

Editorial

Hello and welcome to this the third issue of Deprived zine. It's been over a year since issue 2 surfaced but we had to wait and see just how well #2 did before continuing. As you can see Ian Lawless has joined us as he did not wish to do Severance alone. The reasons for his small contribution in this issue is that he was doing Severance #2 at the same time and he didn't get all the replies he was waiting for. Some of you may have heard that Antoinette is now working for Misanthropy Recs. this is true but she's still 100% involved with Deprived. We would like to thank all those who bought issue 2 and hope you'll continue to support us. A big thanks as well goes to all the distros that have helped us in the past and indeed that will help in the future. Feel free to write to any of us. Return postage, either a stamp (Irish only to myself & Ian, English to Antoinette) or IRC / \$1 would be appreciated and will certainly speed up a reply. Bands & labels write for inclusion in our fourth issue. Thanks again for all your support, it's appreciated !!!
Brian Taube & Deprived zine.

Typing & editing - Brian. Layout - Brian & Antoinette. Interviews & reviews - Brian, Antoinette & Ian. Contributors - Naihmass, Mark Burns, Daire Lennon, Simon Cross, Diamanda & Paul Kearns. Cover and border art - Maria Archer.

Hello, thanks, whatever.....in no particular order.....
Family, The lads for all the good & bad times; Rory, Hank, Manley (a "true" pervert), Sean, Neil, Rob & Will, Vinnie O'Brien, Pete Murray, MORPHOSIS & co., Paul "Brickhead" Kearns (my partner in beer?, I don't think so, you're never able to keep up). Steo Norton & FIFTH DOMINION, Russ Smith & Terrorizer (thanks for the continued support, advice & encouragement !!), Alan Averill & PRIMORDIAL, Jose Griffin & GOMORRAH, Cory Sloan, Jeff O'Reilly & the other THY SINSTER BLOOMers, David McKeever, Rob Bailey & Maria Archer, Daire Lennon (a lazy bastard if I ever met one), John Cook & REIGN, Brian "Ebenezer" Quirke, Nailor, Carthy & co., Big Jimmy, Marc Ryan & ABHOR / Total Darkness, Amy & co., the Cork men: Darragh, Shane, Pat (have a nice trip) & Markus (sound girlie), Cider, Dan Behan, Cathal Rodgers, Neil McEvoy, crisps. Colin & Clodhna, Diamanda & Misanthropy, Greg & The Crypt, Joao & Dark Oath, Jason McNeice, Fart & Lycanthropy, Dave & W.A.H.I.V.P, Bill & Anatomia, Rob & December Moon, Timo & Benefits Forgot, Christian & Piercing News, Stefan & Witchcraft (R.I.P.),



Bart & Underground Review, Paul Carter & THUS DEFILED, Glenn Thomas & DESECRATION, Ben & CANOPIC JAR, Storm & EVER DARK, Rob & IMMOLATION, Carles & HUMAN WASTE, Markus Woste & MMI Records, Nihil & Cacophonous, Holy Records, Hans & Shiver, Steve & GWB, Mero, Magic Mushrooms, Pedro & Dark Recs., Pierre & DARK WHITE, Jamie Grimes, Paul Lynch & UNEARTHLY, Phil & CHAPEL OF REST, Eric & Monster Metal, mad Keith Fay & CRUACHAN, Ben & Necrovomit, Sound Cellar, Alan Gill & Euthanasia, Antii & Carrion, David Lynch for the exquisite Twin Peaks, Jonny Glynn, Sekla (GHOSTORM management), Tom, Cliona, Arnaud & Evil Omen, Simon & Tipperary lads, Joaquim & Lysergide, Arco & F.O.L.M., Richard Kimble (keep running !!!), Robert & DAWN, Winston Ralph & BRIGANTIA, Brian Reynolds, Gothmog & THOU ART LORD, Twan & Teutonic Existence Rec., Cairan & WAYLANDER, Carmelo & NOVEMBRE and finally Antoinette & Ian and anyone else that should be here.
Playlist: IMPALED NAZARENE - all, THE BEATLES various tracks from 'Sgt. Pepper's...' CD, CRADLE OF FILTH 'The Principle...' CD & 'Goetia' promo, SERENITY 'Then Came Silence' CD, THE CRANBERRIES 'No Need...' CD, MOONSPELL 'Under The...' MCD, EVER DARK 'Gravesite Rites' demo, CANNIBAL CORPSE 'Hammer Smashed Face' MCD, various tracks from Deaf Metal sampler, MORBID ANGEL 'Blessed...' CD, MORPHOSIS 'Modus...' demo, PENTAGRAM 'Sign Of The Wolf' from Peaceville Vol. 4, MY DYING BRIDE - all, AT THE GATES - all, DISMEMBER 'Like an...' CD, DARK TRANQUILLITY - Promo tape & Skydancer CD. (Brian)

Antoinette: Appreciative noises to all of the following - Mam & Dad Flynn, Deirdre, Cliona, Brian (worlds greatest friend & partner), Ian (also a cool dude), every single Irish underground friend I've ever known especially Vinnie, Pete & MORPHOSIS, Bren, Jeff, Cory, Robin & T.S.B., Paul, Steo & FIFTH DOMINION, David McKeever, Keith & the cast of 5000 CRUACHAN Emmet & CERNUNNOS, Naihmass & PRIMORDIAL, Lycanthropy zine, Dan the man, Michael Mahon, Simon 'NIRRALUGGALDIMMERANKIA' Cross, Mick

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& Martin, Miss Maria Archer especially for adding your magic touch to Deprived 3, plus all my Roundwood drinking mates : Siobhain, Rose, Haggis, Sean, Rob, Neil, Will, Rachel, Becca, Manley, Lennon, Bev, Tom, Jock, cousins Col Kel & crazy dude Niall; also my international friends : Peter Schramm & Abiaze, Kristian, Joel & INVERTED, Greg & ESOTERIC, Sven Egil, Alexander & FLEURETY, Alex of SAD WHISPERINGS, Ovl. & all of IN THE WOODS..., Timo Ketola, Sebastiano Leoni, Carlos & MALEVOLENCE, Russ Smith, Mark Burns, Lee Edwards, Andy R. of ANTHROPOMANCY, Mark of Deviation Records & MALEDICTION, Stu of A.D., and all who have helped me or supported me in this issue, or ever - Varg Vickers, Fenriz, Samoth & Andrea, Lena and of course deepest sisterly regards to my enigmatic Diamanda Lilit Morta. Special thanks & greetings to Caroline, Mr. D., Marian, Lynsry and all my Park House friends, in particular Phillip McK. to whom I dedicate all of my efforts in this publication although I know that you will probably never see it - you brightened my darkest days, and I will never forget you; may your every dreams be fulfilled. I also wish to commend Rik Mayall, Terry Pratchett, Arthur Guinness, Mr. Rothman, Mr. Suzuki, Anton La Vey, Anne Rice & the cast of Star Trek - the next generation for the wonderful contributions to my life and the earth in general. May the gods protect you and respond to your darkest desires...

Playlist : IN THE WOODS 'HAert Of...' CD, CRUACHAN 'Celtica' demo, IMPALED NAZARENE 'Suomi...'

Issue 2 of Denmark's Monster Metal is finally out. It features interviews with THY NATURE, FERTILIZER, DAB, HUMAN WASTE, OPERA IX and many more. Also included are Irish and Israelian scene reports, over 100 reviews and usual features. This 40 page zine can be yours for Dkr. 15 (Denmark) \$3 (eur) \$4 (elsewhere). Erik Petersen, Ringklostervej 9. 8660, Skanderborg, Denmark. (Brian)

IMMOLATION's 'Stepping On Angels...Before Dawn' CD has been released on Repulse Recs. It contains 16 songs (75+ min) and features demo material, live tracks and some unreleased stuff. The CD comes with a 18 pannel booklet including photos, reviews, letters, etc and features the original cover art which was intended for 'Dawn Of Possession'. This can be yours for 2.000 Pts (Spain) and \$16 (elsewhere). Also available from Repulse : DERRANGED's 'Architects...' MCD (\$10) and HETSHEADS' 'We Hail...' CD (\$16) and expect CDs from the following soon DARKIFIED, IMPRECATION, DISGORGED & GOLGOTHA... Repulse Records, PO Box 50562, 28080, Madrid, Spain.

BLISTER have released their debut demo 'Committed To Life' and it contains 7 tracks of "relentless industrial death grind acid aggression". The demo comes with a full colour cover & lyric sheet. Available for £2 (UK)

CD, TIAMAT 'Wildhoney' CD, BETHZAIDA 'Dawn' demo, PARADIGMA 'As Autumn...' demo, BURZUM 'Hvis...' CD, ESOTERIC 'Epistemological...' DCD, STRAGASKOR NO. 42 'Blot' CD, BEYOND DAWN 'Longing...' MCD, AMORPHIS 'Tales...' CD, CRADLE OF FILTH 'The Principle...' CD

Ian thanks : Mark & INSATANITY, Jeff & THY SINISTER BLOOM, all in DESECRATION, Jussi & SOULGRIND/TENEBRAE/Dark Shivers Productions, Vinnie & MORPHOSIS, Bocquet & SPASMOPHILIUS, Jeff & DISCIPLE, everyone in MORTIFY (Greece), Paul & CURIOSITY KITTEN, GHOSTORM, REPROBATE, Ron & all with Displeased Recs., all in MALEDICTION, VERMIN, MORTAL AFFLICTION, BLOODSOAKED & awre there Julie.
Playlist : RENAISSANCE - 'The Death...' CD, ORDER FROM CHAOS - 'Stillbirth Machine' CD, ABSU - 'Barathrum...' CD, ALTAR - 'Youth Against...' CD, INSATANITY - 'Ad Mariorem...' CD, IMMORTAL 'Pure Holocaust' CD, SLAYER 'Show No Mercy' LP, FIFTH DOMINION - 'Pain, Rage...' Demo, DEAD HEAD - 'Dream Deceiver'...

Deprived zine contact addresses :

Brian Taube, St. Patricks, Main St., Roundwood, Co. Wicklow, Ireland. Tel (01) 2818422.

Antoinette Flynn, c/o Misanthropy Recs., PO Box 9, Hadleigh, Suffolk, IP7 5AU, UK.

Ian Lawless, 'Trinity', Ashford, Co. Wicklow, Ireland.

\$4 (eur) \$5 (elsewhere) from 57, Wakefield Rd, Normanion, W. Yorks, WF6 1AG. UK.

BETROTH are a new band from the UK that are still very much in their early stages. I have a tape of some of their material but it's hard to comment on it as it features only guitar and bass with some vocals. They're presently rehearsing these songs and watching out for a drummer so if you want more information on them contact Chris Leitch, 1 Bennet House, Southend Road, Beckenham, Kent, BR3 1SQ, UK. (Brian)

Issue two of Severance magazine is out now. Included are interviews with PHLEBOTOMIZED, ECTOPIA, MALEFICARIUM, HYBERNOID, PRIMORDIAL, MY DYING BRIDE, and AFFLICTED. Also reviews of MORPHOSIS, FIFTH DOMINION, SYNAPSE, MOURN, CHORUS OF RUIN, etc. This issue comes professionally printed and will cost you £2 (Ire) \$4 (eur) \$5 (r.o.w.). Ian Lawless, Trinity, Ashford, Co. Wicklow, Ireland.

THY SINISTER BLOOM have recently recorded a one track promo for more information or for live & rehearsal tapes write to Jeff O'Reilly, 31 Glentow Road, Whitehall, Dublin 9, Ireland or Bren Mullen, 23 Larkhill Road, Whitehall, Dublin 9, Ireland.

MORPHOSIS

The following is an interview with he that is known by some as the 'wizard of gore', by others as 'the godfather' but by most as Vinnie O'Brien the guitarist behind MORPHOSIS, Ireland's most brutal and longest running death outfit.

Greetings oh mighty thrower of stools, how are you today? Begin by telling us what's been happening with Morphosis since you appeared in Deprived issue one.

- Hi Brian, oh most drunken of all incurable piss-heads. Since your first issue we've recruited a new bassist (Pete Brady) and a new vocalist (Paul Marten) and we're now busy writing new material and playing gigs in various parts of the country. Right now we're finalising everything for a new promo in four weeks.

Describe the new material that has been written. How does it compare to 'Modus Operandi'?

- We've kept pretty much the same approach with the new stuff, so it's basically more all out hell. Some of the songs are shorter and a bit more to the point and they've become a bit more involved structure and playing wise although it's certainly not ATROCITY or anything.

Speaking of 'Modus...', how has that demo sold? Have you received any bad reviews in zines?

- So far we've shifted 550 copies. I've never seen any bad reviews although I was told about one recently in a German zine (Exhumed zine - Brian) who just dismissed it with a couple of words without actually saying why and what they disliked about it (a bit like a lot of his reviews - Brian). I'm not exactly bothered by what other people think of us 'cos once we're happy with something within the band it's enough for me.

You've been plagued with line up changes throughout the years, can you see the current one lasting? Are you looking for a second guitarist at present?

- I'm Happy with the way things are now. I've known the two new members for a long time anyway so we all get along fine. with most line ups you'll get at least one member you don't really get on with or who sticks out as a bit of a prick, but that's not the case this time. The overall vibe is just much better now but I'm not Mystic Meg so I honestly don't know what will happen in the future. I reckon this line up will hold together fine but you never know when somebody may decide to pack it

in Hopefully that won't happen though as we're all well into what we're doing. Yeah, we need a second guitarist alright. We've been busy getting new material and a new line up together so we decided to keep working towards the new promo and look for somebody after that's recorded.

How frequent do you rehearse? Are your rehearsals totally serious or do you have some fun as well?

- We're in once or twice a week which is all we need really. Before we recorded 'Modus...' we were rehearsing with the old line up 3 or 4 times weekly and we got sick of the sight of one another which was one contributing factor to the last split. We try to use studio time well and get as much done as possible but there is also a lot of messing and we do have a laugh too. I reckon it's a good combination of both.

Is playing live a big thing for the members of MORPHOSIS? Where would you most like to play and would you refuse to play anywhere?

- Doing gigs is the best buzz of all especially when we play outside of Dublin 'cos we can get our mates together and make a good day - long piss up out of it - as you should know only too well Brian! (indeed I do, can't wait 'til the next session - Brian). I'd like to play in Poland 'cos the scene is supposed to be awesome there. I can't think of anywhere we'd refuse to play, it would depend on what other bands were on. I mean, we wouldn't want to do a gig with a load of cock - rock bands or anything (like the POWER JUNKIES Vinne? - Brian).

How come you still kept "Conflagration" going all these years? What do you think about the original version now?

- I dunno, it just seemed to stay with us over all that



time. We've been constantly changing it and a modern version will be on the next promo. The original was OK for it's time but I never listen to any of that old shit now and it bears little resemblance to the current version.

Are SUFFOCATION your greatest influence ?

- Both myself and Pete Murray are well into 'Effigy Of The Forgotten' and a lot of people have made comparisons to SUFFOCATION but I don't reckon we should much like them at all. I certainly won't deny an influence but it would be pointless to imitate somebody else.

Do you think brutal death metal will ever become popular again ? Do you care ?

- I don't know although there is still a good underground following for it. I really don't give a shit whether it does or not. At least all of the pathetic trend hoppers have pissed off and got into black metal now which is not bad thing as far as I'm concerned.

What circumstances would make you quit MORPHOSIS ? If this did happen could you see the band continuing ?

- If my hand was to fall off or if the other members wanted to pursue a totally different direction from me or something like that. I don't see any reason why the others shouldn't continue without me being there if that's what they wanted to do. They don't need to be spoon-fed and they can wipe their own arses.

Right I won't ask you what you think of the Irish scene but is there any band(s) you would honestly listen to ? And would you attend an Irish underground gig if you disliked the music being played and there was no bar in the venue ?

- To be totally fuckin' honest I don't listen to any Irish bands at all. In my opinion FIFTH DOMINION, PRIMORDIAL, THY SINISTER BLOOM, CRUACHAN and

UNEARTHLY are all doing something worthwhile and deserve credit for it. We did a gig with ABADDON INCARNATE and they're pretty good too. There's not much chance of me going to see a band I didn't like unless it was just to meet people from the various bands and zines here and have a few pints. If you've got a shit band in a venue with no beer there's no fuckin' way I'd be there.

Who would you most like to see drunk ?

- Brian Quirke 'cos he's a little tea - totaler wussie. It's fun to see you pissed 'cos you're an obnoxious fucker (I'll take that as a compliment - Brian). Paul 'Brickhead' Kearns from FIFTH DOMINION is a good buzz too 'til he falls flat on his face that is - normally after 2 pints !
Do you think Brian Quirke will ever get laid ? And do you reckon he's stopped breast feeding as I know I'm still sucking his ma's tits !?

- Not unless he can run faster than his neighbours cat and even then he'd have trouble finding his own dick. I was wondering what he meant when he said his mother worked for Premier Danes.

Tell me your honest opinions on the following :

(a) SLAYER live in Dublin '94 (b) Irish zines (c) cider (d) the price Brickhead's ma charges per hour (e) DOOMSGAME (f) blow jobs.

- (a) Better than the first time I saw them but I don't reckon they're a patch on the band they used to be circa 'Haunting The Chapel' and 'Hell Awaits'. (b) I haven't seen very many. Deprived and Through Ireland's Eye (where's my copy Brickhead ?!!) are the best I've seen lately. (c) I hate the stuff (blasphemy !! - Brian). (d) You mean you pay her ? (yeah 'cause I only get her on Wednesdays and that's her busiest time - Brian). Even at 50p an hour she's still not worth it. (e) The biggest



load of bollox this country has ever seen. They're really fuckin' crap and they'd be better off spending their money on music lessons (especially the drummer) than on pressing their own EP's and pretending they've been signed. The sooner they realise they can't buy success and piss off back to the toilet bowl they came from the better. A sad effort best ignored. (f) Not when Brian Quirke offers thank you very much.

Can MORPHOSIS go any more brutal ?

- Of course we can. There's no such thing as too heavy. Tell us your plans for the promo.

- We're going in at the end of this month to record four songs, two new ones and two re-written songs from the ASPHYXIA demo. Like I said already we want to keep everything really fuckin' heavy but we want to loose all that speaker rumbling this time.

Say anything you wish us to know about

GWB PRODUCTIONS is closing down as a distro but continuing as a label. It's releases so far include :

WINTER OF TORMENT - Immoral World - 12" - £3
MALEDICTION - Chronicles Of Dissention - CD - £8
CEREcloth - Encrusted In.... - 7" - £2.50

INTERNAL BLEEDING - Invocation Of Evil - 7" - £3
REPROBATE - Le Carceri - 7" - £3
THEODICY - Succumb - 7" - £3

Write to Steve Cattle, 12 Squire Lane, Bridlington, East Yorkshire, YO16 4AH, England. (Brian)

Deviation Productions is a company that was established with the aim of providing low price demos and releases, and in this Mark has succeeded. His growing list remains affordable, and features such titles as SERENADE, MALEDICTION, CEREcloth and other English and Scottish names. The list develops as I write, so contact Mark, 49 Carfin Road, Newarthill, Motherwell, ML1 5J2, Scotland, UK. (Antoinette)

Aasmand Skugge of Black Tower is a competent distributor of quality items, and is excited over by his forth coming zine Einherjum which from the extracts I have seen promises both professionalism and excitement in the underground, mostly black, department. Contact him at Skuggedalen N5717, Gudvang, Norway, for list details, or to purchase this epic of Journalism. (Ant)

Grind Music is a new compilation overflowing with various experimentations in grindcore with bands like GROINCHURN, BIZARRE X, INCISIVE, VOMIT FALL, SQUASH BOWELS & PUTRID OFFAL. It's 27 tracks make it excellent value for any grind worshipper - especially as all of the contact addresses are included. The photocopied black & white cover is funny, and the tape is only \$4, or a trade from Darko Kosal EC, Bastijanova 54, 410000 Zagreb, Croatia. (Antoinette)

DESECRATION's debut CD has just been released and it's 13 tracks of "totally sick and brutal mayhem". You

MORPHOSIS.

- Contrary to what Alan Gill of Euthanasia Distro has been telling people, we are not signing to Shiver Records (unfortunately) nor are we signing to any label he's supposed to be setting up. Also Euthanasia don't stock any more of our tapes and they never had our shirts so don't send him money. We've arranged a 3 - date tour over here with DESECRATION from Wales in April so give us some support if you can.

Closing comments and sales plug.

- Thanks to Brian for the interview, stay obnoxious. 'Modus Operandi' demo '93 is available for £2.50. The new promo will be out in April probably £3. We've sold out of the Cryptogram shirts but new ones are on the way. Anybody interested in any of the stuff or looking for tips on how to slag Brian Quirke can contact : 13 Kew Park, Lucan, Co. Dublin, Ireland. (Brian)

can get the CD aptly entitled 'Gore And Perversion' for £11/\$17 (cheques/PO's payable to R. Sage) from DESECRATION, PO Box 23, Newport, Gwent, NP9 8YG, UK.

Total Darkness issue 2 out soon, with over 24 interviews including OCCULT, MORPHOSIS, ZEPHYROUS, Deprived, GODSEND, PRIMORDIAL, Misanthropy recs., etc. Plus loads of reviews, articles. For price and other details write to Bard Nocturnus, Rockvale HSE, Lr Coolroe, Ballincollig, Co. Cork, Ireland. (Brian)

GRIEF OF EMERALD are a fairly new war/black metal band from Sweden. Recently they recorded a demo consisting of 4 tracks and an outro. For further info on the demo or the band write to J. Olsson, Hyggestraket 9. 413, 45172 Uddevalla, Sweden.

Emanzipation mag issue 4 is out now and features AMORPHIS, PARADISE LOST, ACCURSED, DAWN, GODSEND and more. Also there's about 250 reviews and all the usual stuff. This A4 zine is available for \$4 (eur) \$5 (r.o.w.) from Michael H. Andersen, Snerlevej 188, 4700 Naestved, Denmark.

PAYNIM are a new Irish band playing black metal with a touch of ambience influenced by bands like ULVER, EMPEROR, SATYRICON, CRADLE OF FILTH, ELEN, TIAMAT, ARCTURUS, & THE GATHERING. The band consists of the two members of CERNUNNOS and the two people behind Lycanthropy zine. They're due to record a rehearsal tape shortly which will be available for a blank tape & return postage. For more information on the band or on Lycanthropy zine (issue one is due out about now) contact Fart, 291 Castletown, Leixlip, Co. Kildare, Ireland.

Bizarre Domination zine, 711 Goblin DR., Cariusle. Pa 17013, (717) 243-8561, USA.

DARKTHRONE, eternally an enigma, have recently changed from Peaceville to the Norwegian Moonfog label. Their outspokenness was apparently too hot for the UK label to handle. We spoke to Fenriz before this occurrence, and heard about some of his view points.

What inspired (i) the conception of DARKTHRONE (ii) the musical direction which DARKTHRONE chose to follow?

- (i) Can't remember. (ii) the essence of DARKTHRONE is arrogance - hostility - eccentricism - misanthrophy. This affects our musical direction, but also Norway - Norge - is a major influence. And Satanism. *Why were you determined to make each of your albums more musically extreme than the last? Would you were trying to drive non-pure black metal fans away from your music, and attract only the dedicated?*

- No, We just happen to be extreme, die hard and eccentric. Also ignorant.

After 'Transilvanian Hunger' 's release in September '94 there will be a further release from DARKTHRONE when before it was said that this next release would be your last. Is this because DARKTHRONE 's inspiration cannot stop flowing, or because the band feels that it must continue to communicate messages which are important to you and your followers?

- Fenriz can't remember anything about 'Transilvanian Hunger' being our final warfare. Three more albums are already finished, another one in the making.

Fenriz swears that DARKTHRONE must not stop. I promised Varg Vikernes (well Fenriz that's alot to promise Varg after just one blow job - Brian).

Would you consider yourselves to be amongst the all fathers of the Norse black metal scene and an inspiration to emerging bands?

- Yes. Definitely. No doubt about it. But BATHORY was first.

BURZUM

IMMORTAL ——— DARKTHRONE

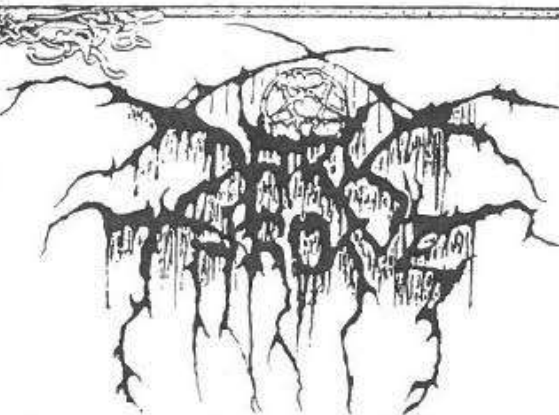
Are you, Fenriz, the 'officially nominated' spokesperson for DARKTHRONE? Why are Nocturno and Zephyrous so quiet?

- Zephyrous and Nocturno Culto are extreme misanthropes. They will ignore. Ignorance is strength.

Fenriz however is extremely unbalanced and psychotic (Brian, please stop laughing and get up off the floor - Antoinette). That's why I write this and that, but propaganda is the main reason 8.22. I'm also the founder of DARKTHRONE.

What is the reason behind your adoption of the name of the wolf god Fenriz, killer of Odin? Is it because he is said to represent all the suppressed vengeance and darkness in the world?

- I am the one who eternally will long for doomsday. That's why. It is also my legal name. No fake.



Do you ever wish the Norse gods of old had never been usurped by the newer beliefs dominant today? And why?

- HARRRRR! 1000 years of warmth and light is enough! Let us all follow our Norse gods to a higher road. Up the Aces. Norse archetypes forevermore. Antichrists shall flood the earth!

You have said previously that your ISENGARD project is irrelevant in comparison to DARKTHRONE. Are you not proud however of the high praise received by the 'Vinterskugge' album?

- Fenriz believes that it's a personal album. No talk. I'm deeply in love with myself. I want to die.

Most of 'Vinterskugge' 's lyrics are in your native tongue, although most of DARKTHRONE 's are in English. In which language do you prefer to express yourself lyrically and why?

- 'Transilvanian Hunger' has two songs with English lyrics - six songs with Norwegian lyrics. But DARKTHRONE is Antichrist propaganda for all. HARRRR. Sometimes I need to write in Norwegian - other times in English. Do you have a problem with that?

Can you explain what DARKTHRONE are trying to portray in their lyrics, on their album series?

- The pain of Satan. The glory of Satanism. The pain of pain. The essence of Norway. I am Satan's poet - writing lines exhausts me. I am deep when writing - my writings are deep. But ah, not always. The exception confirms the rule. Or not ——— not? Y'all may study und revel in Satan's writings - DARKTHRONE lyrics - when hell calls your name there's no way back. Really.

How would you personally describe (i) DARKTHRONE's music (ii) ISENGARD 's music and could you compare them?

- (i) DARKTHRONE : true Norwegian Aryan black metal. Hostile und eccentric. Cold. Hard. Ugly. (ii) ISENGARD : Norsk antikristen musikk. Inspired by Norwegian - Norsk folk music. The essence of Norge and the battle 'gainst whitechrist.

Would you be insulted if your music was described as beautiful (in my opinion, both DARKTHRONE and ISENGARD have musically, points of unique beauty).

- The Northern Race is beautiful - so why shouldn't our music be. But some parts are very barbaric und grim and it often reflects on our music.

Can you explain DARKTHRONE 's silence between the release 'Under A Funeral Moon', and your ownISENGARD release?It was as if you had all vanished completely for a while.

-Hate - ignorance - intolerance !That's DARKTHRONE. If it wasn't for my insanity growing we'd still be shutting up and waiting for better times.

Have things settled down in the underground black scene in Norway after the turbulence of 1993?

-No. Churches are still burning to the ground. It's only been two years since the first and 19 more churches have burned. Terrific! Antichrist! Antichrist! Antichrist! Hordes of bands are emerging, all of them beyond this world. Charge!!!

Why, in your opinion, did things erupt at this time - the violence, the criminal charges etc.?

-Because this is the last decade of the 1000 year long "reign" of Christians up here, and unholy black metal lights the fires in the hearts of the new ones. Burn. Desecrate. Be the hammer! Join us. Be the hammer! Has it made a difference to the music scene? Does everyone live in fear now, or would you say the excitement, the trauma, was artistically inspirational?

-It's much better now. Except that the police is always after us. Also I'd love to see Varg Vikernes of BURZUM released from jail, because he is the greatest man I've met. To even die by his hand is an honour.

As a drummer who are your greatest drumming influences?

-Drumming in black metal must be monotone. Technical drumming destroys almost all atmospheric music. People should learn from MY and Varg Vikernes' drumming and stop playing wrongly! My drum influences comes from 'The Return' und 'Under The Sign Of The Black Mark' albums by BATHORY and HELLHAMMER. But I can still play drums amazingly technical. But this I must sacrifice for the enormity of black metal music. Trance.

Are you afraid of death? Why or why not?

- Yes, because it will stop me from my favourite occupation :hating . No, because Ragnarok comes before me. But, just in case it doesn't I'll whip y'all in hell. Yes because I promised Varg to throw dry sticks on the fire as long as I live, so I need a long life. DEATH IS CERTAIN - LIFE IS NOT.

Who would you most like to meet before you die, and why?

-No one. I'd like to see the earth CRACK before I also die from suffocation. (I'm pro-extinction).

What things / ideals / beliefs do you value most highly?

- Total death, mein Herrn.

Does your life revolve around your music and musical projects, or do you have other interests? If so, what are they?

- As long as there is hatred....Fenriz is mainly occupied with music. Within the last 12 months I've done (or

contributed largely to) five albums and four - five demos. I'm busy.

Fenriz, would you like to say anything else at the end of this interview?

- BURZUM forever! 8.22

DARKTHRONE albums to come:

finished: very soon '94: 'Panzerfaust' 3 of the 6 songs breaks with the previous DARKTHRONE style being musically influenced by old CELTIC FROST.

finished: 1995: 'Caravans To Empire Algot' 2 song avant garde alien / astral synth album.

in the making: 95 / 96: 'Total Death' (maybe 'Krieg') another bone hard DARKTHRONE album.

finished: 96 / 97: 'Transmissions From Empire Algot' , two song avant garde alien / astral synth album
ALSO. IGNORANCE IS STRENGTH. (Antoinette)



By-Pass is a review and listing service for self published material. There's mainly punk and hardcore stuff in it but also the occasional metal publication. Zines, newsletters etc. can send their material to the following address: BY-PASS, 21 Cave St., Oxford, OX4 1BA, UK. Send £1 / \$3 to secure a copy. (Brian)



GLACIAL FEAR are an Italian three piece who play death with a technical edge - see review section. They originated in Oct '92, and the following year recorded their first three song promo which sold over 500 copies. Their success inspired them to put an EP together, supposedly to be released on a Dutch label. When this failed to happen, the band put the EP out themselves. This is distributed world wide and the hard working underground act is hoping it will attract a deal for a full length release soon. Now with their new drummer Gianluca, guitarist Mole says the new stuff has developed greatly. Anyone out there wishing to support this band can contact them at Mole's address - Mole Gianluca, Via Conti di Fortello 13, 88060 S.Maria Di Catanzaro, Italy. (Antoinette)

IMMOLATION

About a year or so after IMMOLATION's 'Dawn Of Possession' was released nothing more was heard from them until towards the end of '94. Now IMMOLATION have released a CD of live and pre album recordings as well as this their second full length follow up is on it's way. Robert Vigna (guitar) answered my questions.

Can you begin by telling us what the band have been up to in the last 12 months ?

- Well after our departure from Roadrunner in early '93 we decided that we had to better our situation, so we pretty much worked and got certain things straightened out that year. It took us some time, but we knew it would help us in the long run, because this past year we were able to put more time into the band than we ever have been able to before. We were pretty busy with IMMOLATION in '94... This time last year (Jan) we were up in Canada, (in the northern winds of doom), and were trying to play a few shows. We had a lot of problems due to those who arranged it all, but it was still a good trip and we got to play a couple of good shows up there..... We plan to get back up north once the new album is done. After that we were writing new material, rehearsing and catching up on our mail. We then started to get our new promo tape under way, as well as plan a trip to South America. We started recording our new material in April at Vortex Sound Studios in New Jersey. We recorded all three songs that were to be on that tape, and before we could finish there were some problems with the equipment, so nothing we did was useable. Even though this happened, it was not a complete waste because we started talking with Chris Forbes (Metalcore). His brother Jim runs Vortex Sound. We saw that Chris was still into the scene as always, if not even more, and that he was into the business aspects of this scene too. So it turned out that we asked him to be our manager. While we were waiting for the recording equipment to get fixed, so we could get back into the studio, we kept writing and tacking care of needed business. The south American trip was getting closer to coming together, so we started preparing for that, and in July we went down to Lima, Peru and did the show. It was a great trip. The people down there were really cool to us. Jorge Lujan (Brutal Records) set it all

up, and HADEZ and MORTEM did the show as well. They even showed us around the city and all. We look forward to going back down there and playing all across South America next time. Once August came round we were able to go back into the studio and get the promotional tape done. Since then we've sent it out to a number of labels and are in contact with some now. We hope to have something worked out fairly soon. We also have recently hooked up with Frank Stover (Visions From The Darkside), to have an official overseas address, IMMOLATION Germany. And he's been helping us out a lot. Now we are preparing to record the new album, and plan to get into the studio in March / April. We can't wait to get the new one out and get back on the road.

Many people thought IMMOLATION had broken up due to your long silence. Was it difficult to spread the word that you were still active ?

- It's understandable that many people thought we broke up, but it wasn't really hard to get the word around. Once we got things moving again we basically wrote to all the people who's mail we were unable to answer in the past few months prior to then, and contacted a number of other people as well.

You described your new material as very dark and unholy. Do you think your previous material can also be put under this title ?

- Of course it can. Pretty much every piece of material written by IMMOLATION / RIGOR MORTIS (NY), fits under that category. It's just that when people ask us of the new songs we want to be sure that they know that we have not changed our style, but only have made it better, and that they can expect nothing less on our new album than IMMOLATION in it's darkest form.

Tell us some details about the live CD you've released on Repulse Records. What material appeared on it ? Are you satisfied with the deal and why did you opt to release it ?

- First of all it's not really a "live" CD. It has ~~some tracks~~ on it from '88 / '89, but it is mainly a look back at our demos and earliest recordings. Repulse came to us with the idea. We don't have any real deal with Repulse, it's basically a licensing agreement on the material. Dave Rotten contacted us and wanted to put the 2 IMMOLATION demos out onto CD. We never really wanted to do this, but being that so many people would request our demos, we figured it was as good a time as any. However once we started putting the masters together we thought that, since IMMOLATION started with RIGOR MORTIS (NY), those recordings should be on there as well. So it kind of just evolved into putting more into it, getting old flyers together, reviews, photos, to make something special out of it. Like anything else we do, if we were going to put our demos onto a CD we were going to do it right. We think that those who are interested in our past will appreciate what we've put together, and that is a release worth checking out. It should be out this month, Jan 9th.

September '91 was the first and only time you played on Irish shores. Do you remember your visit here and can we expect a visit some time in the future?

- Of course we remember Ireland, and we'll never forget it! We had two unbelievable shows there, everyone was killing themselves! Ireland was one of the places that really caught our attention on that tour because the people there were into it so much. Europe in general is great! We can't wait to go back there after the new LP is out, which will be in the very near future!

Your lyrics have always dealt with anti - God themes, do any of the band have beliefs in Satanism or other anti - Christian ethics?

- We believe in ourselves and write about what we see and feel. We look at things from different points of view and twist it all around. Different people are going to look at our words in different ways. It's obvious that we have anti - Christian ideas, that's what Christians would call them, and they would probably call them Satanic as well. That's the way we see it; what we feel it natural to us and we don't care what anyone thinks about it..... One thing that is for sure is that there are a lot of people out there who do relate to our music and that is what matters, and inspires us

Roadrunner seem to be dropping all their death

metal bands. What happened with IMMOLATION? Are you disappointed that you parted company?

- Our leaving Roadrunner was completely different than the other bands they dropped. We only did one album with them, and it did well. They know it did and they extended our contract for the second LP. However, they were getting impatient for the new material, and this was after we set up and financed our own US tour without any help from them. So we basically told them to make a decision, either back us, or let us go. We told them that we would be doing another LP, with or without them so whatever they wanted to do was OK by us. They chose to let us go, and we were happy about it. We originally only wanted to do one LP with them anyway, and since they really did not want to promote us the way we thought we should be promoted, we felt it was better off for us, and them. Now we are looking forward to working with a label that believes in what we're doing, who believes in IMMOLATION, and not the popularity of a certain genre of music.

What details can you tell us about your second album? When is it due for release?

- For the next couple of months we will be doing some serious rehearsing together, and will be recording the album in March / April. We will release it shortly after and plan to tour as much as we possibly can once it comes out.

I hear you have plans to play in Norway. Will the band be touring Europe and other parts of the world frequently?

- As soon as that album is recorded we will be playing out like never before, and will travel to any place we possibly can. We have no immediate plans to play Norway, but if there is anyone there that wants to set something up, you can contact us! We of course want to play Norway and all other European countries, as well as the rest of the world, and we can't wait to do it as frequently as we can!

It's rarely you hear of a band that keeps it's full line up more than a couple of years without changing some members. Has it been difficult for the band to keep all of it's members since 'Dawn Of Possession'?

- No it hasn't been difficult at all because we are all friends and knew each other before we even got the band together. We never just looked for musicians when



we started out, we were just all into the same music and all of us see things the same way. We all believe strongly in IMMOLATION and are into it 100%. This is what we've been into and doing for a long time now, and it's all we want to do. We don't plan on making any changes in this band anytime soon.

Was it a task to secure a deal you were happy with for your second album?

- We haven't signed with anyone yet. It is a task in that you want to make the right decisions. We've learned a lot from our first LP and want to check all of our options carefully.

What do you like and dislike most about the American scene?

- We dislike the lack of originality in the worldwide scene these days, but the fact is that there are more people into it and more people involved which is a good thing. You can't really limit it to just America because this music scene is worldwide.

What bands do IMMOLATION listen to and what's the last album you bought?

- We listen to a lot of different things, MORBID ANGEL, AMORPHIS, SAMAEL, TYPE O NEGATIVE, MERCYFUL FATE / KING DIAMOND, NINE

INCH NAILS, MY DYING BRIDE,...to name a few. The last album we bought was SAMAEL 'Ceremony Of The Opposites'. Great album!

Comment on the following: (a) EVER DARK, (b) The Fugitive (60's TV series), (c) Wild Rags, (d) black metal, (e) J. Dahmer's murder.

- (a) It's a record label (actually I was talking about the band - Brian). (b) The movie was really good (I was talking about the T.V. series not the film! - Brian). (c) Our manager Chris Forbes has dealt with Richard a long time and has had no problems with W.R. at all. (d) It's a label for music. We don't look at what type of music a band plays, only if they play good music. (e) Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

Final words before you fall back "Into Everlasting Fires"?

- Thanks Brian for the interview, and greetings out to all the Irish death population! Thanks to all who've been supporting us and waiting patiently for our new album, we won't let you down!!! For more info. WRITE US! Be sure to send proper return postage for a response. Prepare to IMMOLATE YOUR SOUL.....AGAIN, in '95!!!!!! Christ Denied...Death He Lied!!!! (Brian)

Below the members of IMMOLATION



Norwegian label Moonfog Productions have recently released DARKTHRONE's 'Panzerfaust' and STORM's 'Nordavind' (which features members of DARKTHRONE and SATYRICON) on both CD and limited edition LP. Each CD/LP will cost you \$20/\$18 (europe) and \$23/\$22 (r.o.w.) and T-shirts are also available for \$18/\$20. Future releases include albums from ISENGARD and WONGRAVEN. Moonfog Productions, Box 289, 1450 Nesoddtangen, Norway. (Brian)

France's Adipocere Records is a well established label, brimful of worthy titles. Their releases include such godz as CRYPT OF KERBEROS, BEYOND DAWN, MOONSPELL, GOD FORSAKEN, CELESTIAL SEASON, DAEMONIUM and their distro list has a wide selection of zines, 7"s, demos, CD's and LP's. Although many of Adipocere releases are available in shops, the mail order list can be obtained from 152. Rue Des Acacias, 01700 Miribel, France. (Antoinette)

I have been writing to Carlos from Portugal for over a year, and he is one of the greatest underground supporters known to me. Numerous bands have been supported in his

Embryonic zine, and for this alone his new death outfit MALEVOLENCE deserves our support.

However, MALEVOLENCE also happens to be an excellent death act, and deserving of some attention on it's own merit... Allow Carlos to tell us more....

Hi Carlos ; what is the weather like in Portugal today ?

- Hail eternal sister Antoinette... hum, about the weather in Portugal today I only can say to you that I can feel a freezing wind and see some black clouds on the horizon. In Portugal by now I'm acrossing the winter frost...

MALEVOLENCE formed in the beginning of '94, but some of your members were in other bands.

Can you give us a brief history ?

- Yeah, you are fucking right, MALEVOLENCE was formed by me in the beginning of 1994, in what concerns the other members I recruited Rui Captao for the bass section because I knew him for some time and he was a friend of mine from the old days playing in VOMITORY. About the other two guys, Richardo (solo guitar) and Nelson (drums), I met them in my school after the breaking up of their previous band.

Your debut demo, 'Pleasure Of Molestation' was recently released. How did you come up with this title ? Describe what topics or moods inspired the tracks.

- In what deals with the title I can say it was a product of my insane mind (Eh! Eh!), I came up with the track "Pleasure Of Molestation" in the rehearsals one day, since it was the one who was more relationed in a direct mood with the band, according to it's lyrical content, so we have decided to choose this "beautiful" title to cover it. The moods and topics that inspired the tracks when I was writing them came from lots of feelings I have from what I see in this Hypocrite World. I mean in the musical field I want to express something powerful and melodic so I try to create riffs concerning these two subjects, in the lyrical camp I try that each one of our tracks has some story behind it, based in transcendental thoughts of mine and a bunch of lies and hypocrisy practised by our society.

Who writes the music and lyrics, and how does this take place ?

- As I said before I wrote all the material for our demo, with some help from the other members of MALEVOLENCE, I create all the structures of the songs and then we try to work behind them with the bass, solo and drum

MALEVOLENCE

and they both played two excellent shows. It was good to see something in which I was the primary organiser can be in my room, on the bus, on the street, in the stupid classroom or elsewhere.

