

# METAL OVERDOSE

NO 1

20 interviews

realm

WATCHTOWER

ANACRUSIS

HADES

SYRUS

SIEGES  
EVEN

dream  
theater

plus articles, vinyl-tape-gig reviews



hi,

Finally, after a long time, and a lot of work on this zine, I'm introducing it to you. I've put a lot of effort in it, and I hope that it shows. First of all, I know that the typing quality isn't very good, but at the moment I couldn't make it better. Originally I was planning to have it printed offset, but after seeing how the typing was, I decided that it wasn't good enough to spend that much money. But #2 will most probably be offset, so look out! Moving onto the contents, as you can see I'm into technical stuff, but I also appreciate all other kinds of metal/HC that have originality, intense, and any good ideas. I don't claim to know too many things, but at least (I think that) I deserve a credit for doing my best. Many interviews didn't come out as I wanted them: One reason is my inexperience, as I seemed to remember all interesting questions after sending off the interviews, and another is that the bands seem not to understand the questions or spend no time on the answers. Anyway that's another reason why I keep the price at 2\$ (the other being the printing quality), as this price makes Metal OD more accesible. I'm waiting to hear your views on the zine, or any other subject-write now. Any band that wants to be featured in this pages should send a tape, and info: objective review and free copy guaranteed !!!

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Every writer expresses his own view that not necessarily is this of the editor, who has no responsibility for them.

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\*\*\*\*PLAYLIST\*\*\*\*

WatchTower/everything  
Cyber Kultur/Synthesis demo 88  
Hades/If at first you don't..LP 88  
Hair Apparent/demos 87-88  
Sieges Even/Life cycle LP88  
Thanatos/The day before...demo 87  
Vomit/Leprosy trk  
Omen/live San Antonio 10-86  
Danger Cross/live Athens 11-2-89  
SA Slayer/Go for the throat LP 85  
Erosion/Mortal agony LP 88

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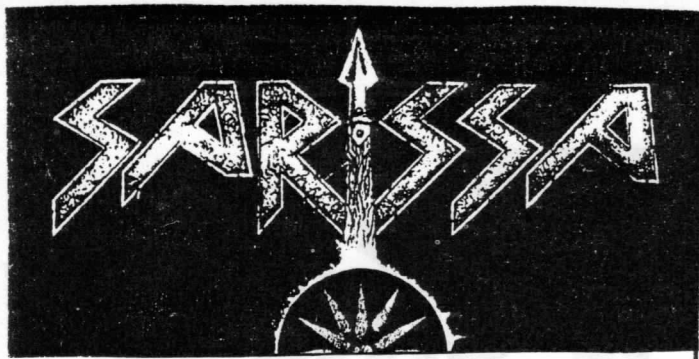
HELLO to all zines, bands and traders out there, and especially:  
Thrash Metal zine (GR), Merciless Death, Gray Matter, Buttface, Steel Shock, Metal Warriors... Hans Kern, Jeff Plagnard, Ulrich Hahn etc

NO THANKS TO EVERYONE NOT SEEN ABOVE except for you my friend !!!

MOSTLY WE PRAISE George Lagaras for lending the typewriter, and anyone who bought this zine !!!

A FREE, GIANT, FULL COLOUR "FUK U" POSTER TO every one who cashed on our money & IRCs, such as Alberto Rossi, Eric Wauters (Whiplash ma9), etc. Also FUK U goes to all postmen that've stolen money-you suck!

Concept, Cover & Layout by  
Manolis & John Papayiannakis



# BURNING BLOOD

Sarissa is a band from the north of Greece, that we all hope will succeed someday. They exist since 1985, and they released their second demo in early 88. As the tape shows, Sarissa is a classy metal act, with influences from the classic hard rock bands, such as D. Purple and Rainbow. Their sound is like a less polished Crimson Glory, with many epic style parts. The line-up is Lyssa (g), Jimmy (b), Fotis (d) and George (v). I think that George has left now, so they should be on the look for a replacement. I regard Sarissa as one of the biggest hopes for the Greek scene, as they are quite original (something that many bands here aren't), and have a more professional attitude. They were featured in Rock Hard mag. some years ago, when their first demo was released, so apart from their fans here, they have some following abroad, and not many bands here do !!!

They should be ready to start work on their new demo soon, a release that I believe will rise them very much. Hopefully they will play here someday, so that we have the chance to witness their classics, such as "Thunder", "War for peace", "Another love" etc live. Anyway, I think that this band deserves your attention. Their address follows, so you know what to do....

SARISSA, Afxendids George,  
Pefka Retziki, Souliou 2, 57010,  
Thessaloniki, GREECE

I'm not sure whether their 9 trk tape is still available, so check out before ordering.



Burning Blood has been one of the less known bands from Greece, yet one of the best. They were one of the first real metal bands here, as they were formed around 83. They only got a good and stable line-up in the period 86/87 when the line-up was: Dimitris (g), Harris (d), Antonis (v) and Pavlos (b). The last one had to leave the band in late 87/early 88, due to his military obligations. The new bassist was Thanos, and he plays on the live tracks of the tape. The band unfortunately broke up lately, due to various reasons, such as (the usual) musical differences, lost of interest (which was caused by the lack of support), etc. Moving to the tape now, it consists of four tracks, two of which are taken from the studio tape, and the other two from a live recording (on March 22, '88) from the band's last show. The sound isn't very good to speak the truth, but it still allows you to see the potential and musicianship. I mostly like the vocal parts of Antonis, as he has a high clear and loud voice, that sounds like a mix of B. Dickinson and K. Diamond. Dimitris' work on the guitar is also admirable, as he's very good on his instrument, a real talent, who despite of the sound problems, gives a fine performance. The band's overall style is quite original, a personal approach, but some influential bands have to be Merciful Fate and Metallica on a smaller dose. Having seen the band live for no less than three times, I know what they were capable of doing but never did. So, if you want to get hold of the tape, just send 4\$ to the Metal OverDose zine address. Along with the tape, you'll get live shots and more info.

# WATCH TOWER

During all these years that I've been into metal, I've seen all of my fave bands falling aside, the one after the other. With one exception: the mighty WatchTower.

Formed back in 82, through all these years of their existence they've presented an alternative type of metal music, for all those who are open minded enough to accept it. In 85 they released their debut LP, "Energetic Disassembly", which despite of the rather poor sound, became a fave amongst all progressive minds, and featured great songs, very strong musicianship and very intelligent, thought provoking lyrics.

Later, guitarist Billy White quit, and was replaced by Ron Jarzombek, who had played with the legendary S.A. Slayer, and various other projects.

Another thing that shows how good players these guys are, is the great rhythm section, with the intense playing on the bass of Doug Keyser matching perfectly with Rick Colaluca's drumming.

1987 saw WatchTower recording a 4-song demo, that was even better than the LP, with tracks, such as "The fall of reason" and "Instruments of random murder". In March of 88, former vocalist Jason McMaster left, to join a poser band, Dangerous Toys. No replacement was reported until lately, and Mike Soliz is now the WatchTower frontman. He surely is a good singer (he has sung for Assalant, Militia and lately Oblivion Knight), but I'm curious to see how he handles live, as anyone who has heard a live tape with Jason (or was lucky to catch 'em live !!!), can reassure that on stage Jason was a monster.

Now WatchTower is in search of a label to sign to, and get the second LP out. In the meanwhile, their song "Dangerous Toy" (which isn't about Jason, but about a polygraph machine) will be featured in an upcoming compilation LP of Noise Int.

I was very interested to find out more on WatchTower, so I send Rick some questions and he answered...

WHY DID YOU HAVE ALL THESE LINE-UP PROBLEMS? YOU SEEMED TO BE A BAND WITH STRONG RELATIONS BETWEEN THE MEMBERS!

Basically, the reason we've had line-up problems, has been impatience on the part of certain band members. WatchTower is not the kind of band that hits it big overnight, and Billy and Jason were tired of waiting for something big to happen. In Jason's case, he was already in another band which was receiving lucrative offers from major labels. Musical differences also played a part in their departures but I think that monetary success

on our part, would have kept them in the band. I'd like to also say that we're all still friends, and we wish nothing but the best for Billy and Jason.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE EX-MEMBERS ARE DOING CURRENTLY?

Jason is currently fronting the band Dangerous Toys. They are a cross between Poison and Guns n Flowers. They are signed to CBS/Columbia and their debut LP should be out soon. Max Norman produced their LP, and they are getting good backing from the label so they might hit it big soon. Billy is now playing with Don Dokken in his new band.

HOW DID YOU FIND MIKE SOLIZ ? WHAT EXPERIENCE DOES HE HAVE ?

We've known Mike for years. Jason played in a band with him years ago (two singers in a band ?-ed), and Mike has also been in Austin bands Militia and Assalant. He has a high voice like Jason's, but it is smoother and his style is somewhat different than Jason's

IS HIS DIFFERENT STYLE GOING TO BRING ANY CHANGES IN YOUR STYLE ?

HOW HAS HE BEEN ACCEPTED TILL NOW BY YOUR FANS ?

Mike's vocal style will not likely have too much bearing on the song writing, but it will definitely change the overall sound of the music. So far we've had good feedback concerning Mike. Many people know of him from his other bands, which has also helped us out.

HOW IS YOUR SEARCH FOR A LABEL GOING ? WHAT ABOUT THE RUMOURS THAT YOU SIGNED WITH CBS ?

So far we haven't found the deal we want, but we will probably sign soon just because we feel that getting the album released is paramount right now. We will most likely sign with a larger indie label, because the majors don't really seem interested. We could have signed with CBS, had Jason not quit, but it's a good thing we didn't, because we later learned that this particular deal would have been

very damaging to the band's future. We hope to record within the next few months, and hopefully have it out by the end of summer.

WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO ACHIEVE WITH IT, AND WHAT DO YOU THINK IS THE PLACE FOR WATCHTOWER IN THE SCENE TODAY ?

We just want to get people to hear our music, and judge it for themselves. We also hope to make a little money for ourselves, because we're all damn tired of having to work straight jobs ! I think WatchTower will eventually piece together it's own peculiar audience. In my mind it will be made up of some metalheads, a lot of Rush fans, some jazz, fusion and progressive rock fans, musicians, and some hardcore fans.

DO YOU HAVE ANY PLANS FOR THE COVER OF THE LP ?

We're not sure of an album cover right now.

NOW THAT YOU FOUND MIKE, ARE YOU GOING TO PLAY ANY SHOWS, OR ARE YOU GOING TO CONCENTRATE ON SONGWRITING

Right now, we are concentrating on a live show (by the time this is printed, we will have played a few times). We're also getting ready for recording the new LP, but we have to sign before we do any recording.

WHAT SONGS WILL BE ON IT ?

The track listing will be : "Control and resistance", "Instruments of random murder", "The Eldritch", "Hidden instincts", "The fall of reason", "Life cycles", "Dangerous Toy", "Mayday in Kiev".



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AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701

I'm a big doom metal fan, but I've always loved to hear ultraheavy doom metal bands like Candlemass and Trouble, for once play a fast song not for the sake of speed, but for the sheer heaviness combined with speed. Alas these bands have not quite been able to fulfill this dream, and although there are of course doom bands like Solitude and Revelation who've been reasonably successful in their endeavours in combining these two extremes, there's only one band I think which has the ability to combine ultraspeed with ultradoom, and that's Anacrusis. Anacrusis are another band which have gained quite a bit of popularity with their "Annihilation complete" demo released in 87, which resulted in a record deal with Axis (which has now changed it's name to Active),

# ANACRUSIS

Interview by Christian Rademaker

and a great debut album: "Suffering hour". On this album, Anacrusis produces the extreme heaviness and low paced doom, on songs like "Butcher's block" and "Twisted cross" to the complex epics like "Present tense" and "Annihilation complete/Disemboweled" to the rabid and total thrash songs like "R.O.T" and "Frigid bitch". Combined with intelligent lyrics and a production which could have been better but still retains a certain amount of aggressiveness and rawness, "Suffering hour" was one of my favorite albums of 88. Because there were a few things I puzzled about, like the three versions of the "Annihilation..." demo, and Anacrusis is a great band which should be supported I decided to write them for an interview. One to many problems beyond my knowledge and capacity, the interview was

delayed. Therefore it might prove to be a little outdated. Anyway, the interview was conducted on tape with Kenn Nardi (voc, guit) and Kevin Heidbreder (guit), whilst the line-up is completed by John Emery (bass) and Mike Owen (percussion).  
HOW LONG HAS ANCRUSIS EXISTED, HAVE THERE BEEN ANY IMPORTANT LINE-UP CHANGES ?

