined by Gene Hoglan during 3 tracks where he can practice on his drumming machine. 9 songs of Florida death metal with a modern edge. The lack of power in the production fails to render this release the crunch it needs to get more memorable. Otherwise, it's packed with speed and time changes, check 'the ungodly'. \$12 to : CLUB FEAR PO BOX 677001, ORLANDO FL 32867, U.S.A.

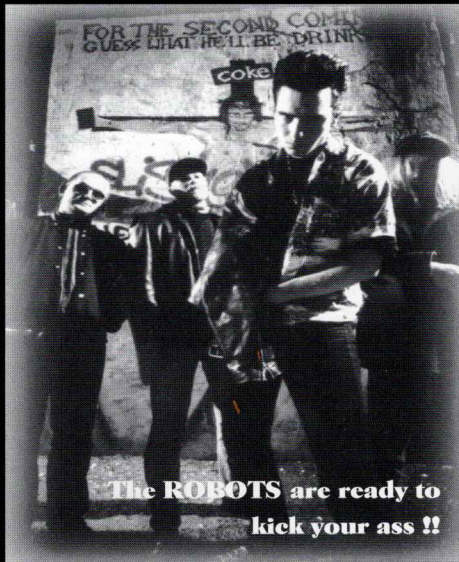
MISERY LOVES CO. : 'need another one' (EARACHE)

This mini Cd, sold with the band's first full length on a limited basis, features techno killer remixes of 'kiss your boots' a fresh song which is kinda average 'honour.' and the album hit 'need another one'. I'm very much into this band, they've managed to create something that sounds innovative with elements surely heard before in other bands. This is surely the sound of the 90s end. Crunch, yells, sung vocals with a wicked low voice, and before all catchy rhythms..

WHIPLASH : 'cult of one' (MASSACRE)

They are one of my eighties faves with that incredibly catchy first album. Now that time is over. It makes me sick when musicians claim to have grown up and come up with a slow and accessible album. 'cult of

one' sure contains heavy moments typically rooted in a midpaced, well structured 80s influence. Had They churned out some JUDAS PRIEST riffs and chorus then I'd be in hell. On the contrary, and in spite of the quality of the material, no song really clutch to your mind. It proves that technic mustn't be always related



with what's good.

CELTIC FROST : 'in memory of..' (DWELL)

There's a real hype around this one and it appears that many people are disappointed, so I am. Nothing must be as difficult as doing a tribute album to an enormously respected band. The main problem dwells (!) in the fact that CELTIC FROST's songs are here covered by the fans of the band. Conclusively, you can't get anything innovative from those covers. Still, one enjoys when a band captures the efficiency and wickedness of these gods, like SADISTIC INTENT, OPETH, SLAUGHTER.. But as regards for EMPEROR, the ridiculous CLOSE DOWN, and 13 among others, not only do they bring nothing special but they spoil the band's spirit. Go to heaven... Great packaging anyway.

CANDLELIGHT : compilation (CANDLELIGHT)

Opening with the mighty EMPEROR, this compilation is bound to get noticed by every novice headbanger. Unfortunately, this slab is just another promotional campaign and there's no unreleased songs. However, it remains the best way to discover the impressive roster of this growing label.

SACRAMENTUM : 'far away from the sun' (ADIPOCERE)

This is a disappointment. I expected so much from this punishing black death act. It seemingly took too long to release this album and the band's sound consequently suffers from being conform and fairly expected. The melodic guitars showcases killer hooks backed by a fast pounding drumming. However, and in spite of the band's ability in writing catchy structures, SACRAMENTUM sound monotonous in the length. Yes, it definitely sounds swedish...

NEOLITHIC : 'for destroy the lament' (ADIPOCERE)

Quality melodic death/doom metal from Poland. NEOLITHIC features extremely talented musicians owning a great deal of ideas. It sounds as these people were as fans of CELTIC FROST's 'into the pandemonium as our froggies of MISANTHROPE. What really catches the ear when listening to this, is the use of many various instruments all blended together like piano and guitar for instance. It's mournful but doesn't really make me cling at the window drapes. Well rounded up songs with potential but not my cup of tea. That kind of doom gets on my nerves....

DARK TRANQUILITY : 'the gallery' (OSMOSE)

When it first came out, I could see all those metal veterans like me screaming loud 'at least a good release on OSMOSE!!'. Well, I haven't said that really or have I? Anyway, thanks for bringing this raging speed/thrash release in the market. 'punish my heaven' is certainly one of the catchiest metal songs ever, so from the opening track, they have already won your confidence. DARK TRANQUILITY kick your butt with a cutting technical edge that make them stand above the mass of black metal fruitcakes raving on the OSMOSE catalog. DARK TRANQUILITY listens to ABBA so they couldn't have been mediocre. Catchy techno thrash with yelling vocals.... METAL!! No more penguins.

MISERY LOVES COMPANY : 'happy' (EARACHE)

This band is really a killer act with a bright future. For those who have not caught one of their releases, MISERY churn out the most exciting DISCHARGE like riffing with the best sound and throw in a lethal dose of 80s Swedish death metal. It's thick, it's catchy and memorable. Apart from the live songs, there's a killer Cd rom track here with the bio, a good lay out and a raging video of the song 'happy'. It's all professional looking. Another deadly shot from the Earache camp.

BEYOND DAWN : 'pity love' (CANDLELIGHT)

Joey is cool, Joey always tells me jokes. He would have told me that this album opener entitled 'when beauty dies' is a MY DYING BRIDE songs from their latest opus, I would have believed it. BEYOND DAWN is another Scandinavia's best kept secret. Gothic doom embedded in a very mournful atmosphere by a low and deep singing, a slow orchestration with trombone. The band never fail to generate a depressive feeling through each of their song. An hybrid bastard of TYPE O NEGATIVE, SYSTERS and MY DYING BRIDE.

DESASTER : 'a touch of medieval darkness' (MERCILESS records)

DESASTER's album would have been killer if it had been a demo back in 87. Now, it's a bit outdated. I'm not saying that it's their weakest point though. I like old sounding stuff. However, the playing abilities are somewhat lacking in this band considering they're having a Cd released this year. It's good old sounding black/death with some hint at DESTRUCTION, SODOM, and BATHORY for the vocals. It's way cool, but just slightly underproduced and way overrated to deserve an album deal. But, it's always the same problem...

THERION : 'theli' (NUCLEAR BLAST)

It'd be damn hard not to lavish on this release. It's crammed with good points. THERION have released the album CELTIC FROST couldn't afford. From the now classic 'to megatherion' to the awesome 'the siren of the woods' and 'grand finale', THERION sort of wander in new territories, more based on mood than before, the band is helped by an entire orchestra which literally makes the album's full value. The symphonies blended with the cold sounding guitars is quite a positive experiment indeed. Just a slight complain, THERION haven't really put much thought in the guitar arrangement, but you can't really blame them for that because the whole thing must have been an exhausting and expensive work. Outstanding.

PYOGENESIS : 'love nation sugarhead' mcd (NBR)

It's hard to stand really. I don't like that SMASHING PUMKIN thing at all. As soon as it starts, it stinks the musical refreshment. Their sound is as pathetic as their name and the boring death metal they were doing in the past. Now, fans of grunge rock, rush on this, because it's as typical and boring as you can get. It's weak.

The FreeBies PeArEvieW

IN MEMORIAN : 'insanctification' (ROCK MACHINE records)

Right in your face devilish death metal from the brasilian abyss. IN MEMORIAN sometimes reminds me of earlier ACHERON for the thick rhythmic department and the guttural screams. The production is very good, and I just like to think that real evil death metal is making some waves again. The intro entitled 'centuries of sortilege' makes the whole album essential. Crunchy, powerful death metal, 'scream of evil' and the title track showcases the true death metal essence and it makes me feel good. ROCK MACHINE, R.24 DE MAIO, 62, 1°ANDAR, L.J.263,01041-000 SAO PAULO/SP, BRASIL.

FULL CIRCLE : 'negative' (MASSACRE)

Probably an old thrash band that never made it and suddenly delved into the PANTERA bandwagon. It's very run on the mill and here the playing abilities don't make any value. Why the need of handling a guitar to play such silly riffs and structures?...Too bad no medicine furnished with record in case of headache here.

GOREFEST : 'soul survivor' (NUCLEAR BLAST)

Yes, the music is cool, plenty of hooks and quite fascinating riff and musicianship. But, why does their vocalist want to sound like a teddy bear with his balls being taken off ??? It's all good fun though. I remember those dudes hanging on the trees on a picture for the promotion of their first demo...Well, they apparently have a bunch of things in common with the defense of animals. In this case, they deserve my kind regards. I love you all !!!!. rock 'n roll..

NAZXUL : 'totem' (vampire)

Bad sound, hellish screams from Australia once again. The radical fans of grindcore and death metal recently converted into black penguins will rave on this!! This is the ultimate thing. In some aspect, this ultra blasting beast display a monumental feeling of hatred. When there's so much rage like in 'I awaken amongst them', you forget about the bad sound and if they have wiped their asses before entering the studio. All you need is something that takes you by the throat and crushes your wimp face. You get it here. It's too bad that they filled the original recording with such weakly produced songs...