Are you happy with the demo now ? What has the reaction to 'Pleasure Of Molestation' been like ?

- Yeah, we are very proud of this debut release, since it is recorded that we are very pleased with it. Our first pressing of 150 demos is already sold out in a period of three weeks. now we are making another pressing of 150 demos to spread around. All the reactions to these first pressings were amazing, it seems like everybody is getting into our sound, I remember now a review in an excellent newspaper in Portugal saying we are a band full of potential and very talented with a strong lyrical content.

How would you describe your music ? What bands / musicians would you consider to be your influence ?

- We have not a definition for our style because we are influenced by a wide range of musical acts in the underground scene, crossing death, doom, black, old thrash acts. I think all the music from these styles can be an influence to MALEVOLENCE's sound, if it's well played and fulfilled with a strong feeling. I get influences from a lot of bands but I don't copy them, just to state a few : GOREFEST, TIAMAT, MORBID ANGEL, BATHORY, MALEVOLENT CREATION, SLAYER, SENTENCED, DEATH, CAND-LEMASS, CELTIC FROST, old PESTILENCE and the list goes on and on...

right now I'm listening to the amazing new album of CEMETARY 'Black Vanity'.
Do you think that it is good or bad that death metal is not trendy anymore ? Do you think that it will be again ?

- I don't think that



death metal was the only trend, you see all the things on earth are trendy, we cannot run from it, what we can do is preform and work very hard to surpass the stupid trends of people and brake the old educational barriers that people put on society. If we believe in ourselves and in what we can do alone, we will not become like something jumping in the so called "bandwagon". Look I'm not preaching nothing, that's only my point of view about trendy stuff, anyway I respect other opinions as they respect mine.

In what direction do you see MALEVOLENCE's music progression in the future? Have you any plans for further releases?

- We will explore our capacities as much as we can in the future, we will always play powerful and also try to put a lot of feeling into our songs. In what concerns further releases I only can advance you that we are invited to a song on a Portuguese compilation CD, we will feature one of our new tracks, maybe "Under Unhuman Touch" tune.

You have played some live shows - how did the gigs go? Do you enjoy playing live? What bands would you most like to play a festival with?

- The gigs went very well, the guys from the other bands we have already played with were all cool dudes!! Of course we enjoy playing live, it's a good feeling to be on stage playing for a crazy audience... we have already some shows booked until the summer. Our ideal stage show would be something constructed over the water with lots of kids drowning in it. I would like to play with a band with a cool attitude and a strong sound no matter how big she is.

What is the Portuguese scene like - is there much label support for underground bands?

- The Portuguese scene is growing up very fast, there's new acts emerging everyday. I think there are actually 100 bands or more in Portugal. There are also a couple of good zines, radio shows, distribution services and so on... about the label support, there are two labels supporting our scene, they are Musica Alternativa and Morgana Records. These two labels are making edition of some Portuguese acts on CD for some time. The big news are that the multinational BMG Records have created finally a stamp for the Portuguese metal acts this year.

You, Carlos are the editor of the excellent Embryonic zine - how do you cope with both of these projects? Will you have time for another issue?

- Thanxxx a lot for the compliment about my Embryonic fucking zine, I try to be in the band and also work on the zine whenever I can, I know it's hard to make the two things but I will survive and do always my best to support cool music

with attitude. Of course there will be more issues of it around in the future, make sure you check out my upcoming #3 full of good underground acts and with even more extreme quality than my #2 edition.

Will you be interviewing your self and your own band for Embryonic? How many copies of the last issue sold?

- I will never interview my own band for my zine, I think this is stupid!!! Anyway I can put an interview in Embryonic someday of MALEVOLENCE if some of my pals decide to make us an interview, I will type it. Of the last issue I sold about 400 copies of it and I want to thanxx all my friends around for making this possible (including you and your killer help!!!)

What is your favourite (i) movie (ii) album (iii) smell (iv) dream (v) vocalist (vi) food (vii) number?

- My favourite movie, maybe Highlander, that's a cool one, album: there are too much to mention!!!, smell: the smell of my girlfriend!!, dream: life after death to torment some souls!!!, vocalist: Martin Van Drunen (ex - PESTILENCE, COMECON, ASPHYX), food: something with potatoes, eggs and a lot of flesh!!! number: I don't believe in numbers!!!

Does it ever snow in Portugal?

No... only when I am with a killer disease, I think!!! (ah!ah!ah!)

Will you still support the underground in 5 years time?

- If I don't die until then I think so, UNDERGROUND RULES, BROTHERS UNTTE!!!

Any Last words?

- Well... Megathanxxx for this cool interview sister in

Below the members of MALEVOLENCE. From left to right: Ricarado (guitar), Nelson (drums), Carlos (vocals/guitar) and Riu (bass).



blood, we will meet around someday and drink some beers. OK !!! For those who are checking up this interview try to believe in yourselves and not in other people's opinions, reach personality, make safe sex and try to survive in this rotten world. If you want to write to

us just take a pen and fix this address :
MALEVOLENCE, a/c Carlos Carismo, Vale Da Fonte,
Lote 11 - 2 dr, 2400 Leiria, Portugal. Our demo costs \$5
(Europe) \$6 (elsewhere), bye now !!!
(Antonette)

December Moon

DECEMBER MOON are not a new band although many of you might not have heard of them before. At the time of doing this interview with Rob, they were preparing material for their debut demo *Nocturnal Transcendancy* which will certainly be something to watch out for.....

Greetings Rob, what direction is the wind blowing?

- I haven't got a clue ! Probably out of my back side.

DECEMBER MOON formed over two years ago now, why did you choose to keep the band a secret ? And why do you now wish to come out of the darkness ?

- In the beginning **DECEMBER MOON** was made up from musicians who were already in other bands I myself was in **CRADLE OF FILTH** and in those days C.O.F. were playing Gothic style death metal. We didn't want our fellow band members to interfere with our project until we had released a demo but today we have nothing to loose by being public as none of us are in other bands. So now it's all in the open.

Can you shed a little light on the history of DECEMBER MOON ? Have you had a lot of different members since the band began ?

- We first formed in December '92 under a full moon funny enough so we began to rehearse and came up with a couple of good tunes. We even planned a 7" and we had about 3 record companies asking us when they should send down the money but the problem was none of us had the time, imagine what the other guys in C.O.F. would have thought if I said sorry can't go on tour because I want to do stuff with D.M. The period of time that followed on after saw most of the band members loose interest including myself. I must admit I forgot that **DECEMBER MOON** existed, it's hardly surprising when I was touring with C.O.F. in Germany or the recording of 'The Principle...' album, you tend to forget things like that.

Why did you part company with CRADLE OF FILTH ? Was it because you wanted to concentrate on D.M. ?

- Many reasons. I can think of a new reason every time I get asked this question. I think the reason that made me

leave the band was the fact that there was no respect with in the band but there was plenty of back - biting bullshit, you know the kind that makes you think why do I fucking bother putting up with arrogance from kids who were averaging three to four years younger in age. I've seen them since then and I've noticed two of C.O.F. are even more arrogant than ever, NO I'm not sorry I left and I'm eternally grateful to W.A.S. and **DECEMBER MOON** for taking me back.

Has the bands music always been in the same vein as it is now ? What 3 words, in your opinion, would best describe your music / sound ?

- D.M. used to be very much your average die hard Satanic black metal but now it's more refined, atmospheric and intense.

Your due to record your debut demo 'Nocturnal Transcendancy' shortly. Give some details about it and tell us something about the tracks that will be featured.

- Well we have 6 songs so far. one of them may not appear on the demo as we're writing album material now but the track list should consist of 5 tracks : 1) "In Darkness They Decay". 2) "The Revulsion Of Sombre



Hordes", 3) "Black Millennium", 4) "Seed To Opulence", 5) Reclamation Of Abyssos. I can't tell you much about the lyrics at this point because I'm still writing them, but the lyrics are completely finished for "The Revulsion..." and "Black Millennium". "Black Millennium" is a keyboard / vocal ambient track written about true facts of the Transalvanian Prince Vlad "The Impaler" not any of this Vampiric bollocks. Where as "The Revulsion..." track is about the power struggle in Europe that led up to the fall of the Roman Empire.

Your music is filled with keyboards, do you think they're a vital part of your sound? Would you agree that alot of the atmosphere that surrounds DECEMBER MOON is due mainly to the keyboards?

- As long as your not implying that the vocals and guitars etc do not have atmosphere then yes! (I'm not implying that the other instruments & vocals have no atmosphere, I'm just saying that the majority of the atmosphere is created by the keyboards! - Brian) I wouldn't dream of recording a demo with out the use of keyboards, it adds that finishing touch and an extra dimension if used in the right way.

What subjects are covered in your lyrics? Where does the inspiration come from?

- Old myths and stories are the norm these days, so I try to create reality with my lyrics instead. The theories behind the workings of the human mind are endless as is reality itself so I have plenty to write about in a few words the whole concept of life! The inspiration comes from no where, the dark and emptiness of my mind, the only way to dislodge my ideas is to get pissed out of my brains before I even pick up my pen! It frees my mind and gives me free expression, something I never had in C.O.F, for sure! Let's face it they didn't give a bollox!

Who influenced DECEMBER MOON at first? And who are your current influences?

- BATHORY! BATHORY! BATHORY! to begin with but I've developed my own style now and you won't know this until you've heard the full length CD.

Do any of the members hold any beliefs in any religions? If so, how do these beliefs effect your lives?

- Sure we have beliefs but if you could call them religions is highly debatable as I was brought up as an atheist since the day I was born.

Will DECEMBER MOON play live in '95? Will you have any kind of stage show?

- I can't see it happening. Maybe in '96 but one things for sure, I don't intend on settling on any cliches when D.M. does play live.

Has it been difficult to inform people about the bands existence?

- No, not really half the work has already been done for me (gossip). As it is it's printed on the thanx list of 'The Principle...' album.

Tell me your honest opinions on the following: (a) PRIMORDIAL, (b) Candlelight Records, (c) Winter

& Summer, (d) the current popularity of hard core, (e) censorship (f) trips and magic mushrooms.

- (a) I still haven't heard PRIMORDIAL's music yet so I can't comment on them. (b) What the hell happened to Candlelight Records lately? Have they folded or what? As for the label manager Lee I've noticed he gets upset if you send him a death threat with a pitch shifter down the phone (and I know who that was too!) (someone should carry out the threat - Brian). (c) Winter's fucking cold and boring, it's alright for those guys in Sweden with their triple glazed windows but this year we didn't even get any snow! Summer is where my heart, is I don't

why but my will is always stronger this time of the year!

(e) (Rob seems to have chosen not to answer this question - Brian). (f) It's amazing what grows in your back garden and how and how it can affect your whole perception of life, I mean who would have thought what you could experience just by eating a few of these silky babes!

Do good things come to those who wait? And / or do all things good come to an end?

That depending on what you are waiting for and



wether or not you change your mind in the mean time !
All things reach a point where they end irrespective of
wether they are perceived as being good or bad.
Who or what do you desire most in this world ?

CACOPHONOUS RECORDS

I had originally hoped to get an interview with
Cacophonous' label manager Nihil but Nihil being
Nihil never replied to my letter. So I was pleased
when the following came through my letter box.
For this I hail Nalhmass (PRIMORDIAL / The Oath)

Well seeing as PRIMORDIAL is on Cacophonous, and
that being good friends with Nihil, not withstanding the
fact that some of this may be of interest to some of you,
and that I may know the odd thing or two...I thought I
might write a piece...a news flash as you were to inform
you what's up at Cacophonous these days. (Nihil slap
my wrist if I'm not supposed to divulge some of this...?)

Well in 1995 Cacophonous has added to it's roster
GEHENNA from Norway, whose rather good ?
'Ancestors Of The Darkly Sky' (N. Gallery Prod.) is a
pointer to great things to come. GRAND BELLIAL'S
KEY from the U.S. are also a new addition, their
excellent 'Goat Of A Thousand Young' '92 demo
showing them to be a quirky, slightly eccentric sounding
band, but one with a clear and unusual grasp of feeling
and character. They have an upcoming tape EP on

- Ignorance ! The lucky are dead !

Final comments ?

- Good-bye and fair well Brian thanks for this in depth
interview.

Polish Pagan Records (which is good if not hindered by
the sound), so don't expect an LP until '96 I guess, but
GEHENNAS' studiotime looms ominous. Watch out.

CRADLE OF FILTH's 'Principle' has now sold some
20,000 copies and they have finished recording a new
LP 'Dusk And Her Embrace' for a rather princely sum in
the UK. A Euro - tour with BENEDICTION seems to be
a comming reality, as are gigs in Australia and the U.S.
in '95. They also now have the added weight of Nuclear
Blast handling the rights for Benelux... so it seems some
monies will soon be working their way into the C.O.F.
lads coffers very soon. Also they have a new bassist
formely in DEMONAM. Designs on world domination in
'95 ?

SIGH are in the studio and hope to release their 2nd
LP in a few months time. DEINONYCHUS' LP
'Morning December' is soon to be released ans see's one
man band ODIN preforming further heroics. BAL-
SAGOTH's LP 'A Black Moon Broods Over Lemuria' is
an epic slab of weighty atmosphere and gothic ambience
and brutal ferocity...and one which I strongly recom-
mend. What of PRIMORDIAL I hear you cry ? (ahem).
well the artwork is complete and once the final mix is
done it's ready to go... Release soon... a month or so. (I
hope).

Cacophonous also do a slightly large distro list which
is damn cheap, so until Emperium - support Cacopho-
nous Records...



Ian spoke to vocalist Chuck from N.Ireland's
PUTREFY who just released their MCD on Italys
Isolated Recs. The following was said...

*Could you tell us a little about the band, who's in it
and when you started, etc.*

- Well PUTREFY are an extremely brutal
gore death metal band from N.Ireland. We
formed in October 1992. Originally a four
as on the demo line up. Then back in June
'94 our bass player left the band. And in
January '95 a guy called Mark joined the
band as a second guitarist. This guy used to
play in thrash band HELPLESS as their lead
vocalist / guitarist. As for working in with
PUTREFY, he's doing great, he's now
completely moved away from his thrash
influences and is now a shit mad riffing
machine for PUTREFY. The current line up
for PUTREFY 1995 is Jason (drums), Jeff
(guitars), Mark (guitars / backing vocals) and
Chuck (vocals). We're still looking for a
suitable bass player to complete the line up.

*Your demo 'Presumed Dead', where did
you record it and were you pleased with the quality
and how many have you sold ?*

- We recorded the demo at Big River recording studio,
L.Derry in 1993. Yea ! We were pleased at the time with
the production even though it was raw, but then it was
our first offering and our first time in the studio. Person-

ally I don't like the demo when I hear it now, especially with my own vocals, the vocals I have now are completely different as on the split CD they're more PUTREFY and I'm totally comfortable with them now. We sold several hundred copies of the demo which wasn't what we expected. The demo is still selling well all over the world and we had to order more copies just recently as we were almost sold out of them altogether. When we got reviewed in issue 5 of Terrorizer (UK) that helped us a lot too.

How much of an advancement do you think you have made compared to the demo and then to the mini CD. Are you pleased with the sound quality?

- I think the split CD tracks we done completely shit on the demo from a great height, infact we all agree in PUTREFY on that one. The quality of the sound this time is much more enjoyable and twice as brutal when compared to the rawness of the demo sound. Our new material is less basic as well.

Are you going to do any t-shirts?

- Yea! T-shirts are now on sale for £8 inc. p&p. They really are shit fucking hot in the art department and everybody who loves gore should have one.

Who writes the lyrics in the band and what are they about?

- I write all the lyrics in PUTREFY, the other guys write all the music. I have a file full of lyrics and when we're writing a new song I listen to the riffs Jeff and Mark come up with and choose the best set of lyrics most suited to those riffs, then I try singing along, we then record it and have a listen and if the whole lot sounds shit we drop it and start again, very rarely do I ever get the riffs taped on their own and sort the lyrics out at home that way, we find sorting the whole lot at band practice is better. All my lyrics are gore stories with a sense of humour thrown in. For example the split CD track "Intestinal Vomit" is about a guy who cooks a bag of rotting intestines and lashes them onto a bowl and eats the lot and then gets so fucking hungry he cuts himself open and spills his own intestines out, rips his stomach open and begins to eat everything including the rotting innards which he ate at the start and then his

whole body swells up and explodes due to the pressure of anal gases. I enjoy writing lyrics like that and about serial killers, zombie fantasy and exaggerations of actual deaths. I hate bands who write lyrics in medical terms for everything. Most people who buy their CD's don't understand that sort of shit and it's fucking boring to even look at!

What bands have you gigged with and do you have plans to play outside Ireland?

- We've played with SUFFERAGE, DEADLOCK and loads of others in the past, but we haven't gigged with a band yet who was more brutal than we are live. We've got a shit mad gig coming up on April 10th 1995 with DESECRATION from Wales. At long last we'll have a bit of heavy competition in the brutality department, these guys are also cool to write to... We have gigs planned outside Ireland. We've gigs planned in England and Scotland for this year, but the dates have to be confirmed yet.

What do PUTREFY normally do when not gigging or rehearsing?

- We usually buy half of the off license on a Saturday night, smoke loads of Marijuana and just end up getting totally fucked while listening to brutal vibes on the Hi Fi... and if a bit of skirt wanders into the party, we usually make bets on who'll shaft her first.

What do you hope for the band in the future?

- What I really hope for and do other good bands is that PUTREFY get signed to a major record label and become a leading band in the world of brutal death metal, because we have for a fact the brutality, dedication and our own style to carry it out.

Is there anything you would like to add or say?

- Yea man it's time I think for another joint... I can just smell those truly wondrous leaves of the marijuana plant, I would also like to add this and that's for more bands to get in contact with us and organise a few gigs in N. Ireland because at the minute the death metal scene is slowly dying. And thanks Ian for this interview, I enjoyed answering your question and thanks to everybody else involved with your zine, all the best in '95... Your mate Chuck!... (Ian)

DREAMSFEAR have their debut demo 'Echoes' available for £1.50 / \$3. You get four tracks of "heavy skullcrunching metal entwined with acoustic melody", well so Cathal says anyway. Write to Cathal Rodgers, 3 Cuba Avenue, Banagher, Co. Offaly, Ireland. (Brian)

UNBRIDED SYMPATHY are a new 5 piece band from Galway, Ireland. They play a mixture of doom, death & thrash with "heavy climaxes". They pian to start gigging soon so watch out for them. For more info write to Conor Mc Donagh, 4 Sarsfield Drive, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway, Ireland or Colin Purcell, 18 Kilgarve Court, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway, Ireland. (Brian)

YSIGIM, P.O. Box 120, 01-800 Warsaw 45, Poland.

Saracotrptor zine, c/o James Nunez Solano, Apdo. Postal 66, Barva, Heredia, Costa Rica.

Gerald Brown is a tape trader looking for some new contacts to trade with. So if your into the likes of P.LOST, SKYLAD, EMPEROR, DEATH etc write to Gerald Brown, 55 Arcon Road, Coppull, Chorley, Lancs, PR7 5TU, UK. (Brian)

Lord Puke as he likes to be called is involved with two compilation tapes, one dealing with black metal acts and the other with death metal ones. He's on the look out for new bands so get in touch, also any distros interested in either tape write. The Way Of Force, Eric Palmier, 73 CH. LE Plaisir, F-74 600 Quintal, France.

BENEFITS FORGOT

BENEFITS FORGOT are a very promising four piece from Finland who have two demos under their belts. The first '...And We Fell' is said to be an average effort but their follow up **The Mist(ify)** is certainly worth checking out. I contacted Timo (guitar) to find out a little more....

Can you give us a brief history of the band and tell us the current line up ?

- Well, Temmu (bass), Tomi (drums), and Hannu (lead guitar) have been playing together since the autumn of 1990 under different names, of which none was really known in the scene. During this time the guys played all kinds of metal, of which I guess they don't care to speak that much about. Then came a time when they started playing death metal. This is also when the name **BENEFITS FORGOT** was first introduced. A demo titled 'And We Fell', that wasn't promoted that much, was recorded. I joined the band in March 1993 and we recorded 'The Mist(ify)' in the summer. On this tape we're much more melodic and original than on 'And We Fell...'. Partly because as I'm doing the rhythm guitars now I enable Hannu to play more solos, but also we're all more mature now.

How has your second demo 'The Mist(ify)' sold ? What have reactions to it been like ?

- I can't really say it has sold that sold... I'm not sure, but something like 240 copies might not be far, but that includes the promos too. The overall reactions have been quite positive. 'The Mist(ify)' was recorded on 24 tracks and the sounds have been regarded as 'professional'. The more important part, which is music, has been accepted just as well. Many choose not to classify it as death metal and I definitely have nothing against that. Though some people who didn't like the tape, usually think it's not brutal enough, 'cos we don't give brutality as much value as an average death metal band might. The tape has been quite well accepted by the labels, of which some like Holy Rec. and Shiver Rec. for example distro it. We were offered some deals, but nothing satisfactory.

You seem to be incorporating other types of music into your songs, like "Not A Preacher" has a funk element to it, would you agree ?

- Oh yes, this is definitely true ! We don't like writing the same kind of songs all the time, which probably can be heard on 'The Mist(ify)', on which none of the songs sound like each other. Of course this is just my

opinion... It's quite obvious that everything you hear or are into effects your music. It would be quite stupid saying it doesn't, because you would hardly use a funk element in your song if had never heard funky music before. Yes, "Not A Preacher" has a more or less funky element to it. I think it's one of the better songs on the tape.... It also has a clean, beautiful part in the middle of the song I love. We kind of like using all kinds of elements 'cos it brings variety to the songs, as nobody cares to hear the same kind of songs over and over again.

When you listen to your demo do you feel there's anything you would change ?

- No, not really. Of course, looking back there are some things we might do differently, but we're quite satisfied with the result we got. There's always something you could do better, because you always keep evolving. However there's nothing I would really change except for some minor faults in my playing. That's the way **BENEFITS FORGOT** were at that time and next time we'll be different again.

Timo, I know your very much into melodic death, can you see BENEFITS FORGOT going more melodic in the future ? Is this how you would like to progress and what do the rest of the band feel about this ?

- Oh hell yes ! We haven't really spoken much about this, but it's quite obvious to all of us. I think we've reached the stage where we have our own style which is different from all the others. We all also have a love for melody even if we do listen to heavier music too. As I said earlier, you always keep evolving and at this time, this is the direction we're heading to, a direction we're all quite satisfied with. We do like "brutal" music, but aren't there already enough bands doing that, incapable of evolving, doing something new ?

How often do you rehearse ? Do the whole band share in the music writing and is it only Temmu and Hannu that write the lyrics like on the demo ?

- Usually two times a week, but we just had a looong break in rehearsing due to Hannu's military service, which is now over. It's a bit more complicated now as Hannu and Tomi have moved to live 30 km from our rehearsal place, but we have started rehearsing again. We arrange the songs together, but Temmu come up with the most ideas. "Not A Preacher" for example was written by Temmu almost completely. We all have ideas and riffs, but Temmu is the main composer. Still, I guess we're all pretty much responsible for our own arrangements / instruments. Usually Temmu gives us the basic structure of the song, on which we'll then jam and try different things. Sometimes the songs may change pretty radically... Temmu has written all the lyrics for our new material and I'm not sure if that's the way it'll keep going. I have worked on lyrics quite a lot, but usually turn them down myself. I might give Temmu some lyrics in the future and ask his opinion on them, but Temmu will probably be mostly responsible for our lyrical side.

as he probably writes the best lyrics too.
Have you played live much? Is it difficult to arrange gig in Finland? Did you ever play outside of Finland?

- Erm... Not quite... Actually, with this line up, we've played ONE gig. The other guys have played a few more, but never anything 'big'. I don't know if it is that hard to really get gigs, because we've never really tried hard. We're quite satisfied just writing new songs etc, so obviously we haven't played outside Finland either. It seems that the situation with gigs is getting better here in Finland. We'll be playing gigs in the future, but not very actively.

Who choose your name? Do you think it's appropriate?

- I can't remember one single interview without this question, but... I guess that it means that we've succeeded in choosing our names. Well, the name was chosen by Temmu. We'd usually rather not interpret the name in any way as we think that the beauty is in the eye of the beholder. However, one way we have interpreted is 'thanklessness'. I think it's rather good name for us, as it is as personal as our approach to music. Nowadays it's easier to notice a name that doesn't have any references to putrefaction, decay, blood, violence or Satan.

Have you had much zine coverage since you began?

- 'And We Fell...' was practically taken not promoted, so 99% of our zine coverage concerns 'The Mist(ify)'. There have been quite a few zines all over the world. I have been waiting that all that would give better results than it has, as most of the reviews we've got have been positive... I guess we'll just have to work harder on promotion. I really can't give you an exact number of the zines we've been featured in, but I'd be ready to do some more interviews, so zine editors, contact me!

What are your opinions on the following (i) Wild Rags (ii) zines (iii) IMPALED NAZARENE.

- (i) We were supposed to do a license deal with Wild Rags, but after I had sent Richard the material he needed to duplicate 'The Mist(ify)', he backed out saying that we weren't doing our part of the promotion. He promised to send back the 500 covers I had sent him, but up to date I've heard nothing of them. I believe he may be doing a bootleg of our tape (ok, ok, I admit that I can't prove anything concretely) (I think what Timo is trying to say is that he has not concrete proof / evidence - Brian). It wouldn't really bother us because it'll just give us the exposure in the USA we wouldn't otherwise get. Richard's really good with words, but I'm not sure if I would trust him again, even if he did pay us for the covers and stuff. Richard's too much in the business just for the money, he'll take any band he believes who will sell well. Maybe I shouldn't say anything as I don't have much good to say, but where do you suppose all the rumours come from? (who said they were rumours? - Brian) (ii) zines are important despite the fact that there are some np offs around (Sadistic Noise (Nor) and

Obscene (N.Irl) for example - Brian) begging for free merchandise. I'm ready to copy our tape to editors and sometimes trade too, but we do NOT send free copies to all these zines of whose existence we can't even be sure of. Now that is a rather negative statement, but of course there are some really cool zines like Dark Oath from Portugal that give attention to bands that really need it. I do appreciate the work that the zines do 'cos it would be rather impossible for most bands to get the recognition they do without them. Needless to say Brian that I appreciate this interview even more than you probably realise. (iii) I.N. have by now reached a pretty permanent status in the underground. I still remember the time when I first heard their demo tape. Their live show used to be pretty different as they were the first ones in Finland to use blood, masks etc on stage. I never have been that big a fan of them, but I'd advise anyone into black metal (or rock n' roll - Brian) to check their new CD 'Suomi Finland Perkele'. They have a slightly different style nowadays...

Do religions of any kind have any effect on your life?

- Not really. I do not really want to take part in any religious activities, but I do approve of religions. I'm not gonna say anything about Temmu, Hannu or Tomi 'cos I'd be talking about something I didn't know.

What has been your greatest achievement in life thus far? Have you any specific goals you would like to reach?

- Oh shit... This is a great (and difficult) question indeed. I would not really say I have reached anything of significant importance due to my young age, but I DO have goals. I haven't really made up my mind about my future yet, but of course you always set big goals, something that matters and does make a difference. One important goal for myself is to keep evolving in every possible way. To me that seems important.

How much new material has been written? Any plans for a third demo?

- Not much, only three songs or so and they'll be altered still. Temmu has started putting a lot more weight on the actual arrangements of the songs and you can hear it. They're quite not like the songs on 'The Mist(ify)', but I think you'll recognize us... They're quite melodic and I'm not sure you could call them death metal, at least in the musical sense of the term. We'd like to make a demo, but we don't have enough songs at the moment. We'll get the songs worked out and then see if we have the money to record it, 'cos we don't want to do shitty demo tapes with shitty sounds. I think we'll be doing a third tape, but I'm not sure when it will happen. We'll be using Soundwall studios the next time too, 'cos you'll get good untrendy sounds there and we're familiar with the place.
Is there anything about BENEFITS FORGOT you would like us to know?

- Well, we have some copies of 'The Mist(ify)' left, so get it for \$4, which I don't think is a bad price since it has a length of 25 min. Everybody interested in us feel

free to contact me...

Any final words?

- Yeah... Thanks to all the readers who read this massive

The following is a list of bands, labels and zines that we've had trouble with in the past. There's some that we couldn't call rip offs as we're not 100% positive that they are but the majority of them are, in our eyes anyway. It's up to you to determine whether they're rip offs or not, we will never have any association with the following in the future unless we get what is rightfully ours or some other agreement is reached.

First off there's the Austrian label Napalm Records. Antoinette was in contact with them and they offered us a trade of 3 full length CDs and 2 MCDs for 20 copies of Deprived issue 2. We agreed to their offer and sent the 20 zines to them. Weeks past with no sign of the CDs so Antoinette sent them a letter asking what was the delay. Napalm Records replied and said that they had received our zines and sent the CDs out and if we had not received them by the time we got their letter we should write back and let them know so they could sort things out with the Post Office. Another letter was sent to Napalm Records explaining that we still had not received the CDs, this time we got no reply. After

In this article, by Simon Cross, a devoted La Veyian Satanist, the 1200 year old Necronomicon is compared to the theories of Zalariah Sitchin - author of the "Earth Chronicles" series. Sitchin draws on physical evidence to prove his theories of mankind's evolution from a godlike race, the Annunaki; and Simon persuasively argues that the deities of the Necronomicon were derived from these 5000 year old beings. Simon uses Sitchin's evidence to support the authenticity of the Necronomicon, which is doubted by some. Make your own decisions in this exploration of the ancients....

The Necronomicon - A Corroboration Authenticity

"The secrets I give to thee, at pain of my life never to be revealed to the profane or the banished or the worshippers of the ancient serpent, but to keep within thine own hearth, always silent upon these things..."

- Abdul Alhazred.

Too easy would it be to cast off all things unknown, incomprehensible, obscure.

By virtue of everything the Necronomicon contains one would be forgiven for passing it off as a pure work of fiction, an endearing fantasy to the impossible. But then, as we saw one hundred years ago, the Wright brothers were labeled - 'mad-chaps' - for their dream of flight. - And before them again Columbus and his beliefs of a spherical planet: yet today 'we' believe, and more

interview through! And a godly thanks to you too, Brian. You've been a great support! Blessings of the Earth... (Brian)

several weeks another letter was sent and then another, and to the date of going to print are yet to get a reply or our CDs. Rip off? you decide.

Another offender is Pagan Records/ Holocaust zine. I wrote to this Polish label and zine and asked if they would be interested in trading some copies of Deprived issue 2 against some of their releases or the latest issue of Holocaust. A few weeks later I got a reply and was offered 10 Pagan Record releases or 10 copies of issue 6 or 7 of Holocaust zine in trade for 10 copies of Deprived. I sent out the 10 copies to them and I still have not received my share of the deal. I have written a few times enquiring about what they owe me but I haven't received one single reply. Rip off? you decide.

I sent £10 to Dan of CRADLE OF FILTH for a long sleeve and he denies ever getting the money. Somehow I don't believe him as many people have had the same sort of problem with CRADLE OF FILTH. Rip off? you decide.

Both myself and several others have been ripped off by Obscene zine in N. Ireland. Rip off? fuckin' right!!

Sadistic Noise zine in Norway also owe me a zine from some years back. Rip off? most likely.

importantly know these things once repudiated, are in fact true! Whilst the above examples are of a material nature and can be shown in every way a solid sense. Does this mean things of an ethereal like aspect cannot be proven?

I disagree. I believe while it is invariable harder. It is possible.

Those familiar with the Necronomicon and it's contents know of when it was written, approx twelve hundred years ago circa 8th Century. But it's subject matter goes back long, long before then.

To a time when a civilisation in many respects more advanced than ours, held knowledge of aspects of our universe that today we can still only guess at.

If you will, let me return you to a point in history about 5,000 years ago to the land of Sumer - The Neflim - (people of the fiery rockets) - and the progenitors of Sumeria. The Annunaki, from which all the Sumerians knowledge came.

My references are provided mostly by Zacharia Sitchin - author of The Earth Chronicles, the four book lexicon of the origins and developments, of this race of people. And it is with them, that our questions & answers lie...

Like all civilisation they had religion. However, theirs was considerably more tangible than any religion present today. For their gods 'walked among them', and ruled their lands. The Sumerian gods were theanthropic that is - "existing in form both divine and human".

As humans they did all that your average gods do for

their faithful subjects, materially and physically. However when a nonrepresentative body (human form) was called for, it was available as "Anthropomorphic Personification" which is much the issue which concerns us here.

But presently let us discuss The Chronicles of the Gods, themselves. Affected to the decree of that which is relevant to the Necronomicon.

If one wishes to learn further of this race and The Nefilim - a jaunt to ones local book store would no doubt be in order...

But before we proceed a question raises it's head and defies to be answered. It's obvious the gods of The Necronomicon are affinitive to the Sumerian gods. This fact has been well documented. But the time span between each is, historically speaking... vast... By my calculations, 3 1/2 to 4 thousand years, at least! So are we to take Abdul Alhazred as speaking - literally... or... metaphorically? What I'm implying is multifaceted, so hence the answers are also.

Did he believe the gods could be reached - contacted through the grimoire, or did he use the genealogical tree of the Sumerian gods as a platform, i.e. a handy & convenient ready made frame of reference, because of it's awe inspiring substance. And/or because the power energy which he discovered, "trapped" - was in concordance with many and various aspects of the Pantheons characteristics & temperament?

Let us speak of The Pantheon... The Sumerians employed a cryptographic number system to define order and rank among the great gods.

<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
60 Anu	55 Antu
50 Enlil	45 Ninlil
40 Enki/Ea	35 Nunki
30 Nanna/Sin	25 Ningal
20 Uto/Shamash	15 Inanna/Ishtar
10 Ishtar	5 Ninhursag

Supplementary to the Pantheon. There was in addition, gods and/or Celestial bodies which were and including from the above: Sun - Apsu, Mercury - Mummu, Venus - Lahamu, Mars - Lahmu, Tiamat, Jupiter - Kishar, Saturn - Anshar, Pluto - Gaga, Uranus - Anu, Neptune - Enki.

Worth mentioning is that the Sumerians only recognised seven planets, Pluto through Earth, for some reason best known to themselves. Although Alhazred selected seven planets he did so by orbital sequence. The significance of '7' we shall see momentarily.

For the sake of brevity, clarity and...sanity I shant go in to the precise and full physical creation of the earth and moon suffice as to say briefly, thousands of years in our past 12 planets existed in our solar system - perhaps this is why '12' gods formed the Pantheon? The 12th planet, called MARDUK - which by a series of events, and as it happens a freak of nature, orbited the solar system clockwise in opposition to the other planets. Eventually it (or in any case it's numerous satellites did)

destroyed Tiamat. The result of which was to create the Earth, Tiamat's surviving mass. 'Kingu', Tiamat's largest satellite became our moon, and the fragmented remains now forms the asteroid belt between Mars & Jupiter.

The Sumerian fable tells us how Tiamat, unruly & belligerent started forming an unsanctioned army. So Enki (Ea) son of Anu by way of delegation conferred with the other gods, to see who would dispatch the raging Tiamat. They all graciously declined! Hence Marduk - son of Enki, elected to quell the 'coup', which he did after he was bestowed suitable weapons. In time, he got restless and, himself succeeded in making an attempt on the 'enlilship' - (position of supremacy over the elder gods and Pantheon).

So now let us take the aforementioned with what we know of the Grimoire - Necronomicon and combine them...

To start we must resolve the question of Abduls use of the Necronomicon; I think we must marry 'both' points and conclude: it provided a ready reference which while convenient furnishes all the necessities to assemble a viable, workable magick text...

If we take the major themes of the Grimoire - the seven gates and amulets, the fifty names & seals, the elder gods & the ancient ones, the spells, banishing, exorcisms, and rituals and go through them one by one at a time we get a picture forming....

The Gates/Amulets - Seven was a number consecrated after 'the seven who judge', 'the seven emissaries of Anu'. It was also associated with Enlil for "his realm was Earth, seventh in line from Pluto". It has other Occult representations but these do not concern us here... There were seven olden cities, cities had seven gates, gates had seven bolts, curses called for seven years plague/sickness, blessings seven years prosperity, health, Matrimony seven days of lovemaking, etc. etc.

The Fifty Names - After Marduk usurped the enlilship named after Enlil, first in line to the throne by right of dynastic succession, he insisted that fifty names be bestowed on him to signify the rank of fifty had become his...

The "Ancient Ones" - "Elder Gods" - Considering Abdul wrote the book in the 8th Century, and let's face it, the known world was well in the suffocating grip of X-tianity. Predominant X-tian themes would doubtless have been employed to suit his purpose i.e. good and evil ever battling it out for supremacy.

Spells, Banishing etc. - Merely, though significantly this - or should I say 'these' - are but employing the balance factor. Essential in all magickal workings. The simple law of existing opposites. You really can't have one without the other!...

Which all brings us to the balis and conclusion of this article, and the argument which ensues, based on the premise of whether the Necronomicon is real or fantasy... If we are to accept the former we must examine every point and conclude with reason.

"For if there is doubt - where is truth?"....

I believe it can be summed up thusly - The fundamental reason for using the Necronomicon is to transcend the material and by a series of "gates", attain a divine conscious, evoke within the priest an understanding of the elder gods to take oneself to that realm. Let us say then that Abdul Alhazred actually discovered a way of transcending his own body and traveling to another dimension and found a deific conscious, then the contents of the Necronomicon would be for all the world - paper mache. A contrived way, A set of rules or regulations to which one must conform to, if they are to experience this seeming soulful spiritual delight. Sure it has it's inherent dangers & pitfalls but if you take care and employ all the given implements of protection, no harm should befall.

Of course to begin any ritual, be it of the Necronomicon or "black"/"white" magick, the celebrant/priest must i) believe in his endeavour - i.e. "That a little known force/energy exists and can be tapped", ii) That he/she should expect to get out of it exactly what they put in.

But you know I've heard tales of those who've tried working the grimoire, to no effect. And scorned all it is, in failure

And I wonder if it ever occurred to them, that try as they might, try like "Hell's - Hammers", and without magical ability - they were doing it wrong.....

Ave Marduk,

Ave Lucifer,

"Hail Satan" By Simon Cross



Sweden's INVERTED are a well respected five piece who have withstood line up changes to appear in their current vicious death format. Now, after several independant releases and some licensing deals through Wild Rags they are working on their debut full length for Shiver Records. Bassist Kristian filled me in on the details...

Hi Kristian, How are things with you and INVERTED?

- Very well thanx. We are currently in the studio recording our debut album for Shiver Records.

Your current line - up includes you on drums; Lars-Hakan and Mats Blomberg on guitar; Henric Heed on vocals and Joel Andersson on bass - is this line - up permanent do you think? Do you get on well together?

- Yeah, I think this line-up will stay permanent for a long time Lars-Hakan, Mats and myself have been in the band since the start. Henric joined in April '93 and Joel joined in December '93. And we get on very well together.

You have released two demos, a MCD, a 7" EP and are working on a full length release - 'As The Last Angel Falls'. What deals were involved with putting out the previous material? Are you working with a label for the debut album?

- Well, the two demos were released by the band but our 2nd demo was re-released by Wild Rags in 1993. The MCD was released by Wild Rags Rec. too and the 7" EP was a co release through Regress Rec. (Italy) and my own label Voice Of Death. When it comes to the debut album it will be released by Shiver Rec. We have signed

a 3 CD deal with them. The album will be called 'The Shadowland'.

How well has everything sold to date?

- Demo 1991 'Tales Of Esteban' about 500 copies (sold out). Demo 1992 'Heaven Defiled' about 1600 copies and still selling! MCD 1993/'94 'Revocation Of The Beast' over 1000 and still selling! 7" EP 1994 'Empire Of Darkness' about 800 and still for sale (limited) in 1000 copies.

Can you describe how your material has progressed from your very first demo 'Tales Of Esteban' through to the new material for the album?

- Well, when we recorded our very first demo we had only been together for about four months. Now we have played together for more than 4 years. So I guess everyone can understand that there has been a big progression since then. Nowadays we take much more time to write the songs and not just throw together a lot of fast riffs. We want to create some atmosphere and dark, occult feelings in the songs as well. I guess when we started we played straight forward fast, Satanic death metal. Nowadays we also put some old speed/black metal influences into our songs, still it's dark death metal with unholy / Blasphemic lyrics but with more variation. *Can you tell us some of the titles which will appear on 'As The Last Angel Falls', and tell us with what subjects the lyrics are concerned?*

- As I said the album title has been changed to 'The Shadowlands'. Here are some titles, "Diabolical Ceremonies", "Scripture Of Disgrace", "Journey Into Shadowland", "Infernal Gates" and 5 more!

How often do you rehearse and describe a typical rehearsal session?

- We rehearse about 2 times every week and for 2 1/2 to 4 hours each time. It's very hard to describe a typical rehearsal session. It depends on if we rehearse old songs or write new ones. But we usually play some songs then we take a break and have a few beers and then we continue like that.

Do you write material during rehearsals, or is it all written by one or two band members?

- Nowadays I and Lars-Hakan write most of the material when we're alone in the rehearsal local then the other members have some ideas for the song and then we put it all together on the rehearsals.

You have toured Poland, and will tour England with ESOTERIC soon. Have you preformed elsewhere?

What was the reaction to your stage show?

- Well, the tour with ESOTERIC is not clear yet but hopefully it will come through this Summer ('95). Except for Poland we have only played in Sweden. The reactions are different from place to place.

INVERTED and ESOTERIC play material which is at opposite ends of the extreme music scale - do you think these two completely different sounds will compliment each other on stage?

- Yes absolutely it's more fun to go and hear two very different bands than 2 bands that sound almost the same at the same show.

Sweden has long been famous for good bands which play in a certain style. Do you think this makes it difficult for new Swedish acts to convince people that they can play with an original sound, or do you think the reputations is helpful?

- Well, some years ago the well known bands from Sweden sounded a lot like each other and almost all of them came from the Stockholm area. But today the scene in Sweden is much better. Tons of original and very good bands are starting to get better known some of them are. UNANIMATED, DISSECTION, UNCANNY, EDGE OF SANITY, THRONE OF AHAZ, DARK

FUNERAL, MARDUK, PROPHANTY, DERANGED, NAGLFAR and the list just keeps on and on! I think most of the true metal fans have already recognised that the Swedish scene is still very strong and with great bands. I guess the reputations have been helpful and partly made it more difficult.

As well as being in INVERTED, you and Joel also run excellent distro services (A-Team and V.O.D.). Is it difficult to handle all of these projects?