KH: We've been around since mid-86, which is going on to three years and it's been the same line-up since the beginning. John and I, had played together a couple of years before the band came into existence, and then Kenn and Mike joined the band, and everything clicked and we work really well together.

COULD YOU TELL US THE MEANING BEHIND THE NAME "ANACRUSIS" AND HOW DID YOU FIND IT ?

KN: Well the name, basically Kevin came up with he just discovered it in a music dictionary, mainly meaning it's just a reference to the up-beat of the music. And it's just

the second and fourth beat in a measure of music.

YOU RELEASED A DEMO, "ANNIHILATION ABSOLUTE" IN 87, WHY WERE THERE THREE VERSIONS OF IT AND HOW MANY DID YOU SELL ?

KH: This is my favorite question ! I think we got rid of between 500-600 copies of the demo. There were originally 2 versions which were a 5-song, and a 7-song version. The 5-song was meant to send out to radiostations, magazines and record companies. The second one which had 7 songs was available to the public. After about a year of the mailing out and everything, the tape machine kind of "ate" the master tape. So, we went in and recorded the demo, and about 2 additional songs, making it 9 song demo.

HOW DID YOU GET THE CONTRACT WITH AXIS RECS, AND WERE THERE ANY OTHER OFFERS FROM OTHER LABELS ?

KN: We had some interest along in the

(Anacrusis interview...)

way, a few things here and there, but Axis approached us and upfront said they wanted to sign us. And we decided that what they had to offer was really good, so we decided to go with them. We had known one of the representatives, who was familiar with the demo, and he just offered us the deal and we said yes.

FOR HOW MANY LPS IS THE CONTRACT ?

KN: The contract that we have now is just a European contract and it's for the first album and they have the option to pick up the second.

KH: But they also take care of licensing it to the U.S. so they have worldwide distribution excluding the U.S. and then handle licensing it to a company there. I NOTICED THAT YOU HAVEN'T GOT A DISTRIBUTION FOR "SUFFERING..." IN THE U.S. A YET. HAVE THERE BEEN ANY COMPANIES WHO WANT TO DISTRIBUTE IT AND WOULD IT BE EASIER TO SIGN WITH AN AMERICAN LABEL INSTEAD OF A EUROPEAN BECAUSE THE AMERICAN MARKET IS MUCH BIGGER ?

KH: In answer to the first question we are negotiating at this point on several different things, but the album will be out here after the first of the year, and the reason we went with a European label, is because our following was much bigger in Europe to start with, and it has grown all the way around but it was much bigger when we signed in Europe, so we decided that would be a good place to start, and Axis was offering us a good deal, so we decided to go with it.

KN: Plus we really got our start with the review of the original "Annihilation..." demo in Metal Forces, which is mainly an English and European magazine, so that's why we really got a lot of attention from a lot of other European magazines and radio stations. That's where it basically kind of all started out as.

HAVE YOU STILL GOT JOBS, BECAUSE I DON'T THINK YOU WILL BE ABLE TO EARN A LIVING FROM THE PROFITS OF THE ALBUM SALES, AND PRACTICALLY SPEAKING, HOW MANY TIMES CAN THE ALBUM SELL ?

KH: Kenn didn't think we needed all

to have jobs, so we all had jobs but Kenn, until very recently.

KN: We all do work day jobs and mainly the reason behind that besides whatever personal things we need to pay for, we are trying to get out on the road now and a lot of that is going to come from our own pockets. Yes, we do work.

KH: As much as they possibly print (in reference to the second question)

HOW HAS THE ALBUM BEEN RECEIVED BY THE UNDERGROUND/MAJOR PRESS ?

KN: We're doing really well with the media. There's been a lot of interest from a lot of people, and we've done a lot of interviews and have been a lot of good reviews of the album, so the media has helped us tremendously. We're really grateful.

I LIKE THE COVER OF THE ALBUM A LOT, BECAUSE I THINK IT REFLECTS THE DOOMY ATMOSPHERE OF THE LYRICS. HOW DID YOU (KEVIN) MAKE THE PHOTOGRAPH OF THE CATHEDRAL (?) SO FOGGY, AND WHAT IS THE CONCEPT BEHIND IT ?

KH: Actually, you guessed it pretty right. The cover is meant to go along with the lyrics, and so forth and the reason it came so foggy : The picture came from a photograph I took when I was on vacation and when we went through the process of printing it and so forth and so on and bounced it back and forth they got a foggy texture to it and we decided that we really liked the way it looked.

KN: What we basically wanted to do with the cover, is kind of stay away from every cliché as far as possible we could. We wanted to go with something, maybe black and white, something a little different than usual artwork, which usually has skulls and guts and atomic explosions. We wanted to kind of stay away from that and just go with something more kind of somber, more serious along the serious line that our lyrics usually are.

KH: If this makes any sense, we wanted something that stood out simply because it was plain.

YOUR LYRICS ARE VERY INTELLIGENT, BUT ALSO VERY DEPRESSING BECAUSE A LOT OF TIMES YOU PICTURE THE WORLD AS IF IT WAS VERY ILL, SO TO SAY, BUT YOU STILL SAY THAT THERE IS A REMOTE CHANCE FOR IT TO SURVIVE BUT IT WILL BE UP TO THE PEOPLE TO FIND A CURE.

(Anacrusis interview...)

WHERE DO YOU GET THE INSPIRATION FOR THE LYRICS AND DO YOU THINK THAT YOU CAN ACHIEVE A GOAL BY WRITTING THEM, ARE THERE PEOPLE THAT ACTUALLY PAY ATTENTION TO LYRICS, BECAUSE A LOT OF PEOPLE, AND ESPECIALLY IN THE METAL SCENE, ARE IGNORANT OF MATTERS LIKE THE THREAT OF WAR OR THE VARIOUS SOCIAL INJUSTICES IN THIS WORLD ?

( oh, why such a short question? -ed)

KN: Well, to answer the first questions. You say that the lyrics are depressing, now you can look it from different points of view. Now a band that influenced me a lot was Pink Floyd, because their lyrics some people say are depressing, but then a lot of times when you get depressed you turn for things like music to relate to and it kind of almost makes it a little bit better. And I think we just want to make some people aware of the fact that there are a lot of things wrong, and I think that there's a chance that we can try to change it, kind of work together with it. And in answer to the other question, I really do think the listeners do appreciate and get into the lyrics for the most part, because I mean unless you're completely illiterate, you know some what of what's going on, and if you really try it all to get into the lyrics, you'd be able to relate to what's going on around you.

WHY DID YOU WRITE A SONG ABOUT THE SWASTIKA, BECAUSE WRITTING ABOUT HITLER AND NAZI-GERMANY SEEMS TO BE THE TREND LATELY (BANDS LIKE SLAYER, F&J, DESTRUCTION HAVE SONGS ABOUT THAT TOPIC) AND WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED FROM THE HORRORS OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR ?

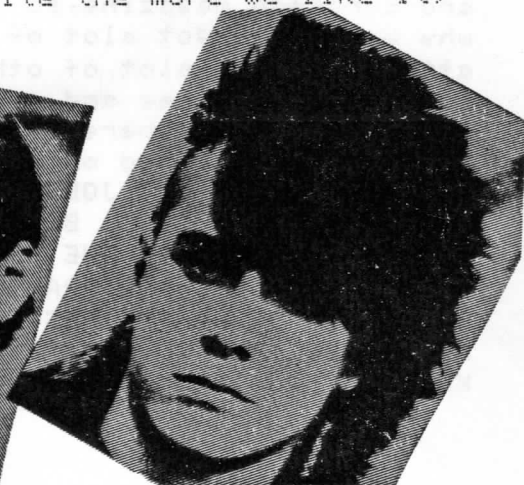
KN: Basically, that song though it

seems trendy now, is a song that I'd written probably about five years ago in the other band I was before Anacrusis. And it was just based on the fact that you can't take one single race of people and claim them to be superior, whatever race this happens to be. Because I think everybody, well there's just a codependency between everybody on the planet, everybody kind of needs little something from everyone else. And rather than trying to just wipe out anybody who's not like you, we should try to work together, and take what you can from each other.

ARE THERE ANY PLANS TO USE THE SONGS "APOCALYPSE", "PENDULUM", "VULTURE'S PREY" OR "INJUSTICE FOR ALL" ON FUTURE VINYL ?

KH: At this point, we're putting together the new material for the album, and we do have some stuff that didn't make the first, and not necessarily because we didn't think the material wasn't good enough, just because we wanted to put the variety that we love on the album. So there are possibilities for those songs in the near future to be on vinyl.

KN: One that we can guarantee is "Injustice for all" will definitely be on there. It's probably maybe better timing that we didn't put that on the first album, I mean it was written before any usage of the title of Metallica's latest album. KH: It's different, it's not "Justice" it's "Injustice", as in I-N-J-U-S-T-I-C-E. So there's a slight difference. So, that should definitely be on there, and we've kind of re-worked "Pendulum" a little bit, and that hopefully will turn up there. We don't want to leave any songs behind in the shadows of what we're doing now. But we're really coming up with a lot of new material, and the newer stuff we write the more we like it.





(Anacrusis.....)

so we'll try to get all the songs, because we have a lot of people writing to us, asking about "Culture's prey" and "Apocalypse". KN: Even if we have to use those songs for the singles or B-sides, you will see them on vinyl.

I NOTICED THAT MOST OF THE NEW SONGS ON THE ALBUM WERE WRITTEN BY KENN NARDI, WILL THE REST OF THE BAND BE INCORPORATED MORE IN THE SONGWRITTING OR WILL IT BE AN INDIVIDUAL EFFORT ?

KN: Actually, it seems as though a lot of the newer songs were written by me solely, but that's simply because a couple of the songs as said "Twisted cross" was an old song of mine, and "Butcher's block" also was an older song of mine from my previous band, and I kind of rewarded that a little bit. And actually, the newest piece of material on the album as far as writing was "Present tense" and that has me and Kevin writing together, and that's basically how it's been working out lately. We get along really well and we're starting to understand each others style a lot better, and we just kind of get together better and sometimes get together for a time and write together. So, I think on the second album you're gonna see a lot more complications of us all writing. John's writing a lot and of course Mike's name doesn't go in with the credit for the writing, he basically is really reative, and everything you hear him play basically comes from his own creativity I guess.

HOW DO YOU SEE THE EVOLUTION OF YOUR MUSIC, WILL YOU KEEP ON RETAINING THAT MIX OF DIFFERENT STYLES ON YOUR NEW ALBUM ?

KH: It's like, I mean I've said this quite a few times before. We like to make each song completely different from any other song, we don't can't hold something constant within a song. So, even as we grow, evolve and expand, you'll still going to hear Anacrusis in each and every song, even though each song will be different from any other we've ever written.

KN: Actually, as far as the difference between the songs are going to go, we've got probably 75% of the new

material that we're probably going to be using for the next album already written as we speak. And the newer stuff, I mean if you think there's variety on the 1st album, there's even going to be more on the next one. ARE THERE ANY PLANS TO TOUR EUROPE OR THE U.S. ?

KN: The album is supposed to be released in the U.S right after the beginning of the new year, and we're going to try to get out in the spring and do some U.S dates definately to support the album. As far as Europe goes, we kind of depend on whatever tour support we get and to finance the situation we have. We have a lot of really good following over there, but it's just going to depend on how much time we have, how much money we have, and definately if not this year, next year after the release of the 2nd LP. HOW IS THE METALSCENE LIKE IN ST. LOUIS ARE THERE MANY PLACES TO PLAY AND ARE THERE SOME PROMISING NEW BANDS ?

KH: The metalscene here in St. Louis has gotten a lot better in the last couple of years. It started out relatively small and the bigger it's gotten like it seems across the nation the bigger it gets here. So, we've gone from seeing attendances from 1 to 200 to 800 to 1000 at shows, you know you that come into town and thing like that so the scene has grown a whole lot.

