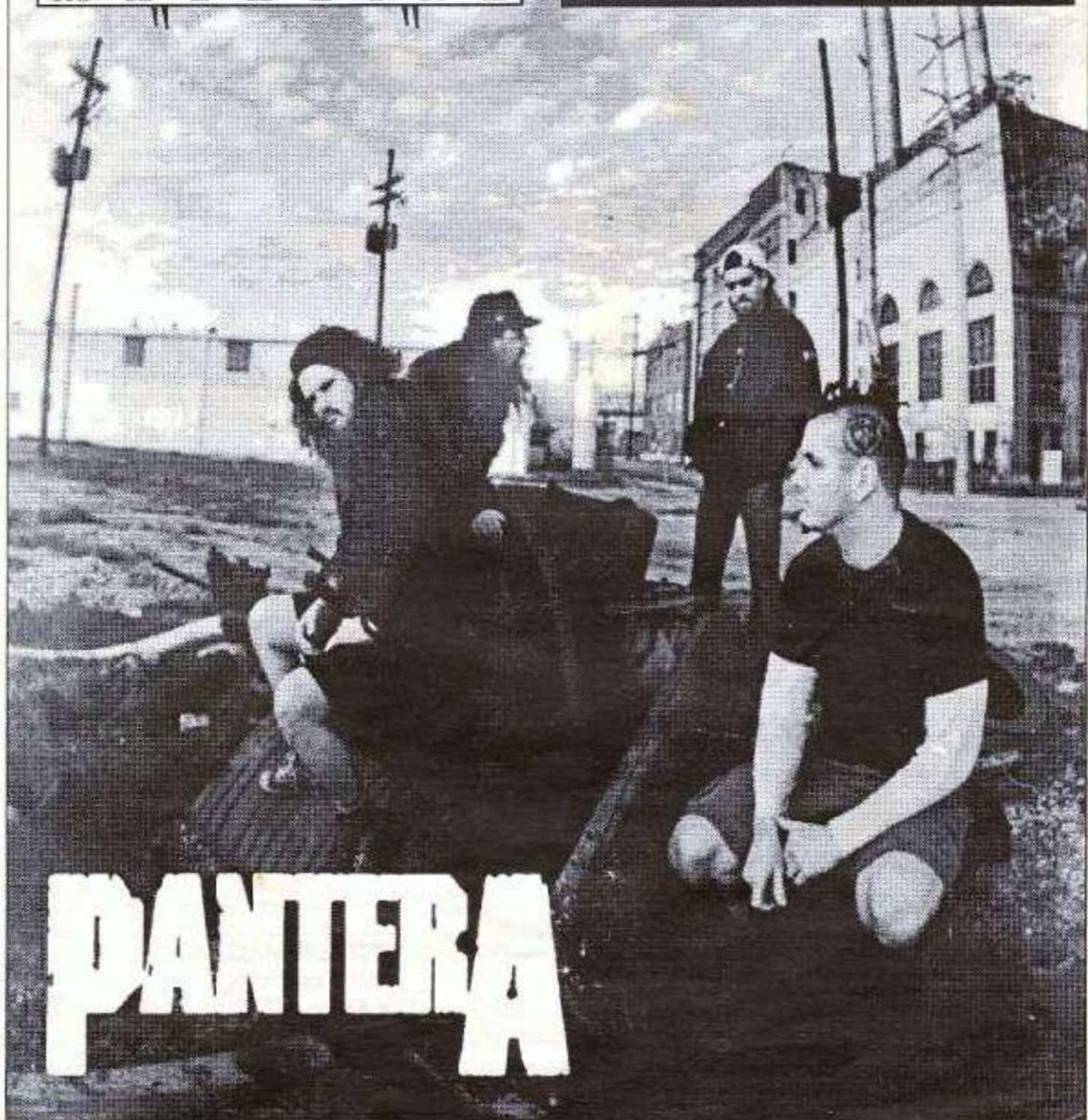


EDTARD

M A G A Z I N E

Also inside:
Scene reports from
Michigan, Ohio and
Chicago and area
Album and Live reviews

VOL. 2 NO 6 • MAY 1994



PANTERA

DETROIT, MICHIGAN

• **Necrosadist** is a one man project created in the morbid mind of ex-Demogorgon member Jeff Stormer. This cassette contains ten tracks and clocks in at just over fourteen minutes, not a lengthy release by any means. First, I gotta say that this tape sounds like total shit, so it is pretty hard to decipher. The recording is very low and fades in and out the whole time. The vocals are almost non-existent but the way that they sound I'm not so sure that's a bad thing. It sounds like he's got some pretty cool guitar arrangements here, a shame the recording is so muddy. Well I gotta give him credit for trying, but he would've been better off taking more time to release a better sounding tape. The best thing about this is the song titles, and the cover art is primitive yet disturbing. Check out tracks like "Rejoice in Blood", "Of The Sleep of Ishtar" and the best for last, "Twitching in Battery Acid". Write to: Necrosadist • 12053 Inkster Rd • Livonia, MI 48150 KL

• **Sage** are an unsigned Detroit based band, who released a CD in late April which is available at local Harmony House locations. The first two weeks of sales, it has been in Harmony House's Top 20, beating out even Pink Floyd's new one in the first week! This is quite impressive and so is their CD. Sage is good, straight forward, heavy rock 'n roll, the way it was meant to be. The music is generally quite heavy with vocals that are melodic but very raw, adding to the forcefulness of the music. The music is powerful and the lyrics are intelligent and well thought out. With only five songs on their CD, it leaves the listener wanting to hear more. This five member group perform regularly at clubs in Detroit, Toledo, and Flint. Call their hotline for show information at: (810) 450 3482 or write to: Sage • PO Box 7064 • Sterling Heights, MI 48311 LD

FLINT, MICHIGAN

• **Exploding Zombies** are a three piece band of 100% certifiable Michigan death metal. The first track on this tape is called "Embodied Feast" and incorporates quite a few cool riffs and time changes. The sound quality is okay, a little muddy maybe. "Piles Of Brainsauce" (the title track) and "Mouthful Of Bladder" finish this plus a bonus track... "Deprived Of Blood". This sounds like early Autopsy and quite good for a group still in the early stages. I don't know if their using stage names to regress to the days of Sodom and Venom or what? But, come on... a drummer named Toadfucker? When I saw that I had to laugh! Anyway, what counts is the music and Exploding Zombies deliver a sound more heavy and deathlike than most bands in these parts. Catch them live with Cannibal Corpse, Sinister, Cynic and Lucifers Hammer on Sunday, June 12 at Society Nightclub in Lansing, Michigan. Write: Exploding Zombies • 713 S Meade St • Flint, MI 48503 KL

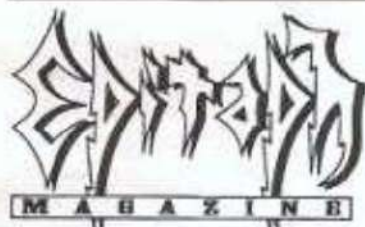
MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN

• **Pale Oracle** are one of Michigan's best kept secrets. "Reborn In Sodomy" is the first track to blast through my speakers. Everything about this reminds me of Obituary from the gargling with blood vocals of Cesar Morales to the dramatic time changes. They cover topics like Incest, Abortion, and Serial Killers in songs like "Eileen", "Crawlspace" and the title track... "Extracting The Extremities". This is the best death metal demo I've heard lately. The band is very tight and well rehearsed on this tape, and the killer production makes this sound like it could be an album instead of just a demo. The last song "Nausea Addiction" leaves nothing to the imagination as they take us through a day in the life of a heroin junkie. Everything about this tape is exciting right down to the cover art / layout done by drummer Andrew Bitzer. I suggest you write for info on how to get your own copy of this as it won't stay a secret very long. Pale Oracle • PO Box 583 • Muskegon, MI 49443 KL

WINDSOR, ONTARIO

• **Carcinogen** are a quartet comin' straight outta Windsor, Ontario, Canada that is. A geography lesson for those who don't know, Windsor is just across the water from Detroit. Four tracks make up their tape entitled *Perseverance*, something one must have to create music like this. They blend an even mix of thrash and death metal to create a sound that is fairly original and unique. The vocal style of Tim Reid is very powerful and really make the tracks stand out, much in the same way as Troy Dixler (vocalist / frontman for Chicago's Syndrome.) The four songs on this are "Avanging The Rapture", "Scientific Blessing", "Malignant Cenotaph", and "The Living Reside". The lyrics are intelligent and aren't your typical kill / death / gore type of shit. This is produced very well and with a little perseverance it could land them a record deal. Let's wish them all the best. Write for info on these professionally printed cassettes at: Carcinogen • 1010 Morland St • Windsor, Ontario N9J 1G6 • Canada KL

• **Chaos** are a four piece thrash group from Ontario, Canada. "The Unknown Name" starts it up before the next one "Doctor Suicide" is crammed down our throats. Their sound is catchy and reminds me of Faith Or Fear from Philadelphia, anyone remember them? The vocals of Glenn Williams are good and most important his voice is memorable. The other tracks "Searching Out", "Reincarnation", "Eternal Eclipse", and "Choice?" are all cool and very listenable. Intricate riffs fill the pounding rhythms, check out the killer bass licks from Fotten Rodney Murphy. This tape is produced well and its good to hear that they don't copy any one 'style'. Write for info at: Chaos • 2115 County Rd, RR2 • Essex, Ontario N8M 2X6 • Canada KL

EPITAPH
MAGAZINE

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MAY 1994

Jeff Cooch • Editor

Contributors To This Issue:

- Jessica Bicknell • Reviews
I.M. Bleeding • Toledo Scene Report
Leigh Dale • Photos / Reviews
James Johnson • Photos / Reviews
Marc Kempf • Cover Layout
Kevin Lee • Reviews
Dick Musclebutt • Interviews
Ray Razor Reyes • Interviews
Dave Stagediver • Interviews / Reviews

EPITAPH MAGAZINE
50 West Delhi Road
Ann Arbor, MI 48103 • USA

Jeff Cooch, Editor • (313) 665-0827

Special Thanks To: Chuck & Teresa Marshall.

THE BATTALION

HARBINGER

May, 1994 A.D.

NEWS TO THE BATTLE CORPS

THE BAND JUST HAPPY TO BE ALIVE

Left to right - Chuck Marshall (lead guitar)
Lee Davis (vocals)
Kevin Linn (guitar)
Bill Fitzpatrick (drums)
Tony Doan (bass)



GREETINGS:

Finally, "EXCESSIVE FORCE" is headed for release! About fucking time! We have wrapped up the final details for putting out "EXCESSIVE FORCE" on cassette and should have the tape available by mid to late June. Many thanks to those of you who showed your true support and purchased an advanced copy of the tape.

We continued our tour of the Mid-west with a stop in Erie, PA at a club called Shooters. We didn't know what to expect in Erie, but we were blown away by the crowd. Everyone there was very much into the local metal scene and made us feel at home. Thanks! Erie was definitely a great place to jam. The show also featured our buds from Ohio, CONCUSSION and locals STOMP. CONCUSSION as usual, cranked out a huge wall of sonic force. STOMP was equally impressive. Very heavy stuff which included a killer cover of Pantera. If you get a chance, check out STOMP.

BATTALION also made a return trip home for a show at the Blind Pig. We were lucky enough to score a gig with YOUTH CORPSE and ANGHHELL. For a Tuesday night, it was good to see so many of our friends from the Ann Arbor area show up and hang out with us. Now if we can just talk the folks at the Blind Pig into letting the great metal bands in our area play on weekends, we'll be all set.

Our apologies to anyone who showed up at the Pub in Adrian on March 20, expecting to see us. The club owners decided at the last minute that they no longer wanted to support live local music and pulled the plug. Its too bad, because there is a shortage of places in this area where you can consistently check out great local metal bands. Some other time Adrian.

Be sure to come out to our next show at the Society Nightclub for the LAST Video Underground Viewer Appreciation Bash. Due to lack of support in the Lansing area, this will be the last bash for a while. If you or someone you know have any suggestions for areas (clubs, etc.) where people actually want to get out and support the best in local metal, then call or write Karyn at Video Underground, 2843 E. Grand River #109, East Lansing, MI, 48823 - phone # (517) 374-7149.

One final note of major importance. BATTALION will be appearing at METAL MANIA VIII at the Eagles Auditorium in Milwaukee, WI on Saturday, July 30th. This is a huge show featuring two stages to check out top metal bands. It has been rumored that SLAYER will headline the show. Members of BATTALION have attended the show in previous years and can testify that this is the best metal festival in the country. If you want tickets or more info on the show, contact Jeff Cooch from Eptiph Magazine Music at (313) 665-0827.

In our touring schedule we have the following dates:

May 24	Society Nightclub	(8 PM \$4 cover)	Lansing, MI	featuring SUICIETY, BATTALION, & CONCUSSION
May 25	The Club	(9 PM \$4 cover)	Toledo, OH	featuring ANGHHELL, BATTALION, & CONCUSSION
May 28	James Towne Hall	(8 PM \$5 cover)	Saginaw, MI	featuring ACELDAMA, TRIP, GAGE, BATTALION, PROCESS & POWER ON HOLD
June 18	All day Outdoor Bash	(8 PM \$? cover)	Hanover, MI	featuring BATTALION, PRODUCTION GREY, SKY JUICE and many more!
July 2	ONE HUGE 4th OF JULY BASH IN DIXON, IL - MAKE THE ROAD TRIP FOR A KILLER 10 BAND FESTIVAL - more details to come			
July 7	I ROCK	(8 PM ? cover)	Detroit, MI	featuring PRESENT ABSENCE, HARMS WAY, HMR, BATTALION, & CONCUSSION
July 30	Eagles Auditorium	(11 AM)	Milwaukee, WI	METAL MANIA VIII - more details to come - tickets available NOW!

As always, we want to hear from you. Fill out the questionnaire below and return it to us as soon as possible.

Name : _____ Where would you like to see BATTALION: _____

Address : _____ Club name / Address: _____

City : _____ State : _____ Club contact: _____

ZIP : _____ Radio / Video / Publication: _____

Address / Contact: _____

Return to: BATTALION - 6700 LINGANE - CHELSEA, MI - 48118-9435 - USA
THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

BRAINSCAN VS. THE CROW By Dave Stagediver

Brainscan and **The Crow**, two horror-like movies, two heavy soundtracks. First, lets check out the movies.