- Well, both yes and no. Sometimes it can be hard to keep up with all the letters that I receive every day 'cause I still have a regular job too. But nowadays I have some days off every month from work to answer letters, etc. I hope to go down to work only half time within a year or so. I will never leave the underground I think. I live for it!

How do you think the world will end, and would you like to be around to see it happen?

- I don't know but it would be interesting to be around when it happens.

What would you like to do before it ends?

- Drink tons of beer (good choice - Brian). And dig myself a cool grave.

Have you any last comments?

- Megathankx for your support! Anybody out there who wants to order our MCD or something or just want to write don't hesitate to do so. Stay dark and unholy! In blasphemy... Kristian. INVERTED / V.O.D., Kristian Hasselbuhn, Knektgardsgatan 33 C, S-44137 Alingas, Sweden. (Antoinette)



Necrovomit Distro has been in operation for a lengthy period now, and is run by Ben Johnson. His dedication to the underground continues, and his very reasonably priced list is available from: Ben Johnson, 17 Ashford

Avenue. Sonning Common. Reading, RG4 9LR, England (Antoinette)

Scotland's R.I.P. zine has now finished it's activities.



MISANTHROPY RECORDS

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England

As an introduction to our feature on Misanthropy Records and it's bands we asked Diamanda, Misanthropy's founder to tell us something about the labels' past, present and future...

Misanthropy Records started in the Autumn of 1993. Basically, everything started with the release of 'Det Som Engang Var' of BURZUM on Cymophane (Varg Vikernes' label), which was released in August '93 on 1000 copies, just when Euronymous got killed. Due to this killing, Voices Of Wonder, Cymophane's distributor, stopped all dealings with BURZUM; and the planned deal BURZUM should have had with another record label fell through. I heard about this and thought it was pretty unbelievable, because whatever one may think about the person Varg Vikernes, the music is incredible and belongs to the most important of this genre. This whole issue started to interest me and I first tried to get another label to release BURZUM without success, though. This other label then suggested to me a split-release with Metalion of Head Not Found and Slayer Magazine in Norway. There were some talks about this, but due to financial difficulties from his side it fell through. At around that time I was already negotiating with Varg and his mother concerning the release of 'Hvis Lyset Tar Oss', and as time went by I decided to found my own label and to release it on my own, basically more or less for the sake of seeing this album out. I didn't think at that time that it would be possible to sell many copies of this album because of the initial boycotts from labels and distributors. Varg and I then agreed on various terms and a contract was signed in early 1994. Our first release, BURZUM's 'Hvis Lyset Tar Oss', came out in April 1994. Since then things have developed just fine, we sold actually quite a lot of those CDs and so I decided to carry on with Misanthropy, to rerelease the BURZUM - back catalogue which was out of print, and soon also started negotiating with other bands.

The first band I contacted for release besides BURZUM was IN THE WOODS..., whose demo 'Isle Of Men' impressed me immensely. At that time (late 1993) they were already negotiating with another label, but somehow that deal fell through and after meeting Svithjod from IN THE WOODS..., a contract got signed.

In October 1994 we rereleased BURZUM'S 'Det Som Engang Var' on CD/LP, which did really well, too (and still does). At this point of writing (February 1995) we are in the middle of production of the rerelease of 'Burzum' / 'Aske' (the first two BURZUM albums) on CD / Do-LP, and of the first IN THE

WOODS... album, 'Heart Of The Ages'. 1995 sees further releases in the form of FLEURETY's first album called 'Mun Tid Skal Komme', which is actually a co release with UK's Aesthetic Death Records. The band have finished recording and this album should be released on 1st May 1995. Further on there's VED BUENS ENDE from Norway, a great dark spiritualistic band who will enter the studio in late March to record their first album, 'Written In Waters'. Should be out in May, too. This Summer will see the release of BURZUM's final album, 'Filosofem', and the debut album of Italy's MONUMENTUM, 'In Absentia Christi'. Again a totally amazing, different and moody release. wait and see...

Misanthropy Records will work only with bands that we absolutely approve of. First of all, we have to love the music. If we don't think that the band has enormous talent, creativity and individualism, then we won't bother. What's also important for us is that we get on with bands on a personal level, meaning: we have to be able to respect the personalities behind the band - they have to be intelligent individuals! A main point of Misanthropy is the good co-operation between the bands and the label. We discuss everything with the bands and give them total artistic freedom to do whatever they want to do. No matter if it's concerning advertising, layouts, merchandise, or licensing deals, we inform them about everything and let them approve it. We try to not work with the "rules" of the co-operative music business, which says that the bands are just products and subjects to be cashed in on. We try to give our bands really good deals, monthly royalty payments (when the norm is twice a year for most labels, if at all) and they always know exactly how many albums they have sold.

Our aim is to release and promote interesting and unique bands and to take it all on a higher level. About two or three times a year we release a newsletter with info on our bands together with a mail order catalogue. Mainly we distribute only our merchandise but if we think that something's exceptionally good, we might consider selling it too. For example we have now started selling BLOOD AXIS merchandise (industrial band from the USA), some literature (booklets of the Austrian artist Kadmon, who also plays in the industrial band ALLERSEELEN), ESOTERIC CDs (hateful)

tortured doom from the UK), and a few items more. However, the main thing we believe in is quality not quantity, and that's why we might not release much at a time, but above average stuff.

I don't know yet what exactly the future will hold for Misanthropy, we might

also go into book publishing at some point - simply going on releasing things (not only records) that we may find interesting and different, no matter what the consequences.

By Diamanda Lilitr Morta, Misanthropy Records.

BURZUM

Who amongst us has not heard of BURZUM - or of Varg Vikernes, the notorious being behind it's creation - jailed, for 21 years, for murder. Varg's strong views have earned him enemies, but the music speaks for itself. Unfortunately 'Filosofem' will be BURZUM's final opus and although Varg will continue to write under the LIDSKJALW banner it will be a complete change in style. The first part of this interview was answered two days before Varg was given his sentence, in May '94. He choose to answer only the questions relevant to the expression of his beliefs. In Dec. '94, I sent him some extra questions, to see if he had been changed by his experiences. The first question he answered was question four, concerning the influence of Scandinavian mythology over it's extreme music.

Do you think there might be some relationship between the dark extreme myths of Scandinavia's past gods and heroes, and the dark extreme music now generated in those lands? Are the echoes of the past influencing this music?

- The Viking blood still runs through our veins. The semite - socialistic Christians have systematically destroyed our culture, our religion (cosmology really), and everything belonging to the Germanic tribes. Even our myths are twisted and corrupted. Nevertheless are we Germanic and thinking, and behaving there after. It is not echoes from the past, it is echoes from ourselves. The archetypes awake within us. Aye, we are proud of our heritage but it's our blood that has begun boiling again. with furry and self respected, this is our awakening. The return of Wotan.

I think the dedication on 'Hvis Lyset Tar Oss' is to Fenriz of DARKTHRONE. If so, can you tell me why you dedicated the album to Fenriz in particular?

- 'Hvis Lyset Tar Oss' is dedicated to my brethren Fenriz and Demonas. Skalds of the North. follow the brown lamp and it's chieftain. This is what is written on the inner sleeve. Why? Fenriz and Demonas. have all the

way supported me and BURZUM / Cymophane. Fenriz is also one of "the wave to appear, up from the ashes, of Wotans reich. The Norwegian heathen undemocratic front and Cymophane world wide.

Can you explain the meanings of the lyrics on 'Hvis Lyset Tar Oss' ? (If you feel that it is poetry which can not really be explained, can you describe your thoughts when writing it ?)

- It's a concept album about what once was before the light took us and we rode into the castle of the dream into emptiness. It's something like ; beware of the Christian light it will take you away into degeneracy and nothingness. What others call light I call darkness. seek their darkness and hell, you will find nothing but EVOLUTION.

Do you write and record purely because it pleases you, or are you trying to touch those with similar instincts world wide.

- Both reasons really. Not world wide but in lands with a similar heritage to mine, or to people with the same heritage. Non Germanic people won't comprehend what the hell I'm talking about anyway. So mainly in Europe and in the USA.

Would you like to be remembered in a hundred years time ? Why or why not ?

- It depends on what I'm to be remembered as or for. It's not a goal in itself to be remembered. It's far more important what one actually accomplishes. I don't want to be remembered as one of the last Vikings, preferably as one of the first Vikings of the new world's raise. As earlier said ; the return of Wotan !

I believe you feel strongly about Odin, your god, but there are other Norse Gods. Why do you hold Odin in the highest regard amongst all of the gods?

- There are no Norse gods, we have our Aeser and Aasynjer. God is a Christian word. I believe in the spirit and soul of Wotan. (Odin is the Norse name for the German Wotan). The Germanic race is what is left of Odin / Wotan. We are all one - the body of Wotan. Odin / Wotan is the king and father of all the Aeses. The king of chieftains. The others are different sides of Wotan. Loke his shadow side. Hod his blind side, and so forth. The so called gods are symbols of Germanic ideals and values. Odin is the Ase of eloquence, magic and wisdom of war and death. He is what I seek, myself the Norse man.

Odin, and our Celtic god Lugh, are both patrons of poetry, innovation, travel, and it has been said that they are the same being, worshiped under a

different name by our two cultures. Do you think this is possible? If so, can you see other similarities between us Celts and you Norse men?

- The Swedes call him Oden, the Icelanders call him Odhinn, the Norwegians and the Danes call him Odin, the Germans call him Wotan, the Anglo - Saxons (Englishmen) call him Woden and their may be other names for him as well. I call him Wotan for that is his oldest name, and we all come from Northern Germany. We are all one. I know very little about your Celtic Paganism, so I cannot very well see the similarities between Celts and the Norsemen. But of course there may be some....

Would you like to live in Valhalla when you die?

- My interpretation of Valhalla is very different from the Christian one (we have no Germanic records of it). I am NOW in the hall of battle. We are all there. Copy?

Can you see BURZUM ever touring? Would you like to tour?

- No and no. BURZUM is not a live band. I will never say never, but I doubt it will ever happen. I strongly dislike concerts.

Despite all of the criticism you have encountered, BURZUM retain a healthy and growing body of support. Some bands spurn popularity - what is your view on this? Would popularity bother you?

- I think popularity just for the sake of popularity is ludicrous. If people like what I do, be it musically or ideologically, it is nothing but fine, such popularity simply tells me there are people out there who appreciate what I am doing. Why the hell should I spurn such popularity? I would have to spurn myself, and I don't. All support is good support, and we need this support to overthrow the Christian kingdoms. BURZUM is a MOVEMENT, not a band.

Do you think black metal will exist for a long time to come?

- Until the end of the world as it is today, perhaps beyond. We are here to stay, maybe the newer bands will wimp out, but DARKTHRONE and BURZUM are doomed to opposition against THIS world by are very own ability to THINK. This goes for a lot of our supporters too.

What would you need to do in your life to fulfill your greatest dream?

- I'll answer the question partly by quoting Joseph Goebbels, the two of us don't have a common goal, but the quote suits fine. We shall reach our goal, when we have the power to laugh as we destroy, as we smash, what ever was sacred to us as tradition, as education, and as human affection. Perhaps you will see what our goal was when it is reached, or perhaps you will lie lifeless in our track of blood? The weaklings will perish...under Cymophane.

Would you like to say anything else to anyone else?

- I will encourage all the proud Celts to contact "up from the ashes" (5 Rue Gabriel Pierre, 57000 Metz., France) and join us. Only the elite need pay attention to this. We are the tomorrow where Wotan reigns. Smash the weak,

the inept (Antoinette's trainees - Brian), the stupid (Ray Williams - Brian), the cowardish (Fenriz - Brian), the hypocrite (that's you Varg - Brian) (he is not !!! it's only the right of free press that is allowing Brian to say this, it is NOT my opinion - Antoinette) (so what? - Brian) (I can see the completion of this zine running into difficulty - Antoinette), the enemy of our nature. Strife is evolution - peace is degeneration.

(14/5/94)

Part two answered on 17 / 1 / 95 :

You have served about 7 months of your sentenced now, how have they been treating you?

- I have served 17 months of my sentenced, not 7 (Odin forgive me, I forgot that a sentence commences from the first day of imprisonment, not conviction - Antoinette). I "never" complain and I abstain from telling anything good about the police or prison powers so there is not much to tell. The treatment varies a lot from guard to guard, and from director to director.

Have your beliefs in the Norse race faltered? Why or why not?

- Why should it? I do not think the word "believe" is satisfactory. To "believe" is cowardish, to have trust in, or to know is another thing though. In this connection I must say, no, my views of the Norse people have not faltered. Actually it is not correct to talk about a Norse race. I talk about the white race, but the Norse - Germanic people. Included in the white race is also the Celt people, the Roman people and Slavic people. Well back to your question: you ask why not. All I have to do is to think logically and my views are strengthened. The more contact I have with non - Norse - Germanic peoples the more I have trust in the Norse - Germanic people. The fact that Norway turned down the EU membership proposition is a clear proof of our sovereignty to the other white peoples of the old world (bollox, you just didn't want us fishing in your seas - Brian). Nuke the Brussels (sprouts?, don't you like vegetables? - Brian).

Having had time to read and to think, have you been reading anything particularly interesting lately? What, for example? Has this helped you to develop any interesting ideas or philosophies? If so could you share some of these theories with us?

- Not particularly interesting, but I have read books lately which were interesting. Like a book called 'The Masks Of Odin' revealing the theosophic view on Norron (Norse) mytologi. Also 'Idunns Epeler' (the apples of Idunn) is quite interesting, dealing with the meaning of apples throughout the history of Europe and Skandinavia (fascinatng - Brian).

In the restricted conditions you now suffer can you still write music and lyrics? If so, can you describe this music, and do you plan to release it?

- Aye, I can write both music and lyrics. The music and what I plan to do with it will remain unclear until anything perhaps is released. No need awake any expectations or such now.

Are you pleased with the interest 'Det Som Engang

Var' on it's second release ? Are you still happy with that album ?

- As I've nothing to do with the sales of that album I do not know what interest there may be for it. As a matter of fact I really do not care, I make music mainly for myself not for others. I release it simply because there are people that want to release it and I see no harm in that. Aye, still happy with the album, but I must tell it is strange to release the album (in more than 1000 copies) two and a half years after it's recording. 'Filosofem' is already two years old, and still not released. Strange. *On 'Filosofem', the fifth BURZUM release, there are deliciously insidious sound effects plus another epic keyboard piece. Describe the atmosphere that you are trying to evoke on this album. Do you think it will attract listeners outside the black metal genre ?*

- What effects ? I do not remember using any effects on that album apart from using a headset as a microphone for the vocals. Well, I have no interest in saying anything at all about the album, anybody interested may listen for himself whenever the album may be out. The "traditional black metal genre" ? If you think twice you might remember that BURZUM have never been promoted as "black metal" by my label. I usually do not care who listens to my music, but I would prefer that nobody from the "black metal scene" listens to BURZUM as the "black metalers" tend to be a bunch of puberal losers with a strong feeling of inferiority. I dislike vehemently such low - life. BURZUM is not for weak losers with black hair (is that why you cut your dyed black hair Varg ? - Brian), BURZUM ist nur fur Arier (well I didn't notice a "do not buy unless you are aryan" sticker on the cover of recent BURZUM releases - Brian). I do not know about Europe, but in Scandinavia, and on Iceland,

mostly so - called "normal" people listen to BURZUM and of course, and unfortunately, the black metal losers listen to it as well.

Does evil exist ?

- For idiots yes, for others no.

Have you goals or aims ? What are they ? Will you fulfill them - even if this takes until the end of your sentence ?

- Maybe, maybe not, but anyway I won't tell you about it, or anybody else for that sake.

Is it possible to maintain a sense of humour in your situation ? Do you think this is important ?

- I do not see why "my situation" should differ from anyone elses wether humour is important or not. I see no point in discussing my private life with anybody but my closest friends, so I won't.

Do you take the condoms with you from the visiting room , every time that you have visitors ? If so what do you do with them ?

- I cannot take anything with me from the visiting room as they practice strict security here. When we end the visit and return for our self we first have to undress, open our mouths and lift the tongue for them to see if we have anything there, lift our arms, shake our heads so that anything hidden in the hair may fall out, lift our manly limb, and sit down in a hockey position so that anything we might have hidden up our arse may fall out, also we have to put on a new set of clothes before we are allowed into our cells. Everything in a special room with mirrors on the walls. Later, when they have checked the other clothes every inch, we get them back. *What, at this point in time, is your message to mankind ?*

- 88.

(Antoinette)



FLEURETY is a joint effort between Alexander and Svein Egil, both young both talented both with a vision which reaches beyond the scope of many more experienced musicians. Little is revealed in this tersely answered interview with Sven Egil, but their classically based form of extreme music will soon be unleashed upon Misanthropy Records, and only then will their creativity be fully appreciated. Meanwhile.....

Greetings Svein Egil. How much snow is on the ground, and how does it make you feel ?

- The last couple of days there has been and impressive

snow fall, about 50 centimeters.

The fact does not however affect the way I feel today.

You and Alexander have been playing together for a few years now. Can you describe your music, and how has it progressed since that time, to the stage that it is

at now ?

- Well, I assume our music can be described as a hybrid between extreme metal and contemporary classical music. In the beginning the music was very simple and more "metal". We are now developing towards a more peculiar sound and the music is more intricate.

Has there been any changes in the things that influence or effect how and what FLEURETY writes, over the years ?

- This question borders to the previous one... Our influences were more metal in the early days, now we are influenced by all kinds of dark and melancholic music.

Tell me how you and Alexander go about writing each of your lyrical and musical pieces.

- Usually, the lyrics is what is created first. We used to co-operate with writing the lyrics, but as we have both grown different from each other in many ways, we are no longer capable of writing in unison. Anyway, when the lyrics are completed, we come together and try to stitch the songs together as well as possible, in order to make the words and music fit together.

I know that the usual effect of presenting your music is important to you - so, when you write, do you visualise how the finished piece might be presented on stage ?

- We do not think stagershow while writing the music. Describe your ideal stagershow.

- The audience would be seated, wanting to listen and to look, not to shake their limbs in a senseless way. The musicians would hardly be visible in order to make people look at the ballet dancer who would have a big stage on which to move.

How did you achieve the 7" deal with Aesthetic Death for a Darker Shade Of Evil", and how well has it sold ?

- Alexander got contacted by Stuart from A.D., Alexander told him we were looking for a company to release our 7" as a German label was to incompetent (or what-ever) to release it. He was very interested, and I think it is about sold out now.

The pieces on a full length release will tell a story - what is the story and why did you decide to set it to music ?

- I am not really the person to speak about this, as I am not the author of that story. We decided to put music to it as Alexander was satisfied with it, and he felt that it expressed something which was important to him.

How important is your "Vikingness" to you and to Alexander ? Is there anything you don't like about Norway ? If so, what ?

- I find the Vikings interesting, but I find myself far more interesting. As for the bad things in Norway: I could have managed without people who lack the ability to reason independently.

Some of your pieces are quite long, with some very technical drumming involved - yet you play as if it

is easy - (you make it look easy !!). How did you learn to play in this way ? Who are your drumming influences ?

- Very technical is an exaggeration. I have learned to play the drums by listening to music and trying to play what I hear. I am not really influenced by any particular drummer.

You keep such a cool head when you play drums, yet Alexander is very passionate on the guitar - do you think that your very different personalities interferes or helps with your creativity ?

- I do not really agree with the conclusions you draw, but we are different, and that does of course affect the results of our composing sessions.

What is your greatest hope, and what is your greatest fear ?

- I can not really think of any great hope. Perhaps I am too pessimistic. My greatest fear would be eternal life, but I do not really consider that likely to occur.

Would you like to be a musician all of your life do you think ? Is there any other way you could see yourself spending your life ?

- To be honest, I do not know. It depends on how long I will live.

Are you a secret member of the "Order Of The Unholy Trout" ? (I have evidence that you are !)

- If I told you, it would not be a secret.

Would you like FLEURETY's music to become popular ? Why or why not ?

- I do not really care. It would be nice to not have to worry about money. Maybe as long as the music is in focus, I do not want to be a celebrity. Perhaps that is one of my greatest fears, too. It would be really horrible to not be able to go out on the street, lest I would be persecuted by people wanting my autograph (some how I don't think you'll have to worry about that - Brian).

Ask me something now !!

- How is life as a herbivore ?

(The same as life as a butchering cannibal, except I don't have to worry about my heart rotting in putrefying fat, or my colon clogging up - Antoinette)

Any last comments ?

- Thanks "for" the interview. Buy our products. The Castle and the secrets therein. (Antoinette)

IN THE WOODS...

One of the soundest musicians to emerge from the turbulent Norwegian underground scene is Ovi. Svithjod of IN THE WOODS. His band has created music reflecting the heart of Norway, and throughout our correspondence during the latter

half of '94, he answered these questions about IN THE WOODS, and the concepts behind the band. This interview commenced in July '94 and finished in March '95 through my correspondence with Svithjod over that time.

Tell me who are the members of IN THE WOODS, and what dark forces brought you together in the beginning?

-The men involved in IN THE WOODS today, are the same beings which gathered up about mid '92. Before that gathering took place, the "base beings" had played together for almost 3 years. A developing of original approaches did not take place until we felt that the brotherhood was set. Mid '92, the description of our creations; IN THE WOODS took place....

Tell me who are your musical inspirations? What musicians do you most respect and listen to for guidance for the IN THE WOODS sound?

-Musical inspiration sources are always hard to state, as I guess everyone is influenced by the music they listen to in one or another way. We listen to everything from 60's and 70's progressive rock bands to newer bands of today as DANZIG, MANOWAR, TYPE O NEGATIVE, LIFE OF AGONY, etc. Needless to say that some bands have fallen off the list since we created the already released symphonies.... We do indeed respect all musicians with a soul in their expressions...

How strongly do the members of IN THE WOODS feel about the Norse history and mythology? Do these aggressively beautiful tales stimulate you when you create music for IN THE WOODS?

-We feel a strongly related to older myths / history of the North, as all other Norwegians should be. Unfortunately, they (most of them) seem to have forgotten the proud values our forefathers worshiped. Sometimes I guess we're inspired by some of the noble tales, but one cannot consider this, nor anything else, as the main element of IN THE WOODS' existence.

Would you prefer to have been alive 1000 years ago in Norway? Why or why not?

-From books written around that time or from stories which have gone from generation to generation, mouth to mouth, it does seem like harmony was one of the elemental topics flowing around. People had more time for themselves and each other, far away from stress created by "people" liking to make money rather than making money to enjoy life. People back then (at least in the Northern part of Europe) made from themselves what they needed. If they felt a lack of something, they traded. Far deal one can say. You get back what you deserved. Also, everybody may seem to think that the only things that happened back then were murder, raping, burning, and desecrations (sounds familiar - Antoinette). Besides this, "everyone was Vikings around that time". Learn your history folks! Behind almost every barbarian, you could find a decent family man, a good farmer / fisher and of course a honourable man. Not everyone went across the seas / lands either. Many of the Norse men, selected calm family life, before great and fearful adventures.... I guess I would of felt great with getting the honour of going back, but concerning what I should do there when I had first arrived should have been given a great deal of thought back then.

Do you pray to the old Norse gods? If not, do you pray to any gods?

-I / we do not pray to any gods at all, but we rather hail the stories and the gods behind the Norse myths. This, because we do think that these gods were created by the people themselves back then. Kind of like symbols they watched upon as ways to lead their lives.... Thus we do greet upon the older harmonic Norse ways of living, but of course: this is NOT all and everything which dwells in our minds. We are not narrow minded...

Has IN THE WOODS played live? Do you like playing live? How would you describe your stage show? (I imagine it's full of heathen excitement which inspires the audience to rampage in an attempt to bring the Viking era back to life - am I right?)

-To this date, with the recent individuals involved, (as for the last two and a half years) we have not played or preformed live officially. Hard to describe any kind of stage show since I very much believe that it might be inspired by the mood of ours those particular dates. To create something very unique on stage, often needs a lot of capital, which we do not have.

Tell me about how you came to be signed to Misanthropy Records, and where your forthcoming release on that label was recorded? And when will it be out?

-They ordered a tape off us, right after the 'Isle Of Men' symphonies were released. They liked it, and offered us a deal some time after. We doubted them in some ways, unnecessary to speak of here, and thus we gave them a negative response to it. Some months later, still being in contact with them and searching for a fair offer, we received another offer. This time we could definitely not afford to say no, since we knew they were honourable enough because of a lot of recent collaboration. The recordings of the album took place during November '94 and the release is set somewhere during early '95. Await 'Heart Of The Ages'.

'Heart Of The Ages'in my opinion, quite a cool title. Can you explain why you chose this title, and tell me something about the tracks that you intend to put on the album?

-'Heart Of The Ages' reflects back to mother Nature. As both the heart and the art fall across the surface and within the Earth and the cosmos in general, through all times. A title which describes nothing for some and everything for others... Other musical experiences to appear on the album are "The Divinity Of Wisdom", "Yearning The Seeds Of A New Dimension", "Pigeon" and a few others.

I believe you used the same recording studio as pop band AHA! Why did you choose this studio, who did you work with there and what sound did you want to achieve?

-We had planned to use the same studio as AHA used for their second or third album so we chose another

studio instead. This one is situated about 25 miles from where we live so we had to stay over there for quite some time. A great friend of us came along to help out with the producing. As it seems to turn out now we will differ quite much on the sound through the whole album, so I guess we shall just await the whole thing and see what happens. Most of the time it's just for the better to be impulsive than to plan anything.

Considering the great response to your 'Isle Of Men' demo (2,500 copies sold), do you think that your full length release will make a big name for IN THE WOODS? Would you like to become well known?

-We don't have the slightest idea if the album will create a "big" name for us. Come to think of it, I personally, have not shared a single thought for that part. The most important thing though, is to get to spread the music all over as much as possible, so people at least get the chance to know it exists. If they don't like it, it's their "problem", we create music to satisfy ourselves, not others on the outside...

You say you create music to satisfy yourselves - does this mean that you are not depending on the band to make a living? If not how are you and the members employed? If you are, how does this effect writing, rehearsing and recording? Would you like to make a living from IN THE WOODS instead?

-First off, I do not think that I'll ever be able to make a living out of the music we create with IN THE WOODS, and if I had a chance to do it I would still do a job that I enjoyed very much. I think if you live and breath music 24 hours a day, you'll become quite narrow minded after some time. This will of course reflect back to the music you create, in one way or another. No, I do not depend on the band to make a living further on, and I don't think that was the purpose either, when we first gathered to form the band. Some of us work, some study. You know, the usual things for musicians who have to pay to play.

Is there any musical or lyrical development between your demos 'Areh' and 'Isle Of Men' and the new releases? If so, can you describe the changes?

-Huh... well, to correct you a bit; the reh. - tape never really had a title, so we just called it a rehearsal / demo, or something like that. Anyhow, there have been some radical changes from those two mentioned releases to the debut album of "today". First off, the sound has improved very much indeed, of course. We spent at least 1/3 of the studio budget to create the best sound possible of what concerns our desires. Also, the music is even more varied now, and it has a more progressive feel to it, even though it is not technical for any reason. We have also built more passages into the compositions now. Anyway, I guess the people who heard some of the previous works, will notice that the vocals have changed radically in the most parts of the music, and the guitar

solos / effects are used more frequently, as well as that they have improved a lot. It's hard to explain further on, since the album, in our opinion, is in any way an improvement. If I was told to describe 'HEart Of The Ages' by just a few words, I would have said; Sympho - Majestic Prog. Metal...

I believe 'Areh', your first rehearsal demo, was only available on limited release for promotional purposes. Considering the popularity of 'Isle Of Men', have you ever considered re-releasing 'Areh'?

-The reh. / demo was for sure only some kind of a promo release basically released so that people would know that we existed. We never sold that tape, we just charged a blank tape for the recording and an IRC for the postage. We have never considered a re-release of that tape, simply because we prefer that only a few people have it in their collection, instead of "selling out" the whole thing. We reprinted the 'Isle Of Men' demo about four times I assume, but that was only to promote our works. We didn't make a single \$ from it at all. Since the demo actually sold about 2000 copies, and the demand is still high, we have made a deal with a small and obscure Dutch label called Lost Times Records. The demo will be re-released on a CD in the Autumn of 1995, and it'll be limited to 500 copies only..

Can you tell me about your involvement with 'A 1000 Years' fanzine?

-A 1000 Years.. was just an idea which I came to think of about 2 1/2 years ago. The whole thing really turned out to develop really slow, as I was the only person involved, in 90% of the stages. Thus, a lot of interviews turned out to "grow old" etc. Anyway, I released it almost half a year ago, but the final result was only half way good from what I had expected during the time I worked with it. Anyway, it sold out the 1st two months in fact, and the response to it was really quite impressive. From what it looks like now, I don't think there will be a 2nd issue. At least not in the coming year. After that we shall see. At the moment, time is too limited and I need some new experiences as well. We'll know in time what the future might bring.

What kinds of experiences, life, travel etc? would you like to go beyond Norway to broaden your mind? As you started thinking about your first issue 2 1/2 years ago, has anything happened since then to alter your views of what appeared in your zine?

-About further experiences, I guess you seem to have the point. Yes, I would very much to make my journey far away from Norway further on. AS a matter of fact, I have already visited most of the European countries, and in about a years time, I'll probably be situated somewhere in Australia. I have made a lot of plans for a "world-tour", which will hopefully last for about a year, or so.. Only followed by my own self and the desire to experience other cultures, ideologies and ways of living. Time shall set the epitaph for that tale, though, but the

journey will anyway be completed as time never has, nor will be any kind of problem. I assume it's about three years in time since I first thought about doing the fanzine, and I mean who doesn't develop within that major amount of time? Yes, I have indeed learned a lot from personal "successes" and losses, and the way I see it, the losses have turned out as the most interesting learning.

Why did you ask some questions in Norwegian (to ENSLAVED and Count Grishnackh) in your interviews?

- I just thought that since Norwegian was (and of course is) my mother tongue, I simply had to put in some Norwegian here and there to create a better personal feel to the whole fanzine. And, if people wanted to know what was written, they could just write back and ask for whatever they wanted to.

What are your greatest hopes, and your greatest fears for the next year or Ovl.?

- This year I hope to become rich and famous. What else is there to ask for in this self-extinctive world, huh? *What part of your body would you change if you could, and what would you do to it?*

Friendly Snare is a distro service dealing with Irish and now international demos, zines, etc. For a full list send a stamp or IRC, this is also the address for Silent Ireland zine which is due out shortly. Brian Quirke, Avondale, 52 Meadow Park Lawn, Ballyvolane, Cork, Ireland.



Those of you who liked WARPSPASM will be pleased to hear that all of the members except one have now formed a new band in the form of BLASTCAGE. The music is described as "extreme in a SEPULTURA / MACHINE HEAD kind of way" but they've also gone for "full out mosh/bounce/yorkie sized chunk as opposed to speed and intricacy". Vocals have changed too as they are now more "on the melodic ALICE IN CHAINS style". They've already recorded a tape which has two new tracks "Tears In Rain" and "Caged" and it was produced by Andy Sneap (ex - SABBAT). The tape had not been released when I heard from the band last but it should be by now. Write for more information on the band and tape to BLASTCAGE, c/o The Dark Art Agency, PO Box 319, Leicester, LE1 4ZZ, UK. (Brian)

- As I look very much like Charles of Wales, I find it very difficult indeed to find a part of my body I would like to change. Everything is perfect the way it is... who said...?

When you cut your toenails, do you leave them where they fall, or do you put them in the bin?

- That one has actually been my deepest secret for ages, and I see no point in exposing the truth now...

If you could only take one thing with you on holiday, what would that be and what would you do with it?

- Det matte ha vaert penisforlengeren.. Hva man brucker en slik en til?

This is my last question, and if it was your last chance to say what you liked to the world, what is it you would say?

- Oh, I thought you were clever enough to leave out this usual ending question, Antoinette. I am not impressed! Anyhow, to bore the readers even more, I guess you want me to thank you and Brian etc. for the caring human beings you are? I am caring as well... Thank you...! There shall only be two.

(Antoinette)

Lysergide Promotions is a big distribution service dealing with many underground releases. For a complete list of demos, CDs, EPs, zines write to Lysergide Promotions, APTD 3113, 2745 Queluz, Portugal. Bands, labels and zines are encouraged to write for good, honest promotion. (Brian)

Resplendence Productions have recently released two tapes. The first is a 60 min. 5 track demo 'Dark Pagan Martunes' by pagan / black metal band RHYMES OF DESTRUCTION. The second is 'The Gate To Mystery', a 90 min. compilation tape with 21 bands. It also includes a booklet with information on the bands featured. Both tapes come with glossy covers and are available for \$6 / 200 BFR. each or both for \$10 / 350 BFR. Write to Bart Marescaux, Mgr. de Haerneleaan 18, 8500 Kortrijk, Belgium. (Brian)

MEPHITIS are a five piece death metal band who are a fairly new addition to the scene. They have a rehearsal tape available and should have their debut demo out by now. For more information write to John Rattigan, 152 Greenwood PK., Edenderry, Co. Offaly, Ireland. (Brian)

NECROMANTIA's (also DIABOLOS RISING, PROMETHEAN CIRCLE) address from now on is: P.O. Box 79006, 17202 Himittos, Athens, Hellas, Greece. Do not write NECROMANTIA or any other kind of name or symbol on your envelope as the Greek postal services will return your letter. (Brian)

Choir Of Solitude distribution, c/o Rene Blavnsfeldt, Egedesmindevej 18, 6715 Esbjerg N, Denmark.

Most, if not all of you will of heard of FIFTH DOMINION and be aware of the big changes that have occurred in their line up. To date they have released two great demos and have also recorded a promo. Brickhead, also known as Paul Kearns (vocals) fills us in on the current happenings and more....

Start with a brief history of the band and tell us about the new line up ?
-O.K. then, well FIFTH DOMINION as you know it today basically came about in Sept. '92, we released the 'Pain, Rage & Laughter' demo in June '93, with the line up of Moi - vocals, Rob and Dave - guitar, Steve (T.H.P.A.S.) - drums and David K. on bass. This demo got us to where we are now.... we did stuff for a year or so, in June / July '94, we did a new recording... somehow called a promo by most... why ? ('cause David called it a promo !), which was 3 new songs... Around this time, we lost the two Daves and Rob. Steve and I found Jody and Brian as replacements... stuff... they didn't work out at all, so we got Fergal on geetar and we're cool now, 'cause Fergal's cool, very cool in fact. We've also got John in on guitar, he's a cool guitarist... yeah real cool. And he's got a lovely beard. Himself and Fergal hit off really well... on a musical level, and found that there pretty much dred in together, so I think we've pretty much found the ideal replacements. And around the 14th of December I got a letter from Wicklow, a zine called Deprived sent me an interview and now I'm sitting in my room listening to KATATONIA finishing question 1. *Has loosing both original guitarists slowed down progress much ? How do the new guitarists compare with Dave's and Rob's talents ?*

- Absolutely, it has fucked us up a bit... aren't they tossers ? Dave Mc Keever and his train spotting jacket, eh ? Well Fergal is technically better than Dave or Rob, but that's not really the point... "An excellent guitarist doesn't always a good band make" or something like that, according to Naihmass, and he's right, but Fergal can write amazing songs too, the two songs he did straight after joining us are brilliant, weird, trippy... John's really into his own writing too and I know that Fergals really impressed by John and vice versa, and though himself and Fergal are on a similar level, they still have that required amount of contrast, Fergal... trippy, haunting, John... melodic, catchy. I'm so pleased with them and I believe that this new chapter in our history will be our best and will only get better. If they weren't into the music, what can we do ? Of course, it hurt a lot when they went, but we had no choice but to agree... or rather accept it. It rather accept it. It really did make me look deep inside and see how much I vowed the band and the music and it was clear that I had to



continue... I suppose I need it in a way... I'm glad I did, because I am / will pour(ing) my soul into the music. *Paul, your vocals have changed quite a bit since 'Pain, Rage & Laughter', could you see yourself dropping the gruff vocals completely in the months to come ?*

- NO !!, FIFTH DOMINION is a death metal band but we will not restrict ourselves. we do what we want... musically, alright I know I started to sing normally etc, and that's "trendy" now, but so fucking what !! I mean on PRIMORDIAL's album there's some instruments that CRUACHAN use, and like Naihmass said people here are going to give PRIMORDIAL shit about it, and he's right when he says.. "fuck them", even Keith from CRUACHAN said what's trendy is every band using guitars, bass, drums, etc. So if your gonna look at it that way, and say clean singing or whatever is trendy, then in that case, so is the guitar ! ...oops back to the question (yes that would be a help - Brian)... our roots lie in death metal, so we will always have that element. Sure singing normally is more challenging, but growling rules sometimes... perhaps the growls won't be as abundant as some would like, but... whatever fits.. or carries the lyrics better... I'm sure if we had gory lyrics or whatever growls would be suitable most of the time, but as the lyrics aren't about that stuff, growls do not always fit. I will say though, I'd like to think we will always use some blast beats.. hey man, it's what makes MORPHOSIS cool !!!

Why was the promo never released properly as was planned ? What sort of feedback have you had by those who've heard it ?

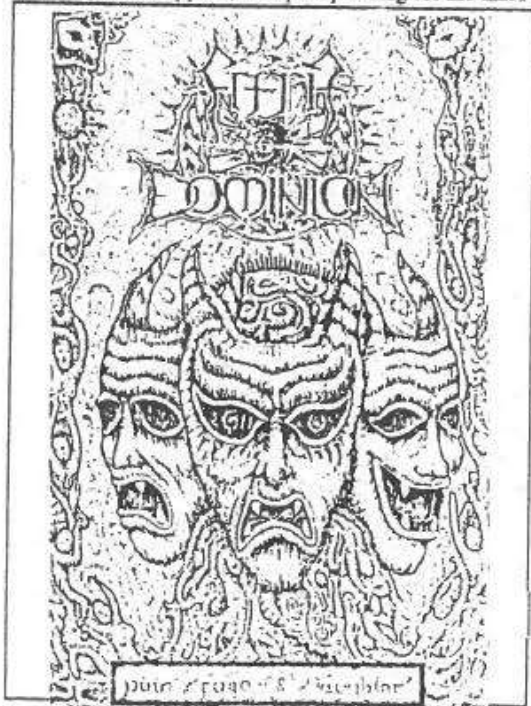
- Promo?... oh yeah, well it was never really gonna be released, basically we got offered some cheap studio time... we weren't ready for it, but it was kind of like "now or never", so we did it, and it's just not good enough to release... not good enough from a production and also a "tightness" point of view. Though the songs were our best for sure. Reactions?... mixed, basically the tape ("Random Thoughts" in particular) is fucked up

man !! It's totally off the wall, so some either didn't like it, whilst the rest particularly liked it. I suppose it's like VOIVOD... not musically, but VOIVOD are either loved or hated in general, like the tape (or your ma - Brian). *In what musical direction do you see F.D. progressing in the future ?*

- Forward, perhaps !! I don't know really, being honest, I would say exactly how I wanted... I tell ya, Fergal comes in and coincidentally we discover that we're on such a similar wavelength musically... It's unbelievable, so wierd, so cool... no worries. John wants exactly the same thing, but his goal is composed of some elements which differ from the rest of us, but at the end of the day we all agree on what we want. Progression... well I'd say we'll always have that element of death metal intensity, but were gonna expand the music so much, whilst always remaining "true" to our roots, look at a band like FIELDS OF THE NEPHILIM, the difference between 'Dawn Razor' and 'Elysium'... an excellent progression, yet still "true" to their roots. Our stuff will become, I hope, more trippy... moody, trance enducing, moving, passionate, thought provoking, image inspiring... with blasts ha. But always death metal, never conservative, but limitless death metal.

Has any new material been written or completed since doing the promo ? Will the lyrics be just your responsibility from now on ?

- Yes, two new songs written !! It's like the above, with still... quite a nice amount of acoustics... and guaranteed to fit the above descriptions... Limitless. Yes, the lyrics are entirely my responsibility, and are already written for the new stuff, I'm very pleased with 'em, they differ a lot from the older lyrics. They are very much in the left field for this genre I suppose, and quite pleasing for me that I



could translate my thoughts into English, so far I've got the entire backing from the rest of the band. I'm not into this preaching shit in my lyrics, but I do think if you read them carefully you can create quite vivid images in your own mind... at least that's what I hope, one thing is definite I'm not trying to be some one I'm not with the lyrics and that in itself is very pleasing.

At one point you were thinking of changing the band's name to BYZANTIUM. What made you change your mind ? And tell us something about BYZANTIUM as they are now ?

- Indeed I was, I don't really know why I changed my mind. Well Steve was opposed to it... and you know that you've got the Steo man happy !! I just toyed with the idea and maybe some people should have, but... so what, I didn't. It's not as if we're fucking with our... "fans" ! or anything. I just thought it would lay to waste all the work we did spreading the name FIFTH DOMINION, when your a small band, I don't think anyone minds too much if you change your name or not, no matter how many members leave. I really like the name BYZANTIUM, but I'd prefer to keep on FIFTH DOMINION... but perhaps one day we'll change our name to "Scobies Brown Thomas", that would be nice wouldn't it ?

BYZANTIUM now ? Not too sure really, I know Maria's a cool singer... and I'd love to do some stuff with her (wouldn't Rob be a bit upset ? - Brian), it's just that getting FIFTH DOMINION back on it's (proverbial) feet has been hard, and this coupled with college has left me with very little time for anything else (except ma slagings, eh Paul - Brian). Plus I'm afraid Rob might beat me up with his THY SINISTER BLOOM if he thought I only got Maria in the band to steal her away from him... really.

Will FIFTH DOMINION's live sets still contain live sets still contain older material from 'Bruised Opinion' and 'Pain, Rage & Laughter' ? And how long will it be before you'll be ready for the live environment ?