KN: As far as the local towns, in St. Louis, most of the bands it seems we've been pretty busy with trying to get out on the road and stuff. We're not real familiar with a lot of stuff that is going on, because a lot of the bands that we started playing with have broken up or are changing their format a lot. So it's hard to really make a judgement, but as far as the HC scene, there's a couple of bands that try to deserve some attention. WELL, THIS WAS THE INTERVIEW, HAVE YOU PERHAPS GOT A FINISHING STATEMENT TO MAKE ?

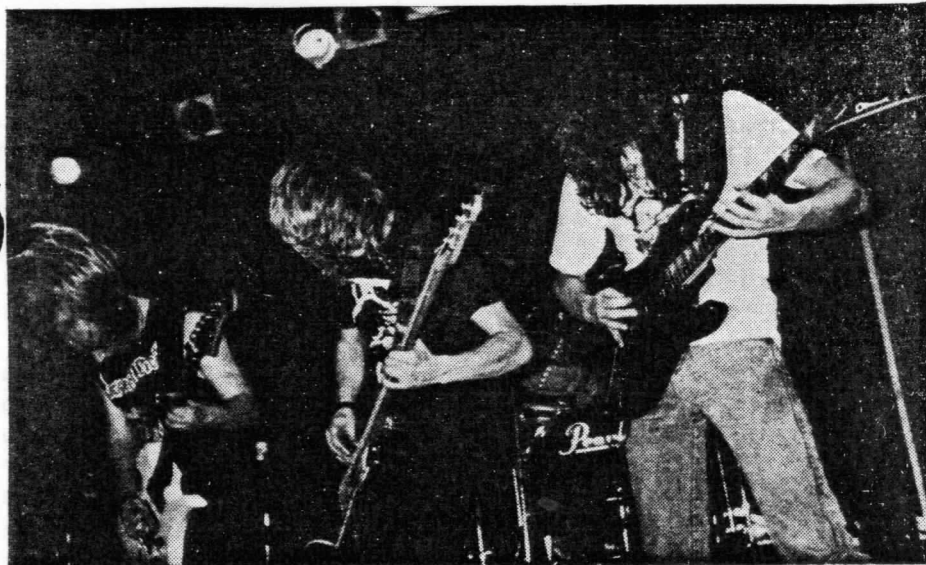
KH: I just like to say thanks for the opportunity in letting us do this interview and thanks to all of the people that have supported us along the way.

KN: And we just want to say try to get hold of a copy of the LP, and one thing we'd like to stress is our lyrics. And we hope everybody can get us into what we have to say and kind of message that we're trying to preach and also we hope just enjoy the music.

For more info concerning Anacrusis, you're welcome to contact them at : ANACRUSIS, 3336 Highgate, St. Charles, MO 63301, U.S.A

# Thanatos

means  
death



This is the real THANATOS not the local ones, that have anyway changed their name now. They've been around for some years and they have many fans everywhere. In 87 they

released an excellent, 3 trak demo, "the day before tomorrow", which got many good reviews. Now they are going to record their fourth demo, and they hope to get the so wanted contract with it, something that they surely deserve. But lets see, what Stephan (g,v) has to say...

WHEN WAS THE BAND FORMED, WHICH WAS THE FIRST LINE-UP, AND WHICH IS THE LINE-UP NOW ?

The band was formed in early 84, the first line-up was: Remio(g), Mortel(d), and Stephan(g,v). The present line-up is: Ed Boeser(b), Remo Van Arnheim(d), Erwin De Brouer(g), Stephan Gebedy(g,v).

YOU'VE RELEASED 3 DEMOS, WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THEM ?

The first two demos are shit ! The sound sucks, the playing is not tight, etc. The 3rd demo is pretty good. The songs are good, but the production should have been alot better. You see "speed kills", and "Rebirth" were recorded without a complete line-up, we got our real good line-up in early 87

WHAT HAS BEEN THE REACTION TO YOUR DEMOS UP TO NOW ?

We've had some very good reaction our demo "speed kills", sold about 400-500 copies, "rebirth" about 500 and the latest one has sold about 600.

WHAT BANDS DO YOU THINK THAT HAVE INFLUENCED YOU ? WHO WRITES THE SONGS ?

In the beginning, we were influenced by bands like Slayer, Metallica, Venom, Mercyful Fate My personal faves are: Slayer, Death, Morbid Angel, Dark Angel, DBC Possessed, Kreator. I wrote most of the old stuff, but now all members work on the new songs.

HOW OFTEN DO YOU PLAY LIVE ? WITH WHAT OTHER BANDS ? WHATS THE REAC REACTION OF THE PEOPLE TO YOU ? HOW MANY DO SHOW UP ?

We play live 2-3 times a month. We've played with Kreator, Messiah

Death Angel, Deathrow, Holy Moses, Napalm Death, and alot of Dutch bands. The number of people who come to see us is always different. We've played in front of 2000 people (w/ Kreator, Death Angel), and we once headlined a show in front of 500 thrashers in Sneek, but when we play alone its usually between 150-300 people. Overall the reaction is quite good-sometimes we have a lame audience, sometimes a great.

HOW IS THE SCENE THERE ? HAVE YOU PLAYED ABROAD ?

The scene is pretty good: we get gigs quite easily, but we've never played abroad yet.

HOW DID YOU GET THE NAME ? WHAT HAPPENED WITH THE GREEK THANATOS ?

We got the name from a Greek dictionary we wanted a name which had something to do with Death, without using the word "death". We wrote the Greek Thanatos a letter, telling that we had the rights to the name, and that it would confuse alot of people when there were 2 bands with almost the same name, so we asked them to change their name.

WHAT ABOUT YOUR LATEST DEMO ?

It was recorded exactly one year ago, Nov 87, the songs are good, but the production and sound is not good.

WHAT ARE YOUR LYRICS ABOUT ? WHAT ARE YOUR INSPIRATIONS ? DO YOUR LYRICS HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE OCCULT ?

The lyrics are printed on the demo cover, the 1st song is about the major and organised crime, "the day before.." is about the end of the world, and "progressive.." is about all the bullshit in Iran. We write lyrics about all kinds of things: social values, politics, peace, war, death, we also have a couple of songs that deal with occult/mystical themes, cause I like

that kind of stuff.  
WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS ? DO YOU HAVE AN OFFER FOR AN LP ?  
We're going to record a new demo in Feb/Mar, we got a few offers, after the last demo, but they were not exactly what we are looking for, so we decided not to sign to those labels. We hope that we'll get a good record deal with the new demo, it's about time!  
DO YOU WANT TO ADD ANYTHING ?  
Yeah, support the underground scene. If you want our demo, order it now, cause it won't be available anymore, as soon as the new tape is released !

# POWERLORD

POWERLORD ? SURELY NOT THE MOST ORIGINAL NAME ER ? BUT IT SURELY SPOTS THE BANDS MOST INTERESTING POINT : POWER !!

TONY GOURLEY (B) ANSWERS ...  
WHEN WAS POWERLORD FORMED ? WHICH IS THE LINE UP NOW ?

Powerlord was formed in 84. Our line-up has never changed.

WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING UNTIL THE RELEASE OF THE EP ? ON WHAT LABEL WAS IT ORIGINALY ?  
Playing shows ! The EP was first released on Powerlord Recs in 86, but only in N. America, Shark Recs picked it up in 88 !  
WHO HAS WRITTEN THE SONGS ON THE EP ? ARE YOU SATISFIED WITH IT ?

We like to say that the whole band did ; But that's only 20% true ! Yes, we're happy with it, remember those songs are at least 4 years old (recorded and released in 86, but written in 84-85)

WAS THERE A REMIX ON THE RERELEASE ?  
There was no remix !

ARE YOU SATISFIED WITH THE PROMOTION OF YOUR LABEL ?

Promotion must be pretty good ; we're getting cards and letters from all over the world !

WHAT ARE YOUR INFLUENCES ? HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR STYLE ?

We listen to everything, metal, punk, jazz, to describe "The Awakening" sound, power metal !

WHAT ARE YOUR LYRICS ABOUT ? WHO WRITES THEM ?

Our lyrics are about stuff ! Again, we all write the lyrics ; 20% true again !

So, you read what Stephan says, don't waste your time, and send the money now, for the THANATOS, "the day before tomorrow" demo, which is for 6\$(cash). Live tape is also available, for 6\$, and T-shirt for 13\$, if you are a THANATOS die-hard !!

\*\*\*ADRESS\*\*\*

THANATOS-STEPHAN GEBEDY,  
DORDTSELAAN 27 F

NL-3081 BD , ROTTERDAM,

HOLLAND



HOW OFTEN DO YOU PLAY LIVE ?  
WITH WHAT OTHER BANDS ? HOW MANY PEOPLE TURN UP ?

We perform once or twice a month, sometimes more ! We've done shows with: Oliver Magnum, Gammaside and many others. The most people we've for locally about 700-least about 300 !

IS THERE ANY CONCEPT BEHIND POWERLORD ? DO YOU HAVE ANY SPECIAL LIVE SHOW ?

There is a concept on "The Awakening", the listener doesn't have to look too hard to find it ! The only stage show we have is powerful music and long hair !

WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING SINCE THE RECORD'S RELEASE ? ANY NEW SONGS ?

Playing shows and writing lots of new songs ! We are trying to save enough money to record the next LP. Some titles are: "Burn Witch", "Decline of Humanity", "Skull Disease",

(POWERLORD Interview cont...)

"Beyond the cellar door",  
"something evil". Too many to list  
all !!

WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS ? ANY  
TOURING PLANS ?

Future plans, we're gonna try to  
release another self financed LP,  
all major investores can write  
us ! Ha ha ! joke ! Don't give up  
on us we'll have some new music  
out soon ! Not sure about touring  
yet, no offers !

YOUR CLOSING WORDS ?

Thanks to everyone who bought our  
EP, don't forget us, play our  
record everyday !

That's all about this power metal band.  
I think that you should-at least-check  
them out, because their music is fresh,  
well played and it shows their  
potential. Write them at:  
POWERLORD, P.O. BOX 95892,  
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73143, U.S.A.

PS: I forgot to mention the line-up:  
Tony Gourley: g / Dane Cook: v /  
/ Bob Gourley: d (he has even played  
with LA bands Slayer, Dark Angel) / Brian  
Massey: b.



Tyrant's Reign is another young band  
coming from America. They've been  
around for some years, but only  
lately did they appear on vinyl!  
The self financed EP "Year of the  
tyrant's", released last year, was  
their debut. It followed a couple of  
demos, but I think that this EP put  
this young band on the map. It  
features 6 songs, all spotting the  
band's abilities: good playing, fast  
music (but not thrash), with some  
very good vocal lines.

Drummer, Gabriel Anthony has alot  
to say ...

WHEN WAS TYRANT'S REIGN FORMED ?

PLEASE GIVE US THE BAND'S STORY !

T.R. formed back in 84, with Randy  
Barron (v), and Karl Miller (g). Then  
Phil Fouch (b) came in late 84, with  
Jeff Bagerfoor (g) and Carlos  
Reeses (d). The first demo release in  
85 I believe was called "Without  
warning". Then after I joined  
in Dec 17, 85 replacing Carlos. We  
put out a demo entitled "Untamed",  
in Sept 86. Then in April 87, Chris  
Nelken joined replacing Jeff on  
guitar. Soon to follow the "Year of  
the Tyrant's" EP recording, released  
in Sept 87.

WHAT ABOUT THE "UNTAMED" DEMO ?

HOW DID IT DO ?

This was the first demo I recorded  
with T.R.. We had the urge to go  
into the studio to record our new  
songs WE had wrote as a band. Plus  
we needed to put out a new product  
at the time. Fans and mags gave it a  
good review along with gaining  
popularity locally and  
internationally. We sold about 500  
copies of it.

HOW DID YOU GET THAT NAME ? IS THERE A  
SPECIAL MEANING INTO IT ?

The name was thought up by Randy and  
Karl. At first we were, or should I say,  
THEY were called Reign, but it seemed  
too plain, so Tyrant's was added.

Tyrant's : an absolute ruler,

Reign : royal power, to rule over.

I guess there is no real concept to  
the name, but you can figure it out for  
yourselves.

HOW AND WHEN WAS THE RECORD MADE ?

The record was recorded in April and  
May of 87, and released in Sept 87.

ALL self financed, self produced, self  
distributed. We were tired of recording  
demo tapes, we wanted it on wax .