EXIT 13 : 'just a few more hits' (RELAPSE)

Only for the cover, this slab is a must have! Too bad they haven't included a photo of the band naked with corpse paint. EXIT 13 did it again. It's a mini release with maxi noise. Harsh unlistenable grind with a special hit 'snakes and alligators' which Dr Freud would certainly have listened at his office if he had owned a walkman I guess. Noisy and uncompromising...great cover.

MINDROT : 'forlorn' (RELAPSE)

Sheer power from this post grindcore band. They found a right path with this new style. Still, I can't understand why it hasn't moved the masses yet. Being an hybrid of the band's previous style, kinda crusty, kinda hardcore, MINDROT's music is an hybrid of early PARADISE LOST and the noise masters of NEUROSIS...without sounding like them really. A single that precedes the masterful full length MINDROT : 'dawning' (RELAPSE)

This is the full length audio massacre. The percussions opening the title track makes the whole album an actual monument. MINDROT who hail from the west coast, stand in direct opposition with the flow of poppy hardcore bands plaguing the state. And it's super down tuned, with Matt's vocals alternating from a gothic david Bowie and from the grave low grunts. I'm very receptive to their style because it's so mournful and way modern with the use of samples. A great band....More recognition now!!.

VENI DOMINE : 'material sanctuary' (MASSACRE)

An outstanding release. VENI DOMINE's instrumentation is fascinating. It's way beyond what any progressive heavy metal band has done so far. The guitar is backed by a huge and majestic keyboard sound which renders the whole thing very epic. The vocals are not too wailing, a very interesting work. Needless to add that those guys handle their instruments in a very professional way. Almost flawless...

M.E.S.T. : 'matter-energy-space-time' (DWELL)

Trance music from the cheesy Holland. MEST have nothing in common with metal. No guitar samples this time. Most of the time, this digital recording showcases some ambient songs, and there's also some faster techno tunes either coming along or breaking the atmosphere in a sort of modern world chaos fashion...It shares nothing in common with silly rave music, it's much more under control. After all, this is a gentle sounding release, well structured voiceless music. It's good.

SKREW : 'shadow of doubt' (METAL BLADE)

Their latest album features the talent of Gustafsson (OVERKILL's guitarist), and is the most accessible one up to now. SKREW have laid things down in a more aggressive fashion, probably less structured and controlled than this album, which sounds more alternative. I think their vocalist is somewhat run on the mill. Besides, the guitar work contains a massive dose of crunch which, in itself, yields my interest in having this slab turning in my CD player. I'm not a big fan but it's good enough.

PANTHYMONIUM : 'khaochoos and kon-fusion' (RELAPSE)

They're releasing the most unlistenable stuff those days. This is PANTHYMONIUM's latest release. Now, if you don't like the fusion of several styles, there's no use to read further. This band has never been something I would have hunted for. However, I've always admired the patience of the fans keen on that stuff. Many short breaks with saxo, sampled, completely deformed, people speeches, blast beats and heavy doom metal...progressive rock, you have it all in one. Very hard to listen to, but way cool because it's so weird. Great lay out and cover.

PRETTY MAIDS : 'screamin' live' (MASSACRE)

Good, it's a bit slightly too AOR but it's got the 80s balls so that's cool. Heavy rockin stuff with dynamic kicking rhythmic guitars. Their songs appear to be like classics from the 80s. Funny that 'rise' 's opening riff sounds like NO FX...I like the classic 'red hot and heavy' in spite of its disgusting and blatant sexual connotation. Monks don't listen to them I guess.

SARCOPHAGUS : 'for we...who are consumed by the darkness' (PULVERIZER / DIE HARD)

One of the most lengthy title in metal history. These guys rule, they just totally freaked out and jumped into the penguins bandwagon. Nevertheless, it's deadly good. They strike you right in your face with speed and aggression. There's a great dose of hatred in the vocals and the riffing is catchy and there's really no time for you to hold your breath. Besides, they totally look silly with their faces painted. This would have had more impact to me with a more mature outlook, now it's so generic....Lame...

DARKSEED : 'midnight solemnlydance' (SERENADES)

In spite of the fact that DARKSEED pretentiously sound like a blatant hybrid of PARADISE LOST and METALLICA, they nevertheless showcase plenty of conviction. Far better than their german fellows of END OF GREEN or something, and along the rank of PYOGENESIS, DARKSEED load (!) their well rounded

up somophore album with many melodies and harmony. The overall sound is too high pitched, but I heard they were picked up by NBR, so next time things will change in the production department I guess.

MASS PSYCHOSIS : 'face' (KOCH)

Some talented american bands take ages to release something whereas every kid in Europe has a band and an album out! This is a collection of the band's legendary demo and 7"ep plus some extra tracks I guess. MASS PSYCHOSIS own a very unique sound, sometimes remembering a high flown fetus of manic CARCASS and early ATHEIST. The two versions of 'goremachine' are an edifying listening.

DIABOLICAL MASQUERADE : 'ravenidusk in my heart' (ADIPOCERE)

High class black/death metal. This is probably the most memorable dark release of this year. Knowing that this guy has done everything alone, it just gives a slap on the butt of many black kids. 'Under the banner of the sentinel' even includes a high pitched heavy metal scream which perfectly reinforces Blackheim's shrieky vocals. The balance between melody and aggression is well stricken.

NASTASEE : 'trim the fat' (SPV)

An ex DOG EAT DOG back in the music world to cash in. He's right!, but that poppy release doesn't really appeal to me. It's moderately stirring, but is so radio friendly that it gets on my nerves. Still, this is cool to



listen to it while cooking an english breakfast with sausages, eggs, and bacon...and fuckin beans!! Yeah!

ANVIL : 'plugged in permanent' (MASSACRE)

I'm glad there's still people like these fellows at MASSACRE records to release some good heavy metal albums. The name of the band had almost slipped from my memory for some years, then I put again 'metal on metal' on my disc player and the groove was slaughtering the speakers again. No one can say they have influenced any band with their solid, powerful power metal but ANVIL were one of the few doing that at the time, RAVEN, EXCITER, VENOM, ANVIL they're the pre thrash bands. Not only do they obviously deserve your respect but you must purchase this one because ANVIL do it with a lot of enthusiasm here even if they wrote a manic and speedy song called 'I'm trying to sleep'.

SIMPLE AGRESSION : 'gravity' (MASSACRE)

This one features a mixture of various styles. At the opposite of many bands trying to do the same, SIMPLE AGRESSION's songs are well rounded up. Sometimes it's a raging ALICE IN CHAINS on amphetamine, and most of the time, it's quality power metal with an emphasis on a groovy and crunch. Much heavier than the Seattle quartet and much more metal sounding.

The FreeBies PeArEvieW

SAVIOUR MACHINE: selftitled (MASSACRE)

This is one of the weirdest band in the metal scene. The vocalist actually leads the bands and steers their way towards gothic shores. It's strange how a vocalist can create a band sound. This album was released years ago independently. Being now licenced in Europe, SAVIOUR MACHINE shall find legions of fans. Let's say it's early QUEENSRYCHE with more taste for the dark. Impressive.

OXIPLEGATZ : 'worlds and worlds' (FAIRYTALE)

This is ex GROTESQUE and AT THE GATES member Alf's own project. But I'm sure you knew that. It's just because I want to show you my knowledge for the metal scene, you guys are freaks. It's weird, somewhat sounding like a sampled version of GROTESQUE's writing style. It's not really techno or ambient, but carries the same atmosphere. It's a varied album which crosses diverse horizons. I just hope the general public will be fait enough to see a potential here.

FOREST OF SOULS : 'war and poetry' (ADIPOCERE)

Silly industrial ambient with black metal overtones. Music for the frustrated male, silly Joey...

OLD : 'formula' (EARACHE)

Those music research scientists are crazy. It's beyond any sense. It's really weird, more progressive/space rock than ever. OLD have always been doing different things anyway. 'formula' is in fact a blood curdling release, everything sounds so contrived and modern that it gives you the gooseflesh especially on 'underglass'. Funny?! The best part is when they incorporate some old (!) REGURGITATION parts probably taken from the 86 demo. That was killer.

OCCULT : 'the enemy within' (FOUNDATION 2000)

They've slowly but thoughtfully dug their own path during the past few years. They managed to record with Harris John which must be a gift for any thrasher in a band. The sound of this death/thrash release is deadly polished. Everything is very clear and there's an obvious 80s feeling to it. This added with the collage of photos and we're in 1985! It really permeates through the whole album. OCCULT don't churn out original songs, but they do it with a strong conviction enough to make you bang your head and swear at the people around you... Very good crunching sound on the guitar...

DECORYAH : 'fall dark waters' (METAL BLADE)

Weird that M.B. are releasing such unknown bands. DECORYAH deliver an ambient doom metal with a great emphasis on keyboards and female singing. They fail to really create a mournful atmosphere as the style suggests. It's all cliché. However, some instrumentations are rather well executed.

SAVIOUR MACHINE : II (MASSACRE)

They're back again with their second album. Their music sounds cooler than on the first opus. It's packed with piano and other keyboards to enhance the atmosphere. It's got a fuller scale and eventually sounds to be able to draw a larger part of rock public's interest. SAVIOUR MACHINE have relished the gravy with a more classical instrumentation. Applies to the wave/rock public only.