Brainscan is the name of an interactive CD ROM horror game. Ed Furlong is the victim, who skeptically tries the game. The game consists of four discs and puts the player in the shoes of a killer. Problem is, the next day, whoever you killed in the game is really dead. This movie was intense, especially after he kills his best friend. The best part is when the weird dude from inside the game jumps out and confronts Ed. Great gore, especially when he pulls his eyes out of his head.

The Crow is based on the dark comic series of the same name by Taylor, Michigan native James O'Barr. A young couple is senselessly murdered the night before their wedding by a bunch of psycho thugs, this occurs on Devil's Night. One year later Eric (the groom, and also guitarist of a rock band) returns from the grave to right the wrongs of his and his fiancée's death. Though the plot sounds like "Ghost", this movie is dark and eerie, and Eric bequeaths extremely violent deaths to his killers. Could have used a little more gore, but the dark humor was excellent. If you like this flick, make sure to check out the comic series, recently collected into one book, (original issues are scarce and \$\$\$\$!) which tells parts of the story you might not get from the movie. Brandon Lee - R.I.P.

Both Soundtracks have their strong and weak points. **The Crow** features mostly new songs (well, cover tunes that are new for the bands.) The only problem is a lot of them are too slow. With N.I.N., Stone Temple Pilots, Rage Against The Machine, Rollins Band, and Helmet, I expected better, but I didn't like any of these tunes. You may like these bands more than me, and you may like these tunes, it just bored me. In my view, the only good tune on this disc is Pantera's cover of Poison Idea's "The Badge". It's the only tune with balls, and the only tune that goes faster than five mph. A Soundtrack worth checkin' out, but I'm glad I didn't pay for it. (ATLANTIC)



Brainscan had a faster, more aggressive Soundtrack. Thing is, most of these tunes are from the bands albums. Butthole Surfers, Primus, Tad, White Zombie and some bands I've never heard of. The only new tune is the title track from George S. Clinton. The White Zombie tune "Thunderkiss '65" (Swinging Lovers Remix) may or may not be exclusive to this soundtrack. If you see remix and laugh, trust me, it sounds nothing like the original. It's a techno-pop N.I.N. sounding tune with the same vocal track buried underneath. What a trip! (COLUMBIA)

OHIO SCENE REPORT

Compiled By: I.M. Bleeding, James Johnson & Kevin Lee

TOLEDO SCENE REPORT By I.M. Bleeding

Toledo's **Gutted** have recently released one of the heaviest fucking albums I've ever heard. Look out Cannibal Corpse! Gutted is knocking at the door!!! Who will be the new gore / death champions?...Also, **Ahriman** has just finished recording a full length, seven song demo at R.T. Audio (in Michigan.) The band is currently shopping it around hoping to generate some label interest. As you may know, the band had a deal with California's Brimstone Records, but the label folded due to lack of funding. Shit Happens!... **Lucifiction** has also just released their debut demo. Best of luck to them!... Former **Ahriman** / **Disgust** drummer, Jim Little, is now beating the skins for **Cephalic**. Also included in this band is former **Immortal Soul** guitarist, Ron Tusing, and former **Corruption** guitarist turned bassist, John Bolton. They should be doing some shows soon...Also due out on the local scene sometime soon is Toledo's **Pain**, featuring the vocals of Randy Hardesty. Look for them to be around town inflicting pain...Toledo's **Descendent** recently released a two-song demo and it kicks some serious ass! Quality production and packaging. Look for these guys to make a major impact on the underground scene...Ex-Kastrophy members Jim Johnson and Randy Beckley are making another attempt at breaking onto the death metal scene. No official word on a name for the band yet, but the last rumor I heard was that they will be called **Spitting Blood**. Another band to watch out for from the Fremont area is **Eviscerate**. These guys are very brutal and they have some excellent tunes together. They've done a few shows, but now their lead guitarist is moving to Cleveland. So if anyone is interested in trying out, contact Matt at (419) 332-8415...That's all for now.

For more information on **Ahriman** or any of these bands, write: I.M. Bleeding • PO Box 4024 • Toledo, OH 43609 • USA

DAYTON, OHIO

• Ohio's **Toxikdeth** are back! This time in the form of a nine song demo cassette. The only problem is, shortly after this was released they changed their name to **Eko-Tox**. I reviewed their two song demo a couple of issues back... that was just an appetizer, now I'm ready for the full course meal! "The Coming" is a short intro as we're tossed into the first track "Ozone Depletion." This tape has a killer 'full crunchy' sound to it that makes you just wanna get up and thrash! The lyrics have a hardcore edge to them and the song structures are labeled (i.e.: Fun Moshin Part, Killer Lead Riffs, Slam Break, etc...) Other tracks like "Total Chaos", "Comatose", "The Dreaded Society", and the title track, "Motivated", all boast their own individuality making this a well rounded affair. They have an original sound which is comparable to Pantera, Biohazard and others of the like. Another highlight here is the tune "Toxic Shock Syndrome", a piano laden instrumental or as they call it an instrumenstral, good word play or what?! I believe this band has something here that will elevate them to the next level. Write them for info on these professionally printed cassettes at: TXD • PO Box 2216 • Dayton, OH 45401 KL

TOLEDO, OHIO

• After seeing **Gutted** a year and a half ago, I thought they really deserved to get a record deal, and they did. **Bleed For Us To Live** is their debut CD which contains the four songs from their **Decease** demo plus five new cuts including "Kicking The Corpse", "Sins Of God", "Flood Of Blood", and in my opinion the best song on the album, "Cold In A Coffin." There is more than enough gore, groove, and grind for your buck, so support these guys and check the record. You can also write to them at: **Gutted** • PO Box 167314 • Oregon, OH 43616 or **Red Light Records** • 880 Lee Street • Des Plaines, IL 60016 JJ



CYNIC: interview by Jeff Cooch

Recently I got a chance to talk speak with Cynic guitarist / vocalist, Paul Masvidal, who you might remember toured with and performed on Death's Human album / tour. We talked about ex-member / bassist Tony Choy (who you might remember jammed with Atheist and Pestilence), Paul's time spent with Death, and a little about Cynic...

Jeff: Who did you hook up with Death?

Paul: Well, I helped Chuck out when he kicked Rick Rozz out, I helped him out when he kicked (James) Murphy out, I've had a friendship with him since he had demos out, I've always kept in touch with Chuck and was working with him and stuff and just doing favors for him and he had just had that big problem, that fallout with Bill and Terry, and that whole scene and he just called us and said, I need some help man, and he knew then we were in limbo and that we couldn't get a deal, and things were going really slow for Cynic. So we said, fuck it, this will only help us. We might as well go, go tour and get some exposure, push Cynic, you know, see the world, make some money, do an album, get some experience. It was just a great opportunity.

Jeff: So did that help with your getting signed?

Paul: It greatly helped, tremendously, yea, it was a big factor. Because, besides also Tony (Choy) did the Pestilence, and the Atheist, Jason (Gobel) did Monstrosity, its like we covered a spectrum in this genre kind of and it got a lot of attention, you know. I was pushing Cynic constantly, giving demos out on tour, I was always doing interviews, I was just doing as much as I could to help the band. That was pretty much our intention behind it, and it totally paid off because we got back and a whole load of people knew about us and record labels were interested finally, and it just totally worked to our advantage. It was great.