(a demo EP). We saved our money as a  
business to record the EP from doing  
shows.

HOW OFTEN DO YOU PLAY LIVE ? WITH WHAT  
OTHER BANDS ?

We 've been playing ou t since May  
of 86. Our first show was a free  
promotional concert held in an area  
district park, which was a success. Since  
then we occasionally get out of town to  
do shows in the Midwest area of the  
States. We've played throughout the  
Chicago area, with bands such as  
Trouble, Zoetrope, Quickchange, Realm and  
Tattoo. It's pretty hard to get lined-up  
with national acts, since they come  
through town with back-up bands who  
tour with them through their agencies.  
We will be there someday .

WHAT IS YOUR STAGE SHOW ? WHAT IS THE  
REACTION ?

Our stage show consists of lights,  
smoke, fire, bombs, and LIVE action. The  
fans react with intense headbanging,

(Tyrant's Reign interview)

,slamming and crowd participation. We usually can draw a huge all-age crowd minimum 200 to count. Maximum we play at our own headline show was 900 people, believe it or not !  
HOW DID THE RECORD SELL ? ARE YOU SATISFIED WITH IT ?

The record is selling quite well even though we haven't got a US distributor. They seem to move well in W. Germany and Italy. We have a distributor in W.G.. We distribute in the States without proper advertising, and it's very hard to sell. It takes good financial backing, one thing many bands don't have. Satisfaction guaranteed for the amount of time and money spent. Total 4000\$ for recording and pressing, and packaging. Although recording could have been better along with the mix down. That's where time and money come in.

WHO WRITES THE SONGS ? WHAT ARE YOUR LYRICS ABOUT ?

Randy writes most of the lyrics. But occasionally I, myself write lyrics. The whole band writes the music. Actually, one guitarist comes up with an idea and everyone adds his bits & pieces. Karl usually comes up with ideas along with Chris, and I would arrange the songs. I really don't think we're stuck on one subject to sing about. We sing about real life, along with not-so-real life subjects.

WHAT ARE YOUR INFLUENCES ? HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR MUSIC ?

The influences are very wide in variety, which range from Rush to Metallica, to Sex Pistols. Each member has his own influence from each others backroud. Our music has been described as heavy metal bordering on thrash, with melodic vocals and split second changes. Intense at times and full of energy.

DO YOU HAVE ANY NEW SONGS ? WHAT ABOUT YOUR FUTURE PLANS ?

We have many new songs, waiting to be recorded and currently writing more. However we feel we'll just wait, for our debut album to release them. Why waste them on demos. Our manager is currently

working with Metal Blade and Def Jam in hopes we can gain their support, and in the future release an album under a label and see to a worldwide distribution in the future. Until then we will keep jamming and keep spreading our word to the metal underground. We do plan a small Mid-west tour of our central states in the spring to cities like Milwaukee WI, Cleveland OH, Detroit MI, St Louis MO, and so on. But this will take months of planning and lots of money. Our dedication and hunger will keep us together, because we believe we have got something here.

YOUR CONCLUSION ?

I'd like to tell the listener and reader, we are not trying to upstage any other act nor trying to copy any others' style. We play OUR music in OUR way. And we would like to show as many people as possible OUR style of metal. Support the underground... Although many people probably have their own opinions on who we sound like.

This was the drummer of T.R., who lately wrote me that they have moved to a new rehearsal place, they write new songs and try to raise money so as to get into the studio to record. They also play some shows, the latest one on Jan 6th. Also I am not sure whether the EP is still available or not, but I guess that at least the tape version is. So keep your hands out, get your pens and write them at:

TYRANT'S REIGN  
P.O. BOX 1653  
CALUMET CITY , IL 60409  
\*\*\*USA\*\*\*



# NWOGRTM

DEATH COURIER, ACETIC VOICE, and SADISTIC NOISE are three young, new Greek bands, with one thing (and not only...) in common: their love for everything that's fast, heavy and noisy. The first one, Death Courier, doesn't even have a proper tape, but just some rehearsals and lives. They surely ain't the best band on this earth (but who claims so anyway...), and their style, as written elsewhere is pure death. This as you understand means, that they are not too technical, and judging from their influences, you can see their style. So, main influences are Death, Bathory, Sodom and so on. They were formed one year ago, and the line-up is: Jim-dr, Billy-bs/vc, Teo-gt, with the last one being the best player. The sound on the tape I've got is far from good, esp on the vocals that sometimes are too loud. They had told me that they would try to enter the studio for a demo, but it seems that nothing's happened yet. Some of their songs are: "Dawn of doom", "Mass impalement", "Lonely mad dead", "Necrophania", "Death Courier" and they also cover Destruction's "Mad butcher", Bathory's "Call from the grave" and Death's "Evil dead". Moving on the second band, Acetic Voice, who hail from the north, and have lately released a 7-trk tape, "Under attack". This was planned to be a studio tape, but it turned out to be just a rehearsal. Their style is quite different to this of Death C., as they are better musicians, but the final project doesn't make me jump in the air, as with D.C.. Their influences seem to be bands such as Destruction, Wehrmacht, Kreator, etc. The big problem that I think they have is their very poor songwriting. The songs are 100% predictable, typical thrash, with nothing new to offer. The line-up is: Maniac Jim(dr), Dai(b), Flip(v), Mad Max(g), Thrashman George(g). They exist for about a year, and till now they've played 3 times live, with good reaction by the local thrashers. They hope that they will soon play some dates with Flames the biggest thrash band in Greece.



Last but not least is the band of Nik Tagalos (also known as "Flesh"). It's a one-man band, just like Bathory used to be, and also the only studio tape reviewed here. Titled "Black and chaos" this tape is a good attempt (for one person !!!) in the very heavy and noisy style that combines Death metal, with some noisy influences. It has 6 songs, and total running time around 10 minutes, and some titles are, "Rape of nature", "Necrobutter", "Dog fight", and so on... Surely not my cup of tea, as I never loved Bathory the major influence here. The production is not very good, the vocals are TOO loud, and the rest too much in the background. I know that many death freaks like this tape, so after all it might not be that bad if this is your style.

# SADISTIC NOISE

All three tapes are for 5\$ each, at the following addresses:  
Acetic Voice, Macedonias 12, 54642 Thessaloniki, Death Courier, Efesu 54, Ano Omvria, 26500 Patra, Sadistic Noise, Meandroupoleos 19-27, 11524, Athens  
All in Greece of course.

# DREAM DEATH

Once upon a time, there was a band called Celtic Frost. They were the leaders of the death metal wave for many people. Now, some years later, C.F. after some (!!!) line-up changes, sounds more like an experimenting Motley Crue, than a leading death metal band. And there is the problem... Who takes the title of the death king?

Many bands are suggested, but my opinion is that Dream Death, is much closer to the title than the other rivals. After the release of 2 demos they signed to NRR, and their debut was released some time ago. The line-up on it was: Mike Smail: d, Ted Williams: b, Brian Lawrence: v/g, Terry Weston: g. This LP got some really good reviews, but also many people slagged them off as C.F. riff-offs, which is not fair. Mike Smail answered my questions...

WHEN WAS D.D. FORMED?

Dream Death was officially formed in 85, when we finally got a bass player (Ted). Brian and I (Mike), have been playing together since we were little kids, which we still are on both accounts.

HOW DID YOUR DEMOS DO?

The demos did pretty well. Everybody I ever talked to, liked them. I can remember only one bad review. NRR was about the only label that showed any interest.

HOW DID YOU GET THE DEAL?

We sent our 1st demo, and they rejected it. Then we sent our 2nd demo, which led to the album deal.

HOW DID THE RECORD DO?

I don't actually know any exact numbers, we're having a bit of problem with the record statements, but as far as I can tell, the sales are good, because the reaction was great. WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT PEOPLE TELLING YOU ARE A CELTIC FROST CLONE?

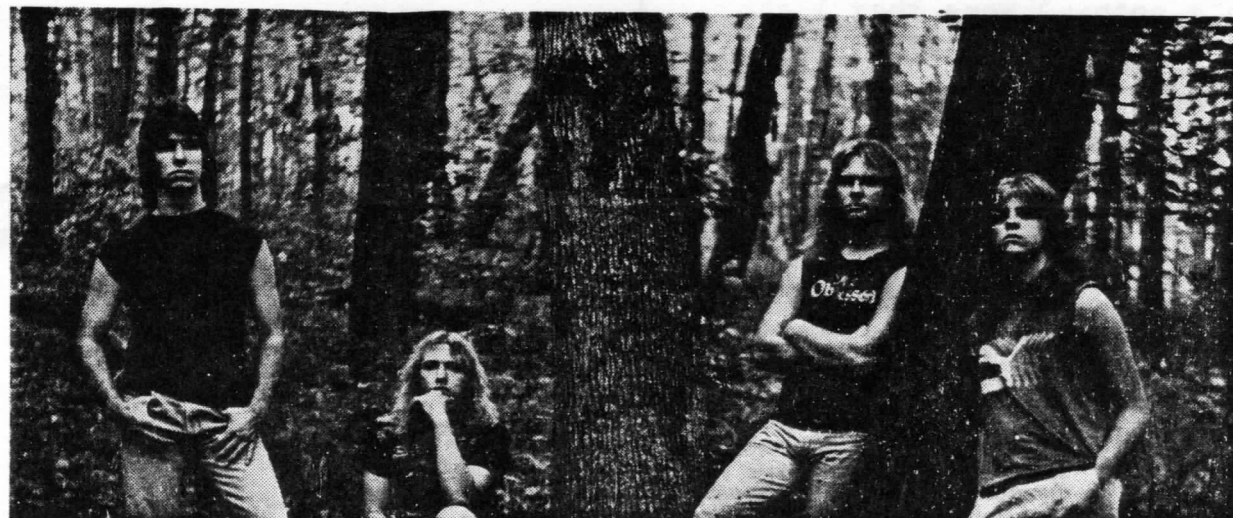
I don't mind them, what are you going to do about it anyway. Everybody has their own opinions anyway. I used to be a big C.F. fan. I loved "To megathe..." and "The emperor's...". I hate the new stuff though. Our old stuff resembled them somewhat, because of the fastest chord patterns of our songs, but with the new stuff I don't think that anybody will say that. We never copied anyone, because we want to be original, and we take pride in our originality. On the other hand, I don't care what people think, because we play to please ourselves first.

HOW DO YOU DESCRIBE YOUR STYLE? WHAT OTHER BANDS PLAY THIS STYLE? INFLUENCES?

We play a doomier style. The new album is much more doomier than the last one. This stuff is some of the heaviest stuff I've ever heard, to be blunt. Older bands, such as B. Sabbath, old Angelwitch, Trouble, Obsessed. Lots of NWOBHM stuff. We're old metal fans, from the early days. I don't like much of the stuff that's out today.

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT YOUR LYRICS? WHO WRITES? ANY INSPIRATIONS?

Obviously we like them, or we wouldn't have written them. Brian and I split the lyrics & music, but Terry's been writing some music on the new album.



(Dream Death int...)

We like to write about horror stories. I read alot. I'm a big R.E. Howard, M. Moorcock, H.P. Lovecraft fan. I get some ideas from stuff like that. We also write stuff that is pissing us off, whatever's on our minds.

DO YOU HAVE ANY NEW SONGS ?

We haven't recorded any, but all the songs are basically done. As I've said before, they're the heaviest thing we've done, and some of the heaviest stuff I've ever heard. Some titles are: "Eulogy", "In spite of you", "Born to suffer", "A wayfarer's tale", "The unseen", "Dying day", "Doom's minstrels", and a couple others. The new LP should be out on NRR, but I can't say for sure. Hopefully soon.

HOW OFTEN HAVE YOU BEEN PLAYING LIVE ? WITH WHAT OTHER BANDS ?

WHAT IS THE REACTION ?

We don't play out that much, and lately we haven't been playing at all. We play with some local bands and some bigger acts that come through. The people give us a good response when we play, everybody seems to enjoy themselves. The numbers vary with when you're playing and who you're playin with.

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR THE FUTURE ANY TOURING PLANS ?

We'd like to, but right now we're broke ! We just want to keep putting quality music out, and hopefully someday make a living on it.

ANYTHING YOU FORGOT TO SAY ?