INIQUITY : 'serenades' (EMANZIPATION / DIE HARD)

Thick death metal with a good knowledge of the instrument. Very much american sounding like MORTA SKULD or something like that. Not my cup of tea because of the lack of speed. However, the nice production and the good packaging make this common release worth checking out.

BATHORY : 'blood on ice' (BLACK MARK)

The album that should have come out some years ago. I was surprised by the singing ability of Mr Quorthon at first because his voice sounded terrible on some parts of 'hammerheart'. The man here sings in an enchanting medieval tone. At the time when every BATHORY fan has his ripping and brutal and hyper evil black metal band, the man comes up with a totally different album with plenty of melodies and heavy hammering rhythms. You're amidst a Viking assault when listening to this. One weak point is the production which, for this kind of slow and plodding rhythms, needs to be very powerful, and it's not the case here. The guitar is kinda weak. Still, it is a blood curdling release. I like it.

MEMORY GARDEN : 'forever' (HEATHENDOOM)

CANDLEMASS fans strike back. MEMORY GARDEN have already a bunch of releases out. It's good to see such bands sticking to what they're keen on, and not jumping in an easy wagon. Kristian Wahlin's artwork perfectly suits the mood of this mini album.

POCCOLUS : debut album (HAMMERHEART productions)

Cheap black metal from Lithuania. POCOLUS's vocalist is by far one of the most terrible in the black metal scene. The production is weak. Moreover, the plodding drum machine doesn't reinforce the atmosphere at all. This is cheap, cheap and cheap.

DECEMBER WOLVES : 'til ten years' (HAMMERHEART productions)

Raging black metal from the U.S. I must admit, few B.M. bands from the U.S. really emerged in the past few years. As it was expected, DECEMBER WOLVES have a norwegian type of production. The band alternate from blasting assault to mid paced and melodic twirls. They also included a sort of clavecin sound and the deadly expected female vocals again on a medieval type of song entitled 'our centuries have been found'. It's all well executed. One major negative point is somewhat the length of the songs. Write to : HAMMERHEART productions, SEOUL C.P.O. BOX 8383, SOUTH KOREA.

METALLICA : 'load'

Another album, another haircut...

MARDUK : 'heaven shall burn for we are gathered' (OSMOSE)

Their latest album was pretty too clear sounding, too high pitched. With this album, they've reached what I'd call, their best time in the business. For fans of continuous speed and straight forward stuff, rob a bank and buy it. On the contrary, if you're into more thoughtful material with breaks and soli into the songs, then look no further. It's aggressive, and sounds good but it is somewhat hard to make out one song from another as it's pretty one dimensional. More enthusiasm please..

AKHENATON : 'divine symphonies' (ADIPOCERE)

This guy is good at handling his keyboards but when it comes to write a good black metal song, he fails. AKHENATON is a one man act from France, and most of the songs are ritual music one, then this guy is a winner. There's the symphonic keys and he loads the sound with other elements as the song goes by which renders the whole thing wicked but yet musical. Unconditionnal industrial music listeners may find the music slightly too melodic for the style.

HEAVENSHORE : 'between human and divine' (REPULSE)

Listening to this hurts. HEAVENSHORE is somekind of post death metal band, the ones that launch themselves blindly into gothic / doom. Due to the lack of experience, HEAVENSHORE soon sounds pathetic and uninspired. Great packaging as usual for this mini cd.

BEWITCHED : 'encyclopedia of evil' (OSMOSE)

The Swedish metal merchants are here doing a tribute to the 80s by doing covers of the expected BATHORY and VENOM but also a somewhat mesmerizing rendition of MERCYFUL FATE's 'evil' which, backed by the shrieking vocals gives an original effect. CELTIC FROST and BLACK WIDOW's version are ok. Still the magic of the 80s can't be matched but imitated.

DEMILICH : 'nespithe' (REPULSE)

With its packaging entirely remade, DEMILICH's debut release on REPULSE looks a lot brighter. DEMILICH were first signed with U.S. based NECROPOLIS before their coming into the black metal scene. DEMILICH have somewhat a modern feeling blended in the music. They've got a multi dimensional sound featured breaks and soli (no less!) and the special and exclusively extreme vocals almost wrapping the music.

WARDOG : 'scorched earth' (METAL BLADE)

Highly dynamic, chunky power metal. WARDOG are the kind of band that make you re-discovering the 80s. WARDOG have talents a plenty, sometimes hinting at early METAL CHURCH in a faster version, they also recall the good old METAL BLADE's power metal releases of the mid eighties. Massive double bass drumming, merciless pre-thrash riffing and catchy vocals. WARDOG are fresh air really...

ANCIENT : 'the cainian chronicle' (METAL BLADE)

This is ANCIENT's second album with a complete new line up. It doesn't share much in common with their debut release on LISTENABLE records. Nonetheless, the band did a nice job here with a better emphasis on atmosphere with the participation of a female vocalist and through longer songs and short ritual cuts. The music is still black metal but also became more structured and Lord Kaiaphas's vocals sound much more wicked than his predecessor. This is probably the very first black metal release that is widely available and it's a good representative.

BLOOD DUSTER : 'yeest' (RELAPSE)

AARRRGHH !!!!, these Aussie grinders are striking again. Beware !, there's no tenderness here. It's right in your face stuff. BLOOD DUSTER kick and crush. This album gathers the band's infamous two mini cds, the latter remaining unreleased. Obviously, this is nothing new and it is blatantly rehashed indeed. However, all those malicious samples (intros, outros) that almost link all the songs together adds a sick effect to the whole album. Full speed grindgore with a lot of humour. Killer.

EXCIDIVUM : 'innocent river' (ADIPOCERE)

I agree with the fact that a technical level doesn't always go hand in hand with a good metal album. I'm also into many bands that play very basic stuff because they inject so much feeling that the whole thing sounds great. I find them having masses of various idea which they use in an intelligent manner. In each of their songs are huddled a multitude of styles from death thrash, metal to progressive and doom. I can enjoy this.

TSATTHOGGUAN : 'hosanna bizarre' (OSMOSE)

There's much talking about this uncompromising band and I like that. The band's name is as silly as the intros opening each track. However TSATT can deliver well executed fully blasting songs with conviction and anger, that's when they incorporate the keyboards that they miserably fail and become a Z rated black metal band striving to sound like EMPEROR... stupid music

The FreeBies PeArEview

KORPSE : 'revirgin' (CANDLELIGHT)

These AUTOPSY fans have done it again !. Scotland's own KORPSE is one of the very few band that never even tried to stray away from their original path. No mosh, no techno, no hardcore. On the contrary, they have somewhat an old fashioned 70s sound, somewhat a heavy rockin one relished with heavy downtuned guitar, a wah wah effect and much enthusiasm. '19 dyce' is an improving attempt, 'to be continued...' follows the way built by some swedish death mongers in the beginning of the nineties. Overall, it's an original release when you take time to get into it. Diversified.

ADRAMELECH : 'psychostasia' (REPULSE)

Definitely not original, ADRAMELECH are outstanding. The finnish freaks have recorded a catchy and solid death metal album recalling early IMMOLATION and the early swedish sound. It's damn good !. It has it all really, the crunch, the crush, and the speed. They wisely avoided straight blast beats and took an even better rhythmic option. It's funny that this band sounds to be so old fashioned now after all those years of rapid death metal folly. Anyway, that's what we need, definitely need more than a z rated masked penguin carrying a sword.

NEUROSIS : 'through silver and blood' (RELAPSE)

Totally massive, mind smashing music. You know I like chocolate very much, but I enjoy NEUROSIS even better !!. No, they haven't progressed on a technical musical level, but that's not the point here. No!, they haven't tried anything new compared to their latest album, it's about the same really with maybe fewer rhythms and a better emphasis on the mood. But it's just incredibly immense. Nobody sounds like them and nobody will. Great. I like that real impending title 'rehumanize'... This album sounds like a huge and throbbing, unstoppable machine. Louder than the rollercoaster at the SIX FLAGS!!.

ATMAN : 'like pure unawaited magic' (NEW GOETIA/REQUIEM)

This is one of the most silly musical attempt I've ever experienced. The music is not bad, the packaging is excellent, congratulation for that. As for the female opera singer, who appeared to be powerless and put to ridicule by the horrendous and terrible black yelling shrieks from the band's main vocalist, she's completely out of place. Needless to say that the band's pictures are a good joke. Too bad because the music is OK.

XHARATHORN : 'immemorial atlantic veneration' (NEW GOETIA/REQUIEM)

This outfit from Madrid put more anger in their music than the whole southern Europe. Opening with announcing trumpets, this mini Cd is tinged by a feeling of classicism. Musically, they are definitely common, steadily hinting at IMMORTAL and MARDUK with the speed element. The obviously throaty vocals are ok. The funny and also pathetic thing is that their concept deals with other demons or beliefs from this part of Europe..WOOOO, very proud! NEW GOETIA/REQUIEM records, P.O. BOX 17, 08840 VILADECANS, BARCELONA, SPAIN.

NAMANAX : 'cascading the waves of electronic turbulence' (RELAPSE)

This kind of horrendous power electronics currently plaguing the metal scene with a growing success is definitely not for the weak hearted. NAMANAX managed, through this lengthy two tracks affair, managed to give a new like to my speakers. The various noises on it are so loud and unbearable that they threw off all the dust inside them. NAMANAX don't compromise here, repetitive throbbing heavy percussions with a huge reverb for a free fare to hell!. Hide it from your Grandma...