Jeff: How's the record been doing?

Paul: Its been great, the reviews have been awesome. We've just been getting incredible letters and really good reviews. I mean some people have been really on with what, you know, they understand what we are trying to say, and trying to do as artists. And that's the best thing, when a writer understands what were trying to say.

The response has been great, Roadrunner has been really excited, we've been excited, reviews have been excellent, you know. Of course you're going to get the people who hate it, that's inevitable. But nothing's been really negative, outrageously. For the most part, they've just been great, our response mail wise, the kids that have written in have been real inspirational, great letters. And we've been real excited about that.

Jeff: Do you think that more bands will catch on to what you guys are doing?

Paul: I hope so, you know. I'm not sure if they will or won't. We just do what we do, you know. But, it would be cool to see more bands trying to experiment, especially in the heavier genre, attempting to expand and to try new things and to explore, because so many bands just play it safe and put out a record that's just a little bit different but its still in that safe boundary. They don't take risks, they don't attempt to explore new territory. I mean, really it depends on the artist, because music is a direct reflection of the artist and whatever it is that's made up of the musicians is what's gonna come out as the band and its always been real important to us to just express ourselves and whatever comes out is gonna come out. We just want it to be honest. So, I just hope that maybe it might inspire some bands or artists to explore more territory and to try new things and to not be afraid to take chances and to just do whatever you heart tells you and not worry about what is happening trend wise. Just follow you heart and be honest with yourself as an artist and try and express yourself, you know, that's what I think is the best example we can try to set as far as the band, I hope, as far as to other bands.

Jeff: What would you like someone to know who hasn't heard of Cynic before?

Paul: Modern, experimental, new, different, a different type of music. Something that they probably haven't ever heard before that incorporates many different elements and at the same time is an attempt at good songwriting and being musical. I mean as I hear it, were just doing something that's really progressive but at the same time modern and hybrid and just fusiony and experimental and just incorporating so many different elements that its hard to classify. But, the bottom line is that were just trying to write good songs and good music, and for anyone who's interested in doing that and hearing music with a strong spiritual overtone, also to just check us out. Hopefully, maybe they'll dig it.

Jeff: And listen to it with an open mind...

Paul: Yeah, definitely. You should keep your mind open, and your heart open. Actually, I think its more important that the listener just listen to the music with their heart and not their minds, because your mind can interfere a lot of the time, and the ego just gets in the way and we begin to rationalize everything. But when our hearts just try and listen, we understand it differently, it comes from a purer angle. And that's the kind of listening I think we try and do and we hope that our listeners will understand where we're coming from. Because that's where this music is coming from and that's where it best be able to relate to in another human. I mean, a lot of people call it mind music, but to us its not intellectual at all. Although, we're very academic in the process of it, its still expression.

Cynic is currently on tour with Cannibal Corpse and Sinister supporting their latest Roadrunner Records release *Focus*, and will be in the area in mid June, so check them out live.

Write: Cynic • PO Box 430114 • Miami, FL 33143 • USA



DEMENTED TED: by Dick Musclebutt

Demented Ted, one of Chicago's heaviest bands, are Pavement Music's newest mother fuckers to hit the scene with their latest release, *Promises Impure*. From the first riff of "Existence Lies Beneath" to the last pounding rhythm of "Forgotten", these fuckers shred with the intensity of a twenty pound sledge to the balls. Every song on this eight song CD features one killer crunching groove after another. The musicianship of these four dudes will make anyone sit back and think "Goddamn!!"

Lead guitarist / vocalist Ron Janis displays blistering leads and relentless, hard driving riff after riff that has all the technical progress reminiscent of Combat's Forbidden combined with the anger and frustration of the underground. Vocally, these dudes could be passed off as death metal (they're certainly heavy enough) but they don't write about fucking the dead or disemboweling premature fetuses. Instead, songs like "Despair", "Psychopathology", and "Incisions" deal with loss of faith in the direction of humanity, as well as the way they see the world. Every song on this CD features musicianship that you can't deny as totally fucking heavy!

Mike Anderson kicks beats so fucking intricate it'll make any drummer look twice at the way they play. They probably give that dude five bongos just to calm down! And then there's Ken Cutler on guitar riffing riff after shredding riff with the severity of a coronary. Although the CD features Mark Kolar on bass, the band has since brought back original bassist Eric Alvarez, the craziest fucker who ever ripped up four strings. These four dudes together live will rip your ass!!

DMB: How many shows have you done so far on the tour?

Ken: Six shows, so far. Detroit, MI, Tonight, Flint, MI, tomorrow, Sunday is Columbus, OH, then Monday and Tuesday off, Wednesday in Cleveland, OH, and Thursday is Toledo, OH. They pretty much have a local band open up every show, which is cool, because then we don't have to play first, you know, and nobody's really heard of us yet, but the album is doing really well so far. We're just gonna keep pushin' it. I guess we've sold over 5,000 copies.

DMB: How did this Pavement Music deal come about?

Mike: We released a demo called *Despair* about a year and a half ago, it got a lot of reviews, good reviews. And actually what got us on was we played the Milwaukee Metalfest VII last year, and we got a real good response.

Ken: That's where the Pavement Records came to check us out. They used to be with Grindcore / Red Light, Mark Nawara and Lorraine Margala (President and Vice President of Pavement Music) and they moved on to Pavement, and they kept our shit with 'em and everything and they were interested. We had our Lawyer talk with 'em and worked it out as best we could. As far as albums, money, and percentages goes, so we got everything we wanted out of them. We got all our merchandise and everything.

DMB: So what was the transition like, going from an unsigned band to a signed band and having to work with that kind of bullshit?

Ken: It's cool, you know, they say they're gonna do everything for us, and they have been doing a lot as far as promotion, getting everything out there, you know, staying behind us. They gave us a little bit of tour support money. They bought us onto this tour, but every review we've gotten for them has been really good, so they're happy with us. They wanted to get us on the road as quickly as you can, because the album was only released February 8, (1994), and see how much more we can push it, and if people are really gonna like it, and buy it.

Mike: Yeah, I guess they're already working on another tour right after this one, hopefully we'll go to Europe.

DMB: So how many albums did you sign with Pavement?

Ken: Well, we got a one + five deal. So, we're tied down to them for this first album, and since we're already linked to a major label, which is Zoo / BMG, right off the bat, they have the first option to pick us up. They have the first option right on our second album, and if they don't wanna take us, then Pavement will keep us. And as long as our album sells, they'll take us and do another album with us, or like I said, Zoo / BMG will pick us up, and they'll give us a bigger budget and all.

DMB: So I've got the new disc here, it sounds killer. Did you record at Morrisound again?

Mike: Actually, we recorded at Pro-Media with Art Pinshke, who Atheist and Malevolent Creation just worked with.

DMB: And Frank Zappa.

Mike: Yeah, he's the guy that did all those Zappa albums. The album was recorded with no triggers, it was all natural drum sounds. No note effects really, except like reverb of course. A lot of clarity on the album. We recorded real high levels. It's right in your face.

DMB: So in the recording process, in the mix, what were you guys looking for?