Thanks for everything, and watch for the new album, "Ode to sorrow".

There's nothing more that I can say about this fine death/doom act so write them at:

DREAM DEATH: Mike Smail,  
R.D. Number 1, Box 2200, Leechburg,  
PA 15656, U.S.A.

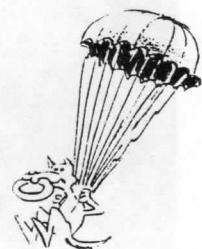
## EXTREMA

EXTREMA is a young band from our neighbour country, Italy, where things seem to have started rolling. They consist of Alex Ghilardotti(b), Tommy Massara(g), Andrea Boria(g), Cristiano Dalla Pellegrina(d) and Gianluca Perotti(v). Their only release till now is a 12" single, on which unfortunately I can't express my view since I haven't heard it, and they could be working on an LP right now. I'm talking on the basis of a live tape I got, where the listener can spot the potential. They play a very interesting style of power/speed metal, with some thrash and classic metal influences. They once opened for Slayer in their tour there, a fact that doesn't need any kind of explanation. They have also been playing in clubs there, with other locals, mainly hardcorers. What I like mostly in their music, is their ability to play more in the Bay area riffing territory, yet remaining fresh and original. They are also very good as musicians, especially Tommy on lead guitar, and Alex on the bass. Some tracks on my tape are "We don't care" (which incidentally was the title track on their single), "Massacre" an instrumental that lives up to its title, "Rebels die hard" etc. A fine case I tell you this is, so get ready to write them at: Extrema, Tommy Massara,  
Via Clitumno 22, 20131 Milano,  
ITALY

The only problem I think is that he may not be speaking english, so be prepared for the worse....

## GRAY MATTER

Yoi The fourth issue of Gray Matter has been unveiled. As usual, a spectroscopic analysis reveals an incredible cross section of alternative musical types. Interviews with: Faith No More, Exodus, Youth of Today, Verbal Assault, Paradox, Angkor Wat, Nuclear Assault, and Toxik. Plus, there are interviews with rising underground bands as well. This issue is well stocked with opinionated, but highly objective vinyl reviews. The usual, gigantic, underground demo review section is still intact. There are some interesting editorials/viewpoints this time around, too. Show reviews, artwork, zine advertisements, and shock value presentations are all here. Send \$3 ppd. (\$4 outside of U.S./Canada) to: GRAY MATTER / 5319 Peterson Ct. / Flower Mound, TX 75028 / USA. Please make checks payable to Chris Orloski. Hey, send in a list of fave demos/LP's (10 each). Copies of #3 still available, same price. 300 name mailing lists (bands, stores, consumers, label, etc.) available for \$1 ppd. G.M. T-shirts \$5 (L only). Shirts are \$8 overseas.







If you take a look in the metal mags, you will find many straight ahead class metal acts getting good reviews and so on. And what you see is nothing, because Oliver Magnum, haven't released yet their debut. I think that it will at least rise them in the highest territories. With a very strong demo in their hands (O1986), they've signed a deal, and their LP should be out soon. I didn't hope to get that interview, as I had sent it over in June. But suddenly, some 7 months later, it arrived !! The reason-they wrote me-for this long delay, was that they had been on a long tour.

Of course nobody's perfect, and the handwritting of Dan Kurtz (b), was the worst I've ever seen, so he has to forgive me if there's any mistake.

WHEN WAS O.M. FORMED, AND BY WHOM ? ANY LATE LINE-UP CHANGES ?

We were formed in 84. Monte (Humphrey-g), Curt (Daugherty-d), and myself had all been jamming together for years. We've changed vocalist, James Jacson Randal is the new singer (replacing Mark Muelier who sung the demo-ed).

WHAT ABOUT THE O1986 DEMO ? HAVE YOU MADE ANY OTHER RECORDINGS ?

We released the demo two years ago, with David Brown help producing it. Other recordings available are Metal Cruelty and Metal Massacre 9 (w/ "Old world nites" on it-ed).

HOW MANY SONGS DO YOU HAVE ?

We have a total of 38 originals. Our LP, due out in late January on Transatlantic/Enigma, features songs from the demo and others.

HOW DID THE DEMO DO ?

The demo sold real well. In the US it did great, as in W. Germany. We got all rave reviews ranging from Metal Forces to the local zines here. The demo also heloed us to get alot of record offers.

HOW DO YOU WRITE YOUR SONGS ? WHAT BANDS DO YOU CONSIDER TO BE YOUR BIGGEST INFLUENCES ? HOW DO YOU DESCRIBE YOUR STYLE ?

We write as a band, mostly music

# OLIVER MAGNUM

before lyrics, but not always. We like to think of our music as power metal. We like other bands such as Thin Lizzy Maiden, Manowar, Marillion, etc  
CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE CONTENT OF YOUR SONGS ?

To describe every song of the demo would take just a little too long, but of late, we're writting about murders, young love gone bad, horrifying situations.

WHAT ABOUT YOUR PLAYING LIVE ?

We've toured on the US Roadkill tour for quite some time. It's been about a year on the road. We've toured with Anthrax, Metal Church, Jag Panzer, Sweet Savage, Armored Saint, etc. A lot of head-line dates though. The crowds usually vary about 600-1500 people.

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE SCENE NOW ?

HOW IS THE SCENE THERE ?

The scene has picked up a bit. Sacred Reich will be here shortly. I like glam thrash, crossover, as long as it's good music. The scene here is real bad, but there are some really good bands, (at this point he mentioned some bands, but it was impossible to make out which ones-ed). I like Gammaside and Pantera alot right now.

HOW OLD ARE YOU ?

Monte is 22, Curt 23, I 23, James is 26.

YOUR FUTURE PLANS ?

We are going to tour in support of the LP, and we have 3 more LPs to go.

YOU WERE ON METAL MASSACRE 9, DID METAL BLADE MAKE YOU AN OFFER ?

Metal Blade hasn't offered us a deal, but that's fine, cause we signed with whom we wanted.



(Oliver Magnum Int...)

IS THERE SOMETHING ELSE YOU  
WANT TO SAY ?

We have tour T-shirts for sale  
and Metal Cruelty demos. Shirts  
are 14\$, tapes 5\$, US funds.

I can say no more about this  
brilliant metal band. Make sure  
you don't miss their LP, it's  
gonna be huge !!!

Write'em at :

OLIVER MAGNUM

P.O. BOX 3951, ENID,

OKLAHOMA 73702, U.S.A.

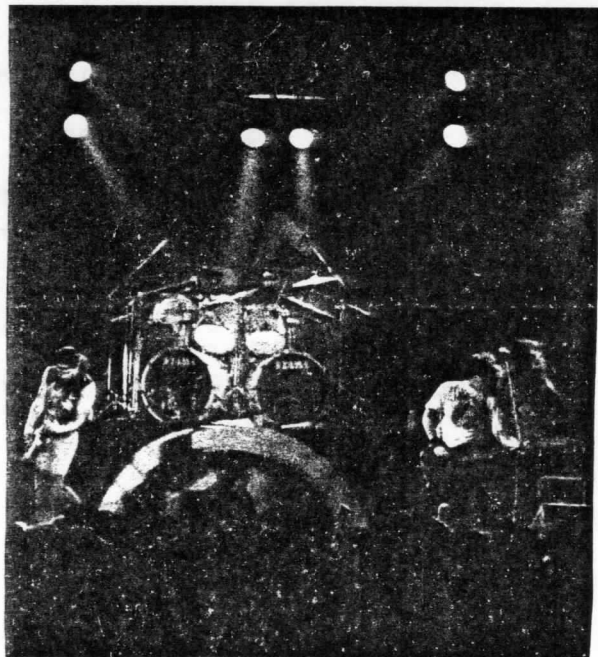
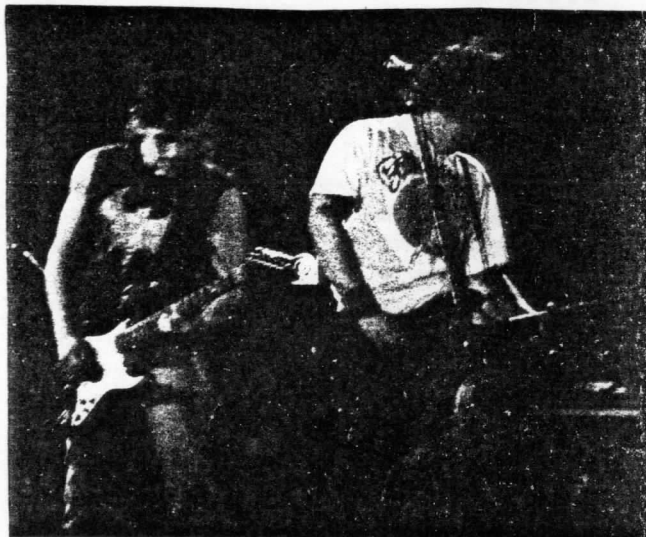


## FRONTROW REPORT

D.R. I/GANG GREEN/PESTILENCE  
FRANKFURT, 21-12-88

I knew about this gig before starting off  
my trip to Germany, and I was looking  
forward to it. You see I was curious to  
to see how DRI is live. I am a fan of  
their HC days, and their latest 2 LPs are  
not my faves, but the live situation is  
always different, ain't it ? Opening act  
was the Dutch Pestilence, the thrashers  
with an LP on RoadRunner. I have never  
been really interested in them, as their  
typical thrash approach doesn't reach me.  
They played a set of around 30-40 minutes  
consisting of songs from both their LP  
and demo. The people were remarkably good  
with them, so overall their show was a  
success, but I still can't see the reason  
why they smashed their equipment !!!  
Second band on the bill was the skatecore  
gang, Gang Green. Unfortunately, Chris their  
guitarist had a serious problem (I think  
his father had died), so he couldn't come  
to play. That's why they played a total of  
very few songs, including "Let's drink some  
beer" (during which they offered beer to  
the fans !) and the highlight "Alcohol".  
Overall a fair performance, but not  
without a reason.....

Last was DRI the old kings of HC, that now  
most of their old HC fans accuse of  
selling out. They seemed to be in a very  
good mood, and they surely did their best.  
Fortunately they did play some old tracks  
that by the way had the biggest crowd  
participation. These songs were "Couch  
Slouch", "Reaganomics", "I don't need...",  
"Violent Pacification", with the last  
being the best of the show. They also  
played tracks from "Crossover" & "4 of.."  
the ones I remember are "Redline", "FIVE  
year Plan", "Hooked", "Go die", "Mad man",  
"All for nothing"...



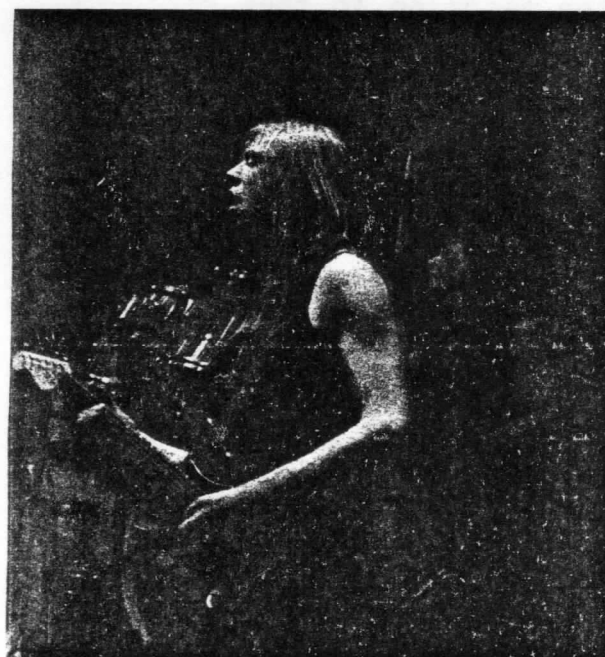
(D.R.I. gig review...)

D.R.I. was very good on stage, much better than their video shows, and they made all the people happy. I must admit though that I expected them to be much different, not just banging and walking around !!! Also the German HC-thrashers I must say are ignorant compared to Greeks !!! There were not more than 400-500 people there, and only about five were diving, plus there was no slamming !!! Anyone who was here at the Sodom gig, will point out that the divers & slammers were about 50...

There was also a very funny moment when two divers, not having noticed the one the other smashed their heads in the air, and all the venue saw them and laughed !