YOSH : 'metaphors' (BLACK MARK)

This is a good band and they would have probably stirred the masses 10 years ago in a hot club in

California. No!, they're no glammers for the devil's sake. On the contrary, YOSH is a thrash band in the U.S. style, like the ones we see on pictures only as if they had disappeared more easily than the Dinosaurs. Hmmm, yes, in fact they actually did....Hailing from Belgium, this band shouldn't find many competitors in their area. They're good at what they do, it's just that their sounds slightly too reshaped to catch your attention. Nice packaging.

SEAR BLISS : 'phantoms' (II MOONS)

high flowned black metal from Lithuania with synth and even trumpet. SEAR BLISS definitely own the know how thing. As usual, you get a moderate dose of melancholic keyboards balanced by the more speedy part to enhance the catchiness. Vocalswise, it's all run on the mill. Besides that, SEAR BLISS deliver this 8 tracker with much conviction. Besides, SEAR BLISS's sound alternates from doomy passages to raging black metal assault. Being not outstandingly original, the band do their job well and this is fair enough. The appearance of the trumpet was quite unexpected.

RAGE : 'end of all days' (GUN)

This is probably one of the most productive heavy metal band ever. They've collected no less than 15 songs for this new album and added a cover of 'the trooper' as though it weren't enough. RAGE play for the fans, they, like me, don't understand the price of a compact disc and cram up their releases with as many songs as they can afford to. I'm sure they had more songs to produce, but fortunately they saved them for the next album, to be out in a couple of weeks maybe. More seriously, RAGE do rage hard, in the sense that they, in an effective old fashioned manner, provide us with quality speed/thrash. You can get irritated by the overused structure : main riff, couplet, chorus, solo etc...But I think when you pick up one of their release, that's what you look forward to listening to. It's got a huge production and a big professionalism, just slightly heard before. Like RUNNING WILD, RAGE have been doing the same things for 12 years at least.

MERCYFUL FATE : 'into the unknown' (METAL BLADE)

Well, this heavily kicks. It's hard for me to be objective because I've been a long time die hard fan of the band. This new album showcases more speed with its controlled double bass drumming. King's voice shifts to a lower tune more often which recalls the old days. 'listen to the bell' features one of the heaviest riff in the band's history. The title track is one of the band's most diabolical attempt. MERCYFUL FATE are back with an album packed with power and strength. The fans should disagree.

CYBORG : 'chronicles' (PROGRESS)

This is a hard working label for sure. they've signed a great deal of bands, however, few get truly noticed. This band gets a hot blurb, describing them as a mix of techno and thrash, then FEAR FACTORY comes to mind and you're terribly wrong. There's just some seconds of techno, the rest is chunky and nevertheless pathetic thrash relished with the 90s flavour. Nothing really new. Never believe blurbs.

GOAT : 'sacred pilgrim...' (PROGRESS)

This label definitely needs to produce as many records as they can. GOAT is a complete non sense hardcore/noise one man act doing a parody of the black metal style. I think it's funny because it is completely unlistenable. Not that the man recorded a noise album, no, sometimes it sounds like MACABRE during hilarious rehearsal recordings.

SOULQUAKE SYSTEM : 'angry by nature, ugly by choice' (BLACK MARK)

Black Mark striving to increase the list of their customers with a hardcore band. I would have never imagined such a band on the label that unleashed us BATHORY. Well, not my business anyway. S.S. is a cool band, they heavily recall the bands on VICTORY

like SNAPCASE, EARTH CRISIS. I like the way that guy handles his guitar, doing distorted notes that suit perfect for the style. It's post hardcore really, a new breed of music with plenty of moshy cuts, then you just need to make the slamming circle again. Cool that it comes from Gothenburg I think....

EMBALMER : 'there was blood everywhere' 7" (RELAPSE)

One of the most gory and unbearable release of the year. You thought MORTICIAN were the most extreme, think twice, EMBALMER are hitting hard here in the speed and gory shores. Full blast grinding assault with a good playing for good measure. Extreme artwork too.

HEMDALE / EXIT 13 : split 7" ep

HEMDALE kicks in with three attacks while EXIT 13 adds to the fun with 2 hilarious songs : one boasting the Belgium beer and the devil knows they have a good knowledge of it, and the second libelling the silly side of the black metal scene. They are the best songs they've ever written for sure. Soon a cd on VISCERAL prod. Write to HEMDALE for infos.

EXXPLORER : 'coldblackugly' (MASSACRE)

This old band have probably produced their heaviest album to date. It sounds reminiscent of the latest QUEENSRÛCHE because of the modern edge the vocals owns in some places. Otherwise, it's much harder and kicking. This album showcases different styles with a good musicianship, always rocking nonetheless. I'd like to read the lyrics of 'Van Gogh's ear' ..weird song. Obviously, the musicianship is outstanding and they have plenty of ideas and many songs...It's all good hard rock..



INHUMAN : 'strange desires' (ART records)

Almost every song starts off with nice moody keyboards. INHUMAN isn't a name fitting to the category of the band's sound. The band indeed is more musically involved in that kind of atmospheric doom metal a la MOONSPELL instead of the bombastic grindcore style. INHUMAN here produced a well structured album with a gothic doom edge. It sounds too much happy sounding to yield my interest. I can't get into it, but it's wealthy in style.

CATHEDRAL : 'supernatural birth machine' (EARACHE)

Lee's vocals adds a great deal of irony to the band's concept. Here's a new album already, it's different from the previous one. I like it but there's no hit song that catch your breath at first listen. The sound is as powerful as before, but the band's dark tones have somewhat been cut down in number. It's aiming at a more rock sound, heavy metal rock. CATHEDRAL still rules, it's just that the previous album was a punch in the face while this one, being good too, is more like a slap. A stunning artwork wraps this killer 11 tracker... CATHEDRAL rules...

Vader

I saw them live for the first time in London during their dates with IMMOLATION and CANNIBAL CORPSE. If you think that death metal doesn't draw the masses anymore then you're making a big mistake. I barely saw such an enthusiastic crowd, and so many raging stage divers during the past few years. Some people even broke their legs and arms. Death metal is THE ultimate extreme music when it is played in the way it was meant to be: angry, fast, well played with chaotic soli and throbming drums. Nothing can match the intensity of the style. Now heading the European scene, VADER

KREATOR, SODOM, and the mighty SLAYER, of course that's a few names. Any band from the deepest pit of the underground in the planet was known in Poland, that's true. Many guys among the maniacs were the real artists. I mean, they made T-shirts, patches, even the jackets of their own. All that merchandise was handmade, but the best, in my opinion... There weren't many gigs either. So, when it happened, you could see thousands of sick maniacs in front of the stage! Even the bands like PUNGENT STENCH, who started that time were like the gods for crowd. No kiddin here, bro!! I've been growing during those years, so

I've got a different view of the underground, brotherhood, and first of all - the music!"

You were one of the few polish bands to be signed on a foreign label, was it one of your

Poland has always been productive in quality death metal bands. On the contrary of some other countries, their punishing death/thrash sound has become a trademark in the European scene, never relying on a provocative image but on music only. VADER has been leading this scene for 10 years.

came up with their latest incredible 'De profundis' album on CROON records from Poland, which was eventually licenced on Germany's SYSTEM SHOCK records for Europe. VADER's music owns it all, rage, anger, speed, and controlled chaos. The amateurs should bow down. MERLINS investigated the band's past and present with their leader Peter....

It's been a long way since the 86 live demo and the killer 'necrolust' demo, tell us more about the polish underground metal at that time and who were the foreign bands that impressed you the most?.....

"Yeah, the time when we started was different for various reasons. First, there wasn't so many bands playing a brutal kind of metal and the music was more for the elite, you know, there weren't so many maniacs either but they truly listened to the music and worshipped it. Music was the most important. In my opinion, it is why the spirit of metal has become so strong and a real brotherhood existed. To be honest, I could write a book about that: people and music. Now that the underground has changed a lot it is not a progress indeed. The bands seem to be better but technically I think. Just look how many hordes feel and create the same kind of metal, they did play at the beginning... Evolution you say? I don't think so. Ok... But how looked the underground in Poland in years 85-90? There were really killer hordes like IMPERATOR, SLASHING DEATH (Doc used to play in this band), VIOLENT DIRGE, MAGNUS, GENESIS OF AGGRESSION, DRAGON and a couple more. I didn't count the bands like KAT, TURBO, or WOLF SPIDER because they were out of the underground and chosen ones.... All the maniacs, we included, of course, listened to the most extreme bands existing at that time. POSSESSED, INFERNAL MAJESTY, SACRIFICE, DARK ANGEL, CELTIC FROST,

main goal after the 'morbid reich' demo?

"Yes, of course! We've been waiting for the chance since the 'necrolust' demo, which isn't to a lot of zines, bands in Poland and out of Poland, of course. I'll never forget the day, we received a message from EARACHE records with a line written in big letters: "EARACHE WANTS VADER!!". It sounded like a dream come true, to be labelmates with such great bands like NAPALM DEATH, MORBID ANGEL or BOLT THROWER had to be a dream my friend!! We received this mail from Dig, just after we started to promote 'morbid reich' demo, so you're right - it was the main goal for the band in spite of all the problem that happened after we signed, VADER was born indeed!"