- Well we've picked out "Premature Existence" & "Vow Of Silence" from 'P, R & L' to do first, wether we work back to the old stuff or not depends on how we feel in 2, 4, 6 months time, personally I'd like to be selective with the stuff and concentrate on the newer stuff, which I'm sure we'll do... so those two from 'Pain, Rage & Laughter' anyway... 'Bruised Opinion' ?, possibly a really fucked up version of "The Price Is Life" or something... I don't know, doesn't seem awfully likely to me at this stage ! How long before we're ready to gig ?, hopefully around end of Feb / start of March (which 'll show how out of date this interview is, when you print the zine haha) (that's why I sent it back to you to update it, you forgot to alter that bit, anyway your still not ready to gig yet - Brian). We'll be doing some gigs with our good budgies MORPHOSIS & CRUACHAN... or as they're known in Terronzer CRVACHAN (I believe it was you that wrote out that review for Rob Clymo) (indeed I did, it's not my fault the typist is dyslexic - Brian)

plus I've got plans to bring over some bands from the UK, I just have to make sure I have a reliable venue, because Dublin really is shit in that way. It's full of these overly conservative pricks, who discriminate against metal bands, they are so fucking narrow minded & raised on ignorance... therefore they are about as liberal as right wing extremists, the problem is that these people run most of the venues here. If I can overcome this problem were gonna put some thought into our stage show / performance, when we start gigging again... not paint or spikes or anything in that field, but we'll see. *Now that you have some new members, what new influences do F.D. have ?*

- I can't say really, I know that Fergal is really into some DREAM THEATRE stuff but some he despises, Steve is also into some DREAM THEATRE... Fergals also into stuff like THE NEPHILIM, DEAD CAN DANCE, THE MISSION, NEW MODEL ARMY, SKYCLAD, plus lots of virtuoso chaps / women... he's into everything really... but you also must consider that Steve and myself are getting into new stuff all the time.... both metal & bands outside the metal genre, for me personally more recent influences are bands like THE CRANBERRIES, STONE TEMPLE PILOTS, CRADLE OF FILTH, CRASH TEST DUMMIES, TANGERINE DREAM, EDGE OF SANITY, THE CANS, and Steve is just getting into anything I suppose... he's absolutely fanatical about good drummers... I'm sure he'll out do himself. Whilst John is into similar stuff like CARCASS, DEAD CAN DANCE, CYNIC (every member of F.D. thinks CYNIC rule !)... he's also more into stuff, that only I would like apart from John, but he'd be into it more i.e. SABBAT, CELTIC FROST, DANZIG and also VENOM etc. outside metal he likes some blues, don't know how, but he does ha. Also lyrically, we've got some new influences... because I'm doing the lyrics... a small number of poems have influenced my new lyrics... my own idea of paradise / elysium,... and also nature. so a lot has changed recently... lots of different influences.. musically & lyrically.

Are you still rehearsing regularly ? How often ?

- No... how could we, without the line up... of course now we're back on track (I meant now - Brian), that'll all change... how often?... as often as we can, mate !! But generally once a week, about as often as I get yer ma. (your lucky your not ridin' your own ma as she insists on two lick outs and four fucks a week, it's costing me a fucking fortune in bus fares, ah but she's worth it - Brian)

Since you joined the band, vocal duties have been shared. What's going to happen now ? Will another member back you up ?

- Haven't got a clue, I'll have to check out their signing growling qualities... I wouldn't mind it all, it's not like I wanna "monopolise" the vocals... but I would prefer to have none at all... than to have really shitty substandard vocals, so we shall see... I'd ask you Brian, but I heard you're a bit forgetful when it comes to turning on mics...

The growling is pretty easy I suppose, but ideally I'd love to do vocal harmonies in both the studio and at gigs... it probably won't happen, unless of course Dan Swano joins us !!

Share with us your views on the Irish scene.

- Bit shit, mate !!! PRIMORDIAL & CRUACHAN got signed right !.. but what about the bands who aren't as lucky, they meet with any kind of major obstacle and they go into a decline, sometimes permanent. AFTERLIFE & SYNAPSE both lost their drummers and I know Niall (AFTERLIFE) is trying to get a new drummer, but he seems to be doing it alone... nothing against John or Wayne at all, but I get the impression they're taking a back seat. I've spoken Paul Girven from SYNAPSE a couple of times and I get the impression they're not bothered about getting a new drummer, or a guitarist for that matter. why?? where's the passion?, the scene seems to lack passion (except when your ma does the rounds, Paul - Brian). Vinnie from MORPHOSIS has had so much line up shit, it's frightening... but he's still going for it 100%, that's passion. It was myself and Steve's passion that kept us going after 3 / 5 of our band left. So I would have to say that the scene has some excellent bands... but simply lacks passion by the majority... this is my (humble) opinion anyway. On a more general note. the people into the more extreme end of metal seem content to listen to the same old boring shit... SEPULTURA, PANTERA, SLAYER.. all of whom have released really lame albums, what about the more underground bands, just 'cos they're on smaller labels etc. doesn't mean they lack quality, in fact they're pretty likely to blow away the shit these bands have produced in the last couple of years. It's a shame that fans of the aforementioned bands don't attempt to discover the talents of bands like - KATATONIA, SUPURATION, CHAPEL OF REST, GGFH, DARK TRANQUILITY, EMPEROR, CHORUS OF RUIN, VISCERAL EVISCERATION, GODSEND, FIFTH DOMINION, MORP- HOSIS, PRIMORDIAL, CRUACHAN, T.S.B., INCISION etc.

How's Through Ireland's Eye zine doing ? Tell our readers something about it.

- Don't know yet, it's just come out, although everyone who's seen it really likes it. It is a good zine though, I didn't mean to seem egotistical or whatever (no, you never do Paul, do you? - Brian), but it's got 92 reduced A5 pages, 31 interviews, over 100 reviews... there's a load of reading in it... but it 'cos it's so big, we have to charge £2/\$4 for it, I mean it cost £1.38 to copy each issue, we have no choice... with postage on top of that, but you can get the zine from me, Rob or Maria. Thanks for the plug Scobie (my pleasure - Brian), I suppose you'll want a return one in Through Ireland's Eye # 2... Yes?... Suck your nob, mate (I'll leave that up to your ma - Brian).. well, maybe I'll consider it, it'll cost you though... usual price? haha (hey readers, check out Through Ireland's Eye #1, to get an idea of what the price is !!)

What's your honest opinions on the following :

(a) *ETHEREAL* (b) *Peaceville's takeover by M.F.N.* (c) *Wild Rags* (d) *Obscene zine* (e) *Ian Lawless' beard* (f) *DOOMSGAME*

- (a) They're O.K., not my ideal listening, the sludgy doomy death metal stuff, though last time I saw them was 9 months ago, so maybe I'd like them more now !! Why don't they record a demo though, come on John, the music can only stop, if it starts first. (b) Obviously good for Peaceville, even though it meant loosing DARKTHRONE & ISENGARD to Moonfog, that ain't exactly economical logical, it's cool that bands like ANATHEMA & MY DYING BRIDE, who are amazing & really nice guys, will get the chance to possibly follow in PARADISE LOST's footsteps, because they deserve it. On the other hand, Peaceville were reliable in that they signed bands that could write real songs, not just waffle about life on the streets or whatever. But now they're a subsidiary of M.F.N., all ties with the underground could be severed, as M.F.N. has never exactly been clued into the underground. So that's a bit worrying... plus they (M.F.N.) may decide that cool bands like G.G.F.H. for example don't sell enough and get rid of them... that's the fear with these 'bigger' labels. (c) Ha, I think everyone has quite a strong opinion on this one. Now I cannot say whether Richard is a rip off or not. We sent him 10 demos once, which he claimed he never got !?!? It could be true, but on the other hand... it just seems to me that, when so many people call somebody a rip off, there has to be some truth in it, well that's what logical reasoning would lead you to believe, but then again, I could be wrong. But then again I could be right. But then again... ah you know what I mean. Richard if your reading... HELLO. (d) RIP OFF, I sent him a demo in trade for a zine, never got the zine... so what do I naturally think... He ripped you off too Brian.. right? (indeed he did - Brian). (e) HOME to a particular tribe of

Another worthy distribution service is Evil Shit Productions of Sweden, run by Martin Schulman. His list comes in a newsheet format, always containing the latest underground news. Martin's relationship with the underground extends to musical involvement, in the form of his band CENTINEX. This outfit has been together since 1990, and has had a three-track release in conjunction with Wild Rags, entitled "Under The Blackened Sky". Their latest release, "Transcend The Dark Chaos", a cassette EP of four brutally dark sounds has recently been released through Evil Shit Productions. It will also soon be released in MCD form by Wild Rags. The cassette EP is available from EVIL SHIT PROD. for \$5. Europe/\$6. R.O.W., and their first demo can still be obtained for the same price. Write to Evil Shit Prod./CENTINEX, c/o Martin Schulman, Winqvists Gatan 6, 77630 Hedemora, Sweden. (Antoinette)

Andy Turner has an excellent pedigree, having a long standing list, chiefly composed of hardcore titles, but

ancient Aztecs. Man, it's even bigger than his fucking boots !!! Wanna know where the Titanic is ?, the lost City Of Atlantis is ?... they are all in Ian's fucking beard, I got lost in there once (it smelled familiar actually)...

luckily I stumbled across an abandoned aeroplane and got out of there... to summarize it's big. (f) Models for all aspiring Irish groups, I mean they write good songs, are great live and also very popular... Just ask Rob Clymo (Thrash N' Burn #3, Xtreme Noise #2) & Russ Smith (Terrorizer #6 or so) they love 'em. Vinnie O'Brien (MORPHOSIS) based his whole writing for the 'Modus Operandi' demo on DOOMSGAME. Naihmass (PRIMORDIAL) bought 10 copies of their (self financed) EP... sarcasm? Mucker is sound though.

What are your most memorable moments concerning the band thus far ?

- Probably, the 6 days DECOMPOSED & KORPSE were over... what a fucking blast mate !! I had Harry & James in my house for the entire 6 days... it totally ruled, and they both played two excellent shows. It was good to see something in which I was the primary organizer come off successfully... of course with people like Steo, Kark Bouy & Ave helping, it was better, overall a cool time... fucking hard to organize though. Also bringing over CHAPEL OF REST was cool too, even though that gig was ruined by wankers at the venue. but the party afterwards was cool, things like those ruled. It makes it all that bit more pleasing.

Last words and some details on The Jim Foundation.

The Jim Foundation !... send an IRC to 'The Jim Fdn', c/o The Mammys boy club, Avondale, 52 Meadow Park Lawn, Ballyvolane, Co. Cork, Ireland. Last words...SEEK & EXPLORE YOUR OWN PARADISE. Brickhead can be contacted at the address below : FIFTH DOMINION, Paul Kearns. 8 Tymon Close, Old Bawn, Dublin 24, Ireland. (Brian)

with plenty of variation. Andy did his time with Peaceville, before becoming one of the UK's most hardworking managers with the excellent ANATHEMA. He supports all the zines who support this deserving band. For ANATHEMA details, or to check out Andy's distro list, write to PO Box 666, Huddersfield, HD1 4YS, England. (Antoinette)

Carsten Holiter runs Solistium Distribution, and has a growing list of interesting titles - mainly of the Black metal persuasion, although other styles are also represented. Well worth contacting. His address is: Solistium, c/o Carsten Holiter, Unterends 6, 26802 Moermerland, Germany. (Antoinette)

Beyond Death zine should be on it's forth issue by now, maybe it's even further, I've only issue three here which is not a bad zine with some interesting interviews & plenty of reviews write for more info to Spud, 51 Banbury, Sulgrave, Washington, NE37 3AY, UK. (Brian)



EVER DARK formed around the beginning of 1990 and it was February '94 before they recorded their debut demo 'Gravesite Rites'. They are set to record a CD for Necropolis Records shortly which is something to look forward to. Vocalist Storm answered my questions.....

How has 'Gravesites Rites' sold? Are you satisfied with the response and feedback you've received?

- It has been slow. But everyone has been impressed with the sound, originality, packaging, and that we are a USA band, that is rare !! The responses are great ! We need more distro. We've yet to find any in Sweden or Australia.

Storm, on the demo you've used a lot of vocal styles, will this continue on future releases? Or will you venture more into the black metal style?

- Most definitely !! Even a few styles / tones I've yet to expose to the public I use at practice. This is the style "dark graveyard metal" which is variation on speed and tempos. I do use more "black" and less "death" now but have not abandoned it all. I've a hybrid style of "black" and "death" combined now.

Your lyrics deal with the darker side of life, where those your inspiration come from? Do you or any of the other members hold any Satanic or other religious beliefs?

- Past experiences, evil dreams, unholy desire, lust, hatred, revenge on all holy !! I am a Satanist since 1982. Other members do support beliefs of Satanism too.

Tell me about the split CD you are doing for Necropolis Recs. ? Has any of the material been recorded yet? Who are you sharing the CD with?

- It is yet to be recorded. And now likely a full length CD. Necropolis is prime - label interested. But now Full Moon Productions and Head Not Found (Norway) have interest in our debut CD.

Are the new songs in the same vein as those on the demo?

- Pretty much, faster and slower in areas still very

versatile.

Do EVER DARK play gigs frequently? Are they difficult to arrange where you live? Have you played with any bigger bands?

- Recently we have played shows and parties with very positive responses. We hope to play out of state next month with MASOCHIST, IMMOLATION, VITAL REMAINS and ABSU if possible in 1995.

You've broken up twice since you began. How long were these break ups for? Have you had any line up changes during these break - ups?

- The first was very brief in early '91. The second was late '91 for a bit over a year. Then we reformed in February 1993. Only two original members exist in myself and John (bass).

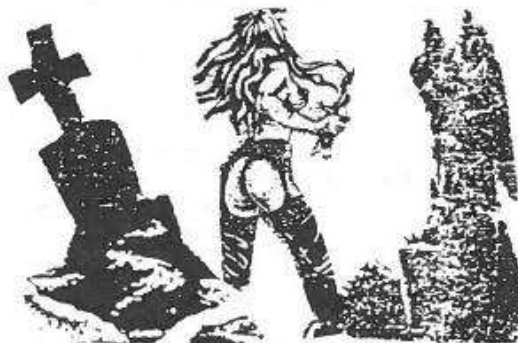
There were several line up changes which had caused the two split ups. People here are a fucking joke !! Losers !

Has your sound altered much since the addition of your second guitarist? Has he brought new influences to EVER DARK?

- Not much.... we are faster on new songs but still a mixture of tempos are done. Tom is old school so he relates well. He's not some kid so he knows the mid 80's feel. He was into MERCYFUL FATE, ONSLAUGHT, POSSESSED back in '86 when I hung with him back then. The only differences are we sound fuller and now trade solos back and forth between Tom and Chris which makes us a first in the black metal type field !! As you come from America have you found it difficult to promote the band in Europe as many Europeans tend to ignore the American scene?

What are your personal views on the American and European scenes?

- Yes, until we give the demo to them !! Then their band or zine is very impressed !! People don't know we are five years old !! I've been in this scene since day one in 1983 !! Both scenes have too many clone - bands and attitudes not deserving !! Many lack originality and musicianship (DOOMSGAME being a prime example - Brian). But not all !! Some bands are very great !! You just have to try to find out whom is talented and worthy of support.



Have you heard any Irish bands or read any Irish zines? What are your thoughts on Ireland?

- I am only familiar with your zine, which I like! And heard one song of PRIMORDIAL which was decent enough. I would like to hear more Irish bands. I like your Michael Sheas amber beer (?? - Brian & Antoinette) and women have a great accent! Ha! Ha!

What are your views on the current black metal scene? What country do you think has the best BM bands?

- Going to fall apart!! But so what? Less assholes to attend our musical grandore!! Probably Sweden and then Norway.

Have you had much zine coverage and have you been on any comp. tapes or CDs?

- We have under ten zines so far cover us. And one or two comp. tapes. We intend to increase the zines a lot more.

Fave bands / albums / films / books / women and what was the last gig you went to see?

- Bands - EMPEROR, HADES, SATYRICON, KATATONIA, DISSECTION, ROTTING CHRIST, IMMOLATION, THE BLACK, CRADLE OF FILTH, OPETH.

Albums - POSSESSED : 7 Churches, DESTRUCTION : Infernal Overkill, IMMOLATION : Dawn Of Possession. SATYRICON - Dark Medieval Times, MORBID ANGEL : Abominations Of Desolation & Altars Of Madness, BATHORY : The Return, VENOM : Black Metal & 7 Gates Of Hell (EP), SAMAEAL : Worship Him, EMPEROR : In The Nightside Eclipse, C.O.F. - debut.

Films - all 3 Phantasm, Wolf, The Exorcist, Evil Speak, Gargoyles, Devil's Ecstasy (X rated).

Books - The Book Of Lilith, Satanism, and some Clive

Barker horror. Women : any who are tall, nice body, Satanic, long hair, and like same music.

What do you think will happen to the world by the end of this century?

- Chaos reigns!! Trend ruining much of everything.....

Any question you would like to ask me?

- What's Ant's bra size? Only joking! Ha! Hmmm..... What is Irish stew and are there many Gothic cemeteries in Ireland?

(Well I'll answer your question about Irish stew first. I suggest you fry 8 oz. of diced lamb. Add chopped onions, carrots, leeks, etc and mix in a bit of flour and stock. Fuck in a few spuds, boil the shit out of it and serve. This will provide a meal for two poor cunts. I haven't a fucking clue about Gothic cemeteries - Brian) (My bra size? This information will only be divulged when I receive a three dimensional diagram to scale, of your y-fronts, you look like a y-front type of person - Antoinette)

Final words?

- Thanks Brian for this interview and best to the zine!! People interested in our demo it's \$6 in USA and \$7 outside of USA postage included. Stay true to the Satanic belief!! Kill the weak!! (Brian)
EVER DARK, P.O. Box 3138, Schenectady, N.Y., 12303-3138, USA.

Below left to right EVER DARK : Jay (drums), John (bass), Tom (guitar), Chris (guitar) & Storm (vocals) at their rehearsal place October '94.



TERRORIZER

Here follows an interview with Russ Smith, one of the main contributors to the UK's Terrorizer magazine which has by now been firmly established around Europe and other parts of the world, read on.....

So Russ, start off by telling us how you got involved with working for Terrorizer?

- Well, let's step back in time to the early summer of 1993. At the time I was doing my UK scene report and working for the odd fanzine here and there. One of these was Rotting Ways from Wales, where the scene report was printed along with some live reviews I did. Meanwhile Rob Clydes was doing his Round Diamond distro and talking about putting together a new commercial mag for extreme music, rather like the old Thrash N' Burn used to be. He got sent a copy of Rotting Ways, saw my reviews and got in contact, as I used to buy loads of material from him. He asked if I wanted to participate in the mag and I said, "Oh, alright then, you've twisted my arm" and the rest is history.

How many issues are sold each month? What parts of the world is it sold in? Has the mag's popularity grown greatly since it's start?

- I couldn't say for definite how many copies are sold each month to be honest. I would guess at a figure of 7,000. The first few issues we're very successful, and then it began to slide a bit, until Trumpington Publishing took over from issue 8 onwards and it is getting back up there again. It's sold in plenty of parts of the world. I heard of a shop in Reykjavic (Iceland) selling it, as well as plenty of places in America, Sweden, Japan, you name it.

Are contributors assigned bands to interview, or can you choose your own? Is there any band you would personally like to interview?

- There is always a pool of bands that are lined up for interviews, and most of the contributors are asked if they would like to interview such and such. Personally I get to interview bands that I want to interview by organising it myself. The only exception was the BURZUM interview. In that way I've been very lucky, but I also missed out on bands that I would have liked to interview, such as PENTAGRAM, SOLITUDE AETURNUS and so on. You can't have everything though. Bands I would personally like to interview? Well, ones that I have penciled in, and would love to interview, include IN THE WOODS.... OPETH, ROTTING CHRIST, ORDER FROM CHAOS, BAL SAGOTH, PRIMORDIAL, and

MOURN.

Why do you think the magazine hasn't folded when the likes of Thrash N' Burn and Xtreme Noise only lasted a few issues each? Do you feel Terrorizer is a better written magazine?

- I think it is because Terrorizer is not a magazine that splashes out the cash like Thrash N' Burn and Xtreme Noise did. That was all down to the editor at the time, and being an extension of Metal Forces. There isn't a never ending pool of cash to dip into and those mags found that out pretty quickly I think. As for Terrorizer being better written, it would be pretty arrogant of me to contemplate that one. That is up to the readers to decide.

Are you satisfied with the underground coverage in Terrorizer? It seems you do most of the work in this department, as you review everything in the zine page and the majority of the demos, do you agree?

- I suppose I do most of the work for the underground material and I suppose that is the background I come from and what I enjoy writing about. It's where a huge proportion of my interests lie. Of course I would love to see Terrorizer as a totally underground mag, but it is just not feasible. We need to sell copies, or the mag just can't go on, so the bigger bands are gonna always be the bulk of the mag. Even one review of a demo band, or fanzine, is more than other mags are doing right now and a help to somebody that needs it.

Why have some bands been interviewed twice? Don't you think another deserving band should have this valuable space?

- Well, that is an editorial decision and nothing I am involved with to be honest. I guess it is because the majority of the readership want to read about those bands, and there's a limited amount of "Big" bands that can appear. I would like to see the space given to other bands, but it's not my decision.

So far two free tapes were given out with Terrorizer, are there plans for more freebies in the future?

- That's hard to say, as I am not totally conversant with the publishing company are planning. All I do know is that there is a free CD on the front of Terrorizer 19. I think there may be a collector's series of free EMPEROR masks coming up, and a chance to win Quim of a Sloth, but we shall have to wait and see.

Do you think Terrorizer would survive if it didn't include mainstream acts like METALLICA, PANTERA, SEPULTURA, etc.?

- Well, those acts haven't been in the mag that many times, except PANTERA, Ha! Ha! No, I think that the mag wouldn't survive without the more mainstream acts. The underground is not as big in the UK as people think. A lot of people don't give a flying fuck about the underground here. It's always gonna be a hardcore of people that are totally into the underground and that would never be enough to keep a mag like Terrorizer afloat. Some people don't see it that way, but they should wise up to reality fast!

The magazine is totally male dominated. Was this a purpose decision? Could you see a female writing full time for Terrorizer?

- Nope, it wasn't a purpose decision as far as I am aware. It might seem like a closed "Old Gentleman's Club" on the surface and I wouldn't deny that. I would love to see some female writers permanently entrenched in the Terrorizer ranks, as I think there are some talented female writers out there, Antoinette being one of them I might add (I'm blushing - Antoinette). A lot of women have pestered the editor about writing for the mag and he asked for them to send some of their work in and has not heard back from them. So, what can I say, apart from I wonder who instigated this question, Ha! (it was actually me Russ, as I've recently grown a big pair of tits and on top of that my knob fell off and what was left turned into a cunt so now I'm doing my bit for the bitches!!!!!! - Brian) (Fuck off, we don't want you - the entire female population of the planet) (all of you weren't saying that last night - Brian) (in your dreams - the entire female population of the universe) (in my dreams... yeah big wet sticky ones - Brian)

Do you ever get tired of reviewing material? Would you rather just interview bands?

- Oh yeah, I get tired of reviewing material, and journalistic work fullstop sometimes, Ha! It's one of those things, sometimes it's a chore and others it is a total delight. I wouldn't say I prefer doing interviews or not, interviews take far more time for a start. I get equal satisfaction out of both activities. I suppose that interviews bring a greater freedom in creativity and ideas.

When Terrorizer started off you had a bit of competition from Kerrang!'s Ultrakill. What did you think of this shite?

- Ultrakill was geared primarily to money, and when they found they couldn't make huge amounts out of this genre they called it a day. It had it's good points but it was written, for the most part, in that vague comical style that Kerrang! loves to employ and I am sick and tired of that style. To me it was a shallow magazine but I am not saying that Terrorizer is perfect here, because it is far from that!

Getting off the subject of Terrorizer for a moment, tell us your favourite (a) bands (b) albums (c) books / zines (d) films and your most memorable gigs.

- Well I don't really conceive of things in a list this way to be honest. It's like those damn poll things. Ha! Ha!

Okay, I'll try to be cooperative this time.

(a) My top 3 fave bands are HUSKER DU, DEAD KENNEDYS and BLACK SABBATH. Also very high on my list is CELTIC FROST, but there's a mass of bands I like. The first two I say because they changed a lot of my attitudes and, in HUSKER DU's case, spiritually touched me in a very difficult period of my life. (b) Albums are a very difficult thing to evaluate in this context. I suppose "Warehouse: Songs And Stories" by HUSKER DU is there at the top, mainly because it meant so much to me. But, it all depends what form of music you want to talk about here. (c) I haven't a specific favourite book, but I love Sword and Fantasy novels, especially R.E. Howard's Conan tales and Michael Moorcock's tales of the various Eternal Champions. Science fiction is highly favoured reading, as are most history books. In fact, my current reading is the Tacitus' "The Germania", a historical look, at the time, of the German tribes at the time of early Imperial Rome. Zinewise my favourites are Mortician Mag (Holland), Isten (Finland) and Slayer Mag (Norway) amongst a pile of others. (d) It depends on what type of film you are talking about for this. I am heavily into comedy, sci-fi and cult films. Probably my favourite film is "Manhattan" by Woody Allen strangely enough! There are a myriad of memorable gigs I could list here CELTIC FROST in May '86 was a killer, as was VOIVOD and POSSESSED in November '86. Every time I saw the original BAD BRAINS sticks out in my memory too. You always know if you've been to a good gig, as I used to be unable to sleep all night, with a very high charge of adrenaline in my system, only coupled with the ringing in my ears!

Now let our readers know something about your distro Black Tears.

- What readers our these? Ha! Well "Black Tears" is not a black metal distro, even though there are black metal items on the list. The title comes from a Conan story by R.E. Howard which I am quite partial to. The distro is an attempt to help out people and bands that I feel somehow drawn to, whether it be because I get on rather well with the people concerned, or because I think that the music is worth getting out there and being heard. The UK public is notoriously bad at sending dollars overseas for zines / demos and albums, so I thought I would make it easy for them by getting some of that material over for sale. The distro is not limited to the UK, anybody can write and enquire and get a list. Anyone interested can drop me an SAE (UK) and an IRC (world-wide) to the address at the end.

Tell me your thoughts on the following: (a) being on the piss in Ireland (b) Wild Rags (c) Count Grishnackh (d) the American scene (e) Fibbers' chicken curry.

- (a) Well, probably the best thing about going out on the piss is watching you sit out on a seat in the pouring rain, while the rest of us stand in the dry Brian Ha! Ha! Oh yeah, and slamming into you when they were playing "Midnight Mountain" in that disco. Seriously, I really

enjoyed the Dublin piss up when I was there, and a warning for all you out there who want to try it, be prepared for some seriously friendly people and to get slightly inebriated if you go out drinking with Messrs. Vinnie O' Brien of MORPHOSIS and the man at the other end of this interview! (b) A lot of people seem to have trouble with Wild Rags and Richard C in particular. He's always been pretty helpful and reliable as far as I've been concerned, so I can't really comment on the rip off stories. There's always the other side to every story, but he can be a very difficult person to deal with. (c) Ha Ha, how did I know that you were going to ask me about him? Let me say firstly that I highly respect the man's music, but can you totally divorce the music and the man that generates it? (yes - Brian) I would of respected his actions far more if he had killed Euronymous in a dual called Holmganga, which was considered a legal form of arbitration up to the 10th Century in the Viking community. It would of been far more credible than stabbing someone to death in their underpants in the early hours of the morning! He is obviously a very intelligent man, but intelligence does not guarantee sensible and true statements. Take Nietzsche, for example, who once stated, "When a woman becomes a scholar there's usually something wrong with her sexual organs", or Tennyson who stated, "God made woman for the use of man" (how true, Ha Ha - Brian). These statements insult half the world's population and are blatantly untrue! (wipe that smirk off your face Brian, Russ has knowledge that you don't have - Antoinette) (maybe so but it just looks to me that he's looking for his hole - Brian). But, I don't take to much notice these days. After all, "I have my own mad man to contend with, cursing in the cave of my skull." I guess he's the by product of today's totally narcissistic society. (d) I wouldn't say the American scene is one of my favourites to be honest. There's now a slight move away from the Tri-states, or Floridan Brutal Death Metal approach, that was highly overused. There are some great bands there though, with acts like DIVINE EVE, AURA'S PASSION, GRAND BELIAL'S KEY and oldies like IMMOLATION. (e) Fibbers' chicken curry? Well, it tastes the same coming up as when it's going down! Vinnie O' Brien also finds it hard to remove from his kitchen sink, and it corrodes paint! Was it seriously chicken curry that I ate there? (that's the eight wonder of the world Russ - Brian). I am virtually a vegetarian for years now, so I presume it was the "food" that made me ill that night and not the fifteen pints of Guinness I had consumed before hand. (He says rubbing his chin).

Has writing for Terrorizer changed your life in any way? What's been the biggest highlight so far?

- Hmm, well I wouldn't say my life has changed that much since I have started writing for Terrorizer. I suppose I have more work to sort out than I can possibly cope with at the moment, and have constant moaning letters about the length of time that it takes to get a review in, but that is out of my control I'm afraid. People

should just have a little patience, as it is a virtue as they say. I suppose I also get handed a lot of freebies too, which is good in one way and bad in another. People tend to think that you owe them a favour if they send you free stuff and I hate that being in debt to anyone. As for highlights? Well, the biggest pleasure for me was getting to speak to Quorthon for an interview. It was an interesting and eye-opening saga I must say and cleared up a lot of my questions and assumptions about BATHORY. I can tell you I am the envy of a lot of people I know that I got to speak to him (oh yeah, I wish I had the opportunity, says he sarcastically - Brian). It's just a shame that the band are not the enigmatic force they once were.

Are you pleased to see Phil Sunderland, aka Santa Clause, being dropped from the magazine's ranks? Did you think he was a bit too generous in his reviews?

- Oh come on Brian, you know I can't comment too much on that one! Let me state that he was never dropped, he was free to submit material whenever he wanted but he wanted to wait for free stuff to drop in his lap it seems. Yeah, I do feel his reviews were too generous, but we are entitled to our mistakes and if it was his opinion to afford those demos those marks that is up to his judgement and not for me to knock him down for it.

Is there anything about Terrorizer we should know? Any surprises in store?

- Well, I have just been made redundant from my full time job (call it an early Christmas present) so expect a bigger slice of my inane drivel in Terrorizer soon. I suppose I should give you all the usual spiel about prices of the mag and so on. 6 months subscriptions are £12



(UK) £15 (europe) £20 / \$35 (rest of world) and 12 month subscription are £24 (UK) £30 (europe) £35 / \$60 (rest of world). You can also get individual back issues for £2 (UK) £3 (europe) £3.50 (rest of world). All cheques / money orders made payable to "The Trumpington publishing Co. LTD", Terrorizer subs, Neil House, 3 - 13 Whitechapel Road, London, E1 1DU, UK. If you want to send something to the editor you can get him at 3 Sandfield Crescent, Camborne, Cornwall, TR14 7DX, UK. As for special surprises in store, watch out for the inflatable doll especially included on the front for one Mr. Nihil Mengele, Ha! Ha!

Closing comments?

- Yeah, you owe me a pint from the last time I came over mate! I shall let you off, as I appreciate your support and the chance to give Terrorizer a good plugging. Hope that it wasn't too boring to read my claptrap. A huge greeting to all the Irish contingent that I know, especially those that came out and greeted me that night. Shame on Mr. Averill for his non appearance, hiss!! A big hail to Vinnie O' Brien for putting me up, it's appreciated pal. Anybody is free to write to me at the address below. Finally, remember that you have a mind of your own, so use it!!! Contact: Russ Smith, 6 Elderfield Road, Stoke Poges, Slough, Berkshire, SL2 4DE, England.

(Brian)

DESECRATIONTM

Welsh grinders DESECRATION are beginning to make a name for themselves in the UK and around the rest of the world both for their music and their gore influenced reputation. I talked to guitarist Glenn just after the completion of their debut CD.

Begin with a brief history of the band and what do the members do for a living?

- Well we formed in '92 and recorded the 'Mangled Remains' demo in the Summer of '93. We had our fair share of line up problems but things seem to be getting better for us now. As for what we do for a living we unearth fresh graves and fuck rotting corpses Ha Ha. Actually, I myself am a machine setter / operator, Ollie does a job with computers, Paul is a painter / decorator, Mark is a welder and Jason is a builder.

Give us some details about the demo and why did you choose to give it away for free?

- Okay, the demo was recorded on a very low budget and as a result the quality suffered. However hundreds have gone out all over and we've had very good reviews in zines from everywhere, so I guess we are doing something right at last. We have been giving it away for free (apart from postage) as at the time we were a new band to the underground and wanted to get our name around, and it worked.

You've sent out up to 600 demos now, what parts of the world has your music reached and what have the reactions been like?

- Well some of the countries that the demo has reached are Finland, Poland, Portugal, France, Italy, Germany, Greece, Japan, Israel, Lithuania, Slovenia, Bulgaria, Australia, West Malaysia, Costa Rica, Brazil, Canada, all over the USA, fuck man! I'll be here all day (yeah so will I - Brian) there's loads of other countries. Anyway

it's got around quite a bit as you can see and as I've already said in an earlier answer the response has been very good.

DESECRATION have supported some big names such as FEAR FACTORY, BLASPHEMY and GORGUTS, how have these acts treated the band and what were the crowd reactions like?

- These shows were all excellent for us and a good live experience. The FEAR FACTORY show was a fucking killer. It was a bit of a cock up to start as we turned up first and the P.A. guy wanted us to set up first. Anyway when F.F. turned up there was some gear problems, but eventually they used our backline and drum kit which made things much easier for the P.A. guy and the rest of us I suppose. Both ourselves and F.F. had a good night. So everyone was happy. Oh there was one incident which involved F.F.'s bass player knocking over one of our bass players stacks. It was okay though and he got a free shirt as well. The GORGUTS gig turned out good as well. It only seemed like a year or so earlier that I was telling everyone about this band called GORGUTS and how good the 'Considered Dead' album was and now I was sitting down having a beer and a chat with Luc Lemay. The crowd reactions were again very good and everyone had a good time.

Your music is very brutal and intense, could you ever see this type of music becoming popular again? What bands first influenced your sound?

- Why not, I can't see no reason why everybody should change just to be trendy, some fucking good bands have wimped out to become more in touch with mainstream metal. The funny thing is they usually don't seem to get what they want but by the time they realise it, they've lost their original fans because of the change and then they just fade away and get put on the "where are they now file". Some of our influences include CANNIBAL

CORPSE, AUTOPSY, etc.

Tell us some details on your debut CD ? Why have you decided to put it out yourself ? How does the new material compare with the demo ?

- The CD, to be honest it has been one big headache. We've had numerous problems from the start, first off was the artwork, as usual !!!, and we've had to tone it down to get it printed, we are trying to get the lyrics printed as well but it's not looking good at the moment. If they don't get printed though, they will be available from us by sending an S.A.E. to the address at the end of this interview. Apart from this we've had to get a new bass player and it was too late for him to play on the recording so Ollie is laying down all the bass for the CD. Actually there has been a new development concerning the release. Mystic Records (UK) have contacted us and offered us a deal where we stay in total control of what we do and their percentage is very small. So it would have been stupid to have refused it. Also The Wild Rag has been in touch and mentioned a possible licensing deal for the US release. The new material is much better than the demo, it's much better structured and there are some slower parts as well but it is still going to be a fucking brutal album.

What sort of distribution will you have for the CD ?

- We haven't sorted that one out yet. But we'll probably shift a majority of them ourselves.

The bands been banned from various venues due to your meatshows. Is this why you've gave up doing it now or is there something else behind it ?

- Well yes and yes. There isn't that many places to play around here so getting banned from them isn't a very good idea, also it was just too much hassle to set up and clean up afterwards so we decided to drop it.

Have you had any copyright hassles from any other bands with the same name as yours ?

- No we haven't, I've only heard of one other DESECRATION from Italy. I mean it doesn't bother us, the world is a big place and there's room enough for us both. It's not as if we are from the same country even. Other bands i.e. MASSACRE (USA) and MASSACRA (Fra) or ATROCITY (USA) and ATROCITY (Ger) seem to have no problems.

Tell us your honest opinions on the following :

(a) snuff films (b) MORPHOSIS (c) attendance at underground gigs in the UK (d) beer (e) Terrorizer Magazine.

- (a) Mmmm as I expect you know I am a fan of the underground "video nasty" scene, and I've seen hundreds of films, some are said to be snuff but I have my doubts if they even exist. With all the modern FX that are available to film makers today some very convincing scenes are shot on camera and maybe it's some of these scenes that are put together and called snuff. (b) MORPHOSIS are a fucking good band and we are looking forward to playing some shows with them when we come over in March. (c) Attendance at gigs in the underground is not as good as it used to be unless there is a major band on the bill (then it isn't really underground, now is it? - Brian). (d) Beer ! I'll just pop to the fridge for a can and think about this question on the way back. Ha Ha. (e) Well I must say that Terrorizer is fucking full of shit most of the time, I've only bought a couple of issues since it came out. I just have a browse through it in the

Below left to right DESECRATION : Glenn Thomas (guitar), Ollie Jones (vocals), Jason Davies (drums), Paul Arlett (guitar) and Mark Holmes (bass).



amounts of money. I mean Terrorizer is £2 odd and I read the demo page and some other bits n' pieces, whereas a zine is not newsagents and that isn't very often. No I prefer zines, they are much more informative and don't cost stupid so expensive and I read it cover to cover.

Your due to play in Ireland during early '95, can you give some more details ?

- At the moment all I can say is that it looks like it's going to be the last weekend in March. Vinnie (MORPHOSIS) and Brian of Friendly Snare are sorting it out for us, but I've not received any conformation yet. Also I am waiting for a reply from PUTREFY about a gig in Belfast. The dates will probably be : Cork, Wexford, Dublin and hopefully Belfast.

How much time does the band take up of your life ? What do you enjoy doing in your spare time ?

- Well the band takes up quite a lot of time these days, and we get shitloads of mail all the time and everyone gets a quick reply too, I might add. Well the ones that are addressed to me do anyway. So most of my spare time is taken up writing letters and doing interviews, etc. Can I just say that every letter that we receive gets a reply, so if anybody has written and not got a reply your letter must have been lost in the post, so try again.

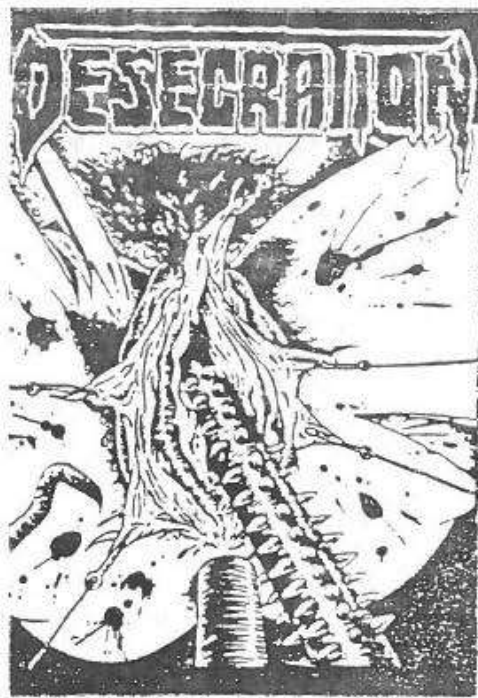
Anything about DESECRATION you would like us to know ?

- Yes, I'll just say we formed in '92, our intention was to be a brutal band with no musical compromise forced upon us by trends, etc and we are sticking with it. Like I said earlier the new stuff is much better than the demo but is still as sick and brutal as it comes. If you liked the demo you'll like the CD.

Final Comments.

Dissonance

Life began for this Lithuanian four piece in September '92. After a few months rehearsals they entered into the studio to record their debut demo 'Inhumanity Limit' but due to financial barriers it was not released or promoted. The band persisted and six new songs were written. In September '93 they found a violinist and so with some more rehearsals they recorded their follow up 'Sleepless Dead' which was and still is being received well throughout the underground. In March '94 DISSONANCE lost their guitarist / vocalist but fortunately it only took two weeks to secure a replacement for the vocal duties. A permanent second guitarist has not yet been found although they do have a session musician. 'Sleepless Dead' is still available for \$5 and it contains four original doomy death sounding tunes and comes on pro tapes. Also expect six new songs to be released shortly. You can buy this tape from their manager Sekla who is also looking after things for GHOSTORM, who recently released their debut CD 'Frozen In Fire' which was recorded at Sweden's Unisound Studios. For more info



- Well thanks for your questions, good questions at that. Some of the interviews we've had, ask some of the most stupid questions so they are not taken seriously and the whole thing is a waste of time. Anyway hopefully the disc will be released by the time we come over to Ireland in March and you can bear for yourself what we are up to in '95. Well that's it Brian so stay sick and brutal and I'll see you in March. DESECRATION, P.O. Box 23, Newport, Gwent, NP9 8YG, UK. (Brian)

contact : Sekla, Architektu 9 - 25, 2043 Vilnius, Lithuania. (Brian)

Carrion zine issue 4 is out now and it's the last one Antti is doing. It features GODSEND, CELESTIAL SEASON, WHORES OF BABYLON & more. 15 mk (Fin) \$4 (elsewhere) from Antti Luukkanen, Kirjurinkatu 43, 03600 Karkkila, Finland. (Brian)

Veil Of Tears is a recently started Irish distro, catering for a wide range of tastes, at good prices - Demos include the likes of BEHEMOTH, MORSTICE, CRUACHAN, to name a few. EP's such as FLEURETY & NIGHTFALL are on offer also, with CDs such as BURZUM & THIRD AND THE MORTAL. For a complete list contact Peter Rees, 25 Marian Villas, Arklow, Co. Wicklow, Ireland. (Antoinette)

Dark Skies Ahead is a new Irish fanzine which should be out by now. It costs £1.50 / \$3 and features SAD WHISPERINGS, GODSEND, OGRE, PRIMORDIAL-WAYLANDER and more. Available from Adrian Butler, Luggacucurren, Stradbally, Co. Laois, Ireland. (Brian)

DARK WHITE

If your into the likes of BLACK SABBATH and CATHEDRAL you cannot afford to over look the music of French doom outfit DARK WHITE. Vocalist Pierre lets us know a little more about this fine act...

Can you begin with a bit of band history since you formed in Autumn '91 and tell us something about each member ?