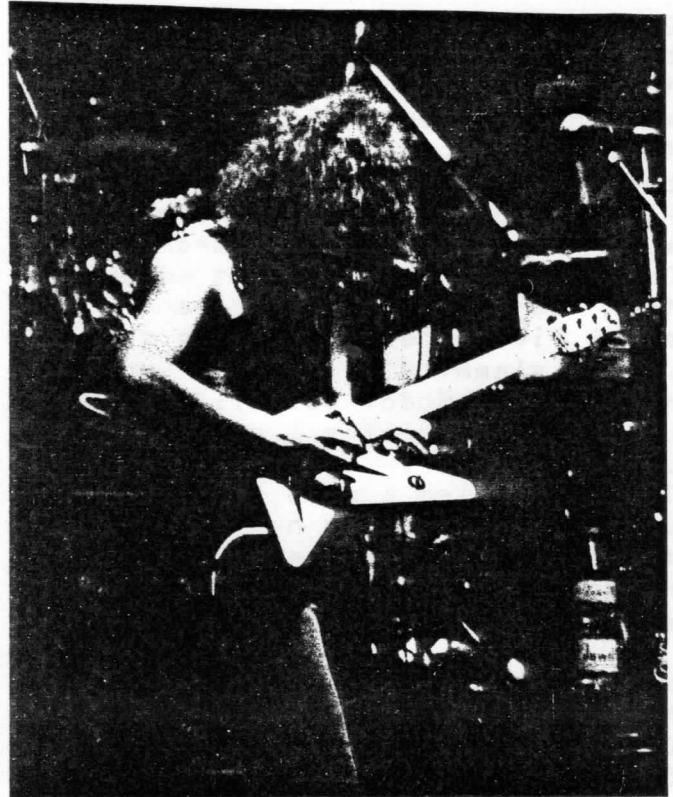
NO SLEEP TILL 89 FESTIVAL  
MOTORHEAD/SACRED REICH/DESTRUCTION  
CANDLEMASS/CORONER  
DUSSELDORF, 28-12-88

Originally, it was supposed that Venom and Celtic Frost would play but (fortunately), there were some changes on the bill, and Sacred Reich appeared. Opening act was Coroner, the Swiss trio. They were not bad, but not being familiar with their records, I can't really judge 'em. They did sound good, the songs were OK, but they didn't seem being able to fill the stage with their presence. Second band were the doom gods, Candlemass... Total darkness and "Marche Funebre", leads to the annihilating riff of "Well of souls". All guys are on stage, exactly as we know them... Messiah, in his black clothes, running around, banging and jumping in the air (despite his weight), and performing his best through songs such as "Solitude", "At the gallows end", "The bell of...". He was very good in the old stuff, and the other newer guys too. They all delivered the goods very well, and they were accepted very well, by the 2000 or more metalheads. Another new song that they played was "MirrorMirror" another goodie. I was especially impressed by guitarist Lars Johansson, he was great !! I think that their closing track was their Sabbath medley, but I'm not sure as in the toilet you couldn't hear clearly...



(No sleep till 89...)

Next band was the German thrashers, Destruction, who playing in front of a crowd they were familiar with, really made a great deal. Mike had a broken leg, and was sitting on a chair, playing his guitar, a fact that showed his will to play. They started with "Mad butcher", one of my faves. The sound was great, you could hear clearly all instruments, and this helped them very much (the same goes for the other bands too). Next songs were "Unconscious ruins", "released from agony", and I liked these versions much more than the studio ones. "Reject emotions", "Invisible force" and their best track till now, "Bestial Invasion" followed, with the last being their best moment on the show. A guitar solo from Harry was next, and a couple of other songs that closed a very successful appearance. Sacred Reich took then the stage, but unfortunately, the people there didn't appreciate them very much, so the reaction was rather poor. S.R. was very good though, and presented a short, tight, thrashy set, consisting of songs, not only from their two releases ("Administrative decisions", "Victim of demise", "Death squad", "One nation"), but also a new one "I don't know", which proved to be a real killer. They also played their Sabbath cover, "War pigs", which was much better than any other attempt to cover songs of B.S. The band that most people had come to see was Motorhead (but not I!). So the reaction to them was very good (almost as good as in their Greek dates!). They disappointed me though, as on stage they seemed old, tired, and predictable. Last year when I saw them here, I liked them very much, but that day they were boring, awful! They started their set with "Dr rock", and they also played "Built for speed", "Eat the rich", "Killed by death", "Ace of spades" and "Overkill" among others. Proof of the fact that I did not like them, is that I left before they finished "Overkill", their closing track.



SODOM/FLAMES/NIGEL FOXXES INC  
ATHENS,RODON,11-12-88

This was the first really big thrash gig here,no other foreign thrash band had ever appeared,so you can guess how we all were waiting for this night,even if Sodom isn't any kind of special band for me (but still a historic one).Opening act was Nigel Foxxe's INC,one of the best bands here,and especially on their live shows.As you can read in the LP review,I always like 'em live even though both their LPs have been disappointing.They were good as always,and they performed songs from both their LPs,such as "Fear" "War of the Godz"."Thanatos"(the bands previous moniker) and they closed their set in style,with their version of the classic R'n'R tune "Great balls of fire",which also appears on the Greek comp.LP. Thanks God,no Lord's singing here! Generally they were accepted OK by the local thrashers,even if there were a few that were kinda rude.There were lots of people slamming'n'diving,showing in this way the lust of people for live thrash...

Second on the bill was Flames,who with the recent release of "Summon the dead" on Black Dragon seem to be accepted as the biggest band here (and they really are-the biggest joke!).I never liked them and I never will.Their music is an original riff-off and nothing more.Plus they are not real thrashers,but just trends.Last but not least,they're said to be nazis,surely not my cup of tea.The big name was of course Sodom,and the 800 or so people had come for them.Their set was around 70 min long,and consisted of songs such as "Blasphemer"."Obsessed by cruelty"."Persecution mania" and so on.They also played two covers: Motorhead's "Iron fist" and Tank's "Don't walk away".Slamming and diving was beyond belief,it seemed that every single corpse in that venue went for a round! Their sound was not bad,a fact that helped alot.Tom's Greek proved to be rather bad (the same with his english!),but he did OK in terms of talking to the people.Surely,Sodom didn't perform their best,but a good debut for Greece.



## DANGER CROSS

Danger Cross is a young Greek thrash metal band.Formed in early 86,they feature Johnny on vocs and guitar,Nick on the bass,and Mike on the drums.Despite of their age (Johnny:15,Nick:16, Mike:12),they surely compete (almost) all of the local underground bands in terms of originality and intense.They claim old Celtic Frost,Slayer and Sodom to be their biggest influences,and they really are! But no copying or riff-offs here! Just pure death,by guys strongly into this music.Till now,they haven't released any studio tape,they have a couple of reh-tapes,and I've got a tape from their first gig (supporting Nigel Foxxe's INC),which proved to be quite successfull!!! They were a bit shocked on stage,and they didn't know how to handle properly a live situation,but fortunately they didn't fail to show their abilities.The songs they played were:"Mutilation","Sacrifice","My last request","Heavenly death","Only death is real",and a cover,"Countess Bathory".My fave tracks were the first and the fifth,with the latter being also featured on the Greek compilation.Of course D.C. still have lots of things to learn,but they've got enough time ahead of them,and I can foresee a good future.I'm afraid that at the moment I don't have their adress,but you can write me for some info,or I can pass any letters to the band members.

# REALM



Realm is another of these so called "progressive thrash" bands, and they really are !!! They had their debut album released lately by RR, and it surely lives up to our expectations. It even features a killing cover of the old "Eleanor Rigby" of The Beatles, that everyone has liked.

Takis Kinis, lead guitar (who by the way has Greek origins) answered my questions...

CAN YOU GIVE US REALM'S STORY TILL NOW IN BRIEF ?

Realm was formed in the summer of 85, with founding members Takis, and Paul. At that time, the first demo, "Perceptive incentive" was released. "Final solution", the second demo (87), was recorded with a new rhythm section, Steve Post(b), and Mike Olson(d), as well as Jim Bartz, producer. Mark Antoni was added as vocalist prior to the release of the debut album, "Endless war".

WHAT ABOUT THE LP ? ARE YOU SATISFIED WITH IT ?

The LP was recorded in Waukesha, Wisconsin, near our hometown, and mixed in Illinois. It has been released world-wide, and we're happy with the sound, especially with Jim Bartz producing. He's a whiz kid.

WHAT DIFFERENCES DO YOU SEE BETWEEN THE LP AND YOUR LATEST DEMO ?

We had alot more time with the LP than with the demo. It was a great learning experience.

WHAT HAS BEEN THE REACTION TO REALM TILL NOW ?

It's been very positive, we've been getting good reviews, and lots of mail from everywhere around the world. We've sold about 4000 copies of "Final...", and requests are still coming in.

The album has already sold out the first pressing. Our shows lately have been really wild. We draw a wide variety of fans from skin heads to pop rocker, and they all go so nuts !

DO YOU HAVE ANY PLANS FOR A BIG TOUR ?

Lately, we've been playing shows throughout the central U.S., including a tour with Testament and Raven. We are planning a cross country tour for this spring, including a bunch of European shows. Watch out for our live show. If you like the LP, you'll love us live even more.

HOW DID YOU GET YOUR RECORD DEAL ? ARE YOU SATISFIED WITH THE PROMOTION YOU HAVE GOT ?

Roadrunner initially contacted us when they heard our first demo. We remained in contact, and kept sending them tapes and videos, until an agreement could be reached. We are very satisfied with their promo. At first we thought we weren't gonna get that much, but it seems like any metal fanzine I pick up has an ad for our album in it.

WHO WRITES THE SONGS IN REALM ? WHAT ARE YOUR INFLUENCES ?

We all collaborate on song writing, because we have unique perspectives and influences that give the songs that "Realm" sound. Our sound is based on influences ranging from old 60's-70's rock, and metal to today's underground scene. It's hard for us to judge what bands we sound like, 'cause everyone has such unique tastes. That's why we sound the way we do.

WHAT DO YOU USUALLY SING ABOUT ? WHAT ARE YOUR INSPIRATIONS ?

We like to stress positive things in our lyrics, and tell stories. Like the

(Realm interview...)

song "Eminence" is about a dream Paul had, in which he would wake up in a dream because of a loud pounding which no one else can hear. Eventually, he stumbles outside his house, to look up the hill where Christ is being crucified, but no one paid attention. And it was a reoccurring dream. Basically, all our songs have some type of story behind them.

WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS ?

After touring this spring, we'll return to the studio to work on the next album, and then hit the road again.

CLOSING NOW, WHAT IS YOUR RELATION TO GREECE ? SHOULD WE EXPECT YOU TO COME HERE ?

I am not from Greece, but both of my parents are from Patras. I know how to speak Greek, and write it, and I can't wait to come over there and check out the nude beaches I hear so much about.

Well, what else can we do than wait for you to come over, and see you Takis. And all you readers, what about checking out this great band ?

REALM, P.O. Box 13841, Milwaukee, WI 53213, U.S.A.



I guess that all of you are familiar to Hades, one of the leading techno-speed bands. They recently released the follow up to "Resisting success" (their debut), and it's titled "If at first you don't succeed". This 2nd LP, must've opened many doors to them, as most of the reviews it got were very positive. Dan Lorenzo, Hades' guitarist, was kind enough to answer my questions, even though his answers are too short...

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE SINCE THE LP WAS OUT ?

We've signed with a booking agency, GTI DO YOU PLAN AN EURO-TOUR ?

In the end of May, we'll be in Holland, W. Germany, Belgium and London.

ARE YOU SATISFIED WITH THE PROMOTION OF YOUR LABELS ?

They've done a good job, but we don't make too much money.

DID YOU TOUR AFTER YOUR FIRST LP ?

We did about 45 shows after "Resisting success".

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO ACHIEVE WITH YOUR LYRICS ?

Literally, we want to notice things we feel are wrong, like diplomatic immunity, selling out, adultery, drugs...

WHAT IMPROVEMENT DO YOU SEE IN YOUR

SECOND LP COMPARED TO THE FIRST ? WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO GET WITH IT ?

Better musicianship, sound, promotion. We want more people to know about us.