Ken: A big sound. We don't want a death metal sound. That's why we didn't want to go back to Scott (Burns.) He does have a killer production, and everything. He's very set in his ways I think in how he does things and the sound that he wants to get, and I think that we wanted to get kind of a different sound, you know. I think our sound is different in the way that it sounds bigger, but there's still the clarity to it.

DMB: It's very demented.

Mike: Yes, it's very sickening.

DMB: Who is Demented Ted?

Mike: There is no Demented Ted, really. It's a band that started about eight years ago. It was a hardcore punk band.

Ken: The band was big in Chicago. We kept the name because everybody knew of us, and that's how we got our draw at shows.

DMB: So you guys evolved from a hardcore band. Who are the original members?

Mike: It was actually three guys. The drummer was in for like a month, so I took his place. They wanted someone who played double bass, so I sort of latched onto them. It was Aaron Bright, another guy, Paul Whiner, out of Lamont, IL. We wanted to go a little more metal. A little more harder and heavier. At that time it was like thrash, you know. That was the thing. After a while, we started getting in this phase they called death metal. We lost our singer. He was like an Anthrax style vocalist and we wanted someone heavier. We never decided to change the name with the change of everybody else. The music was changed, but we didn't want to change the name. So we just kept the name and got a following that grew bigger and bigger and then we were gonna change the name. But the record label was like, "No you can't do that."

Ken: They were like "We signed Demented Ted", and that's what they wanted. They like it.

If you haven't picked this disc up yet, and don't want to, then it's apparent that you are probably a felchous shit that doesn't have a clue about heaviness! These dudes shred!!

Write: Demented Ted • 223 St. Charles • Villa Park, IL 60181

GWAR: interview Part 1, by Dave Stagediver

GWAR, the name itself installs fear into the hearts of most, wonder into the minds of others, and even lust into genitals of the truly fucked. But for the most part they remain a much misunderstood group of would-be galaxy conquering super freaks from the beginning of all time. Much of their jaded history you already know, so we'll just skip by that. Recently, thanks to the wonders of modern technology, I was able to communicate, via satellite, live from Antarctica with GWAR lead vocalist Oderous Urungus. Oderous was just finishing a Virtual Reality game in which he single-handedly won WWII. Still lost in excessive euphoria he felt thinking that the earth was reduced to smoldering ashes, he was unexplainably enraged when he heard my voice, so enraged he actually destroyed his entire collection of young kidnap victims and the milk cartons next to them that bore their pictures. Two minutes and six hundred pounds of crack later, Oderous regained his composure and sat down to talk to me. He bestowed upon me the secrets of existence, but I'm not gonna share that part with you, but I will share the rest of our inane chatter.

Dave: So Oderous, what's been up with GWAR, we've heard no stories of mass genocide or anything of the like recently, what's been up with you guys?

Oderous: It's been a tumultuous year for us, just because you haven't heard anything from us doesn't mean that you know... we just didn't feel like telling you guys anything. We've got a new album coming out called *This Toilet Earth*, and we got a big film we just finished working on, "Skul-Hed Face", and we're on a huge tour this year... so, GWAR is going to be lurching into your cities very soon in a reeling, staggering, drunken, gate... obliterating everything in our path, and we invite all of you to the great maggots festival. We're basically trying to sacrifice the entire audience this year... and I know we've promised the mass destruction and genocide many times, and many millions HAVE died, but it's just you humans are fuck happy. Everytime I turn around there's another explosion of birth. I'm beginning to think that I should just hang out at Hospitals and kill nothing but babies, and let sexual disease wipe the rest of you out.

Dave: Just start at the root of the problem...

Oderous: Just kill children...

Dave: Exactly, before they can even grow up to be all fucked up.

Oderous: Yes, yes, children are very valuable tools of war, there is nothing that illicit sympathy or rage more than the... a child's face at the end of a gun... kill the children... So all you humans, children especially, are invited down to the big GWAR maggots carnival. We'll actually be summoning the World Maggot, a huge, horny beast that lives at the core of your world. It will smash through the crust of the Earth into the actual club that we are playing at, and devour the entire audience... after which we will ride the maggot through the streets of the city we are playing in, slaughtering and devastating in our wake, and then we'll go to 7-11 and load up on free chili and cheese.

Dave: So will you just be riding this maggot from show to show or...

Oderous: Well, the thing is the maggot, it gets tired kind of fast, it needs to eat a lot right? And what we're hoping for here with the maggot, is that we can feed so many humans to it, that it will grow so huge, that we will actually be able to ride it into outer space and escape your fucking miserable planet once and for all! If we do succeed in feeding our entire audience to this creature, and if in fact we do succeed in riding away from your planet, hopefully we will be able to look back towards Earth and see nothing but a burning cinder in which all of you and your procures ilk shall be utterly incinerated! And we will have no regrets, we will return to our illustrious careers back in outer space.



Oderous Urungus

(Photo By Leigh Dale)

Dave: So what is it in space that you so much want to get back to?

Oderous: Well, back in outer space we have a lot more clout than here on Earth, there's a lot of good buddies we gotta look up, like Log-Su-Goff, and of course we have a little score to settle with the Master. In fact we plan to kick his ass and instill Sleazy P. Martini as conquer of the universe. He'll be our new god.

Dave: So once more genocide will be attempted.

Oderous: Well, we consider destroying you a favor, I mean if the human race doesn't drastically depopulate itself by the year 2010, your planet is going to be nothing but a dried up husk of its former self. (pause) You have to consider famine, plague, war, and disease, all gifts of GWAR, it's a favor we're doing for you, it's a gift we've bestowed upon you.

Dave: So you could just let us all overbreed and...

Oderous: Then there wouldn't be enough crack to go around.

Dave: Speaking of which, are you still smoking five tons of crack a day?

Oderous: I'm up to twenty-five tons.

(Dave) There is a pause as Oderous lights up and smokes another half ton of crack. I ponder his words to this point and there seems to be a bit of concern for humans in his reasoning. Against my better judgment I decided to push the issue.

Dave: So Oderous, it seems to me that you are showing an inordinate amount of concern for us humans, what gives?

Oderous: Even a human, little parasitical scum that you are, you have a certain amount of barter to you. Your soul is what I'm talking about... of course blood, excrement, and urine are other delectable by products.

GWAR: interview Part 1, continued

Oderous: Did I mention Bubonic Puss?

Dave: No you didn't.

Oderous: Well let me just mention it then - Bubonic Puss.

Dave: So is there some hope, for some of humanity then?

Oderous: The humans that are worth a shit will all come to GWAR, everyone else must die, many of the slaves of GWAR will have to be destroyed as well. To see the humans just grovel before us like a sea of maggots, it fills me with rage and a lust to slay and rape, and to slay with my rape. I must say that some of you will be spared the ultimate destruction of the human race. These humans will cluster in Texas, and Texas will be smashed away from the planet and we will tow it to outer space with us.

Dave: So then we must get to Texas?

Oderous: Yes you must follow, you must forsake all of your possessions, all of your spiritual goals, and all of your plans and follow GWAR as mindless death slave, chained to the bottom of the bat-shaped helicopter, and pretty much renounce your whole physical existence, for the willingness to trade all that you are just for a single mouthful of infected genital puss. In return you really don't get anything, except the satisfaction of knowing that your life was absolutely for nothing.