- Me and David began DARK WHITE in Autumn '91. We didn't really find ourselves in all the death wave ! or grind, thrash etc...no so we do a flyer and give it to all the record shops in Paris. Florent came with us as bass player, David on guitar and me on drums & vocals. It was very scary, after two months a drummer came to help us !! He didn't really help us too well, he was in a thrash band so he didn't really understand what we wanted !! He left. We found another guy - J.P. Fishman. This guy was a good drummer but not so sensitive to doom. He just played without any feeling. It was really hard and quite disappointing for me, David and Florent. This unfeeling gave Florent an excuse to leave the band. Arrrg !! in Winter '92 we found Francois on bass. Francois really wanted to be in a band like BLACK SABBATH like us. Chance knocking on our door but it turned quickly to a nightmare when the drummer Fishman left. Bloody well in the end of '93 a friend told us that he knew a drummer, "well ok bring him to me" I said !! It was Ibo. Ibo liked a lot of different bands and liked what we were doing in the studio. So then he played with us. The '94 line up was : me - vocals, David - guitar, Francois - bass & Ibo - drums. And now the '95 line up is me - vocals, David - guitar, Frank - guitar, Francois - bass & Ibo - drums. David is a complete fan of TROUBLE, SOLITUDE AETURNUS, CATHEDRAL, SAINT VITUS, he's a really cool guy and dark as well. A very good friend of mine (he's a freak of video horror). Francois is more into TYPE O NEGATIVE, ST VITUS, OBSESSED, CANDLEMASS and Celtic songs. Frank is a nice guy, drawing, he does cartoons all the time. He likes the N.W.O.B.H.M. bands and CATHEDRAL, SOLITUDE AETURNUS, TROUBLE & MY DYING BRIDE. Ibo is a rare specimen of serenity, but inside there hides a beast. I like METALLICA, SOLITUDE AETURNUS, and old heavy metal (French) like UUCAIN, ADX, maybe you don't know these bands? and we like to drink a pint in pubs and have a good time.

Every one of us rejoin the other. Now it's ok.

How is 'Soft & Relentless' selling ? Is the demo getting good reviews ?

- Pretty good !! Really I didn't expect this before we did it !!! It's cool. Yes we have had some reviews in Terrorizer #16, in Count Raven FC zine, Metal Hammer Germany, and fanzines I'm waiting for !!

There's a big CATHEDRAL and BLACK SABBATH influence in the music on 'Soft & Relentless', would you agree ? And has your music always been in this vein ?

- I agree with you completely !!! Yes in a way we have progressed a very little bit different now. My voice is more pure !! I mean I try to make my own voice like all the time now ! And with the second guitar we're more powerful !!! But the same doomed riffs !!!

You've had a lot of line up changes in the past, are you happy with the current one, can you see it lasting ?

- Oh yes I'm happy with the line up now. I hope things will go well for a while !!! Better and better. I cross my fingers man !!!

Has it been difficult to get your name around ?

Have you had much response from outside Europe?

- Yes we've had some good responses from USA, South America, very good, they like the demo. I receive 2 or 3 letters every day to order the demo. Unbelievable !!! Great maybe doom will become more popular these days !!!

Is playing live an important part of DARK WHITE ? Where were your best and worst gigs to date ?

- Yes very important, we really like playing live it's so exciting. Our best gig was on the 26th of november in Paris in a thrash metal festival, we were on the front line. After the first riff everybody was slam dancing. I was quite surprised by that ! We played very slow...but...the worst was 2 years ago. Horrible condition, bad feelings. We played for 150 people in a university. So boring people full of beers completely drunk. They insulted us so we stopped the show and fuck you ya bloody bastard, you suck !!! We played at this shit 'cause David was studying in the university. So, but Argg forget it !!!

Has any new material been written ? When can we expect your new release ?

- Yes we've written 2 new songs, one called "Crystal Women" & "Mournful Vestige Of A Karma". Our next release is for a compilation CD for Shiver records. I think the track is "Mournful Vestige...", we'll choose at

the time. I don't know !! So wait the new.

Do you listen to other music outside of doom ?

- Yes I listen to a little bit of black metal like IMMORTAL, CRADLE OF FILTH, 70's soul music, psychedelic 70's rock and Indian spiritual music. It makes me happy in mind. Good.

Have you heard any Irish bands ? If so, what did you think of them ?

- I have heard THY SINISTER BLOOM, great band, I love them... somebody told me about a band called SATURNINE in the vein of TROUBLE and CATHEDRAL, I'd like to hear them!!! No that's all...

What subjects do you cover in your lyrics ? Is there anything you would never write about ?

- Is the door to enter on the DARK WHITE world - yes... sex relation strong one !! You know what I mean.

Do all the members share the song writing responsibilities or is it just up to certain members ?

- Yes just me. Each member does their job, I do mine ! I like writing !!!

Can you see doom becoming very popular in the future ? Would you like to see this happen ?

- Yes I think doom will become popular this day. Even in Paris you can realise it !! I hope all this popularity can

smack real doom metal !!! Pecuperate by some fashion victim. Oh lord no please, help us. Doom is really underground at all. So we see...

What does life mean to you ?

- We are on earth for a short time. Do what you think is good for you. Keep this way. Maybe in your next life.

Things are not going to be the same is the rule of karma

- sometimes life sucks, right ! It's our karma, life is hard. For many people, homeless, animals, children, in war. So try to be good, be real, be what you are really. Don't be something, dadada... Be real. And this time that we pass

on this planet is gonna be ok !!! I'm a very depressive guy and don't sleep on my grave, I'm dead. I wait my

turn... it's pretty sad. But it's life. Life. Suffering. Yes !!

If you had a choice of signing to the following which would you choose ? (a) Holy Recs. (b)

Earache (c) Shiver Recs. (d) Wild Rags

- Maybe Holy Recs. I don't know.

Final words

- Thanx a lot Brian for the cool interview. People like you are great at keeping the underground alive. Many good wishes for the zine !! Thanx. Buy our demo and all sheet !! Cheers. (Brian)

Below the members of DARK WHITE



**The Principle Of Evil - Article by Naihmass
(PRIMORDIAL / The Oath)**

"Cursed are the believers in good and evil, for they shall be frightened by shadows"

Satanism and black metal.

The current black metal scene is infested with bands trying to out-evil each other, and to have the more spikes, bullet-belts and more cliched corpse paint than the next band, but as I have not put pen to paper to comment on visual genericism and lack of imagination, I

will return to the matter in hand.

Satanism has long been used by bands to conjure up lyrical and visual images for themselves, but only with the explosion of the black metal scene in the 90's has Satanism become the most handy accessory of all to fall back on, as when all else fails for bands who have no musical capabilities it is for sure that if you use Pentagrams, Inverted Crosses, and other symbols that eventually some equally brainless ten-a-penny record label release some shitty ?" or nowadays CD. In actuality this is what

makes a complete mockery of Satanism and it's relation to black metal, and would have god laughing beyond the pearly gates, if either existed...but for those bands and indeed labels they very much do exist and the nazarene laws are adhered to perhaps more closely than the faceless herd that follow them in the first place. These "Satanists" live by these laws in a purely oppository and inverse fashion...how can one blaspheme against that which does not exist?

However it can be said that christianity is indeed an enemy of the Satanist, as are all anti-life religions...but why preoccupy one's life with living in opposition?, let us realise that we are the Elite, and Supremacy under no circumstances allows us to stoop to that level. Life is for living one life...your own, now that may be stating the obvious to many, but so may self titled "Satanists" dedicate themselves to follow others purely to negate every step they take, as they are taken. Life is too short my friends. Carpe deum.

The amount of bands who embrace Satanism to conjure up more "evil" associations for themselves are ultimately kidding themselves as surely as there is no god. "Evil" is a christian creation and if one lives in

Naihmass also decided to mention "some albums you may have missed down the years, that you should endeavour to discover".....

NEMESIS (Swe) - 'The Day Of Retribution' EP 1982. CANDLEMASS circa 1982, with Edling handling vocals also. The first ever doom release?, I believe so. A profoundly Dark and frightening journey into nothingness. Classic. Collectors. Re-released in '89 on M.F.N. then deleted.

N.M.E. (USA) - 'Unholy Death' LP 1985. Guitarist stabbed his mother to death with a scissors if I remember correctly...sorta VENOM meets THE EXPLOITED.. not bad at all. Original LP a collector's cult item. Soon to be re-released on Moribond Records.

SLAUGHTER (Can) - 'Strappado' LP '86. Monsterously heavy and grinding dark death metal from insane canucks... Guitar tone guaranteed to rip your head off.. Soon re-released I think. Worth getting to hear some very early death metal influence. Simple.. Primitive.. Effective.

AT WAR (USA) - 'Ordered To Kill' LP '87. LP '88 'Retaliatory Strike' is a thrash classic, but their first LP on New Renaissance has influences of VENOM and MOTORHEAD a plenty, and is raw and honest in classic heavy metal fashion... Excellent.

CARNIVORE (USA) - 'Carnivore' LP '86. Everyone knows TYPE O NEGATIVE, but it seems few remember the equally supreme CARNIVORE. Personally this is preferable to 'Retaliation' their other LP, but this is pure hateful, vicious release, some influence of VENOM can be heard, but the overall structure...enriched by some incieful lyrics is one of barbarian animosity. Again...a classic.

WITCHFINDER GENERAL (UK) - 'Friends Of Hell'

terms of good and evil, black and white, etc...one enters the rat race and becomes forever entangled. And perhaps christians would tell us Satan is a christian creation, their biblical devil however is a mixture of Pan, of Loki, of every part of Ancient Pagan culture that free's men and women and gives life, all they sought to surpress and obliterate forever. However the Satan we know predates christianity from Sanskrit times and has always been part of the tree of life. The Sat, the Tan, health...life, the Embodiment of All. The Pentagram, the centre of which (a pentagon) forms a house with five points representing how Sat is present in Nature. Satan is Creator...Destroyer, The Dark Force, Life-giver, Life-bringer, The Winds of Change that sweep away stagnation and ignorance. The Essence of nature itself, and thus the Essence of Us.

We are aeons older than christians so let's not concern ourselves with the death cult of christianity or whoever else, Let us strive for Empirium and live life. Come out of the forced pseudo "evilness" that encircles black metal...Enjoy life...Rejoice in the Art of black metal and of course in SATAN. Glory be...Will to Power. Satanus Excelsis. Naihmass '95.

LP 1982. Is this called doom now or what?, well it's on a label called Heavy Metal Records so that should give you a hint, sorta SABBATHesque NWOBHM, with some classic touches... See where COUNT RAVEN ripped all their songs from. A great "heavy metal" album with a great cover. Yes sir.

HOLY TERROR (USA) - 'Terror And Submission' LP 1987. I could easily have put 'Mind Wars' ('88) in instead, but I reckoned this would be of more interest. A strange band...a fixation with Anarcho-punk/h-core images, yet with Satanically inclined Apocalyptic lyrics, with Keith Deen's rangey and high vocal style complementing some rather special dark melodic heavy metal. Strange but brilliant.

DESTINY (Swe) - 'Dark Metal' LP 88/87??, called themselves Dark metal, and it's kinda chugging CANDLEMASSy melodic doom, much over looked band but they released two great LP's (if anyone can lay their hands on vinyl copies...get in touch). One I guess which would go down well in the doom commune.

CIRTH UN GOL (Swi/Ger) - 'One Foot In Hell'. People remember their name from being thanked on the back of CELTIC FROST's LP's, but they were pretty good in their own right. Strange vocals... strange atmosphere...mmm...intriguing band.

NECROPHAGIA (USA) - 'Season Of The Dead' LP '87. Influences for OBITUARY et Al here...good old US hard-core death metal. Sick, violent and puking death metal.

DEATH SS (Ita) - 'Black Mass' LP. Coulda chosen any one of a few. Weird cult Satanic heavy metal played by cheap horror movie extras. Strange...yes, bizarre...yes. Good...yes.

You may agree I've left some bands out...sure I coulda

chosen any of the likes of BLOODCUM, BLOOD FEAST, SEMPITERNAL DEATHREIGN, WITCHFY-NDE, NASTY SAVAGE, WHIPLASH, RAZOR, SEX TRASH, EVIL, ANGELWITCH, etc...etc...or lectured



Bill is the editor of Scotland's renowned Anatomia zine and as I think all three issues of this zine are excellent I decided to interview him. This is what he had to say....

Hello Bill, what are you listening to?

- PANTERA. I know I should say SADISTIK EXECUTION or something, but I'm just being honest. Hopefully the underground police will be able to forgive me..

Right, brief history of Anatomia and a few words about Pulverizer and it's demise.

- Anatomia was officially born towards the end of the summer of 1993, shortly before which I had given up Pulverizer. My intention at the time was to take the (few) good things out of Pulverizer and just make an altogether better zine. As for Pulverizer ending...well, there were quite a few reasons but let's just say that the idea had run it's course and there was little more I felt I could do with it. It was, in all honesty, an amateurish zine with a few redeeming features, yet we covered black metal when it wasn't so cool, gave CRADLE OF FILTH one of their first interviews, and in general featured a helluva lot of foreign acts when most contemporaries were sticking to the UK scene, so it wasn't all bad.

Here's a question I stole from you Bill, how hard did you find it to establish your fanzine?

- If you are honest, fair, consistent and reliable, it shouldn't be difficult to establish yourself as someone who isn't just going to put one issue out and then disappear. Bands communicate with each other and word gets around about which zines are worth bothering with. Labels are a different kettle of fish, mind you, and I can say that only Peaceville, Repulse Recs. (Spain), and a few others have been supportive in this way.

Altogether you've done 8 zines (5 Pulverizer & 3 Anatomia) what have you learned most from this vast experience? Does one learn from one's mistakes?

- I think the most important thing I've learned is how to

about SODOM, DESTRUCTION..or even POSSESS-ED, VENOM or MERCYFUL FATE, but fuck it, check 'em out if ya get the time. (Oh yeah MANOWAR rule.. wimps and posers Die). DEATH TO FALSE METAL.

criticise without offending and I can tell you, it was a long and painful process. Other than that I've learned that fanzines = financial suicide.

How many copies did each Anatomia sell? Have you had the zines distributed in many countries?

- I print 200 copies of each issue, and issue #1 has sold the best, with only 5 copies left. Issue #2 has sold about 180 copies and I'm not sure about #3 as it's still early days... I guess about 100 copies so far. I have never been into distros that much but now I'm beginning to understand their importance. Issue #2 was available in Sweden (through House Of Kicks) and Spain (through Repulse Records) and I can say that in both cases they sold out very quickly. However, the less professional distros have caused me no end of grief, such as a certain one from Northern Ireland...

When Issue three came out it brought some shocking news that Anatomia was finished. What made you change your mind and are you glad your continuing the mighty Anatomia?

- When I decided to finish Anatomia I was feeling fed-up with the whole thing and wasn't able to put enough time into my university studies because of the zine so I just thought, fuck it. However, I soon realised that I have become, erm, 'addicted' to doing a zine and had to continue. I just love doing it, there's no two ways about it! However, it will now be on a much more intermittent basis, with no more of this "two issues a year" bullshit.

Personally I thought issue 2 was better than issue 3, which one of the three is your favourite, and why?

- I can understand you preferring issue #2. It had a professional DTP layout and a fucking excellent selection of interviewed bands which makes issue #3 look very pale in comparison. Nevertheless, in all other departments issue #3 is vastly superior and is indeed my personal favourite. The writing in general is of a much higher standard, as are the interviews, and the reviews section is more comprehensive than the previous two issues put together. But hell, I like all of them, even if the first issue was incredibly naive in more than a few places.

What has been the most difficult part for you in doing the zine, money, time, etc?

- Both of the things you mentioned are the major problem. It's all too tempting to go down the pub instead of sitting here on your own, slaving over a review or whatever, although my main concern these days is finding time to do the zine after my studies. Despite all these worries I refuse to get worked up over it anymore. I'm just taking it at my own pace and we'll see what happens when the fourth issue eventually hits the streets.

As your taste lies in the brutal death genre, have

you been criticised of being small minded / biased in any way ? If so, what do you think of these people who say this ?

- I'm listening to a lot more varied shit now than I done for many years but fuck it, 'Tomb Of The Mutilated' still rules ! Of course I am criticised for not featuring a wider range but I like to retain some sort of identity, even if it means sacrificing sales. There is a legion of death metal fans worldwide who always have and hopefully always will buy Anatomia. The stubborn dedication these people show to the scene is the source of my inspiration. No one has to buy the thing so I don't get why all these people get off on criticising me so much. It is a fanzine after all, and I am a fan of death metal. Some smart readers might see that there's a link there..

Do you regret interviewing any bands in past issues ? Is there anyone you would not interview and what 3 bands would you most like to interview ?

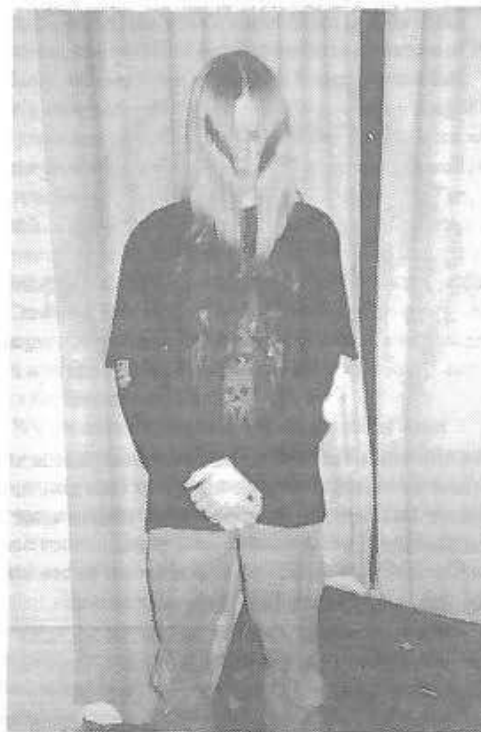
- Sometimes I wonder why bands I have interviewed in the past have since slagged me off, but apart from that my only regret is that I wasn't more selective in choosing bands worthy of an interview. One of the reasons which contributed to Pulverizers demise was that bands generally seemed to have the idea that sending in a tape guaranteed an interview (which maybe wasn't that far from the truth, regrettably !). These days I can't be bothered interviewing bands that are clearly just playing a certain type of music because it's fashionable. No thanks ! Apart from that, I would interview any band whose music I enjoy, be that death metal, black metal, grindcore, doom metal, thrash metal, industrial or hardcore, just as long as they could provide me with some interesting answers. One band I would love to interview is SLAYER, the GODS of death/thrash metal who have never sold or wimped out, unlike pretty much everyone else.

What zines do you admire most ? Why ? Have any zines ever influenced you in the past or recently ?

- I like Isten...it's about the only zine I admire and has definitely influenced the way I went about laying out Anatomia. Anyone who has had the pleasure of reading a copy of this Finnish mag will understand why I speak so highly of it. The fifth issue was just an all-time classic. I also enjoyed and was influenced by R.I.P., Nuclear Gore, Thanatography, Putrefaction and some others.

In all the years you've been doing zines, what has been the greatest highlight ? Is doing Anatomia a big part of your day-to-day life ?

- It's always cool when you see your name on an album's thanks list for the first time, when you get a good review in a 'proper' magazine, and when you get a free shirt off the evil fuckers in DESECRATION. Generally speaking, the highlights for me are the complimentary letters I get from ordinary people who just write in to say what they like about Anatomia. These letters, along with the 'one in ten' really killing demos, are what keeps Anatomia going. As for it being a big part of my life, not really at the moment, but when I'm on holiday from University



then hell, yes !

What do you think of the following ?

(a) R.I.P. zine not continuing (b) The Irish scene (bands & zines that you've heard/seen) (c) The riot at the last Ireland Vs England soccer match (d) hard core porn (e) SERENITY (f) Scotland's zine scene.

- (a) Well, Ross is definitely putting out a third issue but I'm not sure if he'll do another after that. I shall definitely miss it should it go, as R.I.P. is and has always been a godly piece of work. Ross has a unique personality, too, and you can pick up on this through some of the stuff he writes. (b) Talking about Northern Ireland as well as the Republic, the only bands I'm really familiar with are PUTREFY, UNEARTHLY and MORPHOSIS, though many write to me (mostly from the Rep. of Ireland), and all three bands mentioned are great. As for zines, yours is the best I've seen, Brian. I get a lot of orders from Ireland, so cheers to you all for your cool support. (c) I guess everyone knew something would happen given that trouble always seems to flare at England matches. Like all riots, I'm sure a hard-core minority of fans were the cause of it, but nevertheless it must have left Irish fans with a poor opinion of their English counterparts. (d) Excellent...stuff like 'New Wave Hookers 2' totally rules ! Can't understand why people are offended by such cinematic masterstrokes (heh heh !), 'cuz while the moral majority are busy

defending these "poor women" being "exploited and degraded", the girls are sucking and fucking their way to the bank and probably wouldn't swap their job for the world! (e) (Bill seems to have missed this one - Brian). (f) It's pretty cool considering the size of the population. Besides R.I.P. we also have big Greg's The Crypt, which is shaping up to be a true mega-fucker among zines, plus some others which have yet to put out an issue.

Who can we look forward to seeing in #4? Any new plans for Anatomia?

- At the moment I plan on featuring VADER, DYING FETUS, INTERNAL BLEEDING, ASPHYX, GUT, ANCIENT RITES, PAVOR, GORE BEYOND NECROPSY, ABOMINOX, MISCREANT, HELLWITCH, MORTICIAN, DIVINE EVE,

SATHANAS, a reprint of the two IMPETIGO (RIP) interviews from Pulverizer, and much more. I short, it's gonna be death fucking metal! Not a helluva lot different from issue three but there won't be much film/book stuff this time around. It could well be done on A4 though, with professional printing, but nothings for sure yet...

Final comments...

- Thanks to you, Brian, for the interview. It's cool to be answering questions instead of asking them. I still have copies of all three issues of Anatomia left and if any of your readers are interested they can be purchased for \$4 each or \$10 for all three. Thanks again and best of luck with your zine... Write to Anatomia zine, c/o Bill, 36 Glencairn Drive, Glasgow G4 1PW, Scotland, UK. (Brian)

CERNUNNOS

Arklow's mysterious bay spewed forth CERNUNNOS, a band as haunting and beguiling as the god from whom their name is borrowed....

Greetings Emmet. Well, I know that CERNUNNOS have experienced some upheaval in recent months, so, perhaps you could start by describing the bands current status, and how this evolved?

- There are now just two people in the band, myself and the singer. The reason for this is lack of interest and dedication from others. This makes no difference to recording and writing new material since I write all music and Leo writes all lyrics.

Have there been any changes in direction, musically, or in general, since the birth of CERNUNNOS, in the summer of '94? How have you developed or progressed since that time?

- The rehearsal tape released last summer is almost nothing like our present material. Back then we were just trying to find our own sound. Much more emotion and atmosphere can be felt now in the music. There is also a much heavier use of synthesizers.

Also, since then, there has been some rehearsal tracks floating around the scene, are there any plans to put these into demo form? If so, when? And what other songs would such a demo include?

- Yes the three rehearsal tracks will be on the demo, apart from "Resurrection Of The Past" there will be little resemblance to that old sound. I expect the demo to be out in late April and will have 2 more new songs and 2 synthesizer pieces. 30 minutes in all with very good sound quality, professional tapes and inlay card. The sound now is much darker than before.

"Bride Of Frost" is probably your best known song, and is a beautiful and evocative piece. What was the inspiration behind this track, and what does it mean to you now?

- I wrote the basics of that song almost 2 years ago. It

expresses the faith I have in myself and my realistic attitudes but also some dreams that I have. These dreams may not be very practical or possible.

Why did you choose the name of the Pagan horned god, a deity of savage nature, to be your bands moniker?

- The name was not chosen by me but I agreed to it because it suits the music. It has a mysterious air and since Cernunnos is the god of nature and nature is constantly changing and has so much different aspects it resembles my plans for this band.

Do you consider yourself a Pagan? Do you uphold any Pagan festivals? If so, how do you celebrate them?

- No, I don't consider myself a Pagan. I do not believe in any of that, I believe in myself. Religion does not interest me at all, I have myself, and anything I want I must go and get it no "force" or "god" is going to do it for me. I celebrate when I achieve something.

Do you believe that Ireland would be better off if the populace retained it's beliefs in Pagan deities?

- I don't know and I don't care. I reckon people would be better off if they believed in themselves, it is very easy to call something "an act of god". Christianity seems to promote weakness and speaks too much shit so by this stage most people have found comfort in hurting and betraying each other.

When I saw you play live, you wore corpsepaint, and ritualistic robes. What significance have these things for you? Will you always present yourselves in this way on stage?

- We probably will not play live again but if we do the appearance will be similar because it brings out the aspects of the music which are worth highlighting. *What would be your ideal stage show?*

- Soft lights, relaxed atmosphere, easygoing bands, good sound, interested crowd. Maybe someday, we will look for more members.

Your vocalist Leo possesses a very powerful black - shrieking - metal style of voice. How would you rate him amongst Ireland's current underground

vocalists ?

- I believe he has the best voice in Ireland for this style of music. The demo will show that he is capable of much more than the one-dimensional screams on the rehearsal. *Tell me what you think of Ireland's current scene ? What are it's strongest and weakest points ?*

- Ireland has some great bands, the strongest point is probably that it has some good people and it's weakness is lack of push.

Besides CRUACHAN and PRIMORDIAL, the two Irish bands released on international labels this year, can you see any other bands obtaining record deals in the near future ? Who would you like to see signed ?

- It's hard to say 'cos internationally there are excellent unsigned bands and crap signed bands. I think THY SINISTER BLOOM deserve to be signed for originality, besides I'd have to hear what they could do in a professional studio.

Is there any other country in which you would prefer to live, and be a member of it's scene, than Ireland ? Why or why not ?

- I cannot make an educated decision because I haven't been too far but I believe Ireland is a great place to live and have many reasons right now to stay here.

Name the one musician in the world for whom you hold the greatest respect, why do you choose this person ? What would you like to discuss if ever you

met ?

- Quorthon without doubt. I realise that he can play many styles of music, many instruments and he's written the best pieces of music ever. I'd like to ask him what 'Under The Sign Of The Black Mark' means to him now and what he expected to achieve with it.

If you were forced to decide upon the method of your own execution, what method would that be, and why ?

- The fastest way I guess, a bullet in the head.

If before the above execution took place, you had 48 hours in which to do as you pleased, how would you spend those hours ?

- Firstly, I would arrange for my corpse to be burnt, without any religious involvement and also withdraw any funds to arrange a party for those that I care about to enjoy after my death. The rest of the time would be spent listening to TYPE O NEGATIVE and BATHORY by the sea in Arklow, probably with temporary accompaniment. *Well, hopefully you need never worry about this. Meanwhile, what would you like to say to end this interview ?*

- Thank you Antoinette for your support and interesting questions, good luck with Deprived #3. Anybody interested in dark, moody, evocative music, take a listen to the demo, also anybody who wants to write, feel free. Emmet Rees, 1 Marian Villas, Arklow, Co. Wicklow, Ireland. (Antoinette)



The sixth issue of Morticianumskull is out now, int's with Paw Nielsen, DARK HERESY, HYBERNOID, GODSTOWER & BEYOND BELIEF among others. Available for \$5/DM10/HFL 10 from Harold Dekkers, Boeroestraat 66, 3312 HD Dordrecht, The Netherlands.

GOMORRAH are no longer on Megapulse Records anymore due to bad promotion. Their debut CD 'Reflections Of Inanimate Matter' can be yours for £10/\$20 from Jose Griffin, 11 Gainsborough Hill, Henley On Thames, Oxon RG9 1ST, UK. L-Sleeves also available.

ESOTERIC

Aesthetic Death knew what they were doing when they chose ESOTERIC to be the first band on his label. No other label has an equivalent on their lists of "original" acts. Their music is created in the recesses of some highly intelligent, but very strange minds. Read on!

Greetings to you and all of ESOTERIC, and how are you today?

- Fucked.

Introduce us to your band members and give me a brief history before we continue.

- ESOTERIC formed in July 1992. We recorded our first demo, "Esoteric emotions - The death of ignorance" in July 1993, at Rich Bitch Studios, on 24 tracks. It is 82 minutes long, containing eight songs. In June 1994, we recorded our debut album on Aesthetic Death Records, also at Rich Bitch Studios on 24 tracks. The album is titled "Epistemological Despondency", and it was released on July 23rd, on double-CD format. It is approximately 89 minutes long, containing six new songs. We describe our music as "Hateful, Drug influenced, Tortured Doom". The current line-up is; Simon - lead guitar, effects, samples. Gordon - lead guitar, effects, samples, synth, Steve - lead guitar, effects, Bryan - bass, fretless bass, effects, Greg - vocals, effects. We have recently dismissed Darren (drums) from the band, and we're currently looking for a replacement.

When something is described as "esoteric", it means something that is hidden, secret, known only to a few. *Why did you choose this name - are you the privileged keepers of secret knowledge, secret powers, which if released could be detrimental to mankind? If so, would you risk parting with some of that knowledge now, just to see what happens?*

- We choose the name ESOTERIC, because of its meaning - (deep, occult, secret, hidden, philosophical, heavy) being representative of the essence of our music and lyrics. If our knowledge was released to the populous, then those with the intelligence to understand it might be inspired to act, thus creating a detrimental effect to the current Judeo-Christian societies that dominate much of the westernised civilisation. In short, yes. We do part with some of our knowledge to certain interested individuals, and we do give a very brief insight into our philosophies in the interviews we do, and in parts of the lyrics too, if people are able to associate them properly. However, I stress that knowledge has to be found and most importantly, realised by one's self in order for it to be effectually operable, and value to the

individual. We do not need to release power to see what will happen, why it will happen, and most importantly, why we want it to happen. We release power through magick, etc, whenever we deem it necessary, to achieve goals, and obtain the lusts of our will. Our ways are unseen by the masses, and because of this, few people will actually believe that we have any real power or knowledge. Good. Let them dismiss as nonsense, and leave us to our own. If they believed our words, then they'd just interfere, so it is better that they do not. If people are stupid enough to confront us and mock us, or interfere with us, then they'll soon see reality. If anybody wants to fuck with us, they're more than welcome. We enjoy war. It is inherent in our nature, innate in humans, and we are not subject to repressing our instincts. We fucking hate the majority of weak human sheep, any excuse to fight against them is welcomed. We harm none who do not harm us, but those who do feel our vengeance pour over them with the wrath of our deepest hatred, born from the pain that we grew in. Those of the past have learned. *'Epistemological Despondency', your double CD on Aesthetic Death - I found this very difficult to review. It is as a friend of mine would say "well out there". How would you review it yourself?*

- Personally, I find the songs to be very evocative to my dark emotions. For me, the music is a journey. It can be assimilated to it being a metaphysical key of our creation that unlocks the deeper recesses of our minds, giving subconsciousness freedom to roam through consciousness, beholding the visual images evoked by the emotions in the music, and yet in relation to my current state of mind. It is a form of introspection, as well as a means of releasing my malignant, self-destructive emotions. Thus it can help maintain the equilibrium of my mind, as well as deepen my thought, and increase my knowledge of "self". We write the lyrics, and then we write the music as an exact transposition of the lyrics. The music is an extension of our minds. In terms of what I hear, the music is full of powerful emotions, of sorrow, of hatred. It is very strong in its presence, and barbarically heavy. It has a very visual dimension, and is very "trippy" in the sense that it cuts into the ether. It is a dimension where reality engulfs sound, and the frequencies and the tonalities are very effectual in penetrating the mind. For us, it is the ultimate in musical listening, but that is because we wrote it exactly as we wanted to hear it.

Tell me how you achieved those sound effects, which make it seem as though one is sitting at the bottom of a swimming pool, listening to the sounds all around. How do you go about writing that type of music?

- We program the effects by working out which kind of sound will have the required effect for the part it is intended for, in terms of enhancing the feeling we are expressing. Effects are something that have to be "written" in your mind (unless you'd rather leave the results to chance. We do not). You have to know the sound you want, and how to get it. It involves knowing the capabilities of your effects, and the extensiveness of your mind, the greater the insight, the greater the effect. *Do you think that certain substances are essential in their mind opening capacity, for creating music? Could you recommend any specifically?*

- Drugs aren't essential in their mind opening capacity, though they are effectual when in the right hands. Firstly, you have to have an open mind in order for them to be of value. Perceptually heightening drugs, such as cannabis and LSD increase your perception of colour and sound, thus giving a broader vision of perspectives for creativity and thought. When used intelligently, drugs can broaden your sensory and mental perception to be of an advantage to your mind. Not only in creativity, but in thought, perspectives, experience and so on. All drugs should be legalised. Most importantly, people should have the freedom of choice. Secondly, death, illness, and insanity only usually occur (the odd exception notwithstanding) through stupidity on behalf of the user. If someone is stupid enough to become addicted to drugs, or abuse themselves with drugs by remaining ignorant to the possible effects, or otherwise, then who cares if they die? I do not. Why have laws to protect people from their own stupidity? The earth is over-crowded enough as it is. I wouldn't recommend any drug to anyone (I would, try mushrooms - Brian). It's up to them if they want to use them or not. I am myself, and I do what I do for my own reasons, other people will be different. Each different drug has a different effect. If people are interested then they should find out for themselves, according to which effect (s) they want to experience. Each time you take any drug, it can be a different experience. It depends upon where you want to take it within your mind.

I have it on good authority that your gigs are something to behold - do you enjoy playing live, and how do you recreate those sounds? What else do you do to render an uniqueness into your gigs? Is it difficult to retain audience interest during the longer pieces?

- Well, we enjoy playing our music and that is it. It is neither here nor there as to whether we have an audience or not. Obviously, if we are playing live, it helps to finance the gig, and we don't mind there being an audience. If others enjoy it then it's a bonus. We recreate the effects we use every time we play, whether it's a gig or a rehearsal. We therefore have mastered using the effects whilst playing our instruments. The music is the main focus point of our gigs. Our appearance, expressions, etc, may be reflective of the expression of the music, but that is a natural reaction, not a performance or act. Other

than this, it is the originality of the music that makes our gigs different. I've been told that the effect is very powerful. The whole building usually shakes, so it's certainly hard to ignore. If the audience likes the music, then it holds their attention. If they don't then it doesn't.

Are you planning any more gigs or tours soon?

- We will be doing a European tour with BAL-SAGOTH in Spring '95. We may also be doing a small UK tour with INVERTED (Sweden) midway through '95. We also hope to do a few "one-off" gigs in England before next spring.

Tell me a bit about your lyrics - I have seen them described as Satanic, but other than the Enochian verse in "Bereft", I do not see anything particularly Satanic in them - am I missing something?

- Yes, you are probably only looking at the words themselves. If you look more deeply, you should be able to see the Satanic philosophies in the lyrics. One of the more noticeable examples is "Eradication (Of Thorns)" where in the lyrics speak of vengeance upon those that have dealt me pain. For me to explain all of the instances would take too long here. Look at the lyrics from all perspectives, and question why. The lyrics deal with topics, such as dark emotions, Satanism, death, depression, hatred, thought, knowledge, magick, introspection, society, religion, oppression, knowledge of "self" and so on.

Tell me about some of your strongest values or beliefs some of the guidelines by which you live your life. Are they unique to you, or do the others in ESOTERIC share your opinion?

- Well, in so far as that we are all Satanists, yes, the others do share most of my philosophies. However, Satanism is an individual concept, as I'm sure you know, and therefore it will vary from person to person, especially since us being individuals marks out at least some differences in our thoughts and views. On a more general level, we do share similar perspectives, experiences, and thoughts. I do not live my life by any guidelines, as that would only serve to limit separate, temporal instances of occurrences that I may need to view or deal with from a different perspective. My strongest values at this point in time are my freedom, self-preservation, to indulge in pleasure, achieve my desires, vengeance, knowledge, wisdom, evolution, progression, loyalty to those close to me, and so on. I can only give examples and summaries within these questions, otherwise this interview would take me fucking ages to write. Some of my personal, deeper thoughts are unique to myself (as far as I know), though I haven't discussed them here. Basically, I live my own life, and make my own path. If anyone fucks with that then I fuck them up so that they can't do it again.

In general the lyrics to me are so depressive they could be suicide inducing - is this because your own lives are shrouded in misery? Or, in reality, are you happy, and choose to eradicate any sadness through your music?

- Well, a person would have to be very depressed for

them to commit suicide over the words of someone else, and therefore if a person were to commit suicide after reading our lyrics, it wouldn't be the lyrics that caused them to do so. Our lives have been shrouded in misery very much so in the past, throughout our childhoods, and at certain points in time, they still are. We are not "happy", but we are content within our minds. We do channel our sorrow, etc, into the music as a form of release (hence, our music captures the essence of ritualised emotional release) and therefore we are not constantly depressed, because we maintain the equilibrium of our minds (not only through music, but also by other means) as I've stated before. Personally, I do spend a great deal of time in sorrow and hatred, but that does not mean to say that I'm miserable, or depressed on the whole. There are good and bad aspects to all emotions, sorrow is the same. It can be beneficial when it is not at an excess that might be detrimental, or self-destructive. It's beneficial in it's perspective. I could never conceive myself as being a "happy" person. To be content is more rewarding for me. I prefer pleasure to happiness. Happiness is something that is rarely felt, but cherished when it is. It's not something that is of great abundance in human nature, especially not in this current state of humanities oppression, in this world of pure shit. The earth has many pleasures, and humanity campaigns to destroy them all. Fucking ignorant, worthless bastards.

Do you believe in using magic(k), or in having the power to influence others to bend to your will? If you could, would you use these abilities to assist ESOTERIC in obtaining recognition?

- Yes I do. I've already stated that we use magick, and the skill of influencing others to direct them in accordance with your will is something that is bestowed on all true Occultists. If people are easily influenced, then it is the only way that they can produce an effect (through the direction of someone else), because to be easily influenced is to have no (or little) will of your own. Will (desire) is the first point from which motion is cast. Some people can see that something is influencing them but do not stop it from doing so because it is what they want. Some are too stupid to see it happening, and these people will be as puppets on a string for all of their lives, until the begin to think and question for themselves. Aleister Crowley once stated that "music is the highest form of magick", and in many ways he is right, for it has a profound effect upon people, in evoking their thoughts, and perhaps moving them into accordance with your will. If we wished to influence people, then our music might be enough in itself. That we "could" use magick to gain recognition is not a question. It is a fact. Whether we do or not is for us to know. You know what you ask. It doesn't matter whether people think we are trying to influence them or not, because they don't know how we might want them to react, so if they read this and decide they will "not be influenced" by us, they all ready have been. Whether it's what we want or not is not the fact. *If you could have one thing you desired most, what*

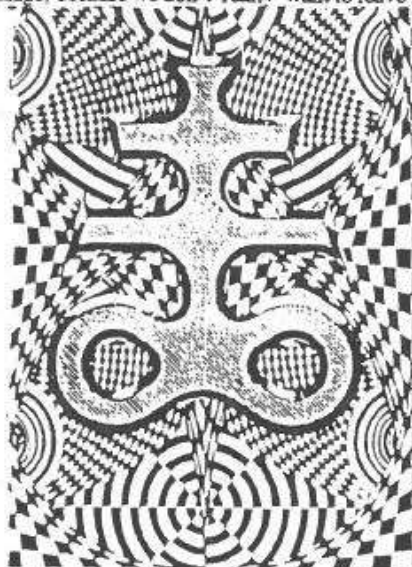


would that be ?

- It will be no ones business but my own. My desires evolve continuously. As the next is attained, a higher is sought. A continual progression.

Are you happy with your label, Aesthetic Death? Does your deal with them extend beyond the first DCD?

- Yes, we're totally satisfied with A.D. . Stu (A.D.) has given us unlimited freedom, and a financial backing that is rarely associated with small labels. Our deal is one of spoken word, not contracts. We do not need a piece of paper for security. We would take our own form of justice if our agreement was abused, but from our dealings with Stu, we know that he is trustworthy. Also he knows us personally, so he knows far better than to misplace our trust. Especially when he only lives 35 miles away from us. Stu has said that our deal will extend for as long as we like, and he is able. Whether we stay or not depends upon other offers, but they'd have to be much better than the offer Stu has given us for future recordings, because we don't really want to leave A.D.



Stu is good to work with, efficient, generous, and most importantly, a friend.

Describe your lives outside of ESOTERIC.

- Details of our personal lives are of no consequence to anyone who might be reading this interview, and we do not wish to discuss them publicly. I hope you understand. We do not wish to be recognised for what we do or to be in any kind of spotlight (however small). It is our music, lyrics, etc, that are open to public listening and viewing, and not our personalities or personal lives.

Who designed the mind boggling covers of the demo and the CD? Do these designs symbolise anything, or are they designed especially to hypnotize the unwary?

- Simon (one of our guitarists) does all of our artwork. Contrary to the assumptions of most who have seen it, he has done it by hand, and not on a computer. The artwork is a statement of what lies within ESOTERIC. It is a maze of intricacy, with a multitude of dimensions, hidden within what would seem to be less. It is a statement of analytical precision, of depth, of vast perception. It is a statement that the essence of ESOTERIC is too complex to be perceived through merely one perspective. The artwork is protrusive, and has a presence that gives it a certain aura when it is beheld. It is symbolic of the definition of ESOTERIC.

What is your opinion on the current UK scene?

What bands do you hold in the highest esteem on the scene at the moment?

- I treat each innovative band as being individual. I do not recognise it as being a "scene". To me, a "scene" is

something that is termed to give people a sense of "togetherness" and "belonging". I am a misanthropist, and do not wish to be categorized into a "scene", because where there are masses, there are always at least a significant number of mindless people, whom I have no respect for, and do not wish to be associated with.

"Underground" bands in the UK that I have heard the music of and liked are: BAL-SAGOTH, CRADLE OF FILTH, THY SINISTER BLOOM, PRIMORDIAL (the last two bands are Irish, not UK, I suggest a night course in geography or history - Brian). HYBERNOID, THEODICY and BLASPHEMER.

For what musician / band anywhere, dead or alive, do you hold the highest respect, and why? What would you discuss with him / her if you ever met?

- I respect quite a few bands / musicians, all for various and sometimes different reasons. I would not like to compare them and choose a "favourite". If I meet them, then it would depend upon what interested me the most about the person / band, as to what I'd like to discuss.

Would you like to say anything to finish this interview?

- Just to say thanks for this interview Antoinette. Your support is much appreciated. For information, or merchandise, write to: ESOTERIC, 19 Fairmead Rise, King's Norton, Birmingham, B38 8BS, England. Demo = £3 UK, \$6 Europe, \$7 rest of world. D-CD = £10 UK, \$18 Europe, \$20 rest of world. All prices include postage. For information only, please enclose an IRC, or first class stamp (if within UK).

(Antoinette)

Deprived distro

At the time of going to print the following items are available from Deprived distro. Please only use the address at the end of the list as it is the only valid address for this service. Also send well concealed cash, cheques and postal orders only accepted from Ireland made payable to Brian Taube. Sterling accepted from the UK in notes, £1 or 50p coins, orders outside Ireland and UK must be in US \$ only. Items marked with * only available to Ireland and UK. Bands / labels / zines get in touch with wholesale prices, I work only on credit terms.