What are the reasons for your departure from EARACHE's roster?

"I don't like to talk about that, because we believed so much in EARACHE records and we trusted them with no limits... I never thought those guys could be so disloyal. Except for that tour (with DEICIDE), we had to pay a very big amount of money for clip on MTV, they did fuckin' nothing for VADER! We didn't expect a big promotion, but nothing at all, could you believe that? We received 5 copies of 'the ultimate incantation' Cd from EARACHE!! The same problem with the merchandise, which wasn't existing in practice. No interviews arranged, no articles or even infos in the press, nothing. But the main reason why we didn't want to work with EARACHE is that they ignored us as fuck!..."

"We lost a lot of money with phone calls, faxes and shit like that, no answers during months man! We are too serious with our creation to play such a stupid game. We need a loyal label and the real partner you know. Our new label - IMPACT records/SYSTEM SHOCK, made much more for VADER during two months than

EARACHE in two years. Even if they're maybe not a big label as EARACHE from Nottingham, nothing game, the city of Robin Hood, the king of thieves."

After all that happened, were you still willing to work with an European label?

"Why not? We need a foreign label to exist at all! Nobody was interested in working with a band from Poland. Moreover, I don't trust anybody in Poland. There's a shitty business existing here in Poland, y friend. I like my country a lot, but I don't trust the citizens living in the country. Why? You should live here to understand that problem. We're very happy to be on IMPACT records and I only hope that we'll make big things in the future together. I believe in that, I want to believe in that..."

Spain based Repulse records licenced the 'sothis' mini album for Europe. Besides, the song 'De profundis' is featured on this mini album and not on the same titled full length album? Any reason for that? What about the 'sothis' song being re-recorded on the album? Explain it to me, I don't want to want to die as an idiot...

"'Sothis' and 'vision and the voice' are the songs from 'De profundis' and they appeared on the mini Cd because it is like a promo recording for the album. And about the 'de profundis' song? I think this title inspired me to entitle the new album. When I recorded songs like 'R'lyeh', 'hymn to the ancient ones', and 'de profundis', I didn't know that it was to become the title of the album..."

'The wrath' is an old song, have you changed anything on the version appearing on 'sothis'?

"Sure I did, it's like putting the same spirit into a different body. 'The wrath' has got the same infernal potential today than in '86 when it was written. The arrangement is a little different, but the aggression and feeling is the same, isn't it? A lot of maniacs ask for this 'piece of hell' at shows... and they're right!"

You have also that 'reborn in flames' which seems to be re-made again, that version is wicked...

"You think so? So do I bro! We wouldn't like the people to forget this song. It's the last one from VADER's 'necrolust 89' demo, which hasn't appeared on the album. It's old but still strong. We changed it a bit, as we did with 'the wrath', 'reborn in flames' is now ready reborn! I, pretty heavy and demonic cut. One of our fave to play live... Not only ours by the way..."

Now, let go into serious things, tell us more about some typical polish food... Any favorite meal to mention?

"Polish food is the best!! I know, it might look weird for people out of Poland. But it tastes very very good!! I like to eat man, and believe me, I tasted many dishes during all the tour, and I can only say - there's nothing as good as polish 'pierogi', 'placki salatka', 'bigos' or 'flacki'. Just a few names, my friend."

Angel Corpse

That's what I call a real death metal band. Angry, fast, with stunning abilities and an ultimate devilish atmosphere. ANGEL CORPSE may not be the kind of name that draws your attention, but that quickly changes when you put their infamous 'goats to azazel' demo tape in your tape desk, then ANGEL CORPSE are no joke. Fully blasting forward with an unstoppable force, this trio have studied the real death metal book to re-write it again in 96. Backed by the ex IMPIETY GENE PALUBICKI's hellish Azagtothesque guitar soli, the band's sound also includes ex ORDER FROM CHAOS' Pete Helmkamp banging his fingers on his bass and yelling all his guts out as if he were to be killed after the recording. Finally, the ultra speed throbbing drums of John Longstreth wraps this audio mayhem. Gene had just enough time to answer this interview before a scorching killing spree.

What were the reasons of ORDER FROM CHAOS' split and is IMPIETY still alive?

"The guitarist of OFC decided to end the band to do a solo project. Pete Helmkamp, their bass player was suddenly without a band. I had some songs I'd been working on for some time and I was looking for a line u. Anybody familiar with OFC would know that Pete was an excellent choice for a vocalist/bassist....As for my former band IMPIETY. It was a band that few people including myself had any interest in. It was a super speed band but very boring. There were maybe two people who even ordered our demo, I never heard back, maybe they never even got the tapes!. They probably thought the band was a rip off!. But aside from that shit, there was a lot of bad things with that band, I'm glad it's finished."

What made you write super fast songs like on the demo, had you parked your car on the wrong place and you were afraid of the fine so you played as fast as you could in the studio..right? or were you bored of listening to LED ZEPPELIN?

"Before? ANGEL CORPSE has never done anything before. This band has nothing to do with any of our former bands. Ever since I've played the guitar, I've always played fast. It was not a conscious decision!, Fuck Led Zeppelin, Jimmy Page was weak!!"

One can't help to think about Trey Azagthoth's work when listening to the ANGEL CORPSE demo. It sounds that MORBID ANGEL is a heavy influence..Which album do you prefer?

"Trey Azagthoth, Larry Lalonde, Jeff Hanneman, Kerry King, all have inspired in some way. As far as a comparison to MORBID ANGEL?, they do more groove oriented stuff now, whereas we play over the top speed all the time. I feel their best work was 'altars of madness'."

how do you see the future of MORBID ANGEL after Vincent's departure?

"Trey is MORBID ANGEL. The loss of David Vincent means nothing. Trey and Pete are the force of power in that band, and I'm sure the next album will prove that."

ANGEL CORPSE have secured a deal with OSMOSE and they told me that they were going to do a mini Cd with cover songs after the album...

"Actually, we've decided against the cover songs. When we do the miniCd, it will be four new songs. We'll save cover songs for our own exclusive personnel releases such as 7"eps that will be sold from the band only..."

Drop them a line: GENE/, 6042 HARRISON, KANSAS CITY, MO 64110, U.S.A.

Do you have cable TV?

"We have all the TV channels ou can have in Europe. The cable TV is a norm now, so the only problem is to know all those languages. I'm glad so many young people started to learn english, it's like an international language and in my opinion everybody should learn it."

Thanks to some magazines like THRASH EM ALL, and some labels like CARNAGE, BARON or CROON records, the polish scene has been unveiled to the world, would you have stayed with a polish label if it had a worldwide distribution?

"I don't trust the people living in Poland and I'm very careful here. Our manager, mariusz, is from Poland too, but he is the same kind of maniac, we are and we started together a couple of years before, so that's a different thing."

Where have you recorded the 'de profundis' album? Is it a famous studio? "Yeah!, MODERN SOUND studio use to be pretty famous, when Adam Toozko and Tom Bonarowski worked over there. Now they moved to a different place and ..something changed. It's not important for us how big the studio is, but who's working in it. We worked twice with those guys, and we were satisfied with sound and their work. A lot of very popular bands recorded their albums in Modern Sound Studio. We need more guys like Adam and Tom in our country. The recording session was a good time. We had about 200 hours to do everything, recording, mixing and mastering. The only problem was that we had to hurry because hust after we finished the recording session, we had a tour with MALEVOLENT CREATION in Europe. We could have obviously made everything better, but it's our second album only. We need time.."

That show in London blew me away!, by the way, how's been the tour with CANNIBAL CORPSE and IMMOLATION?

"thanks bro!, It was the first

time we played in England and we all were very surprised by the response. Yeah, we all were VERY PROUD to tour together across Europe. We've been in touch with IMMOLATION for years. They were maybe one of the first guys I was in contact with. Same goes to CANNIBAL CORPSE, we spent a very good time travelling on the same night liner (bus) and you're right bro, we're very proud!. By the way, greetings to all the members of IMMOLATION and CANNIBAL CORPSE and all the maniacs we met!."

What can we expect from VADER in the future?, Any plans?

"You can expect anything from VADER, my friend!, we're not going to record the next album before march 97, We'll tour i Europe before and we're going to record the album with covers in September as well. We choose the songs of the bands who inspired us at the beginning. You can call it a tribute album to the good old times. You will find covers by POSSESSED, KREATOR, CELTIC FROST, SLAYER, TERRORIZER, DARK ANGEL. We'll also put covers taht we made on different albums too. 'future in the past' is the title. Now, prepare yourself for VADER next strike in a near future if you're not afraid of your sanity - JOIN THE MADNESS!!!"

Write to VADER management, MARIUSZ KMIOLEK, 10 - 687 OLSZTYN 10, P.O.BOX 991, POLAND.

VADER are having their two demo tapes 'necrolust' and 'morbid reich' re-released on cassette and compact disc on the brilliant and surprising label: LISTENABLE records and you'd better get a copy of this raging and legendary underground

release before it's too late.



The time when black and death metal ruled over thrash metal is over !!. There's been an increase in the number of thrash bands during the past few months and some people even talk of a new thrash metal era..which is kinda silly to me, it seems that the metal kids discover the older style and suddenly find it tasteful. **VERY PROUD !!**. That's not the case with those swedish drunk maniacs. The veterans of **CELESTIAL PAIN** have been raising the hateful thrash metal flag up in the air for ages.