WOULD YOU LIKE SOMETHING TO BE DIFFERENT ON "IF AT FIRST..." ?

You always want more, we want major distribution.

CAN YOU THINK OF ANY OTHER BANDS THAT PLAY A STYLE SIMILAR TO YOURS ?

I hope we don't sound too much like anyone else. We try so hard to be original.

WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS ?

We have over 14 new songs. In the future expect a ballad, a reggae style song, more tune-down songs, like "Rebel without a brain".

DO YOU WISH TO TELL YOUR FANS ANYTHING ?

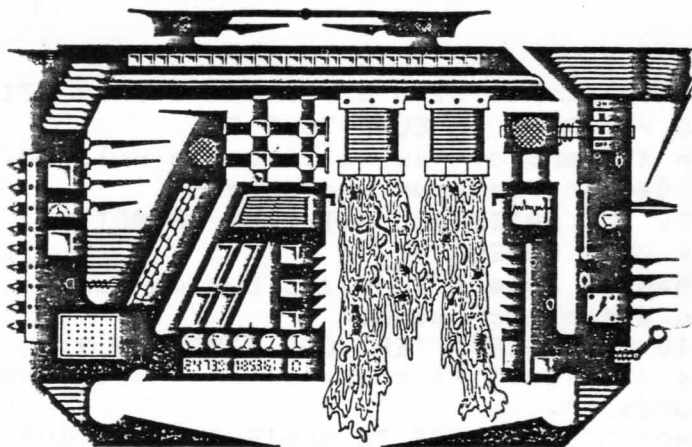
We don't get much fan mail from Greece so I want to thank Manolis for spreading the word. Look out for "Not a part of your life", "Throughout me", "Threw out you", "Deter-my-nation", "Rape of Persephone" on the next LP.

**the wild RAG!**

*The only magazine that exposes all types of metal instead of criticizing it. Over 60 pages of interviews, photos and news from the local and international scene - written by people in the business - published every six weeks. Only 3.00 postpaid. 5.00 overseas.*

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As you may know, the Greek metal scene isn't too healthy, and in fact it had not started growing till lately. One of the bands, that for me are able to put our country on the map, is Vomit. They were firstly formed in Oct 85, by Captain Death on the vocals, and Minotaur on the drums. The other members back then were Nigel Foxxe on the guitar, and Rattlehead on the bass. After the departure of the last two, Vomit broke up. Two years later, Minotaur (who in the meanwhile had formed a HC band, Void Mind) and Captain Death decided to reform Vomit, and they were soon joined by Mad(9), and Slammerhead(b), who soon left and was replaced by Atomic. Mars 88 saw Vomit recording a 9 song demo and in April they played their 1st gig with Flames, which was not very successful, mainly due to their bad sound. Now, Captain Death, and Mad have left, and the new members are Flesh(9), and Slow Death(v). Back to their demo now, which is not very representative of what Vomit's about as the sound is horrible. Their new demo which as they say will be a killer, is for a March 89 release. Here's what else Atomic and Minotaur say...

HAVE YOU HAD ANY PROBLEMS WITH THE OTHER VOMITs FROM NOR AND USA TILL NOW ?

AT: No there has been no problem. Anyway, the Norwegian Vomit broke up a year ago. As far as for the Americans, I hear from you that they exist !

MIN: We've had the name Vomit since 85. Noone can take it ! Vomit is Greek ! Neither Norwegian, nor American !

I KNOW THAT YOU'VE GONE THROUGH MANY LINE-UP CHANGES: WHY ? CAN'T YOU GET A STABLE LINE-UP ? WHY DID C.D. LEAVE ?

AT: Greek bands have many line-up changes. We try to have less, but some members change their musical directions, and they leave. The same with C.D., who wanted to play noise ! We are technical. With Mad it was different, he left without willing it. He still is a friend of us, and he helps in the logos, flyers etc (all the drawings you see, are his-ed).

MIN: C.D. still remains a good friend, and he helps Vomit in the lyrics. The fact that these guys left doesn't mean they don't care about Vomit. I believe that the current line-up will be the final. I'm absolutely happy.

WHO IS THE NEW SINGER ? HOW IS HIS STYLE ? HIS EXPERIENCE ?

MIN: I met Slow Death, our new singer, in the army, we were to gather. Our common musical interests, helped us become friends, and when we had the chance, we asked him to join Vomit. I had heard him, and I liked his voice very much.

AT: He's great ! He's 21, with influences from Onslaught (in the 1st LP era) and Kreator. Till now he hasn't sung in another group. He's talented though, and this helps us.

WHAT ABOUT THE "MECHANIC ABOMINATION" TAPE ? ARE YOU SATISFIED WITH IT ? DO YOU THINK IT REALLY EXPRESSES YOU ?



(Vomit interview ....)

AT:"M.A." was done under many difficulties. First of all, there was a lack of money, and it was made just a rehearsal. It has 9 songs, "Final try", "Vomit", "Satan is dead", "At war", "Thermonuclear war", "Leprosy", "Saprophytes", "Mechanized death" and "Bastard Iola(o)s". The sound on this demo is poor, and of course it doesn't express us even at 20%. It shows us as a HC band, more than a nuclear/thrash/death that we are. Not even our style is shown in the demo. Our new cuts will establish us as the most technical band in Greece.

MIN:I want to make clear, that we are not a HC band, for all those who may believe so. The tracks "At war" which is like SOD, and "Thermonuclear war" which is like Virus on their debut, belonged to my old band, Void Mind. I can't see any relation between the other songs and HC, with the exception of "Bastard Iola(o)s" which is about the smuggler Iolaos.

HOW DID YOU GET YOUR SONG "LEPROSY" ON THE GREEK COMPILATION AND HOW DID YOU GET THAT GOOD SOUND ?

AT:We expected to be on that comp. We are aware of our abilities. Now, talking about the very good version of the song, I believe it resulted from our hard work on it, and the good studio. We were very happy, and on the next demo we will have a better sound !

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR STYLE, WHAT ARE YOUR INFLUENCES ? DO YOU FIND ANY HC INFLUENCES ?

AT:First of all we like HC, and nothing more ! I think we are the most misunderstood band here. The fans are not responsible for all these of course. We are, with our bad sound on our 1st gig, and the bad recording of "M.A.". C.D.'s vocals were also giving a HC picture, but now he's gone. Get ready to welcome the thrash version of Fates Warning ! Our influences are: VoiVod(Gods), old Celtic Frost, Nasty Savage and Virus(great).

MIN:I agree, except on this with F.W.. We like all of these very much, but we have no relation to the band of Jim Matheos. Except maybe for the acoustic guitar intros, ha, ha, ha ! Anyway, there are no HC influences .

WILL YOUR STYLE CHANGE NOW THAT C.D. IS GONE ?

AT:As I told you before, now everything has changed. Captain Death, is nothing but a friend. Now he's writting lyrics even for our new songs. His vocals are just a bad dream for Vomit, but he writes the best lyrics I've ever read. WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT TE GREEK SCENE, AND WHAT DO YOU THINK IS THE PLACE OF VOMIT IN IT ?

AT:The Greek metal scene, still needs a lot of work. Of course lately it has grown with the appearance of good bands such as Sadistic Noise, Despise, but as far as the labels aren't interested, we will be able to see them only live, which is also very difficult, as there are no places to play.

MIN:The Greek scene, even if it is poor, has some interesting groups. For example the famous Flames, Nigel Foxxe's INC, and the more underground Despise, Sadistic Noise, us etc. I believe that the Greek underground fans, liked us from the first moment, and I hope that all thrashers, from all over the world, will do the same. And they must because we deserve it...

WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS ? ANY LIVE SHOWS ? MAYBE WITH KREATOR ?

AT:To be sincere, our future plans are just the recording of "Sickness is not an experiment", and a live show with Danger Cross and Asphix in March. The tracks that will be on "Sickness...", are "Oxogene indicator", "Blower head", "Terminal abomination", "Digital genocide", "Myxomatosis". About the live show with Kreator, is a bit difficult, after the loss of two basic members of the band, just two months prior to their coming here.

WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO ACHIEVE WITH THIS DEMO ?

MIN:We hope to get a deal with a label, and to show our work abroad. We want all real thrashers to listen to us.

DO YOU WANT TO ADD ANYTHING ?

AT:We thank your zine for this 'view. Buy our demo, it's just 4\$. Come to see us live.

MIN:Good luck to your zine. THRASH TILL DEATH WITH VOMIT ON THE AIR !!!

\*\*D.O.G.R.O. KOMMANDOHS\*

P.O. BOX 31232  
ATHENS-100 35  
GREECE





influenc  
that will shadow everything. The  
brain is for the man, he thinks, and  
the heart stands for the emotions,  
and nowadays the computer takes  
everything. Some computers begin to  
think today and heart & mind are  
in the background.... I hope you  
got it...

WHAT BANDS DO YOU THINK THAT HAVE  
INFLUENCED YOU-APART FROM RUSH ?  
Oh, well, many bands and musicians  
have influenced us.. Rush of course,  
ha, ha, and Watchtower, jazz guitar  
players, many.

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE  
COMPARISONS BETWEEN YOU AND  
WATCHTOWER ? I'VE READ THAT YOU  
ARE THE EURO-ANSWER TO THEM !  
Well, I don't think so, we're  
progressive and complicated too,  
but there are big differences  
between us and W/T. Of course they  
are doing progressive stuff also,  
and it's an honour to be compared  
with such great musicians !

HOW OFTEN DO YOU PLAY LIVE ?  
ALEX: We concentrate on the stuff of  
the new LP, and we don't like to  
play live, next time we'll do a  
whole tour, but only after the 2nd  
LP ! We concentrate on the new  
stuff, we wanna do a killer 2nd LP.  
WHEN DO YOU HOPE TO GET IT OUT ?  
We'll try to record it in August,  
and to put out in November 89.  
Before this we'll try to do some  
demos in Munich, which we don't  
want to release...

MAYBE TO SOME MAGAZINES ?  
No... ha ha ha, just to some friends  
maybe.

TO LABELS ?  
No, we cannot do it, our label,  
doesn't allow us to put it out to  
other labels or magazines, they've  
got the rights, you know...  
HOW IS THE SCENE IN GERMANY ?  
We don't like any German bands, but  
of course there are some talented  
bands, like Erosion from Hamburg,  
this is HC stuff, they're not bad.  
We're not very interested in the  
German scene.

WHAT ARE YOUR FAVE BANDS ?  
MARKUS: Rush.. Fates Warning, ALEX:  
Nasty Savage, MARKUS: also other  
stuff from classical music, jazz  
stuff, some good guitarists, Al Di  
Meola, Paco De Lucia...  
WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT YNGWIE ?

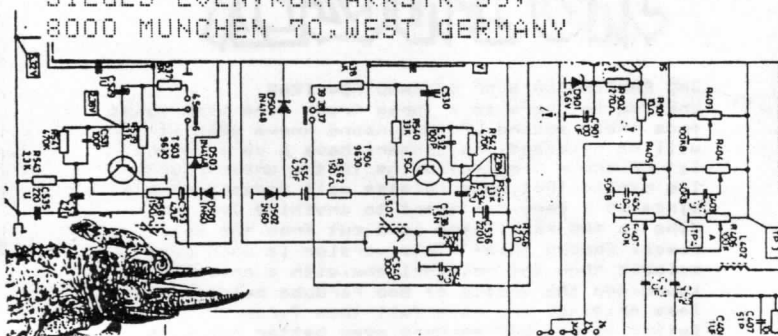
He's great, he was the first one who  
did it in his own way, and I like him,  
but I don't like the riff-offs. There  
are some good technicians, but they  
have no feeling, they just play the  
scales.. trrrrrrrr !!!

WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS GENERALLY ?  
We'll try to sell many albums, we'll  
try to reach different audiences, not  
only the typical metalheads, braindead  
metalheads. We try to attract many  
people, and not only in the metal  
scene. It's the main interest, but we  
also don't want to do commercial music  
we do the music like it comes from our  
heart.

YOUR FINALE ?  
Write at us, and we'll try to come to  
Greece . . . soon ! ALEX: In 10 years !!  
WHEN YOU'LL BE ON A MAJOR !! ?  
Yes, CBS, EMI....

And if there's any justice left in  
this world, they will be up there some  
day, you can be sure !!!