I don't know why any human would want to subject themselves to that, except for the fact that, of course, I know that we are living GODS who walk among you. (pause) See that's what people don't understand, they still think GWAR are a bunch of guys running around in rubber suits. It's like we tried to tell you, you know, we tried to let you know we are from outer space in a way that wouldn't freak you out too bad, we tried to let you know what's going on. Why do you think they send the space shuttle out everyday? They're trying to build a giant raygun to fight GWAR, and they Gray Aliens and Cardinal Sin. They're all coming you know.

(Dave) At this point Oderous goes off into some kind of mental convulsion babbling incoherently until he finally placidates himself with another serving of crack. It is now when he shares with me the secrets of the universe, this somehow leads to a conversation about Montel Williams' head. I think it would make a great bowling ball. Oderous feels it would make a better crack bowl. I remember hearing that GWAR was once on the Joan Rivers show, so I continue the interview.

Oderous: She (Joan Rivers) was raped and killed, and filleted, and Englebert Humperdink was sold bad drugs.

Dave: So, if you guys ate the bitch, how come she's still on television?

Oderous: They have a room where there are ten Joan Rivers.

Dave: Who?

Oderous: The C.I.A., The C.I.A. creates your celebrities, they are grown in great syntho-wombs provided by the Gray Aliens. There is a whole legion of Bon-Jovi's. They just slightly changed the name, the face, they sway of the buttocks.

Dave: Why, why, why have you not attacked this fortress of poser fags?

Oderous: It's a fate you humans deserve. Your suffering brings me no end of delight. But, if you can get these guys within an arms reach of me, I can assure you, they're MEAT!

Dave: So just who is this Skul-Hed Face dude?

Oderous: Another super powered moron who's... I think he's just dying for attention or something, you know all these fuckin' supervillians have mammoth ego problems and inferiority complexes and they're very insecure, so they always go around picking on people to try to convince themselves that they are so fuckin' great. Apparently this creature is somekind of alien from outer space. I don't know if he's a renegade scumdog or something I don't even know about. He/she succeeded in using a machine against us, called the homiginizer, and with this machine he extracted from us a substance called Jizmoglobin. Now every human being, depending on how cool you are, has a certain amount of Jizmoglobin inside them. Skul-Hed Face has extended his/her vampiric existence for centuries by sucking the human race dry of this substance. When Skul-Hed Face discovered about GWAR, and the fact that we are actually from another planet, he realized that we must contain incredible amounts of Jizmoglobin, so basically, this guys tryin' to suck my dick! And I didn't want it, I didn't want a him/her, on my knob, my warty stump. So pretty much the whole movie is about this whole thing with this dumb shit fuckin' mad doctor, doctor mister/misses professor Skul-Hed Face limited, and he'll be there on stage, he/she, fucking shit up for us in general with his giant monster the Flesh-Column and his lab assistant Flopsie, the cunt faced boy.

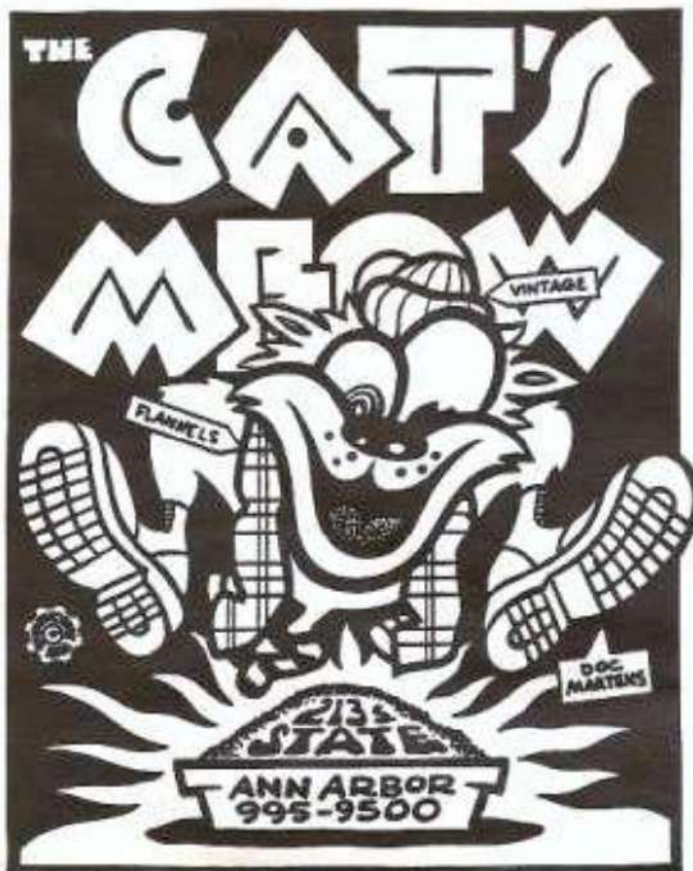
(Dave) At this point I'm speechless, and Oderous has just run out of crack and is getting very irritable so he decided to cut this thing short, here's his closing words.

Oderous: All right listen queeny-love-butter-junction, I gotta go, I gotta take a shit, and everytime I shit it's a big event here. My shit is coveted by the GWAR slaves, it's how I feed them.

Dave: So they're all crawlin' around your ass hoping you'll shit?

Oderous: They are fucking repulsive. I've blown myself up to eight-hundred feet tall right now and they're climbing up my inner thighs right now leaping from pimple to pimple. All right cream chappy lip-loaf get the hell outta here.

(Dave) And with that my life reverted back to it's usual meaningless self. Although I have learned much, there isn't much time, GWAR are coming, and I gotta catch a ride to Texas, see ya there.



PANTERA

Cover Story by Ray Razor Reyes



(Photo By: James Johnson)

Like a huge industrial power drill going up someone's ass! And that's the picture on the front cover of their latest release entitled *Far Beyond Driven*. But that's only if you've got the limited edition vinyl release, otherwise it's a picture of a drill going through an x-ray skull. Same idea, same tunes, kicks your ass anyways. When Pantera released *Cowboys From Hell* in 1990, there was no doubt that these dudes set themselves apart from all metal bands, period. They created something they call a power groove, and in 1992, released *Vulgar Display Of Power*, proving themselves one to be reckoned with and one whose musical progression was getting heavier. And now finally, in 1994, Pantera are bigger than ever, with the release of *Far Beyond Driven*, and a million copies sold in the first three weeks, Pantera are now calling the shots. You can say that they've been calling the shots for sometime but no overnight sensation here. These guys have put in the time and the work to get where they're at. They've done the independent thing, played covers, played bars, and gradually built up into this monster band that must be witnessed live to believe.

Live, these guys got it going on. The music created by guitarist "Dimebag" Darrell, drummer Vince "The Brick Wall" Paul, and bassist, Rex Brown, is so heavy that it literally gives you a hernia. And when vocalist, Philip Anselmo, makes his way on the stage prepare to be pulverized by an energy capable of beating you down like an insane prize fighter. This is the type of show that's full of pits and half naked bodies, but the thing I like is how they start fucking around on stage and actually creating new riffs and basic ideas for songs. That's bold!