Demos (£2.50 / \$5 except where stated)

DISSONANCE (Lith) - Sleepless Dead - death / doom
GHOSTORM (Lith) - The End Of All Songs - tech. death
CANOPIC JAR (UK) - Canopic Jar - Death
THUS DEFILED (UK) - Enchanted By... - bestial black

Zines (£2 / \$4/\$5 except where stated)

DARK OATH / HALLUCINATION (Port) - #3, 40 A4 pages.*

THE CRYPT (UK) - #1, 65 A5 pages

THE WILD RAG (USA) - #27, 36 A4 pages, £1.40*

THE WILD RAG (USA) - #28, 48 A4 pages, £1.40*

(Get both of the above for £2)

WITCHCRAFT (Ger) - #3, 52 A4 pages, £2.50*

FEAR OF LIFE (Hol) - #2, 40 A4 pages, £2.50*

GOETIA (Swe) - #2, 48 A5 pages, £1.50 (Ire / UK)

DEPRIVED (Ire) - #2, 52 A5 pages, £1.50 (Ire / UK) \$3 (Eur) \$5 (r.o.w.)

CDs (£10 / \$20 except where stated)

GOMMORAH (UK) - Reflections of... - death

ESOTERIC (UK) - Epistemological... - doom

INVERTED (Swe) - Revocation of... - death

SOULGRIND (Fin) - La Matanza... - strange death

PHLEBOTOMIZED (Hol) - Preach Eternal Gospels - atmospheric death

EPs (£2.50 / \$5 except where stated)

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THEODICY (UK) - Succumb - death

CERECLOTH (UK) - Encrusted in An... - folk / death

INTERNAL BLEEDING (USA) - Invocation Of Evil - brutal death - £3 (Ire / UK) \$6 (r.o.w.)

Shirts (£10/\$20 except where stated)

GOMORRAH (UK) - Reflections Of... - Long sleeve

If ordering from outside of Europe add extra postage for air mail. Bands & labels get in touch with wholesale prices if willing to work with credit terms. Contact: Deprived Distro, c/o Brian Taube, St. Patricks, Main St., Roundwood, Co. Wicklow, Ireland.

Live reviews

Some if not all of the following gig reviews will be quite old by now but we still wanted to use them. So enjoy....

CANNIBAL CORPSE / SAMAEL / DESULTORY - Bradford Rio's, England 15/12/94

Entering the Rio's just as DESULTORY were coming on it was not long before these Swedish chaps hammered into their style of intense death. Unfortunately I'm not familiar with the stuff so I can't name any songs they played. What ever the titles they sound very good, enjoyed by most of the crowd, myself included.

SAMAEL came onto the stage while a bizarre intro was being played by their sinister looking keyboardist. He spent all his time standing perfectly still staring into the crowd only moving when he was called upon to play his keyboard. The rest of SAMAEL played a really intense set of all their stuff new and old. Not really stopping between tracks just keeping up the constant attack, really cool !! Time was drawing near for CANNIBAL CORPSE to take to the stage, and there was a fair gathering at the front waiting for them. CANNIBAL CORPSE blasted through their rather brutal set quite impressively, playing such tracks as "Put Them To Death", "A Skull Full Of Maggots", "Hammer Smashed Face", "Vomit The Soul", "Butchered At Birth", "Entrails Ripped From A Virgin's Cunt" etc., etc. As usual Chris Barnes' vocals sounded inhumanly brutal a bit hampered by the sound which was poor at points. All in all a great night of musical extremity. (Mark Burns)

MORPHOSIS / ABADDON INCARNATE - Sally's, Galway, Ireland 25/2/95

This was one of the best piss up's I've ever experienced so as you can imagine my memory isn't exactly crystal clear. Anyway ABADDON INCARNATE, formerly BEREAVED, opened the show and they've certainly improved over the last year or so. Their style is death metal, increasing in brutality as time goes on and it doesn't seem they're going to cease here. To be honest I can't remember much of their set and on top of that I arrived slightly late as I was outside falling around the streets but from all accounts they were quite good. Ireland's masters of brutality MORPHOSIS were up next with Vinnie and Paul staggering on stage. They played all four songs from their upcoming release and old favourites like "DEPRAVED" and "Profligacy" from their 'Modus Operandi' demo. The formidable four also covered NAPALM DEATH's "Instinct Of Survival" aided by Naihmass of PRIMORDIAL which was some surprise. Apparently Brickhead from F. DOMINION was supposed to get up too but alas he was too drunk. A good day was had by all and it didn't stop there..... (Brian)

CRADLE OF FILTH / ? / ESOTERIC - Devil's Church, Dublin Castle, London, England 29/12/94

Myself and the six others I went with must have travelled the furthest tonight to see this gig and it was worth every mile. After a huge delay the proceedings finally started with ESOTERIC filling in for BAL SAGOTH who were supposed to play. It seems the crowd didn't really appreciate them but who cares?, as they played an excellent, refreshing set of 'drug influenced tortured doom', very impressive. I forget the name of the following band who preformed instead of BONEWIRE but they definitely shouldn't of had the opportunity. They were bollox, happy thrashy shite with corpse paint. Pathetic - ESOTERIC should have got their set as well. But the crowd loved them, why?, probably because they wore corpse paint me thinks !! Finally CRADLE OF FILTH...the moment everyone was waiting for. I was totally blown away especially by Dani's vocals as he ripped through the likes of "To Eve, The Art Of Witchcraft" and "The Principle Of Evil Made Flesh". Their live sound is excellent as is their stage presence, except keyboardist Ben's stupid fucking goats head mask. They also played some new songs, still with that element of death metal in them, "A Gothic Romance" is the only title I can recall. It has to be said that CRADLE OF FILTH are one of the best live acts around, well from bands that I've witnessed anyway, so they brought the night to a perfect close as did the trip afterwards, eh Pat. (Brian)

NAPALM DEATH / DARK EMBRACE - Bradford Rio's, England 9/12/94

Opening for NAPALM DEATH this evening were a new band called DARK EMBRACE. They played an interesting mix of melodic, emotional death / doom with both gruff and normal vocals being applied. There was also a female keyboardist which made the tracks sound more interesting. I'm not sure where these hail from or if they have any stuff available but I'll be checking them out when I come across a contact address. Next up the mighty NAPALM DEATH who regardless of the shitty turn out ripped through a cool set of old and new material off all their LPs. They were certainly on top form playing such gems as "Scum", "Walls Of Confinement", "Siege Of Power", "Unchalled Hate", "Nazi Punks Fuck Off", "The Kill" etc.etc. Fine entertainment for N.D. fans old and new. It was just a pity about the crap turn out. I'd say there was about 80 to 100 people there, fucking shit for such a cool band. What's happening to Bradford ?!! (Mark Burns)

CRADLE OF FILTH / BONEWIRE / BLASPHEMER / ANTHROPOMANCY - Bradford Rio's, England 28/12/94

Due to arriving late we unfortunately missed ANTHROPOMANCY which was a bit upsetting as I would not have minded seeing them, oh well next time I suppose. BLASPHEMER were getting ready to come on

as we got into the venue, opening their set with "Dominion" the title track from their second demo they looked to be fairly confident and tight. The first part of their set consisted of second demo material with the latter part being more dedicated to the new stuff. They seemed to have slowed the new songs a lot and made them more epic sounding. BONEWIRE who are ex - INCARCERATED played PEARL JAM sounding stuff which I didn't really like, so consequently I can't really say much on these guys 'cause I did not really watch them. Due to the sudden gathering in front of the stage CRADLE OF FILTH were set to take a stand. They played most stuff

off their LP plus a few new tracks which sounded really smart. They seem to be employing a lot more normal vocals in their new stuff, also more atmospheric sounding. They played really tightly and professionally coming across as a most competent act. Their set lasted about 1 1/2 hours and became a bit too much after a while in my opinion. Due to the amount of people up the front those chaps are getting a respectable following. Oh yeah I must mention that Ben the Keyboardist was wearing a huge goatshead mask for about half the set. Most bizarre !!

(Mark Burns)

Zine reviews

including other publications

Through Ireland's Eye - Issue 1 '94 - 92 A5 pages

An excellent zine packed with interviews, reviews, artwork, news, flyers, etc. Well layed out, very neat, very well written, and very big. Also the interviews are quite lengthy and informative and there are loads of reviews to feast your eyes on. Included in issue 1 are VISCERAL EVISCERATION, KATATONIA, CRUACHAN, MORPHOSIS, THE GATHERING, PEACEVILLE and lots more. If you decide to purchase this, you'll notice in the news section about my mysterious genital growths, well I am pleased to say Paul Kearns' ma has now been successfully removed. £2 Ireland \$4 elsewhere. From Rob Bailey, 21 Tamarisk Way, Kilnamanagh, Dublin 24, Ireland or Maria Archer, 34 Weston Park, Churchtown, Dublin 14, Ireland. (Brian)

Psychotronic Video - Issue 19 '94 - 90 A4 pages

It was a welcomed surprise when this professionally written and produced magazine came through my letter box. Psychotronic Video is a quarterly mag and deals with horror and old B movies from the 60's to the 90's. The mag is packaged with a glossy, colour cover and inside you'll get over 120 video reviews, fanzine, book and record reviews also interviews with now deceased actors and directors as well as some with those among the living. This issue also contains ads, loads of photos and contact addresses. If your big into the aforementioned type of films this magazine is for you. \$5 will secure you a copy and there's also good subscription rates and back issues available. Write to Psychotronic Video, 3309 RT. 97, Narrowsburg, N. Y., 12764 - 6126, USA. (Brian)

Witchcraft - Issue 3 '94 - 52 A4 pages

Witchcraft 3 from Germany features a black and gold cover, and bands like BLOOD, BETHLEHEM, UNGOD, SCEPTICAL SCHIZO and various others. The English is quite good, and there are plenty of photos and

artistic snippets and many reviews. The only thing I did not like was the changing type size through out the zine, making some pages a bit sloppy. But this is minor - the overall zine is well put together. It costs only \$3 and this is going to be the last issue produced. Stefan Lons, Maximinstr. 26a, 56072, Rubenach, Germany. (Antoinette)

We're All H.I.V. Positive - Issue 2 '94 - 36 A4 pages

36 A4 pages make up this zine and each one of them has fairly interesting reading. AUTOPSY, AS SERENITY FADES, SIGH, TYPE O NEGATIVE, ROTTING CHRIST and CHORUS OF RUIN are among the bands interviewed and you'll also get to read several articles and over 150 reviews. It would be nice to see some artwork amongst the pages to spice the zine up a bit more and maybe a bit of thought should go into the cover (then again maybe not). It's yours for £1 (UK) £2 / \$4 (Eur) \$5 (r.o.w.) and it's a good buy. Dave, 8 Bronte Grove, Mirfield, West Yorks. WF14 9NU, UK. (Brian)

Ablaze - Issue 3 Jan / Feb '95 - 60 A4 pages

Ablaze is a German language production, out every 2 months and a beautifully glossy journal, replete with crystal clear photos of the bands interviewed. This issue contains CANNIBAL CORPSE, IN THE WOODS, ENSLAVED, MYSTIFIER, SAMAEL, BLOOD, & HADES for example, of course reviews and articles are also present. Naturally if I could speak German I would comment on the text, but if the quality is similar to that of the magazine, there can be no complaints. It costs 3DM from P. Schramm, Oberspreestr. 59b, 12439 Berlin, Germany. (Antoinette)

Piercing News - #3 '94 / '95

Christian continues using the same style here, 2 doubled sided A4 pro printed pages folded into a sort of booklet. There's over 25 reviews of demos, CDs, etc and a small news section. The price is still the same at \$1 (Eur) \$2 (r.o.w.) so it's a cheap purchase and is handy if your just after a few reviews. He also does a comp. tape and runs a distro, so if your interested write to Christian Ubbly, Pilevaenget 157100 Vejle, Denmark. (Brian)

The Oath - Issue 2 '94 - 56 A5 pages

If you don't know of *The Oath* already it's an Irish zine done by Alan of PRIMORDIAL. Issue 2 consists of very interesting and well answered interviews with CRUACHAN, MOONSPELL and SIGH among others. There's also some articles, many reviews and a German scene report. The different print sizes and some of the layout makes the zine a bit messy at times but still I suppose it's the contents that matters most and *The Oath* certainly contained a lot of interest for me. £1.50 (Ire/UK) \$4 (Eur) \$5 (r.o.w.) from Naihmass, 22 Station Road, Sutton, Dublin 13, Ireland. (Brian)

Anatomia - Issue 2 & 3 '94 - 80 A5 / 52 A5 pages

Bill asked me to review both issues so I'll mention something about each. #2 is my favourite of the two as it contains bands that interest me more. Both zines are very well written & layed out and contain mostly long, informative and interesting interviews with some of the worlds most brutal acts. #2 features the likes of MORPHOSIS, DESECRATION, DARK TRANQUILITY, DESECRATION, EVOKE, MORSTICE, etc and in #3 Anatomia talks to ANTROPOMANCY, REIGN, AUTOPSY & IMMOLATION, etc. #3 also features articles on serial killers and loads of gore movie reviews. Both issues are very worthy purchases and they'll cost you £2 /\$5 each (although #1 & #2 are available for 50p and a first class stamp in the UK only). Send your money to Bill, 36 Glencairn Drive, Glasgow, G41 4PW, Scotland, UK. (Brian)

M.O.M. - Issue 1 - 56 A5 pages

This Polish zine is full of the usual stuff, interviews, reviews, etc. I didn't think much of it at all as it's badly written and doesn't keep the readers attention, but still there's loads to read. I don't know how much it costs as I got it from Quirkey. I'd say \$3 will cover it, it's not worth anymore. Oh yeah it features MOONSPELL, MORSTICE, UNGOD, BLOOD - DUSTER, etc. Pave Palica, Matejki 22e/4, 72-100 Goleniow, Poland. (Brian)

The Crypt - Issue 1 '95 - 60 A5 pages

This is one of Scotland's newest zines and it's a great first issue with both good interviews and reviews with some articles too. ACHERON, SADIST, DAWN, PUTREFY & KORPSE are among the bands interviewed and you'll also get to read articles on MORPHOSIS & PRIMORDIAL. It's written with some thought and well layed out. £2 (Ire/UK) \$4 (Eur) \$5 (r.o.w.) to Greg, 49 Bellevue Crescent, Ayr, Scotland, KA7 2DP, UK. Oh, and the cover is simply amazing!! (Brian)

Dark Oath / Hallucination - Issue 3 '94 - 40 A4 pages

Good stuff here from Portugal, each side gets 20 pages and together they make up an enjoyable zine which features good and mostly long interviews with FIFTH DOMINION, CRADLE OF FILTH, BETHLEHEM

BENEFITS FORGOT, SOULGRIND & PYOGENESIS among others. Also numerous articles, flyers and so on. The only real fault here is the lack of reviews but Joao (D. Oath) assures me that it was due to lack of space and it will be rectified in the future. This fine publication is available for \$3 (Eur) \$5 (r.o.w.) from Joao Carlos Monterio, Rua de Azevedo Coutinho, Lote 5 - 2 dto., Alhos Vedros, P-2860 Moita, Portugal. (Brian)

Fear Of Life - Issue 2 '94 - 40 A4 pages

This is a very professionally written and layed out zine from Holland. The printing is faultless with clear photos and a glossy cover with art work by A. V. Beardsley. This issue features interviews with CELESTIAL SEASON, UNEXPECTED, ANCIENT RITES, ORPHANED LAND and also a selection of art workers and samples of their work. Articles and honest reviews are on offer as well throughout this zine which you can receive for \$5 from Arco Van Winden, Oude Leedeweg 39, 2641 NM Pijnacker, Holland. Issue three is out now but check out two as well. (Brian)

Underground Review - Issue 1 '94 - 56 A4 pages

This debut certainly needs some work but it's not too bad for a first attempt. The type size could have been reduced and reviews should have been done with a bit more thought. Anyway issue 1 features FIFTH DOMINION, Shiver Rec., SADIST, GRAND BELLALS KEY & more. Issue 2 will come under the name of Resplendence zine and promises to be an improvement. Get this issue with two posters is yours for \$4 from Bart Marescaux, Mgr De Haermeleen 18, 8500 Kortrijk, Belgium. (Brian)

Exhumed - Issue 1 '94/'95 - 44 A4 pages

Here we have a full glossy zine with interviews with KATATONIA, BETHLEHEM, ANCIENT RITES, Koto zine & Morbid Recs. among others. Some of the interviews are way too short with only around 7 questions and the reviews mainly consist of 3 or 4 uninformative lines. The layout is alright but the writing definitely needs to be improved and I suppose it will in time. 5 DM/\$3 from Christian H., Gerloser Weg 46, 36039 Fulda, Germany. (Brian)

GOETIA - Issue 2 - 48 A5 pages

This Swedish zine includes mainly bands of the black metal variety including ROTTING CHRIST, KATATONIA, ANCIENT RITES & SATYRICON. The layout is good, with reduced text and plenty of logos and photos. A good read with plenty of reviews. \$3 (Eur) \$5 (r.o.w.) from Niclas Johansson, Linne Gatan 24, 380 62 Morhyllanga, Sweden. (Brian)

The Gizzard Gazette - Vol. III #5 - 12 A4 pages

The hairy buzzard gizzards star in this photocopied issue of the free comic *The Gizzard Gazette*. I don't know if this is supposed to be amusing but I didn't find it so.

then again I can't complain as it is free. There's not much I can say about it, if you think it'll interest you then send off for it. I'm not sure if postage costs are required in order to receive a copy so write to 1521 Brook St., Tallahassee, FL 32310, USA for more details. (Brian)

Script Infernal - Issue 1 - 75 pages

This new zine is completely packed with excellent interviews, and articles some being quite entertaining. Amongst it's pages, you will find M.D.B., IMPALED NAZARENE, NECRONY, VOMITORY, FUNERAL and IMMOLATION. There seems to be millions of well written reviews, chiefly contributed by Timo Hetola (who did most of the inties also). Timo has gone on to write for Dauthus, I would say, taking most of the zine's talent with him. The layout is reminiscent of a favourite scrapbook in parts - full of interesting snippets, photos and pictures. It cost \$4 (Eur. \$5 (r.o.w.)) from Daniel Busten, Basonvagen 39, 17548 Jarfalla, Sweden. (Antoinette)

A 1000 Years - Issue 1 '94 - 44 A4 pages

This zine by Overlord Svithjod of IN THE WOODS... is probably completely sold out but it certainly makes interesting reading. Ovl. adopts a more controversial approach to interviews and included in his list of bands are ENSLAVED, BURZUM, ROTTING CHRIST, KATONIA and others. Also notable are his articles on Norse chronicles from an architectural point of view, the MANOWAR story and other tasty snippets of information. The roughly stapled layout detracts from the appearance, but not the contents. As I mentioned, there are probably no more available, but check with distributors just in case. It's worth it.

Tales Of The Macabre - Issue 1 - 40 pages

This beautiful glossy magazine contains mostly short articles and interviews with the likes of BIFROST, IN THE WOODS, SIGH, UNPURE, DAWN FALL, GORGOROTH, EMPEROR and others all though all include interesting questioning and superb photos. Unfortunately the price and address are unknown to me, but if you come across it, you could do worse things with your money (yeah like pay Paul Kearns ma for a ride - Brian). (Antoinette)

Eternal Mortify - Issue 1

This zine combines Eternal Rest and Mortify zine editors

Final Obituary distro and Turingnum newsletter are both run by Andrew Mulver. The newsletter is professional and readworthy, and his distro list is quite small, but growing. For further information contact Andrew Mc Ivor, 74A Firgrove Hill, Farnham, Surrey, G49 8LW, UK

OGRE's debut CD 'Dark Filth' is now available for £7 (Ire/UK) \$12 (eur) \$14 (r.o.w.) from 5 Texas Lane, Chalfont, Malahide, Dublin, Ireland.

in a nice little A5 package, although unfortunate it is loose leaved. As most interviews are very short, the result is a fact sheet, with fairly basic information but which covers many bands. In it you'll find CRADLE OF FILTH, SADIST, INTERNAL BLEEDING, BLOOD, BLEED, THY NATURE, KRABATHOR and more. Reviews are short but informative. Not bad at all, and only \$3 from ER, PO Box 51, 10052 Bardoneuhia, (TO), Italy. (Antoinette)

Breeding Fear - #6 - 47 A5 pages

A Belgian A5 effort, this features some nice cover artwork, but sadly featuring many bands in which I lack interest - such as CONCIIOUS ROT (shame on you - Brian), CHEMICAL BREATH, DISBELIEF, PILED RIVER, NEMBRIONIC HAMMERDEATH and others. However, it's layout is clean, and CATACOMB and THE REIGN are also included. There are also good underground labels, and zine sections, plus a Finnish scene report. It's okay and \$3 from THRASHKOPKE, Jacobatsstraat 3a2 B7, 3630 Maasmechelen, Belgium. (Antoinette)

DARK MOON - Issue 2 '94 - 38 A4 pages

An A4 zine, this issue 2 is supremely better in layout and appearance than it's predecessor. It includes detailed interviews with acts such as CURSE, MYTHOS, THUS DEFILED, NECROBIOSIS, GRAVELAND, UNGOD, BETHLEHEM and others, and often they are humorous. Articles on bands and reviews are informative, and photographs add interest also. I don't know the price, but contact Tommi Hakonen, Elemetunpolku 19 B26, 33720, Tampere, Finland for the worthy details. (Antoinette)

Dark Shivers - Issue 1 '94 - 44 A4 pages

Dark Shivers is the product of Jussi Heikkinen who is also responsible for SOULGRIND and TENEBRAE, two excellent projects. His magazine also reflects quality in it's most professional layout and crystal clear photos. The fascinating interviews cover diverse acts like ALTAR, SKIN CHAMBER, NECROPHOBIC, DECORYAH, WOLF-AGE, DARK TRANQUILLITY and other plus an interview with an extreme radio presenter. It's a delightful read, and only \$4 from Jussi Heikkinen, Kytoskontr 8 C 35, 00360 Helsinki, Finland (Antoinette)

The Fanzine Archive started in 1984 and it collects zines from Ireland, UK, and some surrounding islands. It's purpose is to collect as many zines as possible & keep them for others to read, research, etc. Fanzine writers are urged to write to the address below and give details of previous issues, numbers of copies sold and so on. Write to The Fanzine Archive, Alan Lawrie, (top flat left) 10 Elm Row, Leith, Edinburgh, Scotland, UK. (Brian)

REVIEWS

SACRILEGIOUS - Obscurity - Demo '94

Finland has spawned a very poor act here if this demo is anything to go by. 'Obscurity' was recorded in an eight track studio, although after listening to it you would think it was recorded in a bedroom with a shitty little tape recorder. In other words production is very feeble. In fact everything about the band is feeble, the guitars, the drums and especially the vocals. 30 MK (Fin) \$4 (world) from J.P., Po box 23, Fin - 32441 Alastaro, Finland. (Brian)

ESOTERIC - Epistemological Despondency - Double CD '94 - Aesthetic Death Records

If I was to follow my usual practice and review the various tracks 'Epistemological Despondency', you would be reading all year. For those who seek good value for money for a CD, there are just under 90 minutes on this offering - comprising of 6 songs in an excellently produced package. I know people who have not got further than the first track, all 20 minutes and 29 seconds of it. It is basically a wierdness fetishists ultimate orgasm. Imagine PINK FLOYD, slowed almost to stop, and played backwards, but with a deep, deep rhythmic background. Wow! This carries more weight than the entire universe, if it could be compressed into CD format. The lyrics are not recommended for anyone of depressive tendencies, as they are likely to be the final push over the edge. Other than that, it's indescribable - experience this yourself - it is one strange trip. Available for £10 \$18 (Eur) \$20 (world) from Aesthetic Death Records, Silwood, Pershore Road, Eckington, Worcestershire WR10 3AP, England or ESOTERIC, Fairmead Rise, Kings Norton, Birmingham B38 8BS, England. (Antoinette)

VARIOUS - Sometimes Death Is Better - Comp. CD - Shiver Records

As you might have guessed from the title this is primarily a death metal compilation and it clocks in at just over 70 minutes. 15 bands are featured and although most of them offer something good there are some that simply don't deserve to be here. DISGUSTING, INQUISITOR and EARTHCORPSE are prime examples. However the likes of ATER, INTERNAL BLEEDING, DYSTROPHY and INVERTED have all contributed very impressive tracks. Sound wise the comp. is faultless apart from D.A.B.'s track (which sounds like a rehearsal) and one or two others. All things considered this is an average comp., it's yours for \$18 from Shiver Recs., Hans De Wyngaert, Amerstraat 112, 3200 Aarschot, Belgium. (Brian)

IN THE WOODS - Isle of Men - Demo '93 / '94

This demo of shrieking excellence hails from that land of fire and ice and some of its trademarks i.e. the high pitched strong marching type vocals, the guitars inciting blood and battle, and the monosyllabic, hypnotic drumming, can be detected throughout. But no, be not fooled. This is not merely another Nordic band. The track "Erections Of An Ancient Shape" is alone worthy of the purchase of the demo. Upon the framework of viking music IN THE WOODS build layers of intricacies, especially from the bass, choppy notes or masterful soloing. Technical wizardry emanates from the guitars and with hints of keyboard symphonies and rasping vocal variations the bands' ability is in no question. Their magical playing is highlighted in "Wotan's Return", where joy is infused with melancholy, and in "In The Woods" where freshness and energy echo relentlessly around the track. The band successfully it's potency to build imagery of a land hand carved by gods of another era. \$6 to IN THE WOODS, P.O. box 7093, Vestheine, 4628 Kr.sand, Norway. (Antoinette)

CATHARSIS - Into Oblivion - Demo '94

This Kent three piece have recorded an average debut in the form of 'Into Oblivion'. Opener "Extinct Is Forever" is quite catchy but becomes boring and unimaginative toward the middle. "Taken Away" follows and is more of the same. The final track "Innocence Lost" improves on the other two, as it seems as though it contains more thought. I reckon the band need to liven up somewhat and the vocals could do with an energy boost. CATHARSIS are due to record a follow up shortly which should see some needed changes. 'Into Oblivion' is yours for the very cheap price of £1.50 (UK/ire) £2.50 (overseas), worth a listen. CATHARSIS, 150 Princes Plain, Bromley, Kent BR2 8LD, England. Postal orders and cheques payable to B. Fordham. (Brian)

PSYCHIC PAWN - Decadent Delirium - CD - Cacophonous Records

The Phoenix four piece return once again on Cacophonous, this time with their debut CD which boasts improved playing ability and added brutality. "Descent To Avernus" opens the proceedings and is full of slow grinding passages which are well blended with some very catchy mid paced moments. "Improbata Intemperance Infinite" is some what in the same vein but with a faster edge. The third and seventh tracks are both mellow acoustic numbers which came as a bit of a surprise to me but they do the album justice. Equally surprising were the keyboards which open up "Nocturnal Usurper In Plight" the fifth and most memorable track out of the ten. "Cryptorium Of Enchantment" and "Catalytic Winter" the two final tracks see some different vocals which complement the songs nicely. 'Decadent Delirium' is an extreme and brutal release and I've no hesitation in recommending it - £10 from Cacophonous Records, 231 Portobello Road, London W11 1LT, England. (Brian)

RENAISSANCE - Tired Blood - 7" EP - Shiver Records

The tracks - "Tired Blood", and "Vaudeville" are taken from the RENAISSANCE 'Archway' demo, recorded August '92. Personally I prefer the production on the 7" than that on their full length release, 'The Death Of Art'. Both tracks are doomy, melodic and gothic, but "Vaudeville" seems more phantom-like, filling the atmosphere with spectres just outside one's range of vision. Listening to it is spinechilling and urges you to constantly glance over your shoulder. The beat crests and falls throughout the track preventing the monotony which is the failing of some doom bands, and both songs are filled with riffing idiosyncrasies and delicious surprises. The vocals remain fierce and deep throughout, except for a slight whining interlude. Available from Shiver Records, Hans De Wyngaert, Amerstraat, 112 3200, Aarschot, Belgium, for \$6. (Antoinette)

BURZUM - Hvis Lyset Tar Oss - CD '94 & Det Som Engang Var - CD '94 (rereleased) - Misanthropy Recs.

Anyone with the remotest interest in the form of metal termed "black" will have heard this CD, now over a year old. If not, you will have heard of it. So I shall not bother preaching to the converted or how throughout the four masterful tracks we are taken through legends of musical light so brilliant as to dazzle us into a blind void of exquisite pleasure. This appeal is to lovers of music and sound, stretched and tortured to it's epitome of delicious agony - transcending the aeons through which the old gods have travelled, burned in the minds of their followers. It is for lovers of myth and history, for those who delight in the savage lusts that form the fabric of nature and mankind. It is for the beast that lurks behind every thin mask of civilization - it breathes life into them all. It is for you.

This is the second incarnation of 'Det Som Engang Var' so if it sounds familiar to you, it probably is - through some tape trades of dubious quality received around '92. To feel it's nuances and multi layer tones in through technical clarity is akin to being present at the birth of the universe - as seen from it's core. That which once was. An awakening, a new life granted by the death of the old - symbolic in my mind of BURZUM's extension beyond the black metal boundaries of that time. The rhythm remains, but though the guitars cry in a pitch reminiscent of blackness - they are slowed just enough to allow each clever riff revel in glory. Much as the caterpillar uses it's pupa to become a butterfly, 'Det Som...' is BURZUM's cocoon, the transformation stage. Black magic. Each CD / LP will cost you £10 / £9 respectively. Add postage £1 (50p there after) UK, double UK rates in Europe and triple for rest of world from Misanthropy Records, P.O. Box 9, Hadleigh, Suffolk, IP7 5AU, UK. (Antoinette)

AT THE GATES - Terminal Spirit Disease - CD '94 Deaf Records

Sweden's best return yet again with this, their third full length offering. Quite a short release at just over 34 minutes but it's quality that counts and AT THE GATES will never lack that, especially if they keep coming up with catchy, technical tracks like "The Swarm", clearly the best of the six new titles. "And The World Returned" is the only instrumental on the album and it's a pleasant mix of acoustic guitars, cello and violin surrounded by background noise. I must point out "The Fevered Circle" which begins sounding very similar to recent PARADISE LOST material. The three last tracks are all live, "All Life Ends" from their 'Gardens of Grief' EP, "The Burning Darkness" from 'With Fear...' and the classic "Kingdom Gone" from 'The Red In The Sky...'. A very worthy release. (Brian)

BEYOND FEAR - The Taste Of Red Impurity - Demo

This young act are really in their early stages and 'The Taste Of Red Impurity' is a fairly average first attempt and nothing to get excited about. The music is death / grind which is not too badly played but a more original approach would help. Sound wise the demo suffers greatly, the drums tend to drown out the guitars. I imagine BEYOND FEAR will improve with experience, time will tell. You get six songs for your £2 (cheques made payable to E.D.Betts). So if you want a taste of red impurity write to Jon Betts, Wake Robin, Warnford Road, Orpington, Kent, BR6 6LW, UK. (Brian)

MEGGIDO - The Blistering Glow Of My Steel - 7" Cacophonous Records

I found this to be a bit typical, almost predictable especially "Eldest Of Lightning", a straight forward, uninspiring black metal track. Side B's offering, "Traitorous Winds" is a slight improvement, it's catchy in places and possesses some slower passages. Perhaps worthy of a listen but not a purchase. £2.50 from Cacophonous Records, 231 Portobello Road, London, W11 1LT, UK. (Brian)

DAWN - The Darkness Within - Demo '93

Five solid death metal tracks make up this demo and if your into NAPALM DEATH you'll love this as their influence is apparent throughout much of this tape. I'm not saying DAWN haven't their own ideas it's just the influence is very obvious. "The Darkness Within" is a fine debut comprising of varied speeds and lots of brutality, especially noticeable in "Open The Gate" and "Endtime". DAWN also have the talents of a female drummer which isn't exactly common, now is it? However she does handle the drums very well. "The Darkness Within" is worth checking out and is a clear indication of good things to come from this German four piece. \$6 to Robert Wenglorz, Banatstrasse 12, D 69190 Walldorf, Germany. (Brian)

WARLORD - Alien Dictator - Demo

This is quite old by now but I thought I'd better review it as Chucky did ask. I've seen this demo get good reviews in a lot of publications but I can't see (or should I say hear) why. The band play solid death metal and their playing is good it's just the songs themselves are boring and very much run of the mill. Perhaps you think I'm being a bit harsh but this is my honest opinion. So if into typical death metal you'll get 3 enjoyable tunes, if not don't buy it. £3 from Anita (chucky) Harris, 11 inland road, Erdington, Birmingham, B24 9TE, UK. (Brian)

DUMPTRUCK - Morbid Side Of The Grene - Demo

I received this demo last January ('94) and had to wait until now to review. At that stage the dumpsters were preparing their debut CD so it's probably out a while now. Anyway the tape consists of eight death metal meets hard core tracks, most of them fast and heavy. I reckon they should of left out some of them and concentrated more on the better ones. It's not not bad but it's not great either, I would imagine the CD is a bit of a progression from the demo especially if they've lost the hard core element. I've no idea what this will cost you so you'll have to write for details. Nathan Greaves, 16 Hillwood Ave., Warwick 6024, Perth WA, Australia. (Brian)

EX - PENSIVES - Statement Of Purpose - Demo

This is fucking weird. It seems these people have put together their own instruments and together with the help of a drum machine and some other equipment, recorded 19 tracks of indescribable music (?). There's no vocals as such, just talking parts which are as confusing as the rest of the tape. I never heard anything like this before and I'm not sure I want to unless I've 200 mushrooms (the magic kind) down my throat. \$6 from Steve Ball, Chameleon Graphics, 15600 NE 8St., Suite B1, # 457, Bellevue, WA 98008, USA. (Brian)

CAUSE & EFFECT - 3 Ways To Kill A Man - Demo

Here we have a four piece thrash outfit that are playing together since '91. This, their debut, consists of four well played songs, the opener especially sounding very much in the XENTRIX vein and the third "The Dark-room" has hints of MEGADETH throughout. Personally this is not my thing but fans of thrash will love it. The demo comes on pro tapes with a glossy inlay. £3.50 from Matt Tones, Church Farm, Reed, Royston, Herts, SG8 8AP, UK. (Brian)

GUT - Pussyfied - EP - MMI Records

GUT have recorded four songs for this EP and each of them is as ridiculous as the other. The vocalist seems to be making noise from another hole besides his mouth and as for the music it's just total shit. DM8/\$6 from MMI Records, Markus Woeste, Heerstrasse 77, 58553 Halver, Germany. (Brian)

TARANIS - Quad - Demo

TARANIS biography states that their music has had the "thumbs up" from PANTERA. I suspect that this is because TARANIS are trying to be PANTERA, and PANTERA, feeling that they have now to worry about are smiling benevolently upon their proteges. That said, it is not a bad demo, TARANIS obviously enjoy playing their stomping, crunching form of metal, and are happy with their sound. And fair dues to them - they will always have an audience. Within the framework of their musical style, they have built tracks such as "Channel To The Mature" which uses every riff formation and variation possible; guitars are put through their paces. Then there is "Gut Thump Horror", the most in PANTERA like piece on the demo, and hence my favourite, which wallows in the power of unadulterated simplicity. 'Quad' is £2.50, from TARANIS, c/o Deadforce Promotions, Aruba Lodge, Livermere Road, Great Barton, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP31 2QG, UK. (Antoinette)

SADIST - Above The Light - Promo '93 - Nosferatu Records

I know this is two years old, and has probably been reviewed in zines on Jupiter, and that some people hate it - but I like it, and I'm reviewing it. So there!! Yes, it is, as described orchestral. Yes, there are keyboards and riffs woven into glory and splendour on every track. Yes, the band members are instrumentalists and musicians comparable to the maestros of centuries past. But, they do not with all of this musical magnificence, compromise the death element in their songs. They do not wimp out. There is viciousness and attack in every guttural utterance, in every hammer on anvil crash and pound of the drumkit. In examples such as "Enslaver of lies" or especially "Hell In Myself" force the brutality into prominence, enhancing and exaggerating it. What more can be said - except I suppose that the CD can be purchased from Nosferatu Records, Via Mineo 23, 95125 Catania, Italy. (Antoinette)

CHAPEL OF REST - A Twilight Serenade - Demo '94

'A Twilight Serenade' is the bands second attempt in the studio and they certainly have progressed since 'Memorium Grief'. A lot of atmosphere surrounds the demo with the addition of keyboards helping considerably. Both the writing and playing of the songs has improved a great deal and of the six titles on offer I would say "As Thy Soul Departs" and "In The Grip Of Winter" are the best examples of this. It wouldn't be surprising at all if these Hull lads were snapped up by some label or other as I can't see them being ignored for much longer. If your into atmospheric death / doom then you won't get much better than this. £3 / \$6 for the demo which comes professionally packaged & includes lyrics, etc. Contact : Phil Hutchinson, 624 Spring Bank West, Hull, N. Humberside, HU3 6LJ, UK. (Brian)

EFFUSION OF BLOOD - Carving Images - Demo '94

EFFUSION OF BLOOD from England admit the sound level on this debut demo is muted, but it is better than some currently available demos. Lyrically, they take social problems and give them a gory treatment of quite epic proportions. These are handled with speed and intensity however, preventing the songs from dragging out. Vocally, throaty death growls are alternated with those of a higher pitch, and musically they seem to be aiming at brutal death in parts of their tracks, but changes of pace are included before complete destruction is achieved. "Legion Of The Dead" is an example. Thus, peaks of excitement are created in tracks but due to some very half hearted drumming, the orgasm fails to happen and the frustration of the other members can be felt in their restrained ferocity. That drummer has since left so perhaps one will now be recruited who will inspire the band to achieve that desired musical violence. Available from Scott Williams, 12 Cleve Road, Filton, Bristol, BS12 7QF, UK. (Antoinette)

DARKNESS ENSHROUD - Winter Of Sorrow - Demo November '93

DARKNESS ENSHROUD consists of two members who come from Indianapolis in the USA. I suppose they play black metal (with names like Rahu and Azrael Abaddon and titles like "Black Chariot Of Damnation" or "Weeping Entities Of Necromateon" this is sort of obvious). I genuinely like black metal (and have had to suffer the indignation of being called "trendy" because of it) but this demo does not appeal to me because it sounds too much like radio interference and not enough like music. Maybe I'm being narrow minded - there are plenty of insidious whispers against the background of a church organ with dust in it's pipes. Maybe this is what truly evil music is supposed to sound like, and maybe it'll grow on me after 100 listens but I would have to be tied down with the ear phones soldered on first. However for the masochistic it's available from Mike Ford, 3122 Dunster St., Indianapolis, IN - 46227, USA. (Antoinette)

FLEURETY - A Darker Shade Of Evil - 7" '94 - Aesthetic Death Records

It's said that hell has all the best musicians, but I think that there is something divine about this band - not as in angels (obviously) but definitely as in sounds of the gods. Not Thor & co. marching to crush their enemies, but perhaps in the more emotional moments, faced with joys or tragedies, love or loss, the gods would have created these sounds. Certainly Alexander's vocalizing is paranormal. FLEURETY write pieces, not tracks, tortured, complex and eerie in places, passionate, soulful and romantic in others. The three tracks on the 7" are a small taste of the unearthly paradise promised by their forthcoming CD. I hope the world is ready... Available

from Aesthetic Death Records, c/o Stu, Silwood, Pershore Road, Eckington, Wochestershire, WR10 3AP, UK. (Antoinette)

SIGH / KAWIR - Split 7" '94 - Cacophonous Records

Japan's SIGH have a certain **knack** for writing very catchy tunes and "Suicidogenic" is no exception. I'm not too sure how they describe themselves but to me this is thrash metal with black metal mixed in. Anyway the song starts off with a cool flute intro then it's straight into a couple of minutes of catchy and memorable music. SIGH also cover a VENOM song and any band that can make VENOM sound listenable, must be good. Now it's off to Greece for KAWIR, a new band to my ears. I must admit it took a good few listens to get into it but nevertheless "Sinn (The Blazing Queen)" is an impressive piece of work and it boosts quite a lot of dark atmosphere. I hope to hear a lot more from these in the future as they are very promising. This will cost you £2.50 and it includes lyrics for both the bands. Cacophonous Records, 231 Portobello Road, London, W11 1LT, UK. (Brian)

ABHOR - Abyss - Reh. / demo '94

ABHOR started life as DEFY CHRIST but I suppose not too many of you have heard of either names before. Anyway they play death metal with some black metal influences and because this is a reh. / demo some parts are difficult to make out. The music is generally quite intense (well the drumming is anyway) and the guitars are sometimes catchy but on occasion a bit repetitive. Main vocalist Marc (or should I say Nocturnus) has some good ideas which will perhaps manifest onto their studio demo which shouldn't be too far away. 'Abyss' is not a bad listen and it's a definite sign of good things to come. £2 (Ire) \$4 (Eur) \$6 (r.o.w.) will secure you the demo. Also ABHOR are looking for gigs anywhere so bands or gig organisers get in touch with them. Bard Nocturnus, Rockvale House, Lr. Coolroe, Ballincollig, Co. Cork, Ireland. (Brian)

WAYLANDER - Once Upon An Era - Demo '94

Northern Ireland's WAYLANDER are quite a recent addition to the scene and towards the end of '94 they recorded their debut 5 track demo 'Once Upon An Era' and it's pretty good too. Vocalist Ciaran O'Hagan described WAYLANDER as playing "original heavy music with Celtic influences" which I suppose is a fair enough interpretation particularly when talking about "This Can Not Be", "Born To The Fight" and "Blood Lust". Of course there's room for improvement and they need to tighten up a bit but their playing is good and this demo is a great start. 'Once Upon An Era' has been getting some deserved attention recently and can be yours for £3/\$6. Available from Ciaran O'Hagan, 4 Ballinteggart Road, Battlehill, Portadown, Co. Armagh, BT 62 4HN, N. Ireland. (Brian)

GLACIAL FEAR - Promo '93 (for 'Secrets At The Steam Forest' EP)

This GLACIAL FEAR offering has a keyboard intro, followed by traditional death riffs. "Dawn Of Reflection", the opening track contains guitars which proceed at a medium to fast rate and a drum - sound which has a mind of it's own (strangely enough, this drummer has since departed). There is a meandering keyboard theme here also, apparently unable to decide where it is going, and some rather muffled vocals, although I am assured that on the actual EP, the sound quality is superior. "Supremacy Of Horror" displays more life in the aggression of the playing and violence of the singing style. It also includes a few seconds of a funny voice. In this track, GLACIAL FEAR prove themselves to have ability but perhaps need to define it better. The EP is available for \$5.00, address elsewhere. (Antoinette)