Mike metalhead, once a member of the legendary **UNANIMATED** who were once signed to a subdivision of **MUSIC FOR NATIONS** and released their last and most killer album on **NO FASHION** a couple of years ago speaks :

Let's start with the story : " Johan (John Blackwar) and me (Mike metalhead) started the band late 93, but we have been playing together since late 90. I didn't play drums back then, I played the guitar , it was thrash of course, then shortly after we started the band in the beginning, Bentr and Vic joined the band as well and we recorded our first 'agression' demo in 94/95"

be a side project even if it has been like that I did put energy to **CELESTIAL PAIN** as much as I did with **UNANIMATED**. But I guess when we split up with **UNANIMATED**, I could play with **CELESTIAL PAIN** full time and dedicate myself more so to speak ..."

There's a strong **MERCILESS** touch in your songs, what 's the deal?

" Believe it...They certainly are our friends, and **MERCILESS** were a daml, good band, and I guess we're influenced by them among others, but I do think we have created our own identity and I also wrote some music on **MERCILESS** 's latest album."

Do you think that bands are not as good as before because it's easier to get a record deal nowadays...



first time in 86 and the gates of metal were opened. **SODOM** is of course also one of my absolute favorite and hasn't changed much at least not to worse which I gladly thank them for that. The other bands also got damn great. But my highest priority goes to **KREATOR**, **RUNNING WILD**, and to **SODOM**. Fuckin armagedon."

Would you enjoy to see the 80s coming back as a trend now in the 90s, don't you think it would show a desperate lack of inspiration in the metal scene ?

" Well, it's on its way to become a trend, isn't it?, and I do think many shit bands would pop up like mushrooms as they always do, and I do think that it will show a little bit of desperate lack of inspiration, but what can you do about it. I wouldn't cry that's for sure, it's my cup of tea. Anyway, I really don't give a shit as long as I can do what I want. **FUCK THE REST..**

Write to the thrash lord, demos for \$5 postpaid to : Mike Metalhead, **GRANANGSRINGEN 13, 9TR, 13544 TYRESO, SWEDEN.**

THRASH ATTACK !!!!

You told me once that the record company **NO FASHION** was the reason for **UNANIMATED**'s split, what happened ?

" I really don't have the strength to go into details, so let's just say a lot of promises, bullshit, rip-off and pure fuckin stupidity and lazyness did most of the job. May they burn before me and flee before my metal axe (or something like that)."

Was **CELESTIAL PAIN** considered to be a side na,d at the time ?

" Well I haven' really considered **CELESTIAL PAIN** to

" Yes, that has certainly crossed my mind more than once...Now, these days there is nothing to it, to get a record deal, there is just nothing to it anymore, it is a shame. Too many shit bands release albums one after another..."

Any old fave stuff to mention besides **VILLAGE PEOPLE** and **BONEY M** ??

" **KREATOR**- one of the first bands I ever listened to, I remember when I bought 'terrible certainty' in 87, it really took me by storm. **RUNNING WILD**, I believe **Rockin Wolf** is a true metal hero, I heard them the

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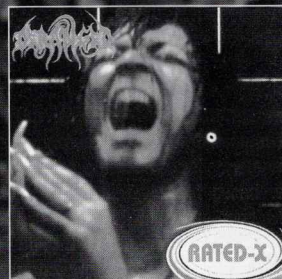
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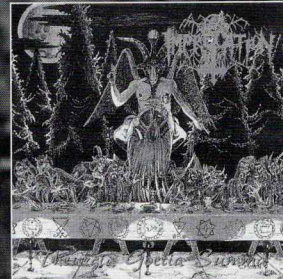
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In the name of **GORE**



HEMDALE are the new grindgore masters from Ohio. Another one of those bastardized hybrid of REPULSION and the early CARCASS ...HEMDALE are currently hitting the extreme metal mailorders with a bunch of 7"eps and split eps, and also a split Cd entitled 'in the name of gore' with their bloody fellows of EXHUMED. This digital slab is a strong and vicious release, featuring DESTRUCTION and POSSESSED covers. This is a scorching release, the tasty cover bubbles in blood like a witches cauldron, and the cd itself is as warm as boiling meat. By the way, there's also what seemingly looks like a witch on the booklet pictures, probably another black metal zealot.. Well, their drummer Craig and also head manager of VISCERAL productions speaks. Hey Craig, What's on TV tonight ??

" Well, the Simpsons is about the only thing that I watch every night. I hate to miss it. Other than that, I think it's mostly garbage programs tonight."

Does the song 'it burns...and it just plain smells bad' refers to your socks ?

"No, it refers to our asses. Actually, I think we got it, when I was talking about some hot glue that I was using for something. When it got on my skin, it burned, and it just plain smelled bad. That was the basis behind our intelligent song title. It just sounded stupid and retarded, so we used it as a song title, and it could refer to lots of things"

Not to my socks anyway, because I only wear tights !. tell us about your stinky releases on VISCERAL productions....

"So far I've released : VISCERAL productions comp N° 1 CD, ACCURSED : 'meditations among the tombs' CD, EXIT 13/HEMDALE: split ep (1300 copies) and the HEMDALE/EXHUMED split CD. Soon, I will release the split 7" of EXIT 13 and HEMDALE on Cd with bonus and live tracks. It will be available for only \$5 U.S./ \$6 World. After that, I'm releasing a few split 7"eps from us, HEMDALE and the following bands : DISGUST from Japan, C.S.S.O. from Japan, and AGATHOCLES from Belgium. When I release these, I will at the same time release full length Cds or mcDs from different bands. I want this to be a productive year for VISCERAL and HEMDALE. Yes, I do run a mail-order, and that's expanding everyday. I have about 300 items now, and I'm trying to get as much as I can in the catalog."

How did you meet EXHUMED and convince them to assault the masses with you ?

" We met

them while playing chess in the park, on a cold night in the Norwegian forests. Actually, we traded demos, and I really liked them. I also distributed their demo. It seemed like the perfect band to do a split with. ELEGY was supposed to do a CD with them. Then, ELEGY and VISCERAL were going to more or less co-release the split CD. HEMDALE as my band, EXHUMED as his. Basically, it ended up that I just released the whole thing. ELEGY seemed to loose interest in it, and it just seemed easier to do it all on my own. I'm happy with the way it turned out."

Is there any particular reason for you covering DESTRUCTION's 'curse the gods' ???

" Us covering DESTRUCTION song 'curse the gods', seemed like it would be fun to do, so we did. Matt, our bassist/vocalist, is the biggest fan of DESTRUCTION, and brought up the idea."

What do you think of EXIT 13's song about the black metal scene on the split ep, I think it's really the funny truth afterall...

" I also think it's the truth and funny as hell...Too many black metal bands are worried about image over music. That comes off when you listen to them. A lot of death metal bands are suddenly born of darkness, and more evil than thou. It's fine if a band wants to play black metal, but I don't understand why throwing on corpse paint and blowing fire is essential in playing music. Remember glam ?, that was image over music. There's a lot of great black metal bands and it's too bad that a lot of bandwagon jumpers have to ruin it for them ". Is Matthew a black metal lord as well I can see that he's very devilish on the picture of the inlay card...If so, how many inverted crosses does he own ?

" Numerous inverted crosses have been purchased over his immortal life. The most evil thing about that picture is that he's so young to be so damn evil. Plus that pumpkin in the background only adds to the black atmosphere, and he can blow fire out of his ass."

If you hesitated to play the releases of your band for your family would you do it before dinner or after they've watched their fave soap opera on TV ?

" We practice at my house, so they get tons of chances to hear our grinding blasphemy. I showed them the disc the day I got them. Actually, my parents help out a lot and have been very supportive. I'm not sure that I'd show it to my grandparents though. If so, it would be during a soap opera. That way they wouldn't be paying any attention to it, but I could still say that I showed it to them."

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HEMDALE

POSSESSION

OPENING A DOORWAY INTO THE OCCULT...

We'll never betray our roots!

Possession is really an outstanding band. They've managed to manufacture their debut album by themselves, using their hard earned funds, and the band's style, the quality of the songwriting are something you rarely come upon in the underground. This band is hard to describe, being rooted in thrash, they often recall some old U.S. legends like NASTY SAVAGE for instance but they also have some CARCASSesque shrieks so as to relish the whole meal. Those brilliant good old Bay area soli couldn't do wrong either like a good well done dressing with a tomato salad. Yes, I must admit that I like tomatoes a lot..The insane vocalist Nyk speaks..and tell us more about his city..

"I live in a city of about 80.000 people called Olathe which is a suburb of Kansas city, Missouri. All of us work in various warehouses to make money to live as well as help finance the band. Our practice hall is actually in Kansas city above a drumstore called drumworks. So we all have about a twenty minute drive to practices. Olathe and the surroundin areas are rather upper-scale, so it's impossible to get a practice hall where we live."

The band's music is more connected with the power metal scene than all those grumpy CANNIBAL CORPSE clones currently plaguing the american metal music..