Pantera are bold enough to do anything, and each time I get to party with these dudes it ain't nothing but a pot-smoking, Black Tooth Grinning, jam slamin' time! The aftershow parties are always happening and not just with Pantera, but with the Pantera Road Dog Road Crew and fans as well. Some crazy shit is always going on back there and they always bring some of the coolest bands to open such as New Orleans, own Crowbar. Which by the way, Matt, the guitarist from Crowbar and Phil, from Pantera, used to be in a band together in Louisiana that was back in the day when Pantera had this chick (well, poseur dude might fit better) for a lead vocalist. But, fortunately he found his calling in a band where he could

pool his hair and pose all day, that band was called Lord Tracy. Named after some famous bitch in the porn industry, maybe they thought they'd get some or something like that. Well, they can always fuck each other if that's the case. But, luckily Phil came along adding that extra level of testosterone that Pantera needed. Nuff said.

When asked about the success that Pantera has achieved and how its changed a lot of things, Vinnie had this to say... "Dude, we haven't changed a bit. It's the circumstances that have changed around us. People say Pantera, oh they're fucking rock stars, the truth is that more people are into Pantera now and it's harder to hang out with everyone who wants to hangout because it's on a bigger scale." Yes, it is true that they are bigger, but they love their fans and are willing to give up precious time to meet 'em and make 'em feel good. Making music and having a good time with friends and fans, that's what these dudes are all about.

I remember checking out Pantera, Crowbar, and My Sister's Machine at the State Theater in Kalamazoo, Michigan. It was the last night of this particular bill and everyone wanted to have a special all-star jam. I'm hanging out in the crowd on the main floor getting baked as fuck, witnessing these guys fucking around playing "Whiplash" by Metallica. The only thing is, Phil is playing guitar and "Dimebag" Darrell is singing. Phil even played the solo and just totally smoked Kirk Hammett's version or Dave Mustaine for that matter. I was Bar-B-Q'd out if you know what I mean, when all of the sudden guys from Crowbar and My Sister's Machine were onstage with instruments and geared to do some jamming. Just then, I'm doing another toke when "Dimebag" Darrell gets on the microphone stating they're having an all-star jam and wanted the vocalist from Harms Way (my band) to join. I immediately started freaking out. I was literally being called out by Pantera to jam out with them.

I stood up on a chair and yelled "Yo! Right here dude!" and Darrell spotted me and had the spotlight go on me to lead me on to the front of the stage. The crowd was just making a path for me to walk through. Once I got to the stage Phil reached out and grabbed my hand to pull me up as the crowd lifted. I felt a sudden vibe of weightlessness like I was just floating, and then I was on stage. Not just any stage but a fucking Pantera stage! And the crowd looked beautiful from where I was standing. Phil gave me the mic and we were on. We started jamming this riff I never heard before but grooved with it. I did my best death growls while high-fiving the audience. Then I went into my sweetest, longest, King Diamond scream and held it for like forty-five to sixty seconds. Phil watched in awe as I worked their audience like a John Deere tractor (hey, we were in Kalamazoo!) Then we did the coolest version of "Paranoid" that you never heard in your life. Thing was, is that I was so stoned and geeked out to be there in the first place that I forgot a lot of the lyrics (then again, so did Ozzy!) So Vince helped me out. Then, I started telling the crowd to "Smoke Weed, Smoke Shit!" It was an unforgettable experience that I will always cherish.

At the time of this writing, Pantera are vulgarizing the land of the rising sun. Then, it's back to Texas for some shows with Sepultura and Prong before going off with Sepultura and Biohazard. They'll be at The Toledo Sports Arena on June 11, and The Palace of Auburn Hills on June 25, so be there! It's going to be a brutal show!

All I've got to say to anyone, is if you don't have the new Pantera, go get it now! Then check out the album before that, *Vulgar Display Of Power*, and the one before that, *Cowboys From Hell*. And if you really want to laugh, check out the pictures on the albums before that. And if you are a die-hard Pantera fan, check out "The Crow" Soundtrack. The only band with a real set of balls on the Soundtrack is Pantera!

What can I say, I love Pantera, my woman loves Pantera, my friends love Pantera, this magazine loves Pantera, and no we're not sucking their dick - they just simply kick ass!

Write: Pantera • PO Box 4679 • New York, NY 10185-4679

RECORD REVIEWS

BEATS THE HELL OUT OF ME

Beats The Hell Out Of Me



These guys need to stop jockeying Helmet and try to be original, it seems everyone is hoping on one bandwagon or another, and BTHOOM are no exception. It just beats the hell out of me why Metal Blade couldn't sign a more original band. If you pick this up, put it back. JJ

CANNIBAL CORPSE

The Bleeding



"Fucked With A Knife", "Forced Broken Glass", "Stripped, Raped, & Strangled"... with titles like these, how could you go wrong? Spawned from the sick mind of Chris Barnes and Co. *The Bleeding* doesn't stray from their previous works, if you haven't gotten this because you thought Cannibal Corpse sold out, you couldn't be more wrong! I don't see these guys being played on WLLZ, WRIF, or 89X anytime soon, and good for them. The only selling out this band is gonna be doing is sell out shows on their current tour with Sinister and Cynic. They will be in the area Sunday, June 12, at the Society Nightclub in Lansing, MI with special guests Exploding Zombies. JJ

IMPERIUM

Too Short A Season

LEVIATHAN

Well its good to see that thrash metal is still alive and better than ever in some parts of the world. Holland's Imperium come across as sort of a mix of Artillery and Coroner with vocals like Dream Theater or Fates Warning, only heavier and better. This definitely has a European feel to it, as intricate melodies and structure flow throughout all nine tracks. It took me a few listens before I could fully appreciate this. Songs like "Silenced", "Slip Of The Tongue", "Messiah Mask", and my fave "Chemical Dreams" are all well played and well produced. I'm sure they have quite a following in Europe, I hope they can open some eyes and minds here in the states. If you can find this pick it up and give it a spin, you will not be disappointed. KL

LIFE OF AGONY

River Runs Red



From the very beginning to the very end *River Runs Red* consists of groove heavy guitar riffs and uncompromising bass lines. These are backed by solid, forceful drums and vocals that are surprisingly good and surprisingly melodic for such a violent band. One tends to expect vocals reminiscent of Biohazard or Rage Against the Machine. The lyrics on the album stick to a story, for lack of a better word. The songs are all about some aspect of a young guy's life and the torment of his problems until the end when he commits suicide. The songs are interjected with messages from his answering machine from people in his life bringing him bad news and his step mother screaming at him. At first this is amusing, but it continues to a disturbing climax until the end when you're left only with the sounds of his step mother's screams, his blood dripping onto the bathroom tile from slits inflicted in his wrists and Life of Agony playing "River Runs Red" faintly in the background. The album leaves you feeling extremely mental and is probably not good for anyone who's a manic depressive, but it's well worth listening to and their live show is definitely well worth watching. LD

MIGHTY MIGHTY BOSSTONES

Ska-Core, The Devil And More



This five song EP starts out with one of their more popular songs, "Someday I Suppose", off of their third album *Don't Know How to Party*, and the fun doesn't stop there. They tear it up with their cover of "Lights Out" and continue on with "Police Beat", a wonderful song about police brutality. Now it's time to get up and skank as the horns come alive with "Simmer Down". They finish it up with a live version of "Drunks And Children" off their first album, *Devil's Night Out*, but have changed the name to "Drugs and Kittens". Definitely something to add to your collection as we wait for the next full length. JB



"Dimebag" Darrell

(Photo By: James Johnson)