REVENANT HOST - Bio - weaponry - Demo

To be perfectly honest I don't like this at all. REVENANT HOST play a mix of industrial and death metal which I found extremely boring mainly because I'm not into industrial music. The five members can play their instruments well, it's just not my thing. You'll get three similar mid paced tunes for your £2.50 so if you think you would like this contact Stig, 6 Lockwood St., The Groves, York YO3 7QY, UK. (Brian)

GOMMORAH - Reflections Of Inanimate Matter - CD '94 - Megapulse Records

After two well received demos, 'Embryonic Stages' and 'Umbilical Divorce', GOMMORAH got the chance to do an album and it's definitely a big step up from their last release. There's six new songs and a rerecorded version of their classic "Human Trophies" from 'Umbilical Divorce', this time with some guest vocals by Fish of Marillion. Of the six new titles, "Sewer - Cide" and "Without Trace" stood out most, mainly due to Jose's and Mike's guitar work. The majority of the seven tunes are fast paced and because of Sven's vocals and Fran's drumming, very powerful. I found this CD an enjoyable listen with some really fresh ideas. £10 / \$20 for the CD and the same price for full colour long sleeves. Jose Griffin, 11 Gainsborough Hill, Henly On Thames, Oxon RG9 1ST, UK. (Brian)

HOMICIDE - Retaliation Fall - Demo '93

Homicide of Italy describe their music as "techno-thrash", and, if their biography is a reliable source, have sold large quantities of previous demos. Not having heard them, I cannot comment on any progression they have made with this third release. However, it is undeniably thrash: the lyrics cover social problems, the vocals, riffs and drumming assault in short sharp punches, changing pace periodically. My favourite of the 5 tracks is "W.O.W.", played in a humorous, funky mode, indicating imagination perhaps. This stretches to the other tracks musically in the quirky riffs which appear

throughout the demo. Except for the guest appearance of the occasional growl, the vocals maintain a thrash - rap monotony which is limiting, although thrash lovers may appreciate it. For \$6.00, the demo is available from HOMICIDE, c/o Massey Allegretti, V.le Matteotti, 340 20099, Sesto S. Giovanni - MI Italy. (Antoinette)

CHEMICAL BREATH - Promo '94 (for 'Values' CD)

This sampler for the 'Values' CD resounds in metal of the crunching orientation, reminiscent of the later PANTERA stuff - particularly in the vocal style. The guitars are thrashier, but ring in a persistently tunny manner, which detracts from the power element. The first track, "Awaiting The Miracle" avoids frenzied blandness by the inclusion of an interesting solo, albeit nothing mind blowing. "Inexplicable Being" offers little in variety, except a slight change in pace and some vocal effects, but the best track is "Admiring Your Opponent" from the point of view of it's shiver inspiring chorus of vocals. So - if you like mid to fast paced, slightly powerful thrash then you can get the CD in full from CHEMICAL BREATH, c/o Thrashkope, Jacobastraat 3A2 B7, 3630 Maasmechelen, Belgium. (Antoinette)

PARADIGIMA - As Autumn Dies - Demo '94

Oh..... for all worshippers of DEATH (not as in metal), and blackness (not as in Satanism). For those who are elated by funeral parlour melodies and who thrive on morbid misery, this is the demo for you. Rather than labouring under the doom banner as some bands tend to, here is a collection of tracks of listenable length on which Cecile sings like an angel of night, beckoning eternal slumber. Tom's powerful baritone growls lend hypnotic depth, and this, together with guitars which are sometimes sexual, in "Best Regards" and "Shapeless", or sonorous, in "Terra Matter", we have a body of talent deserving of recognition. All doom rhythm sections face a challenge: they provide the foundation upon which atmosphere is built - here, that challenge is met with aplomb. Keyboards add the Gothic finishing touches to a piece of moodiness which will darken the most trivial souls. Buy this from PARADIGIMA: c/o Tom Kvallescoll; Kirkegt. 11 - 6004 Alesund, Norway. (Antoinette)

CANOPIC JAR - Canopic Jar - Demo '94

This is a huge improvement on their previous attempt 'Tomb Of Kings' which was released under the name SARCOPHAGUS. Although the band are improving their are a lot of let downs on this four track demo in particular the vocals which are pretty bad and very annoying as is the opener "Who's Soul Is This". Of course the tape has some good points, "The Desert Of Retribution" being a good example. If they can manage to change the vocals and lose songs like "Who's Soul Is This" then their third release might get a bit more attention. The demo will cost you £2.50 / \$5 and comes

with an inlay including lyrics and a photo. Available from Ben Trenery, 14 Pemberton Rd., Bridgehill, Consett, Co. Durham, DH8 8JJ, UK. (Brian)

FIFTH DOMINION - Promo '94

Right, this contains 3 new songs "Random Thoughts", "Everyday Was Different" and "Reflecting" and it's a big progression from 'Pain, Rage & Laughter'. The only problem with this is that it was a rushed recording and that's why it's quite sloppy. Having said that, I've heard these songs both live and in rehearsals and they sound way better and tighter than on this tape. But I still enjoyed listening to the promo anyway, in particular "Everyday...." - sheer class. I never really liked "Reflecting" and I think Paul described it accurately when he called it "our gay song" but it has grown on me now, a bit like Paul's ma I suppose. There's loads of clear vocals on these songs so this might lose some fans but I'm sure it'll gain some as well. If your not too bothered about slightly dodgy sound and don't mind the music not being too tight then check this out by sending Brickhead a blank tape and return postage. Paul Kearns, 8 Tymon Close, Old Bawn, Dublin 24, Ireland. (Brian)

SOULGRIND - La Matanza, El Himno Pagano - CD - MMI Records

AS I never heard SOULGRIND before I didn't know really what to expect. After a few listens I got the feeling that describing SOULGRIND's music would be a task so I'm not really going to bother. 'La Matanza, El Himno Pagano' is not quite death metal, or black metal, or doom or industrial, it's elements of all four and more. "Kouta" and the title track are the best examples of Jussi's work. "Kouta" is a lengthy doom based song which keeps stopping and starting to great effect. "La Matanza..." is very mellow with acoustic guitars and female vocals but every so often there's blast beats that come out of nowhere and disappear again just as quick, strange but indeed effective. The album is full of weirdness, nothing about any of the ten titles is predictable, each one differs from the other and all are totally original. Very impressive debut CD and I'd advise all to checkout SOULGRIND. (Brian)

EVER DARK - Gravesite Rites - Demo '94

An excellent effort indeed, probably the best demo I've heard from the USA. A spoken intro opens the tape which is followed by the title track which is quite lengthy and is easily the best display of the talent that EVER DARK possess. "Gravesite Rites" is slow paced, full of skilled guitar and varied vocals - simply amazing! "Hellfires Touch" is next and is more up tempo than the other two songs, again there's a lot of varied vocals. "Chanting" finishes the demo and it's in the same vein as "Hellfires Touch" without the faster moments. "Gravesite Rites" is 24 minutes of dark death (with black metal touches) on pro tapes with lyrics included on the inlay. It's a bit steep at \$6 (USA) \$7 (r.o.w.) but it's money

well spent. EVER DARK, P.O. Box 3138, Schenectady, N.Y., 12303 - 3138, USA. (Brian)

BENEFITS FORGOT - The Mist(ify) - Demo '93

An impressive second attempt by four Finish lads who are trying to do something different. The Mist(ify) contains four enjoyable tracks which are quite melodic due to some keyboard moments and guitarists Timo and Hannu's style of playing. The band play well together, nice n' tight (unlike Ebenezer Quirke's ma) and the music is very easy to get into especially the ever so boppy "Not A Preacher". Productions not bad either and the demo comes on good quality tapes with a hard h & w inlay. So be mistified for \$4, it's worth it. Timo Harju, Seinajoentie 814, 61120 Louko, Finland. (Brian)

CARPATHIAN FULL MOON - Serenades In Blood Minor - CD '94 - Spinefarm Records

On first playing this CD, I thought - too traditional in the old "heavy metal" vibe, and lacking in balls. I was wrong. This initial perception was due to what I first believed to be guitar wanking, in solos on "Caedes Sacriligae" and "De Praestigis Daemonium 1593", but that was before realizing the bloodcurdling passion with which CFM play. The treatment of "Sarah Ellen", a piece I've loved since first hearing it in 'Bram Stoker's Dracula', caused me to listen to the CD properly several times more. The numerous catchier riffs are starring, the melodic ones entrancing; the whole effect emotionally blasting - leaving one crying with desire to know what subjects are responsible for such entralling passion, as lyrics are not printed. So, some guitar wanking is forgivable. But the CD's heartbeat emerges when one listen to the vocals which rage subtly over sensitive, throbbing drumming, and the deeper, more rhythmic riffs: "Above The Pantheon", and "Ggal Hannah" for example (which also contains a PRIMORDIAL-like intro). The instrumental "Luna Garden" is also a delight, especially the masterfully pounding finale. A purchase-worthy classic - available from Spinefarm records, or good shops. (Antoinette)

ACRIMONY - Solstice Sadness -7" Shiver Records

With the track "Solstice Sadness" we experience those darkest hours before dawn, the night spirals into sinister shadows, a mood exhorbed by the ominous vocals, doom-laden with calamitous omens of what the night might bring. Guitars and bass echo the riff back and forth, twisting it downward, to the deepest point of blackness, almost to a standstill. As guitars lament, only the drum kit reminds us that there could be brightness ahead, by it's occasional excited bursts. Eventually this is proven correct, dawn breaks, and the tracks finale serves as an awakening, a shaking off of the nights depression, and a celebration of Helios arisen again. "For Morrow" is a complete departure from the A side in the vocal department - the singing being a slightly thrashy chant. The opening mood is party like - of the happy hippy variety,

complete with joints, flowers and spaced sounds. The end however is calm and contemplative, in the "tomorrow is death" vein, but the participants don't seem overly worried about this. Overall an enjoyable 7" containing all of doom's best elements and playing the heart out of them. Available from Hans De Wyngaert, Amerstraat 112, 3200 Aarschot, Belgium. (Antoinette)

CERECLOTH - Encrusted In An Oaken Legend - 7" '93 - GWB Productions

CERECLOTH, now unfortunately demised have left us a legacy in the form of this 7". It is packaged in a glossy cover of heavy Celtic style decoration. The music is not as folksy as this cover may lead one to believe, although there is a pleasant flute and acoustic backing to the clever riffs. This softens the sound which would otherwise be almost brutal in that the playing is very fast in places, although lacking the down tuned crunch. But it's not supposed to be brutal, so the lighter effect works very well - singer Darren growls poetically, and at times whimpers, and shouts also to enhance the interest. On side B the lead guitar tends to a bit too experimental resulting in shrieks like a jazz player using a drill with a brillo pad attached on his strings, but it is unusual, and not too frequent. Despite this, and also the drums needing perhaps some tonal variation the 7" is an original and highly enjoyable piece of vinyl - death by Morris dancing. £2.50 from GWB Prod. (Antoinette)

MALEDICTION - Chronicles Of Dissention - Live CD '94 - GWB Productions

For a detailed review of MALEDICTION's material see Deprived 1, but this live CD contains all of their best tracks such as "Weeping Tears Of Covetousness", "Framework Of Contortion" and "Doctrines Of Eternal Circles". Their mighty death style comes across as sharp as a studio production - but with the exuberance of a live gig. The funous drumming builds up speed to explode on impact, the guitars sometimes played in a raw powered grinding style, and at others, maintain MALEDICTION's love for expermetal riffs. It's a slamming good live CD, with plenty of crowd communication to create the impression that one is sweating along side the rest - especially when played loud. Contact MALEDICTION, c/o Mark, 49 Carfin Road, Newarthill, Motherwell, ML1 5JZ, Scotland, and the CD is £8. (Antoinette)

MASTICATOR - Gonococci Of Gonorrhoea - Demo '94

I really try to support all Irish bands, honestly - but, perhaps I'm getting too old, or why do all these tracks sound the same? Perhaps it's because I do not understand this sound. The 8 tracks are quite long, and full of vocal effects, some string effects, and various other, em, noises. And perhaps to the discerning listener, each is individually crafted, and over flowing with technicalities - and it probably takes hours of effort to reproduce; for

example, that creaky door hinge noise on "Erotic Dismemberment" (I think, as I said, they sound alike to me). I hate giving a bad review to an Irish band, and I hope there is an audience for this extremely extreme music, but unfortunately I am not a member. However, if you are, contact Noel Lynch, 147 Beech Park, Ballinellig, Co. Cork, Ireland. (Antoinette)

INSATANITY - Ad Maiorem Satanae Gloriam - Demo

Thanks to Jeff for sending this on down, this demo was recorded at Top Ten Studios, Philadelphia in October of 1993, and comes with a full colour cover. Now the production on this demo is of CD standards and you can see the band have gone through some money to release this. As for the music itself, we're talking pure brutal black / death metal with vocals so heavy it would make John Tardy piss in his pants, and for that added touch there are a few screams thrown into the mix, if you a fan of ABSU and BANISHED you'll love 'em. I'm not sure wether the demo is still available so write for details, the address is Mark Rhochar, 1104 Morris Street, Philadelphia, PA 19148, USA. (Ian)

XENOMORPH - Subspecies - EP '93

The USA's XENOMORPH used to be highly regarded by Wild Rags, but with Richard C.'s mood fluctuations, I don't know where they now stand in his esteem. I have not heard from them for months, but at that time, they were a four piece, and working on a full length release. They describe their style as "sick" and "depraved", and yes, these are suitable descriptions for the noxious noise emitting from the stereo at this moment. Unfortunately, the stomach - churning fare does not reach it's full potential, given the lousy sound quality which dilutes the desired effect of inducing people to dive for the nearest toilet down to mere dry - wretching. My greatest wish right now is to hear at full power, or to see XENOMORPH live, because there is so much happening in the rumble of strings and bass, and all I can feel are shadows of the twisted instruments. "Kazligk - Boy" warps some unsuspecting keyboards, destroying their respectibility for ever, and the terror crashes forth unabated. The vocals are harshly barked, or barfed I suppose, and undoubtedly the mind behind the whole scheme would be an interesting subject for psychiatrists worldwide. If you dare, you can obtain this EP from Osmose Adipocere or Wild Rags, or XENOMORPH: PO BOX 31851, Omaha, NE, 68131 - 0851, USA. (Antoinette)

VIOGRESSION - The Passage - Adv. tape - Tombstone Records

Don't know how old this is or why I didn't review it before but I do know it's not very good. On my first listen I thought it was OBITUARY, and on my second, and... 12 tracks of standard death metal is what you get with "The Passage", it's boring and certainly nothing new. I don't feel like saying any more about it. (Brian)

ABIGOR - CD Promo '94 - Napalm Records

ABIGOR play a nasty form of black metal - you know, witches boiling babies in haunted castles. I swear I hear bats shrieking throughout the tracks, not to mention the bestial breathing, and similar droplets of horror between the songs. The vocals seem to travel from the netherworld, through the lungs of some dying, or dead medium. The strings generally remain as a ghostly backdrop, against which the vocals vomit the main story, but the guitarist's ability to create the emotive sound track for the horror tales within the songs is vital to the concept, the feeling of each track. There is loneliness, such as an all powerful necromancer in his isolated tower might experience, in "Kingdom Of Darkness", and suspense builds "Eye To Eye At Armageddon" into a monstrous epic. "My Soft Vision In Blood", is my favourite of the six tales for it's thunder bass drums, and it's terrifying electric and acoustic strings. I think these are the separate titles, but it is hard to tell as they run into each other. The CD was due out in Autumn '94, and should be a nightmare to remember. Contact ABIGOR, c/o T.T., Huttendorf 135, 2130 Mistelbach, Austria for details. (Antoinette)

IMPALED NAZARENE - Suomi Finland Perkele - CD '94 - Osmose Productions

Finland's finest foursome have again returned, this time complete with a gas mask and bottle of Jack Daniels. Their style has changed again, now with a massive rock n' roll influence but still they've maintained their viciousness. "Lets Fucking Die", the eight offering on the album is pure genesis, and reminds me so much of MOTORHEAD, from the catchy opening riff to Mika's 'sing-along' vocals. "Total War - Winter War" is so easy to get into, I even had my little cousins chanting the opening lines. Lyric wise the album is really fucked up with lines like

"I bought a pack of glue, snuffed it at full moon

I can hear the angels crying... let's die!"

and there's plenty more where that came from. 'Suomi Finland Perkele' is a must for all, buy it and together LETS FUCKING DIE! (Brian)

MEMORIUM - Deepest Woods - Demo 93

It is rare to find a demo of the extreme metal genre containing such un-metal elements. For example, "A Girl" is an indie pop song with slightly gothic vocals, and "Polar Bear" is a melancholic piece, designed I think to represent the gracefull ramblings of the mighty beast through frozen wastes. It's vocals are rasping, it's guitars threatening, except in the pretty solos, and it's bass reflecting a bluesy grunge vibe. Always, keyboards provide the strongest presence, sometimes being a songs creator, with the other instruments as reinforcements. The fact that no drummer is listed is probably the cause of the drums sounding too mechanical. As the pace is usually fairly slow, this does not greatly interfere with sound quality except in the aforementioned "A Girl"

The finale, "Worm Roses" (eh?) inspires me to imagine what ABRUPTUM meets that early eighties new romantic era might sound like. Not everyone's cup of brew, but absolutely unusual, and only \$5, from Evil Shit Prod, Winqvists Gatan 6, 77630 Hedemora, Sweden. (Antoinette)

CRUACHAN - Celtica - Demo '94

Ah CRUACHAN, my beloved CRUACHAN. If you are Irish and into the underground, you will know all about this most excellent gang of musicians - and if you are not, you soon will know about them, their full length being released on Bealtaine '95. I have raved and ranted about CRUACHAN's magic to anyone who will listen, so, suffice it to say here that 'Celtica' is a but a taste of their powerful talent to combine traditional Irish instruments with traditional death sounds to revitalise the ancient gods and legends in a ball busting but beautiful classics such as "To Moytura We Return", and "Cuchulainn". These songs have the added harshness of Keith's vocals to emphasize the crazed Celtic warrior powers, but even the exuberant instrumental sends blood coursing through every vein, and set every nerve on edge with a longing for battle, for glory, for victory and a desire to dance the everlasting reels of the Tuatha de Dannan. You don't have to be of Celtic descent to adore this demo, but on hearing, you will wish you were. It's still available from 178, Killinarden Estate, Tallaght, Dublin 24, Ireland. (Antoinette)

ORDER FROM CHAOS - Stillbirth Machine - CD - Wild Rags

To start off first I hadn't heard much of O.F.C. and only knew the band by a letter I received from Chuck (guitarist with the band) about a year or two ago which inspired me to get my hands on this CD. First of all you are given enough warning as to the true blasphemous music that's available on this CD and believe me that's exactly what it is with Pete (vocals/bass) mixing some high pitched heavy vocal growls with heavy and brutal guitar work and drums. Now the sound can get a little messy in places but to me it just adds to the true underground sound from a true underground band. The CD itself contains 7 songs, and if anyone wants to get their hands on it, or should I say if it's not available at your local metal or underground store you can contact them at PO Box 8471, Kansas City, MO 64114, USA. (Ian)

CRUCIFER - Seperation - Cass. EP - Wild Rags

I don't know why but I expected a lot more from America's CRUCIFER than what's on this tape. The vocals are very weak, lacking energy and confidence and to make matters worse they sound like SEPULTURA's vocalist on their 'Beneath The Remains' album. Music wise CRUCIFER aren't to hot either, quite boring and unexciting. This three track, well packaged EP is available for \$5 from W. Rags, 2207 W. Whittier Blvd., Montebello, CA 90640, USA. (Brian)

INTENSE AGONIZING / NECROBIOSIS - Split EP - MMI Records

INTENSE AGONIZING hail from Hungry and are pure grind. This is not anything special by any means but those who crave non stop blast beats and not much variation in guitar playing will adore it. Finland's NECROBIOSIS on the other hand are a better choice as they have a superior playing ability but still remain fast and brutal for much of their material on offer here. "A Painful End For Curiosity" is one of their better offerings with an excellent ending passage. The band have a lot of potential and I reckon they'll get somewhere whereas I cannot say the same for their counterparts. DM 8 / \$6 from Markus Woeste, Heerstr. 77, 58553 Halver, Germany. (Brian)

AVULSED - Carnivoracity - EP - MMI Records

I've seen AVULSED get great reviews in various publications but after listening to this I can't see / hear why. They're all right but by no means fabulous as some may lead you to believe. It's death metal with some pretty brutal moments and I feel the music is a bit dragged out. This EP features two originals by the Spanish lads and a cover of PENTAGRAM's "Demoniac Possession". Avulsed need to work on their own material and forget about covering other bands stuff. although "Demoniac Possession" came out quite good. I'm sure their next release will be a vast improvement, let's hope so for AVULSED's sake. DM8 / \$6 from Markus Woeste, Heerstr. 77, 58553 Halver, Germany. (Brian)

ABSORBED - Avowals - Split CD 94 - Adv. tracks

From Spain's ABSORBED we have a speedy death rampage through a three-track sampler for their split CD with DISMAL and UNNATURAL. Throughout the emphasis is on slaughter style brutality, precise and hyper speed riffs mingle notes from the scale's extremities, drawing out the odd one for effect. "Empathic Endeavour" fights along, yet it is riddled with touches of traditional Spanish guitar sound. A hoarse-whispering makes up for strength by an attempt at being atmospheric, and this has its merits. "Towards Summer We Soar" offers keyboard interest, with a simultaneously funky and thrashy feel. Ability for high speed technicality is ABSORBED's strength, according to this slice of their style, and also their ability to imbue their songs with warped personality. I, stupidly, have lost their address, but they used to be on Drowned Records, so perhaps that can be helpful, should you seek further information. (Antoinette)

FORGOTTEN WOODS - As The Wolves Gather - CD' 94 - adv. tracks - No Fashion Records

On this LENGTHY two track promo we find an archetypical piece of northern blackness, with obvious BURZUM influences, particularly where vocals are concerned. Singing is not as prevalent as the lines of

echoing shrieks and tortured vocal instrumentalization. The strings exhale rapidly reproduced chords to support the wailing. When the screaming stops, the solos begin their own discordant dance through the trees and mountains of Norge. To each track there is a central musical theme, which is repeated with subtle variations, creating unity and drawing the whole into a tapestry of experience. I enjoy these sounds, and the exiting visions which they stimulate. This promo is incentive enough to avidly seek the full length release, which should now be available at \$15. For details contact Rune Vedaa, Opheim, 5580 Olen, Norway. (Antoinette)

ANTHROPOMOPHIA - Bowel Mutilation - Demo 93/94

This grinding Dutch foursome play with dominating riffs-strong, precise and deep enough to be powerful. without dissolving into an indefinable blur. The bassist uses a technique which must be hell for his suffering fingers, but any pain is overcome and his solos on rotted flesh are proof. The noxious thump, thump, thump of his backing on "The Carnal Pit" is in my opinion what makes this song. From the drums, we hear the berserking one expects from a good grinding skinsman, but again his technique is flawless. Personally, I think the mixing was a bit hard on the vocalist, in that his muffled efforts barely get a look-in. But from a grindcore viewpoint, it's a fairly desirable demo. I don't know the price, but it's available from Ferry Damen, Meierijlaan 8, 5171 ZP Kaatsbevel, Holland. (Antoinette)

MORTAL AFFLICTION - Demo '94

This band hail from Limerick in Ireland and formed in January of '93. The band consists of John Guern - drums, Dom Sloan - lead guitar & bass and Nigel Donohoe - rhythm guitar, bass & vocals. This demo has now been officially released and for anyone who may want to get this, the music is a combination of thrash mixed with death and the vocals change from singing normally to growling but at saying that the vocals are very weak and some of the guitar riffs you will have heard before. The demo is professionally recorded at Xerus Studios in Limerick, write for price and more information to Dominic Sloan, Stradbally North, Castle Connell, Co.Limerick, Ireland. (Ian)

DESECRATION - The Valley Of Eternal Suffering - MCD '93

This is the Italian DESECRATION - one band of this title seems to exist in every country, there must be a law about it or something. Anyway, this branch of the DESECRATION clan play what I call Italian experimental metal - as it is riddled with fiddly bits on guitars and keyboards. Funky riffs appear suddenly, and disappear into the turmoil of thrashy death. Then there are soaring solos, and the rapid top end of the scale surfing. And all this in any one track. !! No track is predictable, for just as you relax, thinking you have it

sussed, DESECRATION spring another surprise, such as the nasal radio announcer on the final track. My lasting impression is of some excellent musicianship, and a band backed by progressive thought. However, it is impossible for me to enjoy this demo, so fraught is it with stops, re-starts, and total changes. But it might be something for technical experts. Available from Stefano Mingoli, Viale Degli Ammiragli 121, 00136 Rome, Italy. (Antoinette)

SUFFERING - A Tangled Web Of Despair - Demo '94

SUFFERING are a UK outfit plodding along since '92, enduring several line up changes which for example meant that this demo was recorded with a drum machine. They admit that it is a low budget attempt, but the essence of the hard working core trio is evident on this grinding five track. After the melodic intro a septic oozing tirade is launched: deep vocals and chugging guitars. The next track is better "Worthless Existence" boasts a volley of fancy riffing, with a catchy recurrent rhythmic theme. Unfortunately the vocals suffer too low a level in the mix here, muffling them somewhat, but maybe this is intentional. "Always / Never" features rock n' roll riffing, against a ton weight background of rhythm and bass, whereas "Tapestry Of Entrails" is doom-laden, with a hint of BLACK SABBATH - if only the sound was clearer. If you are interested - the demo can be yours for an SAE/IRC from Gray, 141 Montagne Road, Leytonstone, E.11, UK. (Antoinette)

CEREBRUM - Grief - Promo '94

Good stuff here from Finland's CEREBRUM who play melodic and atmospheric death with some influence from a band from one of their neighboring countries namely DARK TRANQUILITY. Opener "Like My Tears" and "Sweet Melodies From The Surging Sea (Where You Sleep)" second on side two, are both proof of this band's great potential. "Sweet Melodies..." features some clear vocals which work so well with the music and it would be wise for the band to develop on this. There's some really interesting ideas in the heads of these five musicians and they're put to good use on this tape which incidentally is their third recording. CEREBRUM are set to appear on two compilation CDs which should get them some deserved attention. You can get this well packaged promo for 15 FIM, 20 SKR or \$5 from Sami Jarunen, Amiraalistonk. 1c7, 20100 Turku, Finland. (Brian)

GUT / GORE BEYOND NECROPSY - Split EP - MMI Records

More stuff from German porno grinders GUT but I have to admit that this time they had me laughing especially while listening to "Dead Girls Don't Say No". GUT also have added new squeaky, high pitched, humorous vocals to back up their deep growls and their music is a bit listenable now in particular "Vagina Berserker".

Check it out if your male and perverted!! G.B.N. are a strange bunch of lads, the opening tune "Fetching Filth" on their side is enough proof as it has someone blowing a whistle all the way through and the drums seem to explode on impact. The other four are equally abnormal and not very appetising for that matter. I wouldn't recommend this EP unless your after a laugh or two. \$6 from Markus Woeste, Heerstr. 77, 58553 Halver, Germany. (Brian)

RIVERDANCE - Music from Riverdance the show - CD '95 - Celtic Heartbeat & K-Tel Records

Ahem, while Brian is not looking, I'm going to sneak this in (I am looking and actually typing this. I'm not impressed - Brian) because I adored the Riverdance song last year, and I adore 90% of this album. It has completely nothing to connect it to extreme metal of any description, chiefly due to the main instrumentalists being the RTE National Concert Orchestra, but hey, they are damn fine musicians. Most of the album is devoted to rapturous tales told in music of the founding legends of the Celtic culture - they return us through pure strains of uilleann pipes, through fiddles, flutes and Anúna Síde-like vocals to the time when magic was as common place as breakfast. The Milesian wave of Celts were said to have banished the Thama de Dannan to the underworld, but even during their mighty reign, magic abounded and the gates between the two worlds shimmering, never shut. Until of course that Patrick fella drove the wands along with the snakes away for good or thought he did. They are alive and thriving again. Sleeping amid our mass subconscious for nearly two millennia, the magic now returns. It has woven it's way into our own extreme music also, but, Riverdance brings us another side - the socially acceptable side I suppose. But worth experiencing anyway. The two Southern Baptist gospel tracks should not be on this CD though, they don't belong. But, just ignore them, and dream amidst the notes of our musical heritage. Available absolutely everywhere. (Antoinette)

DEFACE - Tears - Demo '95

According to guitarist Gabi DEFACE's music can be defined as experimental death and that's just what this is. The demo is a good debut and incorporates different styles of music. On it you'll get to hear 3 acoustic pieces and two full songs. Vocals on the tape vary a lot as well as familiar death growls there's many clear spoken parts some in whispers and some in the form of whining or crying. "Unforgettable Moments" would be the best example of this. DEFACE are a band in their early stages and a lot more could be done with their music which I feel will happen naturally as they're on the right path. The acoustic numbers definitely should be kept in the band's inventory especially the likes of "Indescribable Memories". I wasn't given a price but \$5 should do it. Gabi, PO Box 4390, 15080 A Conoma, Italy (Brian)

BETHZAIDA - Dawn - demo '94

Yes!!! Another one of my absolute and total favourites. BETHZAIDA from Norway are a young four piece, who play some of the catchiest death tracks ever. Some might imagine that catchy always means simplistic, and therefore rubbish. But this is NOT TRUE of BETHZAIDA. OK, the riffs might not all be the most complex or technical, but some have definite classical overtones, in the outro, and at the end of "The Tranquility Of My Last Breath" for example. Others are power packed, blazing with speed or including defined scale maneuvers. The drumming is enviable, and in places crashes alongside only a flute - tantalizing. Vocalist Girsch is quite an accomplished flautist, playing on all tracks and transforming "Frozen Wastes" into a memorable death anthem. His vocals alone could sustain all tracks, but the piping adds a new dimension, a medieval quality. Now joined by a lead guitarist, BETHZAIDA are a band to watch. \$5 from Terje Krabøl, Hospitalslokkan 14, N-7012, Trondheim, Norway. (Antoinette)

AMON AMARTH - The Arrival Of The Fimbul Winter - Demo '94

AMON AMARTH are a Swedish five piece who sent me this welcome epic of a demo. Vocalist Johan shrieks runeful tales of Odin's battles whilst deeper vocals enhance the rage filled chorus. It's a delicious combination with a savagely musical guitars celebrating the glories of the Norse gods victories in the background. The strings, in both high pitched and mid tone solos are exulting, and glorifying; yet robust rather than purely melodic, and always empowered by the energy of those who worship what they do, and the gods to whom their songs are dedicated. The three tracks excell - the title track is exceptional, but the finale "Without Fear" is godly in it's solos, and in the atmospheres they invoke, while maintaining the forcefulness of Thor's hammer. The demo is well worth the \$4/\$5 price. Europe / elsewhere. From Ted Lundstrom, Norrskensbacken 7, 14646 Tallinge, Sweden. (Antoinette)

GANGRENA - promo for Infected Ideologies CD '94

This Portuguese promo is a mix of grind and death - grind being chiefly in the bowel-exploding vocals, for that is the region of the body from whence they must arise, such is their depth. On "Nuclear Blast" however, they creep upwards in a mesh of echoing, which belies deathly influences. The rhythm guitars also generate a down tuned version of deathness. On the first track especially, their earthy plunging is blistering, but by the third title it tends towards tedious. It has but a minute half-attempt at a solo before returning to the previous crunch. I like crunchy guitars, but they are best when enlivened by perhaps tempo changes, blunt riffing, sharp solos, or else ityawn. So, though well played, an injection of poppers into the aforementioned tracks would not go astray. The CD is \$12 Europe \$15 else-

where, from Apt. 94, 4415, Carvalhos, Portugal. (Antoinette)

DERANGED - Upon The Medical Slab - EP - MMI Records

This, the band's second 7" release consists of two solid death metal tracks. First up is the title track - a fast catchy, fast moving piece filled with deep growls as well as higher pitched backing vocals. "Red Disorder" follows but is a slight let down compared to the previous offering probably due to there not being that catchy element present. Although DERANGED come from Sweden they don't carry the familiar sound from their home land, it has more of an American feel to it, well in some places. \$6 from Markus Woeste, Heerstr. 77, 58553 Halver, Germany. (Brian)

TANAHAUZER - Return To The Dark Ages - Demo '94

Melodic death is the name of the game here and TANAHAUZER know exactly how to play it. The demo starts off with the title track which displays some interesting ideas and some really cool riffs. Acoustic guitars feature a lot on the tape and complement the songs nicely also there's some great vocals to boost the songs even more. "Time Of Lies" and "The Way To The Ancient Chaos" are the other two titles on offer. "Time Of Lies" sort of loses that melodic touch but "The Way..." certainly makes up for it. A mellow acoustic piece finishes the demo nicely so if your after quality melodic death then look no further than TANAHAUZER's 'Return To The Dark Ages'. I wasn't given a price but I'm sure \$5 will cover it, send your money to Laurent, 44 Rue Honore Laporte, 65430 Soues, France. (Brian)

METALMORPHOSIS - Embrace Your Creation - Promo

I made the mistake of answering this bands promotional letter, which means that I must now review the demo. Anyhow it includes six tracks, all but two of them being happy and thrashy (to use Brian's phrase). Sometimes the vocalist imitates James Hetfield, and at others, the guitars reflect SLAYER. The band apparently has a "don't give a fuck" attitude on stage; well I really don't give a fuck about their promo. Enough said. If you are interested it's \$11 from P.O. Box 31846, Braamfontein, 2017, South Africa. (Antoinette)

SERENADE - Live tape '94

This Scottish 5 piece play mid paced death which is easy to listen to and just as easy to get into. The tape features some relaxing guitar sounds, particularly in "Severed Breath", and vocals that could be improved upon slightly. Their music isn't bad but it's all been done before, SERENADE need to find their own sound. This tape has 9 songs and will cost you £1.50/\$3 which isn't expensive at all. Worth listening to and seeing as it's

over a year old now the band must have come on a good bit. Available from Deviation Records, c/o Mark, 49 Carfin Road, Newarthill, Motherwell, ML1 5J2, Scotland, UK. (Brian)

ISENGARD - Vinterskugge - Promo CD - Peaceville Records

By now this is out well over a year, but I received it as a promo, so I should review it anyway. Besides, I have a soft spot for Fenriz and DARKTHRONE. So, 'Vinterskugge' provides a collection of solo tracks constructed by Fenriz between 1989 and 1993. It is a diary of black metal throughout that period in Norway. The earliest selection, from the 'Spectres Over Gorgoroth' demo are harsh in all aspects, as some say black metal should be. Still, they are fine examples of this genre, similar in feel to the DARKTHRONE releases today; buzzing monotones, electric with life. The 1991 pieces introduce experimentation, and the progression develops into the atypical 1993, 'Vinterskugge' selection. Atypical that is, in the baritone vocal style, which has since been imitated. Fenriz displays himself as a maestro musician in all eras, like an artist moving through different styles of paintings, thus Fenriz shows his ability to write as he pleases and not as fashions dictate. (Antoinette)

DION FORTUNE - Black Ode - Demo '93 & Tales Of Pain - Demo '94

Both of these demos have already been widely reviewed throughout European zones, such is their quality, so here's a quick synopsis of both. Each contains two tasty samplers of DION FORTUNE's ability. 'Black Ode' features slightly more basic riffing, not that it is simple, just less advanced than the '94 demo. The title track, and "Lost Souls" are laden with emotional vocals and traumatizing guitars, reminding me of MORBID ANGEL. Death which is menacing in a style that opts for subtlety rather than brutality. The riffing and theme melodies cleave to the mind like a curse that can't be forgotten. It is well produced but in comparison 'Tales Of Pain' is of CD clarity. It's tracks, "Azharoth" and "Tales Of Pain" are rife with mature complexities - instruments and vocals being perfectly balanced to inspire a building feeling of impassioned destruction. The tirades are evil in intent and malicious in release. Both are around \$5/\$6 from various distros or Mattias Berger, c/o Hellstrom, Brunngatan 26b, 55317 Jonkoping, Sweden. (Antoinette)

ELEND - Lecons de Tenebres - Promo CD '95 - Holy Records

'Lecons de Tenebres' is defiantly not a CD I could listen to any day as I'd have to be in a certain mood when hearing it to appreciate it fully. Neither could I play a certain track, it's either the whole CD straight through or none of it. ELEND's music is comprised of violins, orchestral keyboards & synths and the three members each share the vocal duties; Renaud looks after the clear

ones so does Alexandre as well as screaming and Eve does the soprano. The band have certainly created some sad songs full of depressing sounds and it's like nothing I've heard before. The CD has a running time of 56 minutes and is made up of nine tracks, each quite slow with a lot of different ideas and moods. This is definitely going to be hated by many of you so only if you really look-ing for something out of the ordinary influenced by the likes of DEAD CAN DANCE and your prepared to give this music a chance to grow on you send 90FF or \$18 to Holy Records, 4 BD Gutenberg, 93190 Livry - Gargan, France. (Brian)

NAZXUL - Demo '94

Between 1991 and 1994, NAZXUL rehearsed and developed their sound until it became the four tracks available on this, the finest demo I've heard from Australia. It is superfast; it is brutality, blackness and death combined in one amazing package. "Hymn Of A Dying Moon" opens the ruthless reign of terror, telling in instantaneous blast beats that these guys supplicate to no one. Guitars and vocals begin as they mean to continue - insectile, humming riffs and a voice like a plague of locusts, reverberate and cause a havoc which is not at all placated by the touch of keys. "Vermis Mysteris" launches with more aggression still, although it's pace varies later, and the atmosphere which is created renders the band even more vitriolic than before. NAZXUL do not rely on instrumental solos, yet the songs are so loaded with diversity that this is irrelevant. "Eternum" is prominent for it's death style power riffs - where even slower moments are made up of multitudes of notes strung together into distinctive tunes, again enhanced by keyboards, rather than being drawn out to form the song. The snare is particularly distinctive throughout the demo; and several skins must have been busted during the recording. Only on "Eden" are the acidic vocals less biting, and more grunting, but as profane as ever. The forth track is available from PO Box 664, Epping NSW 2121, Australia and is \$5. (Antoinette)

SUSSCROFA - Dins Ech Cel D' asteartia - Demo '94

Just as each nationality expresses itself differently in it's folk music, so do their bands in their ceation of folk metal. SUSSCROFA play folk metal, Pyrenean style. The folk element is, during the body of the tracks, subtly infused into the riffing, and into percussion - at times it seems in the tunefully metallic timebeats that things are bashed which were around before the existenece of double bass kits. The chords and riffs are played like waltzes on speed, and are strongly supported on the power - death rythm and bass backing. Vocally, the style weeps blood in it's weather roughened rawness - a voice that has smoked a thousand pipes and survived to relay the epic around a fire with a tankard of homebrew. The peasant motiff goes to town (so to speak) in the intro's, the cowbelis for example prior to "Senter Akerbeltz".