"Yes, I think that those bands, especially FATES WARNING, CORONER, TESTAMENT are where our foundation lies and I don't think we'll ever become

an all out death metal band because it's too one dimensional. But we are influenced by heavier bands like CARCASS, MORBID ANGEL, SAMAEL, and I've really gotten into LUCIEFRION recently. I believe that taking the power of the 90s death metal and incorporating it into the melodies technicalty, song structures of the 80s power/thrash metal, you can create something very exciting and interesting. So we will never limit what we do but we'll never betray our roots!"

The band had previously inked a deal with METAL MERCHANTS records, a deal which appeared to be a failure and caused the band to pay everything by themselves. However, the band had unleashed a mini Cd through that label before.

"I had sent that Cd to Odin from Moribund rec. and he played it for Casey at METAL MERCHANT who contacted us immediatly for a deal. But I don't think he was prepared to deal with the size of project that we wanted to undertake. He was having difficulty releasing ACHERON's Cd and I think he was over his head financially. So eventually we just released 'eternally haunt' on our own - with our own funds."

I'm sure the readers are eager to know who is the painter responsible for the artwork...

"Actually, we used the artists for 'eternally haunt'. The front cover was done by Geri Nible who was the editor for FeH! magazine. He's also done work for SLAYER and he just got off of a tour with THE MISFITS. He worked with us on 'the unnamable

suffering' also. The best thing about Geri is his ability to do several different styles of cover and his willingness to work with us and get exactly what we want. The back cover was done by Steve Park who worked with us before on our logo and symbol designs. We gave him a chance to do something a little different and we think it turned out great."

Where does the sample at the beginning of the album come from?

"That's very interested because it's from a church called the Vineyard Church. they've opened themselves up to spiritual manifestations. Of course, they say it's the holy spirit but I felt it was probably demonic. Regardless, the purpose for putting that on the Cd was to express the fact that the supernatural does exist. I believe that Satan and demons do exist and no one can listen to this actual recording and tell me that these are natural sounds. I believe these are the sounds of demonic manifestations. and that this power is very real."

So, how has been the response to the album so far?

"The reponse to 'eternally haunt' has been great. Everyone has been very positive about it and I think this album is the very thing people are looking for in a powerful, original and memorable metal album. thank Laurent for the interview, you have a great zine and we await each issue with much anticipation. Take care and STAY HEAVY!!."

Send \$ 15 for this real masterpiece of metal album to : POSSESSION, P.O. BOX 3031 OLATHE, KS 66063,

Serpent Slithering in the garden..

Hidden under a stone, awaiting for his pray, the SERPENT was finally picked up by NBR's subsidiary Radiation records. Their debut album showcases a quality, melodic slow motion metal and features no less than two THERION members. Let's learn about swedish life with Per Karlsson, owner of Heathendom records and magazine, and also handling the sticks in SERPENT. Beware of the bite!!

Since SERPENT was formed in 1993, there must have been long time breaks because each member being involved in ENTOMBED and THERION...PER : "Hello there doomfuckers !!, of course there were a few smaller breaks as the members were involved in those bands you just mentioned. But, what the heck! 1996 is SERPENT's year and we will not miss the chance to play live now, we're also actually rehearsing a lot these days, like two/three times a week. So, I don't think either one of us in the band care too much about these long breaks in the past..Today we're alive and more dangerous than ever !."

Hey!! , you must be happy appearing in PEARDROP. Per , who was the drummer in his previous band SUFFER, is a multi talented man since he even helped grindsters NASUM (ex-NECRONY) to do some gigs in Germany...Besides, I must admit that their debut album 'in the garden of the serpent' features an impressive songwriting for a side band..

"To start with, SERPENT isn't just a side band. We are for real and we are strong. Of course, SERPENT rehearsed like nuts before the recording of the album, but you should also notice that no member in this gang is a so called 'rookie' when it comes to

playing music with a lot of emotion in it. And when it come to the songwriting thing , we destroy the modern metal riffs and put some fuckin balls to them!!"

Are you addicted to PRIPPS beer like all those people in Gothenburg?

"I hate it, I just hate it. Hellish worthless shit. Take a whiskey and become human!"

What grabbed my attention last year was to see the people taking off their shoes before entering a house. Any reason for that??

"hahaha, I just don't believe what I just heard. Are you kidding me ?? why do humans even have shoes? Look at us...We are bald and freezing our asses away during winter time."

What do you eat for breakfast, salami with cheese?

"No, actually, I am not !. I don't even like coffee that much. I drink a cup of tea and have a laugh at all the nasty rockers who works harder on their image than on the music. I usually have some cheap cheese on my sandwich at breakfast, a toast is perfect, not to talk about coco-pops".

As I was pondering about the link between salami and naked feet, one strange thought came to my mind, are COUNT RAVEN the only doom metal band that sounds close to SERPENT. I've always noticed an emergence of doom metal bands from Sweden closer to CANDLEMASS than to BLACK SABBATH, THE OBSESSED...?

"So, you think that CR sound like us...Hmmm..Well, I am honestly not too proud of that, I'm not even interested in their new album. I like their first two

demos, but their records aren't anything special really. Of course there's more Swedish bands playing like CANDLEMASS. I bet it has something to do with the fact that they are the biggest and most recent doom metal act from Sweden!! Many young kids around the age of 14-17 got a bigger chance to get influenced by a band who were quite big 8 years ago, compared to BLACK SABBATH, who had their famous time over 15 years ago, which we, older and more stupid dumbfucks are totally dedicated to (age between 23 to 103). So, I think it has something to do with the age difference between one and another. Of course, I love CANDLEMASS, they are a brilliant band. But I think you can get a clue after what I just told yaa !."

Well, let's talk more about food now, any typical meal from Sweden to recommend?

"Sure we got Mac Donalds, Pizza Hut, Silbylla, isn't that Swedish enough during the year 1996 ?? I love beefs so I think I would die to live in Texas with all their bloody beefs, hehe. SERPENT will leave a scar in every soul who cross the band's path. The new album is set to be recorded during late summer 1996, hopefully we will be still on NBR / RAD. records. Jochen Fopps is a friendly bastard !!. You better prepare yourself for an even nastier and doomier trip next time around, the new material is just a small name for GROOVE IT !!."

Get in touch and order his great mag and killer doom releases, he named them. HEATHENDOOM music, P.O. BOX. 36, 114 79 STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN.

Sweden has definitely much more to offer than tall beautiful fair haired, blue eyed girls with short skirts. **Mavis** investigated the headbangers of **IN FLAMES** and certified that the fire was very hot too !!

With the inflow of neo heavy metal swedish acts, we're all thrown back in a new trend. It seems that metal makes its way from one trend to another. Anyway, one can't complain when the music is played with enough spirit and strength to make you fumble into your records collection to listen to an old **HELLOWEEN**, **RUNNING WILD** or **JUDAS PRIEST** album. Yes, because that's the feeling I have when I'm listening to one of those new metal heroes. The style is wealthy, the music gathers melody and anger at the same time, and there's even soli, a metal distinctive mark which had been so sadly forgotten within the past few years. Metal guitar soli are essential. In short, **REAL** metal with balls.

IN FLAMES' new album rightly entitled '*the jester race*' opens a new page in the book of heavy metal classics. It sounds more polished and somewhat mellow than its predecessors '*the lunar strain*' and '*Subterranean*', still, it shows a very convincing band ready to make the kids bang their heads til they bleed. Oh! that's a nice blurb. Well, Jesper answered the questions right after he had brushed his teeth, thank you for your time fruitcake !!

Now, our reporter **MERLVIS** is arrogant again : It has often seemed that things get done pretty quick in Sweden concerning record deals, even your band was signed after some months of practising really, had you tried to promote your demo tape at the time ?

" No, when we had finished the recording, we sent it out to a bunch of labels, no one answered us except **WAR**, and that's something we definitely don't regret. They have done a terrific job for us. We signed with them just a few weeks after we recorded the promo tape."

It's been a long time since you recorded '*lunar strain*' in 93, Still, everything happened very fast, what are the weak points of your first album when you listen to it nowadays ?

" We are still very happy with '*lunar strain*' considering that we were at that time very unexperienced, and not that good musicians. But the songs are still fresh, I think. The sound could be better, but as a debut album, I still think it's very strong."

Yes it is !!... and it shows that **IN FLAMES** have somewhat started the heavy metal fashion in Gothenburg, because no band has ever gone that far in the heavy metal style except **DARK TRANQUILITY** with the **MAIDEN**esque stirring riffs.

"I don't know what to answer on that question. I think now the Gothenburg bands have found at their own personal sound. We are no longer **DARK TRANQUILITY's** little brothers".

No you aren't !.

I can't believe 'the Jester race' was recorded in October 95, I remember you sending me an advance tape early this year, what's the reason for this huge delay ??

" There's a licence deal between **NBR** and **WAR** but we will sign for **NBR** after this release. They have given us a very attractive offer and we are really looking forward to working with them in the future. "

There's an obvious german heavy speed metal influence in your songs, especially in the newest ones. Besides, it must have been an honor to have such an artist like **Andreas Marschall** painting the cover of '*The jester race*'. Tell us more how it happened ???!

" **NBR** rejected our first cover idea (the cover you can see on the japanese version) and wanted us to have a painted cover. Then, we told them, we agree to this only if we use **Andreas**, so they contacted him and a few weeks later, it was ready. The result is amazing, I think. I hope we can use him in the future. "

I've noticed that many swedish bands have side projects, do you have any ?