PANTERA

Far Beyond Driven



As with their live show, I always think that Pantera can't get any heavier or any better. Once again they have proved me wrong. *Far Beyond Driven* is the ultimate in rawness and sheer brutality. Philip Anselmo's vocals get more angry and more forceful with every album and "Dimebag" Darrell's guitar has a savageness that's incomparable to what he's ever done before. Rex and Vinnie Paul hold together difficult, complex rhythms that are out of anyone's grasp. When you listen to this album it will make your eyes and ears bleed. Enough said. LD

TYPE O NEGATIVE

Bloody Kisses



If there is anyone out there who hasn't heard this band or this album, I'm telling you right now to go and get it! Type O Negative's morbid and somewhat sickly amusing songs are exactly what so many underground bands try to achieve. Type O Negative's album is probably the most obscure and totally deranged album that has ever been put out. I know there are going to be a lot of people who disagree with that, but there's no one that can be that twisted in such an utterly cool way. The guitarist has an unmistakably dark and snarling sound, and the drums are perfectly executed and steady. The bass has a classical feel and the keyboards give the music a Gothic quality which is a lot of what makes them unique. The singer's deep, hypnotizing voice adds to that same medieval quality. I get the feeling that Type O Negative won't stay underground for much longer. When they do start getting popular, let's hope they keep their music the way it is. LD

LIVE REVIEWS



TYPE O NEGATIVE
LIFE OF AGONY
Capital Theater - Flint, MI
April 2, 1994

The show was opened up with a local death metal band called Hell's Elves. They did a pretty good job of getting the crowd worked up, but seemed a little odd to be opening up for Life of Agony and Type O Negative. The next band up was another local band called Sweet Addiction. They were a good band, but their music and their show was really mellow and laid back which just isn't what you want to hear before Life of Agony takes the stage. It also counteracted all the work Hell's Elves had put out to really get the crowd going. Finally Life of Agony was up and the wait was over.

Life of Agony gave one of the most inimitable, yet chaotic performances that I have ever seen. Being such a new band and not having much mainstream recognition, I didn't think that the crowd would get as into the show as much as they did. The pit was raging and even the people who weren't really into the music were in the pit moshing. Life of Agony finished their show leaving the crowd worn and bruised to recuperate for Type O Negative.

Type O Negative gave a powerful but slightly less psychotic performance. They had to stop twice during the show due to broken circuits from the overload of volume on the P.A. After a satisfyingly morbid and disturbing show, they left the audience with nothing left to be desired. LD

PANTERA

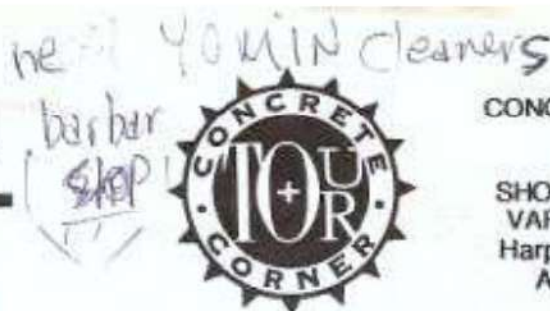


(Photo By: James Johnson)

PANTERA
CROWBAR
State Theater - Detroit, MI
April 16 & 17, 1994

Crowbar opened up the show with a good, heavy performance but had a difficult time trying to get the crowd into it because of the audience's impatience for Pantera. Finally Pantera came on and of course sent everyone into total chaos. One good thing about Pantera is that you can always rely on them to blow you away with the improvements they've made on their music, and to insult mainstream radio and MTV. Dime Bag Darrell worked the crowd well, giving a good background for a pit. And of course the pit was brutal, bloody and a whole bunch of fun.

Vocalist Phil Anselmo was in a particularly good mood which added to their performance greatly. They played quite a bit from their new album and surprisingly little from *Vulgar Display of Power*. I was even more surprised that they were doing stuff off of their first album, considering how mellow it seems compared to *Vulgar* and *Far Beyond Driven*. I think everyone came away bruised and bloody enough so that they were satisfied that they got their money's worth. If you like Pantera at all, don't miss them the next time they come!! LD



CONCRETE CORNER
TOUR
Featuring:
SHOOTYZ GROOVE
VARGA • GRETA
Harpos - Detroit, MI
April 23, 1994

During April, the Concrete Corner Tour took place, featuring Shootyz Groove, Greta, and Varga. The first 100 through the door received a free cassette which included songs by the Tour bands, plus Soundgarden, Sepultura, Therapy?, W.A.S.P., Tidal Force, and Mutha's Day Out. There were giveaways of shirts, CD's, cassettes, etc. during the show, and a raffle of an autographed Alice In Chains poster at the end of the show. You could also check out information and merchandise at a resources table on the ACLU, NORML, Rock Out Censorship, Greenpeace, and more.

Greta was the first to go on, and in a conversation with bassist Josh Gordon prior to the show I had learned that singer Paul Pagens wasn't going to be there due to the fact that he was at home in L.A. sick. "What we did for the first four or five dates of the tour, myself, Kyle, and Scott formed this punk band called TFA which stands for Total Fucking Assholes and we took some ideas that we've had floating around and made up some music and about fifteen minutes before sound check I wrote lyrics to all of them. Some of them came out pretty good. I didn't have time to sit down and over analyze or over think it, the stuff just kind of came out. A lot of it probably came from all the stuff that's been going on out on the road. Then we got a guy named Jeff Sharou from a band called Ultra Violet Eye in L.A. whose been a friend of ours for a long time to come out and fill in for Paul just for this tour. He looks like Paul a little bit, and he sings like him a little bit and he's been doing really good."

Naturally, I was curious to see Greta play with a different singer to see if they were as good as they are with Paul. They were. The similarities between the two singers was incredible. The performance was just as good as it was with Paul and I was certainly not disappointed. Greta has been steadily gaining recognition with radio airplay on college stations and even some mainstream stations but the highlight for them has most certainly been the critical approval of Beavis and Butt-Head. "The thing that really made me feel good, and this really scares me, is the Beavis and Butt-Head thing. To be implemented in a pop-cultural phenomenon is very strange and it made me feel very good. That really scares me that it made me feel good that Beavis and Butt-Head liked us." After this tour Greta's plans are for a week out with Motorhead and then a while with Mutha's Day Out, so make sure you catch the show.

Varga was up next and I must say that they were quite good. Maybe a little tedious or repetitive at times but they held the audiences' attention and seemed to know how to work the crowd. Their music is thrash with a large industrial edge and vocals that are a little closer to singing than most of these type of bands. You get the guys who all want to be Al Jorgensen and fail miserably. That's a definite bonus for Varga.

Shootyz Groove was the next to take the stage and I'm still a little confused as to why they put this band on with Greta and Varga. They did have a very good guitar player and until the vocals began you might think that this was a really heavy normal band. The vocals were rap. They weren't really appropriate to the crowd. I have nothing against rap and tend to like some rare selections but I wasn't too impressed. They were okay for a few songs but then it just started to bother people. Half of them left. I don't like saying that they weren't a good band because they were but they just weren't appropriate for the tour or the crowd. The music itself was very good and the players were very talented, but no matter what anyone says I think it's a very rare thing to get a mix of heavy metal and rap that go well together. LD

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