Traditional instruments add a Pagan mysterious air through out the demo, and on "Pagan, Sacraum Facere" chillingly evoke the mountains' godly peaks, doubtlessly home to the heathen deities. The pace is as relentlessly soaring and plunging as a body cast from those peaks, saved by the occasional air draught, only to be released into that heartstopping drive again. An incredible, original combination, available from Agheion, 19 Avenue de Rangueil, 31400 Toulouse, France - for \$6. (Antoinette)

TENEBRAE - Sick Spinning Wheel - EP - MMI Records

I expected TENEBRAE to be something like SOULGRIND seeing as their guitarist & vocalist Jussi Heikinen is the man behind SOULGRIND but let me assure you they're nothing like them, well ok there's the odd slight resemblance just in the odd riff but it's very slight. TENEBRAE are sort of industrial death metal, not really my thing but the EP has it's moments and I suppose is quite original too as not many bands are doing what these are at. Worth a listen if you don't mind some industrial elements, not if you do. \$6 from Markus Woeste, Heerstr. 77, 58553 Halver, Germany. (Brian)

DARK TRANQUILITY - Promo tape December '94

Finally this bunch of Swedes are back with some new material. Featured on this tape are 5 tracks, the first is to be included on a compilation CD for Wrong Again Records and the remaining 4 will be or have been released in the form of a MCD entitled 'Of Chaos And Eternal Night' on Spine Farm Records. The comp. CD track "Punish My Heaven" is very impressive, full of different vocals and those familiar catchy and memorable riffs that were present on the band's debut CD 'Skydancer'. This song really defines DARK TRANQUILITY's ability - it's so excellent. Right onto the MCD stuff....after a brief intro it's the fierce, fast paced title track again full of those amazing riffs and overlapping vocals. Two more new slower offerings follow then it's a reworked version of "Alone" from their full length. A good bit has changed here, more so in the vocals than the music. Write to Spine Farm for info on the MCD - a very worthy purchase. But don't forget to check out the comp. CD aswell. Spine Farm Records, Arkadiankatu 20B, 00100 Helsinki, Finland. (Brian)

BRIGANTIA - Rehearsal tape '95

BRIGANTIA, formerly CEREBERUS are a new black metal act from Tipperary, Ireland. This tape consists of one song "Imbolic" and an outro "The Time Of War Has Come!". "Imbolic" is slow with some quite catchy riffs particularly nearer the middle of it. The vocals need some work especially at the opening part of the song as they're a bit too high pitched which causes them to loose something. The outro on the other hand features spoken vocals which are quite effective aswell as mellow guitars and keyboards with a slight CRADLE OF FILTH

feel to them. BRIGANTIA will need to tighten up and in time I'm sure they will. I'm not too sure if this is available but new stuff is on it's way, this time they'll be using a drum machine until they can find a suitable replacement for their now departed drummer. For information write to Winston Ralph, Emill, CloughJordan, Co. Tipperary, Co. Cork, Ireland. (Brian)

ALTER - Youth Against Christ - CD - Displeased Records

You can feel the hate and aggression on this CD which goes against what religion stands for and anyone who is weary of religion will see where the band are coming from as they plunge into brutal fast and aggressive death metal with a hint of CONSOCATION and MORBID ANGEL. With tracks like "Jesus Is Dead", "Divorced From God", "Hypochristianity" you can see the band will definitely get their message across, and I would advise anyone into religion to get this CD as it will help un-warped your warped mind. A piece of pure aggression. Displeased Recs., Veeringstraat 6, 1502 NI Zaandam, Holland. (Ian)

LORDS OF THE STONE / CELESTIAL SEASON - 7" - Displeased Records

We have here a 2 band 7" containing 2 tracks from each band. The first side of the 7" is LORDS OF THE STONE with their track "Fire In The Winter" the first thing that comes to mind would be the music is in the vein of CATHEDRAL and the vocals will take you back to early CELTIC FROST as I honestly thought it was Tom G. Warrior singing. The music itself is very slow doom and unfortunately has no feel to it and doesn't stand out much on it's own. On the second side we have CELESTIAL SEASON with the track "Above Azure Oceans", I haven't heard the band before, but by just hearing this track I would advise all that are into doom to get their hands on this or their CD 'Forever Scarlet Passion' and the music the band came across with is a mixture of heaviness and melody with vocals in the vein of MY DYING BRIDE. Well worth checking out. L.O.T.S., Witte Valkenstraat 17, 9411 Lg Beilen, The Netherlands. CELESTIAL SEASON, Boeket 116, 1271 Lw Blaricum, The Netherlands. (Ian)

NOMAD - Demo '94

Alex., my friend from SAD WHISPERINGS who also plays in NOMAD knows that while I thoroughly approve of S.W., his other band isn't to my taste. However, to be objective, NOMAD play in an energetic thrashing hardcore style. It is jaunty with stop-start riffs to take you by surprise and the guitars are admittedly deathly when they get going for any length. The vocals and the drumming annoys me though, but I just don't like their hollow hardcore sound. "The Astray" is my favourite track however, as the riffing includes some fancy scaling, and the vocals tremble in a less unappealing manner. It may appeal to others, if not me. Contact

NOMAD, c/o Alexander, Klokkenborg 20, 994J RT Wagenborgen, Holland, for details. (Antoinette)

BLOOD - Mental Conflicts - Promo CD '94 - Morbid Records

BLOOD are among many bands that were ripped off by Wild Rags but that did not hinder their progress in any way as they've quite a history of releases and this is their fourth album to date. These German grinders have put together 20 intense and brutal tracks which are surprisingly quite good. Of the 20 titles on offer "Insomnia", "Toothache" and "Crown Court" appeal to me most, also worth a mention is "For Auld Lang Syne" - a classic piss take with the normal version of the song for the first few moments and then a total grind rendition, quite funny! A lot of blast beats, brutal vocals and some fast guitar playing is what these are all about so if your after this type of music check out 'Mental Conflicts'. DM 25/\$18 will secure you a copy of the CD (which comes with a 26 page booklet) or the LP. Morbid Records, Postfach 3, 03114 Drebkau, Germany. (Brian)

GOTTERDAMMERUNG - Weltenbrand - Demo '94

GOTTERDAMMERUNG's flyers claim to draw influences from thrash, death, black and doom metal, but on side A of 'Weltenbrand', the mood is predominantly doomy, as the pace is mid to slow to snail pace. In the first two tracks however, the riffing is expressed in a black format, but without the shrieking intensity of classic black. Instead, the riffs are stripped to their skeleton bones and played powerfully, resulting in an attractive atmosphere, oozing with musical sensitivity. Let it not be thought however, that GOTTERDAMMERUNG can't put the boot down when necessary, for side B of the demo is manifested through several high energy explosions of blasting beats and furious rhythms. Atmosphere is not sacrificed however, as especially on "Sacred Entities - Lords Of Life" there is one of those tunes, one of those melodic heathen riffs with which our subconscious is familiar, something our ancestors might have lamented to, which coils around the thrashing moments like a memory beckoning. 'Gotterdammerung' is the most intense track and all but banishes the doomy elements, although even in it's aggression, the riffing maintains it's heartbeat. Available from Nyar Linke, Kloppe 4 55471 Fronhofen, Germany, for \$6. (Antoinette)

BRAINFADE COMPILATION - #1 - '94

A compilation of pure pleasure, this effort contains more quality than most. It boasts an elegant grey cardboard cover, and the majority of it's thirteen tracks leaves me craving to hear more of the bands involved. I can't stop playing it. THEATRE OF TRAGEDIES provide a blissful opening with the angelic and the demonic combined vocally over an emotive death backdrop. SPINA BIFIDA's version of vicious weirdness is also a delight, while PROFINATUM plough through grimly reaping music in an armoured truck, hesitating only to

dance through an entrancing riff. Another highlight is MANGLED's atmospheric death, with a jangling boisterous riff, and melting pot of death growls, girl singing, plus one evil sounding little bastard whispering in the background. CROM CRUACH features beautifully warped guitars and growling that a jungle king would die for. GODFORSAKEN's vocal clarity and sonorous sound are doom-laden honey dew, whilst HYBRIS are original and technical, in a horrible and deathly manner. All this and much, much more for only \$4, from Brainfade Promotions, Po Box 131, 10052 Bardonecchia, Italy. (Antoinette).

USURPER - Visions From The Gods - Demo '94

USURPER are spawned in the USA, but judging by the number of runes, they want to be from Scandinavia. This is not betrayed by their sound though, as American death, slightly retrospective in feel in that it hints at thrash, the vocals are roared instead of being growled, in the first track especially, where that tin bin thrash can reverb is also prominent. On first listening to "Dusk", I was convinced that the vocalist grew up imitating Tom Araya in the bathroom mirror. Several listens later death influences appear in the track in the form of deeper chants, echoes and vibrations. The demo is overall, well played, well produced and nicely packaged, and could defiantly find a place on shelves of thrash revivalists, provided that they are open minded about the musical death-hints, and black "imagery" which both accompany it. Although not world-crushing, it's not completely insignificant. The demo costs \$6, and is available from USURPER, Po Box 388897, Chicago, IL 60638-8897, USA. (Antoinette)

MORTIFY - ...And Darkness Was Upon - Demo

MORTIFY hail from Greece, and are a doom/black metal band, the music itself would remind you of NECROMANTIA in parts as the vocals are a little like old HELLHAMMER in places, and the vocals are actually done by Gothmog of THOU ART LORD. The band themselves are Killburn - guitar, Macabre - guitar & bass, Dragon - drums and Mike - keyboards. You can get the demo for \$5 from MORTIFY, P.O. Box 79006, 172.02, Himittos, Athens, Greece. (Ian)

NOVEMBRE - Wish I Could Dream It Again... - MC '94 - Polyphemus Records

I never thought a band could change their style so much as this Italian act have. Their previous recording 'The Return Of The Ark', released under their former moniker CATACOMB, was a wonderful melodic death EP and this album has taken their music so much further, way past all death metal boundaries. Carmelo Orlando, one of the bands founders, has varied his vocal style as he now uses mainly his clear voice rather than the death metal approach although the growling element is still present in some tracks. The music is very melodic, sometimes dead slow and other times slightly more up beat, with a

lot of keyboards and well played guitars. Tracks like "Novembre/It's Blood", "The Music", "Let Me Hate" & "Sirens Of Filth" are simply amazing pieces, each having their own identity and redeeming features. So for quality music with plenty of emotion check out "Wish I Could Dream It Again..." . Polyphemus, Via Benanti 41, 95122 Catania, Italy. (Brian)

SALEM JUSTICE - Look Back In Anger - Demo '94

Sorry Steve, I didn't like the vocals here at all, they were too strained, I suppose. "Normal" singing suits some bands, as it's effect combined with powerful instruments can be orgasmic - but not here. The voice is too feeble to carry the tunes, or even the hardcore chants, resulting in a whine. The instrumentalists form of death is not powerful enough to entrance me either, although at the end of the studio recorded side, some fancy finger work is achieved. Thus I find myself wondering why more of this life was not injected earlier. However, the demo is nicely packaged and exceptionally well produced and the most noteworthy band member is the one behind the skins - his rhythm is pacey, yet smooth as cream. It is also good value for money as it includes 4 prerecorded tracks along side some live tunes. It's £3.50 approx, from Steve Dearnly, 23 Carrington Road, Lancs, PE11 ILY, UK. (Antoinette)

EXPULSION - Overflow - CD '94 - Godhead Recordings

EXPULSION from Sweden have TIAMAT connections, but are completely unrelated in style. There is little to relate EXPULSION's sound to Scandinavia at all - they are rather unique in this slowly grinding death opus. It moves with the force of glaciers through mountains, there is a landscape levelling weight in those riffs. Yet, the pace is not crawling or doom laden, it is just that blurring speed is not EXPULSION's thing. The tracks move oppressively forth - it is as if one is rooted and can see the approaching icemass, and experience it's homage as your chest caves in beneath it. Each vocal, each note, and each beat is pronounced - heavily. Some intros, the handsome acoustic prior to "With Aged Hands", and the bassy rumble before "At The Madness End" only serve to enhance the ploughing riffs to follow. EXPULSION exude the earth's mass in both their dramatic vocal laments such as in "Dream Voyage", or "The Other Side", and when, for them, the pace is driven harder and faster, as in "The Anatomical Range". Throughout, the accuracy of the defined playing proves skins men and string players have something in common with TIAMAT. The CD can be bought through Godhead Recordings, and elsewhere, or from the band c/o Stefan Langergren, Enbackvagen 11, S18635 Vallentuna, Sweden. Contact them for price details. (Antoinette)

NIGHTFALL - Eons Aura - Promo MCD '95 - Holy Records

It seems a lot of people aren't too enthusiastic about this release and honestly I can't understand why as it's 20 minutes of well structured, well played death/doom with epic keyboard moments. Opener "Eroding" is of varied paces, with echoing vocals, sometimes clear and other times vicious growls. The Greek foursome have a lot of atmosphere unique to themselves. "Until The Day Gods Help Us All" is just what I'm talking about. 'Eons Aura' is full of top class musicianship that many could learn from. 60FF/\$12 from Holy Recs., 4 Bd Gutenberg, 93190 Livry - Gargan, France. (Brian)

IN TORMENT - Lamentations - Demo '93

Spain's IN TORMENT exude doom metal like tar from a piping bag - pooling in enveloping black depression. Time has no meaning, and the drummer will get the next beat eventually, if he hasn't committed suicide while waiting. Father Time moves slowly between the riffs and chords also - and the gap is filled by bell sounds, and some vocal interest, especially the moaning chant in "Crusade Of Tears". It is a good stab a gloomy and sorrowful music, and it could be the new cure for insomnia, or life, for that matter. (Antoinette)

ELBERETH - Idilic Places - Demo '94

ELBERETH, with their moniker borrowed from one of Tolkien's elves have an elfin female vocalist in their ranks. However, unlike the merry making mythical creatures, she permanently laments in this sweetened form of doom. Her comrade on skins plays actively, unlike some other doom drummers, and his energy vitalizes the tracks. The result is a melodic death, though the strongest tracks also feature normal male vocals. The rhythm guitars adopt a slightly out of tune motif, but this is not a criticism, as the slightly manic is obviously manipulated. The lead guitar occasionally burst into memorable weeping serenades, to finish these tasty tracks with dark glaze. I would like to hear more from ELBERETH, and soon. (Antoinette)

IN THE WOODS - HEart Of The Ages - Advance tape for CD '95 - Misanthropy Records

Unfortunately my advance taped copy of this CD has no track listing, but after a single listen, I realised that I loved it. A dramatic, haunting couple of tracks begin the opus, with lungs full of "normal" baritone vocals, and atmospheric keyboarding being the prominent features. This vocal style, sometimes harmonized appears periodically throughout the CD, and Olv. proves his singing ability flawlessly. But there are also gallons of the shrieking intensity amidst the powerfully flowing guitars and rhythm section. The album portrays nature's grandeur, with both solidity of gargantuan boulders, and the tranquility of silver still lakes. Another track is a stormy hurricane, with drums thundering through snowy peaks, and yet another is fiery sparks of bassy plucking, becoming an epic blaze of glory. The spells which draw upon all of these elements have created the perfect

album. Now widely available - don't miss out.
(Antoinette)

**TIMELESS NECROTEARS - Mournful Melodies
For Darkness - Demo '94**

The vocals on this demo, in a word, suck. This is a pity, because the music is excellent, particularly the sadly sweet harpsichord like riffing on "Obscure Dreams", and in general, that melodic and passionate soloing. The little spine tingling keyboard pieces are agonizing in their tender kiss of death atmosphere, and the relentless funeral marching drums create a secure ambience to ones final resting place - notable especially on "Rose In The Mud". But those lousy vocals - not a note in his head, nor an inclination of the emotion powered through the fingers of those other musicians. They should loose him - defiantly, and if so, TIMELESS NECROTEARS could achieve a musical masterpiece. Perhaps a name change might also be worth considering, though. For information contact Paxti Martinez, Apdo.362, 31500 Tubela, Navarra, Spain. (Antoinette)

STRIGASKOR no.42 - Blot - CD '94

Iceland is responsible for this musical gemstone which all but defies my capacity for description. It is heavy and extreme, but owes greater homage to folk music for it's influences than metal. The folk themes arise in the percussion, and erupt amongst the riffs, and the result is often violent heathen chaos - surreal nature at it's most destructive. Vocally, there is often singing, and majestic chanting - everything but traditional growls and grunts. "Draumuk" and "A Sprengisanoi" in particular draw stylistic influences from hearty Russian cossack dancing, but these cossacks have lead in their boots. However, as the CD progresses, the tracks warp the boundaries of folk, and the music is either frenzied with angst, or magically seductive - mingled like good and evil, or love and hate. What is this I'm hearing? Be they the crazed epics, "Alfur" or "Puki", or the 50 second moments of madness, they are all damn good. "Blot" is only \$16 (Europe) or \$17 (elsewhere, and is available from PO Box 118, 202 Kopavogur, Iceland. (Antoinette)

**NATTVINSENS GRAT - Darsuoman Hygen -
Demo '94**

These Norsemen have produced a demo which is full of incredible melodic death music. The keyboard harmonies dominate most tracks, but they shimmer above the throbbing bass riffs like the simmering results of some psychological trauma - and when the songs personality finally self destructs, it is with an incredible binding creative force. The songs are beautifully balanced in measures of excitement and pain - the music expresses countless feelings. The vocals however are strained and dull, adding nothing to this effort. In fact they would detract from it if the music was not so fantastic. Overall, a sound emerges which is original in comparison to some Norwegian bands, and which except for the singer,

would be one of the best demos ever to depart Norway's shores. It is \$7 from Solistium Recs., Carsten Holtoer, Unieranile 6, 26802 Moomerland, Germany. (Antoinette)

Dark Records promo tape '94

This tape consists of 4 bands who have released material on Dark Records. First up are Portuguese black metal outfit DECAyed with two tracks from their 7" EP entitled 'The Sven Seals'. Their music ranges from slow/mid paced to quite fast with some atmosphere courtesy of the use of keyboards. Not bad but nothing to get too excited about. FILLI NIGRANTIIUM are next with one tune namely "O Gelo" from their 'Os Metodos Do Pentagrama'. Again more black metal but with a folk feel to it. The sound is shite which ruins the it a bit and the music isn't exactly all together in fact it's quite messy. Could be good with some improvement. Now to EVISCERATION and 4 tracks taken from their debut CD 'Hymn To The Monstrous'. This lot play catchy, fast death on the brutal side. It's played well and is quite easy to get into especially "Consumed Act" and the title track. I imagine the rest of the CD is equally as good as these tasters, so check it out. SOM TRITURADOR closes off the tape with three songs from their 'Herpetico' demo. Sound quality is poor here as is the music - quite boring and unimaginative. All of the above are available from Dark Recs., each demo will cost you \$5 (eur.) \$6 (r.o.w.), each 7" \$6 (eur.) \$7 (r.o.w.) and each CD \$17 (eur.) \$18 (r.o.w.). Of the four, EVISCERATION and perhaps DECAyed are worth getting a hold of. Dark Records, Apartado 142, 2830 Barreiro Codex, Portugal. (Brian)

Corpse Feast compilation #1

This comp. includes 20 tracks from PATHOLOGY STENCH, DEHYDRATED, INSEPULTUS, MORTUARY, PHANTASMA, INFERNAL, DECAY, DYSENTERY & EXITUS. In that respect, it is good value. The cover is photocopied, but includes contact addresses for all of the bands involved. The sound quality is okay, PATHOLOGY STENCH's vocals are sharp in the mix, over a mesh of buzzing guitars. DEHYDRATED opt for a grinding deeper vocal style, emphasizing instead their heavily pounding guitars, although I feel the drums could have more attention, INSEPULTUS are brutally thrashy, and vocally huff, puff and grunt - often creating a catchy vibe. The MORTUARY track sounds like a rehearsal, and a bad one, but PHANTASMA's taste for weirdness impresses me, as does their superior song structures, their clear mix, and freshly vicious playing. INFERNAL are my favourite, as they create atmosphere in their slightly slow axeburning - although the drum sound is off putting. DECAY suffer from a rhythm section which is too loud in the mix and too highly pitched. I had to squint whilst listening to it, though vocally and structurally, they are competent. EXITUS also are too rough to be appreciated, although I suspect potential in their guitarist, and DYSENTERY are okay in their grinding

efforts. If you are titillated by grindcore, then it's worthy of attention - from Necrocannibal Arts, c/o Kerry Vargk, +HK 37, 97401 Banska, Bystrica, Slovakia. (Ant)

NAKED WHIPPER - Pain Streaks - CD '94 - MMI Records

'Pain Streaks' is 22 tracks of intense "sado-grind-metal" full of speedy playing, extreme vocals and vicious drumming. You get 11 studio tracks to start off with then each of them again in live versions which have come out well. Some of the songs tend to be too similar though there's some good tunes here in particular "Pagan Pussy Gore Intruder" and "The Ultimate Molestator". I'm sure fans of brutal music will love this and with 11 titles recorded in two different environments, one can't really complain. It's certainly value for money. So for "the ultimate sado masochistic experience" send DM23/\$19 to Markus Woeste, Heerstrasse 77, 58553 Halver, Germany. (Brian)

SALEM - Kaddish - CD '94 - Morbid Records

This is another CD which I liked the more I listened to it. This surprised me, Israel being known rather for silly fans rather than good bands. The 10 track CD eloquently combines a black vibe to a death based CD. The deathness is melodic, in several pretty riffs such as in "Above The Ground", and grim and doomy in the excellent "Eyes To Match A Soul" - where anguished feelings are groaned normal style beneath the growling. The title track hints at traditional Israeli sounds - a motif which appears occasionally throughout the CD. Although the drawing of folk influences is gaining popularity, it's use is effective here in the creation of atmosphere. Drummer Amir must be congratulated particularly as an ancient tribal feel issues from his drumstyle - deep and beckoning. The vocals oscillate between a fierce guttural howl, and deeper tortured utterances, particularly on "Dying Embers", a song which includes evocative keys. "The Edge Of The Void" is an energetic waltz, probably the most intense piece on the CD, yet "Ha Avara Bo'eret" is made of strength & beauty. So, while not genius in originality, 'Kaddish' portrays the best elements of various forms, and is worthy of purchase. From Morbid Recs., Post Fach 3, 03114 Drebkau, Germany. (Antoinette)

CIRCUS - 2 track promo

Brian Taube knowing my fondness for bands such as STONE TEMPOL PILOTS, BLUR, OASIS, etal, asked me to review this and I (in my blindness) agreed...not considering that I had to consider listening to it first. CIRCUS are five twats from Bristol and the unfortunate opener on this promo tape is "Walking The Dog"...shit title I hear you say, oh fuck wait 'til you hear the fucking music. This song in particular reminds me of the music they used to play on Rainbow and more recently on Thomas "the tank engine". The music is non-descriptive shite and the singer is an absolute non entity who annoy-

ingly repeats "walk, walk, walk, walking the dog". Maybe they can redeem themselves with 'Week Days'...well I'm afraid not because this song is just as bad if not worse as the last one making CIRCUS a very annoying band. I would like to point out however that CIRCUS cannot be compared to the aforementioned bands as this simply music is designed for 5 year olds who just got a puppy for their birthday and might listen to this with their parents while having some tea...not. My advice to you is to ignore CIRCUS and check out the aforementioned bands. (Paul Kearns)

MALEVOLENCE - Pleasure Of Molestation - Demo '94

Portugal's MALEVOLENCE like to include honeyed musical melodies in their intros and tracks, but, this is just a ruse, a stratagem to lull the listener into a mellow swoon before the kango drill strikes. And when it strikes there is blasting demolition at the hands and feet of a furious drummer, and an immolation of rhythmic, ball blazing riffs. The terrorizing vocals take no prisoners - it is slaughter in all directions, and a blistering rawness would define their style of killing. The pacey title track is a particular highlight, and it is followed by a classically inspired lullaby - a gentle breeze through the charred remains. This quickly becomes a hurricane with death in it's wake - in "Ashes Of Disgrace". "Sentimental Oblivion" is notable for it's catchy, gunshot feel, yet particularly agonized vocals; and in "Ceremonial Gallery" the demo ends in especially atmospheric violence. Send a worthy \$5 to Carlos Cariano, Vale de Fonte, Lote 11 - 2 Dto, 2400 Leiria, Portugal. (Antoinette)

DOOMFLIGHT - Dark Confessions - Demo '94

DOOMFLIGHT are a new English act with a penchant for misery. The drum sound heaves and sobs, in a "normal" background heightening the sense of pain. Otherwise the vocals are expressed in a stomach knotting death grunt, and are surrounded by hypnotic riffing from the bassist. "Spilling Blood Red Wine" is a particular highlight, with it's entrancing rhythms, and sweet solo takeoffs. In "Rise On The Third Day", the mood is almost tribal - a pagan rendering of a religious theme, and a memorable tune. In "Sealed From The Light" there is tension in the rhythms - suppressed and searching for release - and this is achieved in an evocative and strange little piece of music. A band with potential, a band to watch, and the demo is \$5 (eur) \$6 (r.o.w.) from Mark Burns, 173 Oxford St., Barrow-In-Furness, Cumbria, LA14 5AF, UK. (Antoinette)

Neil Smith - Electric Underwear - Demo - Razor Records

There's 9 songs on this that are very catchy rock in certain parts and would remind you of the Seattle scene. It's got a good sound and is well recorded. The songs are written as a sort of a laugh but unlike other spoof bands you can listen to this tape for ages without getting

bored. \$3 from Razor Recs., PO Box 420865, SF, CA 94142-0865, USA. (Daire Lennon)

AGONY LORDS - Unions - Cass. Album - '94

I can best describe the AGONY LORDS music as melodic thrash - there is generally an anxious rhythm, hurried, intent on reaching the songs end. As the tracks are all lengthy - the riffing appears impatient. I felt the drumming was disjointed at times - often not seeming like part of the song. However the guitar solos are admirable and built upon classical foundations - and are probably the best thing about this release. The worst thing must be the vocals - the shouting of the lyrics, which all seem to be warped love songs, didn't seem appropriate. I guess it just doesn't appeal to me, but I can't fault the sound, or the glossy full colour cover. It costs \$7, write to Tudo Rock Metal Shop, Apd.e. Postal 11375, Pueblu, Peu, Mexico for further details. (Antoinette)

REIGN - Embrace - Promo CD '94 - Mausoleum

At long last the Tyne & Wear foursome have got the opportunity to put out their first full length album and it's an hour of immense power. Some of the ten tracks featured on 'Embrace' are rerecorded versions of older material including "Forlorn Existence", "Never Forever" and "Infinity Within" from REIGN's highly acclaimed second demo 'This Silent Nation' and there's also a track from their first demo 'Act Of Penance' entitled "Wings Of Sorrow". Opener "Ad Extremum" and third offering "Wings..." really kick ass, there's loads of different elements to these songs, heavy metal seems to be the largest influence but as well as that there's a good dose of doom. The others titles are equally as hard hitting as the others with some of the finest musicianship I've heard in a while. REIGN are years at this music and I think finally they've got it down to perfection. It's going to be hard for the band to record a follow up as good as this, never mind better. Get this piece of metal history for a mere £8 / \$16 from John Cook, 117 Alice St., South Shields, Tyne & Wear, NE33 5PG, UK. (Brian)

The More You Eat The Better You Are Vol. 1 - Compilation 7" - Cash Cow Records

This is a four band compilation with the first band being BEATIRICE BLINDED. These are a fairly alternative guitar band with a female vocalist. It sounds ok (worth checking out more of these staff). EGG HEAD, the second band, are shite alternative college music. MILF, the third band, are a sort of indie catchy group but you have to listen to them a couple of times to get used to them. There not bad though. THE TORTILLAS YOU WANTED are the fourth band and these play eighties hard core with a touch of indie style. Their not bad but the song changes too much. \$2 (USA) \$3 (elsewhere) from PO Box 1332, Buffalo, NY 14231, USA. (Daire Lennon)

CHICKADEEDIKCHEEZ - Demo

This is a Swedish 4 piece with very funky and heavy riffs. A bit like INFECTIOUS GROOVES on the funky side. This demo doesn't get boring 'cause I've been listening to it for ages. Well worth checking out. \$4 should cover it, available from Jonas Wincent, O:a Tulegatan 29, 733 33 Sala, Sweden. (Daire Lennon)

GROINCHURN - Every Dog Has It's Day - Demo '95

I was attracted first by GROINCHURN's flyers "we're skinny and we're ugly, but we try". And yes, they do. Throughout this fighting demo, the trio play their hearts out - pausing only to include documentary or film clips, which seems to particularly suit this kind off music. Some of the tracks are only seconds in length, and others are surprising - the bluesy instrumental "Light From The Mountain" is, musically tasteful. The vocals are strong, hoarse and deep, and in the lengthier tracks (ie over 30 seconds), the playing is power packed, and the drummers speed bursts indicate that he has been on Speed for a fortnight. GROINCHURN do grind in a manner that is non-melodramatic, yet not too simplistic either, but it is solid. The tape is \$5 (Africa) \$6 (r.o.w.) from PO Box 4478, Vereeniging, 1430, S. Africa. (Antoinette)

INVERTED - Revocation Of The Beast - MCD '93 - Wild Rags

INVERTED seem to be well established in the underground so a lot of you will probably be familiar with their Satanic death metal approach already. Anyway 'Revocation Of The Beast' consists of 5 songs and all boost good playing ability with some very catchy riffs that will stay with you for quite a while. The title track is defiantly superior to the others, especially in the vocal department where Heoric Heed's powerful voice is projected so well. Most parts of the 5 tunes are played fast but the band don't limit themselves and some of the slower passages come across better. INVERTED are due to release their debut album on Shiver Records soon and if they have continued in this vein it'll be a highly praised recording. Meanwhile check out their MCD, you won't be disappointed Available from Kristian Hasselluhn, Knektegar-dsg. 33c, S-441 37 Alingsas, Sweden. (Brian)

DEPRESSIONE - Bailamme - Demo

This band have a fairly full sound considering they're only a three piece. The songs aren't the longest but if they were any longer they'd probably get boring. They have good heavy riffs that might remind you of HELEMET but then they stick in a fast bit like SEPULTURA - it works well. Worth checking out but it's a bit dear at \$6 or \$7 airmail. D. Mattia Massimiliano, Via Pescasseroli 3, 66013 Chieti Scalo (CH), Italy. (Daire Lennon)

THOUART LORD - Advance tracks for 'Eosforos' CD - Unisound Records

This tape contains three advance tracks, "For The Lust Of Liliith", "A Call To Chaos" and "Disciples Of Black Sorcery" and they all are excellent pieces of music, the first and third especially. There's some very catchy riffs here n' there and some different vocal styles too. THOUART LORD describe themselves as black metal but there's also some death metal in here as well. 'Eosforos' will be a superb release if these three appetizers are anything to go by and it should be out by the time you read this.

ALLEGIANCE - Destitution - CD '94 - ID Phonogram

ALLEGIANCE are an Australian five piece who play very tight, powerful, hard hitting thrash. They seem to be very popular over there and have supported MORBID ANGEL, FEAR FACTORY and ROLLINS BAND to name a few. This is their debut CD for ID Phonogram and they hope to record their follow up shortly. You get an intro and eleven professionally played tunes for your money and if your a fan of thrash this would be money very well spent and as I'm not I won't go on about this any longer. 'Destitution' and other ALLEGIANCE merchandise is available from P.O. Box 97, Armadale, WA 6112, Western Australia. (Brian)

ACCURSED - A Curse Called Life - Demo '93 & 'Lament' promo tape '94

ACCURSED was formed in '93 when drummer Joe Hartman and Gabe Cantazaro (bass & now vocals) sought to create an especially dark form of death. On this second demo they have partially achieved their goal, through lyrics rather than sound. Vocals are by Ryan Olson (now departed) and provide a raw throated savageness, especially those prolonged screams. Musically, we have some fiercely catchy riffs with a predominant down tuned bassy vibe. Each track combines a variety of tempos into arrangements that would be epic as in "Morbid Departure" if the key was not so consistently low. There is interest however provided in the other tracks by playing power and the technical drumming which alone adds tonal dimensions. Added to this is a high quality 16 track production. 'A Curse Called Life' is now only available from certain distributors, the band has the details.

ACCURSED have released this single track promo 'Lament' as a taster for the CD they soon hope to record. The progression from the good but fairly basic second demo is amazing. Now there is a delicious diversity amongst the guitars, with a hint of keyboards for the bell of it. This time, the evil permeates the music, with slight hints of northern darkness. Gabe's silicious singing paints the style undeniably black with the guitars singing Hades' praises in their new found freedom. May the progression continue. Send \$2 to Joe Hartman, 10628 W. Bobolink Ave. #6, Milwaukee W 53225, USA. (Ant.)

UNSILENCE - Shadows Cast In Stone - Demo '94

From the ashes of the UK's brutal BURIAL, arose UNSILENCE, a band which instead of abandoning the aggression of BURIAL has slowed and intensified it into and empowered set of tracks, to fearsome to fall under a doom banner, but more emotional than a slow form of death. The lyrics are mightily depressive, but in "Void Of emotion" and "Pictures" both the vocalist and instrumentalists portray a black anger, in the oh so deep throaty growling, the fairly pacey rhythm (compared to doom) and the challenging riffs and solos. However despondency cries out from "World Within A World" where harmonized vocals cry in unison, backed by moody strings and chiming percussion. Also included on the demo is a sweetly sorrowful instrumental and a finale which reflects a madness wrought by despair in an anxious discordancy of guitars, chant like vocals and clashing symbols. This demo from Les Miserables of death is available from Kieron Tuohey, 105 Devonshire Road, Bolton, Lancs, B4 4PP, UK. (Antoinette)

DESECRATION - Mangled Remains - Demo

Everyone who reviews this seems to be comparing these to CANNIBAL CORPSE, there are some similarities but DESECRATION go for a more catchy approach rather than a technical one. What you have here are three brutal and totally gore influenced tunes which are quite a good listen even if they're not the most original. I expect a vast improvement on their debut CD and you can expect an even sicker approach. This tape can be yours for some stamps / IRCs or money to cover postage (no foreign coins). DESECRATION, P.O. Box 23, Newport, NP9 8YG, UK (Brian)

DARK WHITE - Soft & Relentless - Demo '94

I really got into this after just one or two listens as it's so memorable which is most likely due to the huge BLACK SABBATH and CATHEDRAL influence that is apparent in each members playing, guitars and vocals especially. "Towers Of Dementia" is a prime example of these influences, and you get to hear it twice as it's remixed at the end of the tape clearly to it's advantage. Of course the band do have their own ideas and have written and recorded some fine songs, both "Eternal Sleep" and the aforementioned "Towers Of Dementia" are clear proof of this. DARK WHITE certainly believe in giving value for money as the demo is very long at 50 minutes and it comes on professionally packaged. So for a copy of "Soft and Relentless" send \$6 to Pierre Buquet, 85 Due De Rochecouart, 75009, Paris, France. (Brain)

RENAISSANCE - The Death Of Art - CD - Shiver Records

This is RENAISSANCE's first appearance on CD for Shiver and I'm still trying to figure out why Haas De Wyngaert (the man behind Shiver) gave them the opportunity. Sure there's some interesting ideas here but

that's not enough. 'The Death Of Art' is over 70 minutes long and indeed very boring, it's not for me and I'm sure not for most of you either. \$18 to Hans De Wyngaert, Amerstraat 112, 3200 Aarchot, Belgium. (Brian)

COERCION - Headway - Demo '94

This is the bands first time in the studio and I must admit it's not a bad attempt especially opener "Blind Witness". COERCION play very tight deathrash and have been together since the middle of '93. Each member has quite a lot of experience behind them and it does show throughout 'Headway'. One things for sure this is not your typical Swedish sound by any means. This three track demo can be yours for just \$3 which isn't too bad. Athill Johnston, Sofielundsplan 40, 12135 Johanneshor, Sweden. (Brian)

REPROBATE - Le Carceri - 7" '93 - GWB Productions / Aesthetic Death Records

REPROBATE's 'Le Carceri' A side provides us with an heroic dedications to the traumas of incarceration, in a traditional plunge into the realm of resounding guitars, to the very depths that bass can produce. In death style, it makes it's point heavily, each note emphasized rather than hurried, each wrathful syllable spitting out the displeasure at the injustice of the subject. Suddenly for a moment a desperate plea is sung, the instrumental anger is suppressed beneath a melody, but the underlying aggression is not completely dissipated, and returns even stronger than before. "Le Carceri" is an excellent epitaph to finish off the brief career of this quality death band. In comparison, the B side is somewhat bland - it is a fairly good slab of death, but it pales beside the A side's superiority. For £3 this is available from GWB Productions (address elsewhere). (Antoinette)

THEODICY - Succumb - 7" '94 - GWB Prod.

THEODICY's fine 7" offers instruments and drums which dance savagely in the background at varied paces on each track, while the vocals maintain their own speed - instrumentalising independently in an OBITUARY like fashion. On the title track, female vocals on the slower parts highlight the red - raw butchery of lead singer Ivan, and structure is well observed as the pace alternates between crunching speed (especially from the drums), a second gear and a slower first gear, where Hayley joins Ivan. It is good, but I prefer the flip side "Hollow". Here, there is greater contrast between the slow and the hyper speed modes. The total effect displays more feeling - the release of massive pain, and the guitars enhance this in their tense build up to a pouring crescendo. The variety and interest on both tracks is an achievement - it is over all too quickly. My one complaint would be the slightly "tinny" sound, resulting in a shallow drum mix, which is unfortunate as they are played quite well. Buy this from GWB Productions, for £3.00, address elsewhere. (Antoinette)

DISCIPLE - Demo '93

DISCIPLE were formed in 1991 by Jeff Lenormand and Scott Butcher, and this bay area band have released 2 previous demos titled 'Liquid Of Pain' and 'The Following', and here we have their current demo, simply entitled 'Demo '93'. The music they play is a kind of heavy / technical thrash metal and not exactly what you haven't heard before but non the less this demo has some promising moments mixing thrash with death metal and grindcore, and it's nice to hear a band mixing these styles of music and getting away with it. It kind of reminds me of ECTOPIA, DEAD HEAD, and REIGN, and adding his style to this demo is Brad Bowers ex-DEFIENCE guitarist another excellent thrash band from the Bay Area who have released a few CD's in the past. DISCIPLE have also played around the Bay Area for three years with such acts as DEATH, SACRAFICE, GOREFEST, KILLERS and SOLITUDE AETURNUS. So if anyone is interested write to Jeff Lenormand, 322 Genevieve, Pacifica, CA. 94044, USA. (Ian)

MYSTIC CHARM - Lost Empire - 7" '93 - Shiver Records

MYSTIC CHARM seem to lack some intangible thing which could have made these well played tracks into something outstanding. The tracks are almost void of emotion - except perhaps, frustration which can just barely be felt during the faster moments, when bass and guitars try to let go, but fail. The slower riffs create a mood, but exactly which mood is indefinable - it just renders the tracks faintly doomy. Atmosphere is hinted at in one dark passage of whispers on the title track but... more is needed. This is turning into a bad review which was not my intention - as the members are competent musicians and female vocalist Rini Lipman is impressive in a rough as gravel way. But if this is doom they need some melancholy pills, if it is anything else they need angry pills, or happy pills, or something... Anyway available from Hans De Wyngaert, Amerstraat 112, 3200 Aarschot, Belgium. (Antoinette)

SERENITY - Then Came Silence - Promo CD '95 - Holy Records

These five West Yorkshire men have certainly succeeded in recording something special here. This, their debut on Holy Records, is a doomy, melodic and powerful album full of varied feelings and moods. "Change", the second track is outstanding - slow, nearly motionless in places and then a boost of energy lifts the whole song to further heights. Each of the seven titles on offer convey different emotions but it seems depression is the main one. At first I was slightly thrown off by the vocals but now I feel they're essential and most excellent as well. 'Then Came Silence' is a fine piece of work and the musicianship is top class. It will cost you 90FF / \$18 for the CD and 65FF / \$13 for the LP and is worth every penny, well \$ or FF. Holy Rec., 4 Bd Guttenberg, 93190 Livry - Gargan, France. (Brian)

BAL SAGOTH - A Black Moon Over Lemaria - CD '95 - Cacophonous Records

A release destined to become one of 1995's classics, "A Black Moon Over Lemaria" encapsulates a series of dark tales told in BAL SAGOTH's bardish dimensions where witches, warlocks and their thaumaturgic friends possess power over the world, where magic lights the sky and enchantment seeps from the earth. The portrayal of such events is chiefly through death style weighty riffs, and the evil aura is contributed by eerie keyboard playing. Although the strings generally remain basic, there is spasmodic beauty in the solos, such as in "Valley Of Silent Paths". However, most tracks combine these slower passages with others of mounting heathen derangement - anti clockwise crazy circles of hair tearing madness - a result of magnificent orchestral pounding from a skinsman who seems to own more than the usual pair of arms and legs. The drumming and keys are used to mystical end particularly in "Spellcraft And Moonfire", and the title track. The pace variation of the melodramatic story telling is continued by the vocalist, who one moment screams in noxious spitefulness, and the next slows to barbarous melancholy in his haunting poetry. To ignore this masterpiece, would be to leave a gaping chasm in your collection. So don't. (Antoinette)

Dark Oceans Productions promo tape '94

This collection of Dark Oceans releases contains samples from their ANATOMY CD, DOWNER CD, FOIL CD, ABREMALIN promo tape, HECATOMB / ENTASIS split 7", and ICONOCLAUST 7". They are quite a prolific company!! ANATOMY are grinding in their death style - with string experimentation and fairly subliminal vocals. DOWNER grind even more savagely, although slightly more simplistically also. FOIL are weirdness fetishists, in rock n' roll rave and psychedelic keys, and country n' western vocals (?). Different!! ABRENALIN play a butchering blistering brutal death, HECATOMB style is raw throated with slightly doomy overtones and ENTASIS are a furor of echoing roars, double bass drums and powerful riffs. The ICONOCLAUST offering reeks evil - it's guitars are superb in overtones and chilling riffs, particularly when released from the binding powerchords. Justin would be delighted with any enquiries about his releases, so these should be sent to Justin Chomppf, Melbourne Office, 16 Cornwall St., Hallam. 3803, Vic, Australia. (Antoinette)

THE GOD THEORY - Tee For Two - Demo

This was hard to make out 'cause it is some kind of 90

ETERNAL OATH's debut demo '...The End' is available for \$4 (Singapore) \$3 (elsewhere) and includes 4 tracks of original music. Available from Block 463 Hougang, Ave 10, #02-962, Singapore.

MIRROR OF DECEPTION, c/o Jochen Fopp,
Kirchstrasse 37/1, 73066 Uhingen, Germany

minute rehearsal. One thing I noticed is that the bass player wants to be in PRIMUS. Can't say much else. Tyler, 901 Carolina Avenue, Virginia Beach, VA 23451, USA. (Daire Lennon)

THUS DEFILED - Enchanted By The Dark One - Cass EP '94 - Mada Idala Productions

THUS DEFILED claim to "bestial black metal" but to be perfectly honest this is more brutal death although there's a black metal element to it all particularly in some guitar parts which remind me of some of the older black metal bands. The tape consists of three tracks, "Enchanted...", "Eternal Demonomancy" and "Primordial Darkness (Returning...)" all of which make good listening and are sort of a continuation of their debut demo 'Blasphemous Coven'. The slower sections have come out a lot better particularly in the first track. All in all a good release and well worth £2.50/\$5. I've heard some of their new stuff it has turned out a lot more in the black metal vein and you'll get to hear that material when their debut CD 'Through The Impure Veil Of Dawn' emerges on Dark Trinity Productions, Paul's own label. Some of the new titles include "Under Blackening Horizons" (which is the best T.D. tune I've heard to date), "Darkness Rape.." and "Wings Of Fallen Majesty". Send your money to Paul Carter, 4 Greenacres Ring, Angmering, West Sussex, BN16 4BU, UK. (Brian)

PHLEBOTOMIZED - Preach Eternal Gospels - MCD - MMI Records

This MCD features five atmospheric death tracks from seven very talented Dutch men. Those of you who liked their 'Devoted To God' demo will love this, I guarantee you. Of the five offerings two are from the aforementioned recording, the others being newer pieces that certainly show just how well the band have progressed especially in the second song. 'Preach...' begins with "In Memory Of Our Departed Ones (1924-1928)" which is more or less a mellow intro. The excellent "Mustardgas" follows displaying PHLEBOTOMIZED's abilities perfectly. It also features some real weird keyboard moments but they don't take anything away from Barry Schuyer's brutal vocals or Lawrence Payne's drumming as they really make their present felt. The title track is next and it's a long tune full of violin and keys in particular at the beginning and end. "Tragic Entanglement" involves more of the bands fine talents and "Ataraxia" finish off the MCD in a nice mellow atmosphere. A great release and well worth DM18/\$14..... Markus Woeste, Heerstr.77, 58553 Halver, Germany. (Brian)

Unisound Records have some very worthy releases available including ROTTING CHRIST's 'Non Serviam' CD, MORTUARY DRAPE's 'All The Witches Dance' CD and THOU ART LORD's 'Eosforos' CD. They also have numerous other CDs & MCDs. For more info on their releases and their huge mailorder contact 84, Acadimias Ave, 106 78 Athens, Greece.

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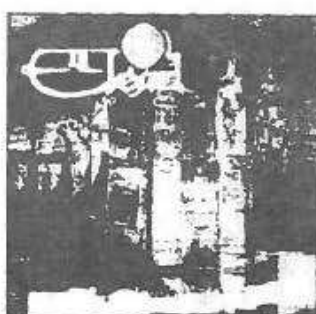
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