" yes, I play the drums in a speed/ heavy metal band called **HAMMERFALL**, we play metal in the vein of **GAMMA RAY**, **HELLOWEEN**, **MANOWAR**, we will record a Cd in November, it will be released by Holland based **VIC** records"

damn, I have the feeling that **IN FLAMES** may next put out albums with the quality of '*the number of the beast*' or '*screaming for vengeance*', time will tell....Anyway, as somebody said, there are even better things than hot girls in Sweden, and that's Metal !!.



The Jesper Race

THE METAL KIDS CAN COOK TOO !!

What does a metalhead do besides drinking beer cans a plenty, swearing and buying offensive black metal Cds, He eats lots of various foods !!. Long gone are the french fries, and roasted steak, welcome to a more wealthy life !!. Experiment the:

MERINGUE CHOCOLATE BARS !!!

Here's the list of ingredients : 2 cups sifted flour, 1 teaspoon baking powder, 1 teaspoon salt, 1/2 cup butter or margarine, 1 cup sugar. 2 eggs, 1 teaspoon vanilla, 1 package (6 oz.) chocolate chips, 3/4 cup chopped peanuts.

Sift flour with baking powder and salt. Cream butter or margarine, add sugar and continue creaming. Add eggs and vanilla, and beat until fluffy..

Add sifted dry ingredients ; mix thoroughly. Spread in greased 8 / 12 -inch pan. Sprinkle with chocolate chips, spread with meringue, and sprinkle with peanuts. Bake at 350° F, for 35 to 40 minutes. When cool, cut in 2-inch squares. (Makes 2 dozen)

Ingredients for the meringue and recipe :

2 egg whites, 1 cup brown sugar, 1 teaspoon vanilla.

Beat egg whites until stiff. Add sugar gradually; add vanilla; continue beating until smooth.....**BON APPETIT !!**

MORE RECORDS PEAREVIEWS FROM HELL !!

KATATONIA : 'brave murder day' ('AVANT GARDE)

I've actually never been a big fan of their previous work. This new full length nevertheless drew my interest. Not particularly original, **KATATONIA** still evolve in various and contrasting musical territories like on 'day' and the more metal gothic 'ramroom'. Because of the different landscapes delivery somewhat mellow and also more unexpected in style than its predecessor, , **KATATONIA** merit the steady recognition they have. They experiment in a straight forward manner, even touching some prog rock shores, they never follow the mainstream, and avoid the complex structures and that's what we must enjoy them.

DOMINUS : 'the first 9' (DIE HARD)

I thought their debut album was a complete failure. Their new album definitely changed my opinion on them. Never a band has managed to sound so different from one album to another. Now they rock !!. Like a couple of finish ex death bands like **AMORPHIS**, **XYSTMA**, **CONVULSE**, **DOMINUS** have a crunchy death metal biscuit and top it with mellow chocolate doom/ rock with wah wah pedals. It's a well appreciated shift..Change the band's name too!

OPPRESSOR : 'agony' (DIE HARD)

Brutal death metal a la **BROKEN HOPE** and **CC** without the silly deep growls. **OPPRESSOR** emphasize more on groove than in their past. There's little speed and more tortured guitars. Some parts are real good, but the whole thing sounds somewhat conventionnal to be catchy. Still, a good improvement from what they used to do. Brutal U.S. death !!!.

Fucked up Prog Metal

With the growth of cheeseburger death metal and chicken dips black metal bands, you can't say that the popularity of progressive heavy metal has been increasing its number of fans during the past few years. However, it seemed to have taken a great deal of listeners by the throat in the U.S.A. for instance but Europe has always been careful towards a healthy food. The band here has nothing in common with any American bands. OPETH indeed sound very European. Their second album entitled 'Morningrise' delivers a delicious and creamy mixture of guitars and bass, topped by some either sung or yelling vocals so as to recall the recipe was invented in Scandinavia, and then, the tasty drumming wraps all the ingredients. Even better than carbonara spaghetti with an egg at the top and a lot healthier than a burger meal at Mac Donalds. Surprisingly enough, OPETH arouses the masses' interest with their new album 'Morningrise' and people in England compare their success with the now unmasked EMPEROR also on the CANDLE LIGHT label based in London. Enough of the Norwegian let's have a chat with those Swedish softened metal mongers, the band's frontman Michael speaks.

What characterize OPETH are the long songs like 'black rose immortal' on the new album, have you ever thought of writing a short song really?

"We used to have the 'normal' length songs as well, but somehow our present songs turn out longer than others!, I can't really explain why as it feels very natural for us to have long songs!. This fact makes us somewhat unique as no other band writes songs as long as ours!. But the only important thing with music is if it's good or not, right? In my opinion, OPETH create long adventurous fairytales that doesn't get boring despite its lengths!."

Still with an album running out one hour length and the content of 5 songs, don't you think even the die hard fans would slumber for an encore?

"Oh, certainly not,...They wouldn't be die hard fans if that happened!. What I can say about this matter is that we don't really care that much about other people's opinion!. As long as we are satisfied with what we do, everything's fine!. We honestly say 'fuck off' to anyone who tries to put us down in anyway, cause his or hers opinion means horseshit to us!. We know that we are the fuckin kings!!. Also, one thing that proves that it is not only us who appreciate long songs, are the sales figure!. The OPETH realm is getting crowded!."

I think OPETH would have a major impact live if you were backed by visuals, a sort of PINK FLOYDESQUE metal show. Have you ever thought about that?

"Sure!, would be great but a bit stolen idea!, Anyway, at this point we don't have the money or the effort it would take to make this come true!. We will try to create something of our own instead!. OPETH wouldn't deliberately steal anything from any other band, as we see ourselves as creators and not followers!!"

There's definitely a gap between OPETH's music with its acoustic pieces, a cutting bass edge and the currently acclaimed bands...Do you think you already reach new territories and new non metal fans with your music?

"I think our real fans have got a very selective taste for music!. I think that the highly intelligent people that are into OPETH possess a very wide sense of taste when it comes to music!. I think that OPETH walk alone on a path of unique art!. We are not like others!. We are the only band that plays this kind of music, we are supreme at what we do, we are the masters of fucked up prog-metal!..I reckon that we already have fans that are listening to other music than just metal, but mostly I think it is the metal people that can relate to our music!. However, I strongly advise everyone to give our records a fair chance as I'm convinced that they will be enchanted!."

Are you a good cook as much as you can write tasty songs?

"Nah!, I am not a very good cook actually!, But I must say that my pancakes are pretty good!, I am better at tearing strings on the six shooter!!"

I'm really into 'to bid you farewell' which is the band's most musical attempt I think it best suits OPETH's own sound, more than on the other songs...

"Thank you very much, that song is actually the most odd track we have ever written. I think that the other songs are maybe more representative for OPETH, but this one is truly an OPETH song, not a project song!. It is not impossible that we might write a similar track in the future..We just play the music we like and that is the only thing that is important!. We do not care much if people say that 'to bid...' is a too mellow song..We wanted it to be exactly the way it ended up on CD!"

OPETH played the U.K. territory a bunch of times, I remember having experienced them at the HALLOWEEN fest in London, and they came back this year with MORBID ANGEL, that's when the Florida quartet recorded a live album to be next issued Michael resumes:

"The shows with MORBID ANGEL were better, bigger venues and all, I fuckin love U.K.!!"

When I went in Gothenburg last year, I was surprised to see people putting off their shoes when entering a house, do you do the same where you live?

"I was amazed when I saw that people didn't take off their shoes off when we went to the U.K.!, Scandinavia is a sophisticated part of the earth, and to us, taking off the shoes is just sheer common sense!. It seems that U.K. and apparently also, France, are countries for slobes!!. Lee Barrett is the biggest slob of all time!, he's a log photographer!!". Write to their label for info, inquire about their mailorder list too!: CANDLE LIGHT, 2 ELGIN AVENUE, LONDON W9 3QP, U.K.

OPETH

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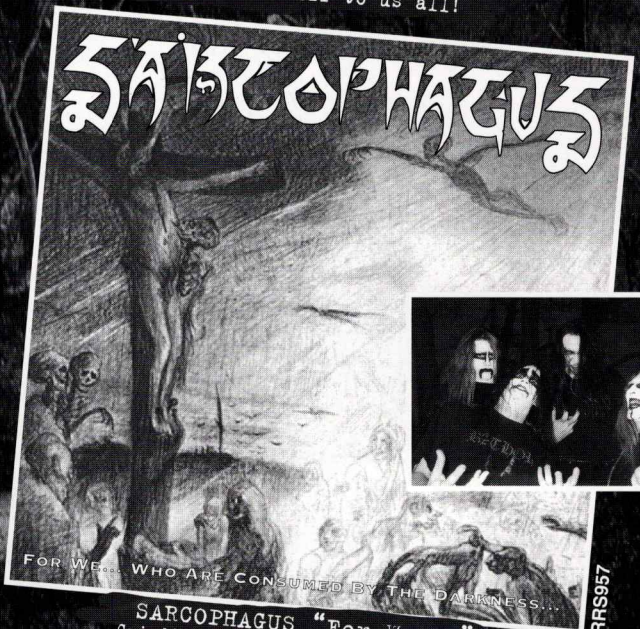
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