Write them at :  
SIEGES EVEN, KURPARKSTR 39,  
8000 MUNCHEN 70, WEST GERMANY



## NEWS

\*Hellwitch have just released their  
new demo (89). If you want to get it,  
send 5\$ to the band's address (see  
interview). Checks should be made out  
to Pat Ranieri.

\* Danger Cross the Greek baby-thrash  
band has a contact address:  
Danger Cross, Rock City,  
Sokratous 79-81, Athens 10432, GREECE

\*Oblivion Knight, after the departure  
of Mike Soliz, added Scott Wilson on  
the vocals, and a second guitarist,  
Anthony Castia. Their new demo should  
be out in late March/early April.  
Write to their Euro-distributor :  
Oliver Jung, In der Dille 42,  
4709 Bergamen-Rünthe, West Germany.

## TAPE OVERDOSE

In this section we will be reviewing various tapes, demos, rehearsals, promos etc that we happen to get. We will also try to provide a short story of the band in question. The reviews will be as objective as possible, but you will have to put up with some stuff you disapprove, or with reviews that you don't agree with, but after all, nobody's perfect. If any band is interested to appear here, should send a bio, a tape, and if possible a pic. Every band that sends, will get a honest review, and a free copy of the zine. Finally, in this very first issue, you may notice that most tapes get a good review (the same for the records), but that's for no other reason than the fact that the tapes were not sent by the bands. We bought/got all of them, and you can guess we do not order any tapes that we know we won't like !!!

### SANCTUS: ACCEPT THE BLESSINGS

Sanctus, is a speed/power metal outfit from the N.Y. area. As their 3-track demo shows their biggest influences are Agent Steele and Overkill, especially in the vocal and guitar parts. They do not have something very special to offer, but still a good demo.

The songwriting is tight, and all songs are sounding very heavy, which is a very good factor for this band. The three songs are "Sanctus", "Disloyalty" and "Gutter bitch" which is the fastest one.

All in all a strong tape that shows the potential of Sanctus.

Contact them at : SANCTUS, P.O. BOX 112, GLEN OAKS, NY 11004, U.S.A.

## JAG PANZER

### JAG PANZER: CHAIN OF COMMAND ADV TRAX

What we got here is a three track tape with songs from their second LP that noone knows when it will be released. The Panzers, have a very strong 1st LP, and a good following in the underground. I'm afraid that this release will disappoint many since it's very different to anything J.P. has done in the past. There is a cut from the 85's demos, "Shadow thief". This version is much more melodic than the original one, with a polished sound, and the vocals of Bob Parduba being by far less original and powerful than Tyrant's. The guitar is not bad, perhaps even better now, with Christian Lasegue being a very good player. The next song "Sworn to silence", is a bit heavier, with a guitar sound being not very different to the original sharp sound of Taffola/Briody.

Last song is an instrumental, "Dreme theme", which is really nothing more than a good chance to see the technical abilities of the guys.

Overall is a new style for Jag Panzer, totally different to what you know about them. All the new players (apart from the above mentioned, Rikard Stjernquist - drums) are good at their job, yet the project is much melodic, and dare I say that, commercial. As I know, no deal has been secured yet for the release of this LP, and it was originally scheduled for a summer 87 release, but hopefully they'll soon get the deal and success that after so many years of hard work they do deserve, but I'm afraid that not all of their old fans will be fond of this (like me).



Arcane is another band from Texas which seems to be a major force in quality underground bands universally. Arcane was firstly formed under the name Arsenal in 85. After the usual line-up problems, they lately had a demo out, titled "Mirror of Deception". The line-up on this demo is: Byron Hawk - g.v., Jim King - d., Doug Judah - g., Kurt Jove - b. Later they added Oscar Barbour on vocals. "Mirror..." is a 4 song tape, and it surely shows the band's abilities, that seems to be influenced by Iron Maiden, Megadeth, Nasty Savage, yet remaining fresh and original. They are powerful with a really heavy sound mostly created by the bounding double bass drumming. There are some points that would lead someone to mistake them as a speed metal outfit, which for me is not fair, as Arcane have much more to offer than just fast music.

First track is "Ancient internecine", that more than the others spots the problem of the weak at points vocals (they got a singer now anyway). I don't want to mean that the vocals don't fit in the music, because they certainly do. Second is "Infernal domicile", another strong cut, that's followed by the maybe highlight, the instrumental title song, "Mirror of Deception". This is very good indeed, even if some influences from the British guitar style, are quite obvious. Last, but not least, is "Agamemnon", and I think it's time to mention another strong point of Arcane: their lyrics, that have a lot of thought put into them, and show a good level of knowledge in history. For example this last track is about the return of the king of Mycenae to his house after spending 10 years in the war at Troy, and his killing, by his wife and his cousin, Aegisthus, all presented thoughtfully.

Generally it's a very impressive tape, and since it's very well packaged, with cover and lyrics, I can't see a reason why you shouldn't check 'em out. Strongly recommended power metal that is well played with a lot of thought into it !!!  
ARCANE, Byron Hawk, 122 Goerte, Grand Prairie, TX 75051, U.S.A.

## Titan Force

### TITAN FORCE: IN A BLAZE OF GLORY

Well, well, well... look whom we've got here ! Our good ol' friend the Tyrant. Yes, the mighty one is back with his brand new band Titan Force. After leaving Jag Panzer in the mid 80's, and after passing through Riot and Satans Host, he now sings for this band. This new band takes off from where he left J.P. in 85. It doesn't remind that much of the Panzers, but comparisons are unavoidable, especially if we consider the style that J.P. have adopted lately. His vocals are as always perfect, and for me he is the best singer !!! There are 4 songs here, "Chase your dreams", "In a blaze of glory", "Fool on the run" & "Master of disguise". They all feature very good playing level, power and intense. The first two are the ones that will bring in mind the old days with the sharp guitar sound, and the melodic lines, in the same vein as "Lustful and free" or "Living deceiver", etc. Unfortunately I haven't got the tape on original, and I got no reply when I wrote 'em, but I think that the line-up is: Mario Flores - g., Stefan Flores - d., John Flores - b., Bill Richardson - g., and of course Harry Conklin behind the mic. Now I heard that they've signed to US Metal, so that an LP should be out soon. Look out for it ! Till then you can try your luck at: P.O. Box 18074, Colorado Springs, CO 80935-8074, U.S.A.

# L'ASSAULT BELGIQUE

## BLACK SHEPHERD: IMMORTAL AGGRESSION

When I received this record, I was really surprised I knew well this thrash band, which had released 2 demos (the most popular "United evil forces"-86), a few years ago, and gigged as often as they had the possibility. Unfortunately their debut LP suffers from bad recording and poor production (for example the ridiculous vocals !!!). My fave tracks from B.S. were "Preachers of death", "Kill the priest", "Animal" and "Lord of darkness" (all from the demos), and paradoxically, it was difficult for me to recognise them on this shit vinyl... I give one point (out of ten-ed) for their "successful" past years... I'm a nostalgic man !!!  
Black Shepherd, Vvan Verhaegen, Beukendref 46, 3080 Steenokkerzeel, Belgium

## DRAKKAR: X-RATED

Drakkar could be considered to be the Belgian answer to Helloween, and one of the leaders of the new metal scene in Belgium. Indeed, this 5-piece from Mons (south), have released a good album and have received an excellent promotion from their French label N.E.W. recs. Produced by Ruddy Lenners (ex-Scorpions/Stealover), "X-rated" contains 8 hot tracks. The best titles are "Lords of the north", "Terminator" (epic/exotic instrumental, great) and "Rise and fight". If you want to discover a new talent from Belgium, try Drakkar. You wouldn't be disappointed...

Drakkar, Rue De La Trouille 2 B4, 7000 Mons, Belgium.

## TYFOON: THE END !

The thrash metal is up-to-date this year in Belgium, and the Limburger Tyfoon produce an excellent effort with this demo



titled "The end !". Unfortunately, the poor production (not better than a reh-tape) calmed my enthusiasm. The band started in '83 with Lou, and the line-up was only completed in Dec '85 as a 4-piece: Lou Daems-v, g/Heinz Wietrzy-g/Udo Wietrzy-b/Edward Jacobs-d. Tyfoon try to sound as original as possible and it's difficult to give them a major influence, except for the "Curse of Hate" which sounds like Kreator's "Flag of hate", but it isn't easy to give further names... As Dead Serious, I hope they'll find enough money to record a better produced tape soon, so they can destroy this thrashing planet with their... tyfoon !!!

Tyfoon, Lou Daems, Sportlaan 13, 3600 Genk, Belgium

## EVIL SINNER: MERCILESS

Here is another speed combo, and this one comes from the Mevelgem area. Evil Sinner recorded this "Merciless" demo last year. The five-track tape is certainly one of the best cassettes



ever released by a Belgian band, in a fester Cyclone mould... I was really impressed by their songs, as the Slayer-ish "Nuclear Power" or the technical "Can't buy the law". When I listen to E.S.'s music, I can see the influences from the old NWOBHM. For example the intro à la Iron Maiden of "Reasons of violence", and several parts of "Can't buy the law" inspired by the same major. Since the release of this demo, I didn't have any further info on E.S., so I don't know what they do actually... I'll try to have more info for the next issue, it's a promise.

Evil Sinner, Mandenmarktstraat 7, 8610 Mevelgem, Belgium

## SIXTY-NINE: JUST FOR THE FUN

Another band from Brussels, but 69 explores a more thrash/crossover area. Their songs are powerful, well structured and the recording quality is excellent. Maybe it would seem strange to you, but I compare 69 to the Japanese combo Casbah, on tracks such as "No uniform", "Disease" and "Help me". I've appreciated these songs and I think it could be difficult to play faster than Patsy(9), Le Pat(b), Danny(v), and Le Phil(d) without becoming ridiculous. To finish this short review, a special note on their GREAT instrumental song "the thousand natural shocks", even if it includes many used plans... Good luck guys !!!  
Sixty-Nine, Danny, 32 Av. des Anciens Combattants, 1140 Brussels, Belgium

## MENTAL DISTURBANCE: HARD OF HEARING !

Hardcore metal outfit from the Belgian capital, Brussels. Apart from their music, their tape is very funny cause the band had the good idea to include a few strange things between the 14 tracks of "Hard of hearing !", like child-stories or folk songs. Unfortunately, these things are in local language, and foreign people wouldn't understand anything !!!

M.D. is Michael(9), Marc(9), Philippe(b), Rudy(d) and Alain(v), and play fast HC-metal influenced by DRI, Agnostic Front, Suicidal Tendencies... We hear this on tracks such as "Shut up", "We like hardcore", "Women" or the Minor Threat cover, "Minor threat". With Heibel, X-Creta, Hate Crew, ... and Mental Disturbance, the Belgian crossover scene has good bands representing the Belgian scene on the international stage.

Mental Disturbance, Michel Kirby,

2 rue de la Querelle B49, 1000 Brussels, Belgium

## DEAD SERIOUS: REH-DEMO

Formed as Explorer several years ago, and after releasing a few demos, this group changed its moniker last year to Dead Serious, when they got a new rhythm section, that features two ex-Trial (one album in '85) members. The actual line-up is Armando(v), Jag(9), Vvan(9), Gunny(b) and Marc(d). Dead Serious play a fun thrash metal, influenced by the successful waves of this kind of metal: Slayer for "Daddy goes to Disneyland" and the HC edge for "Let's trash", in which they include many personal ideas. Even if this tape suffers from bad production (it's a rehearsal-tape), I've appreciated their music, and I hope they could record a better tape as soon as they find enough money.

Dead Serious, Roger De Buyzer, Harmoniestraat 114, 2018 Antwerpen, Belgium

All reviews: Francis Leduc



# Solitude

Solitude is another band from Texas (aaarrg !) that deserves your attention. They were formed in summer 87, by guitarist John Perez (who had played in Rotting Corpse). In 1988 they released "And justice for all", a demo on which apart from John appear ;Brad Kane-d, Tom Martinez-g, Chris Hardin-b and Kristoff Gabehrt-v. After the demo was released, Kristoff was replaced by Robert Lowe and Brad by Lyle Steadham.

I think that you might have already read some reviews on Solitude, most of which have been positive. They play (and they claim so) a real heavy metal style, specialising on doom. They sometimes sound a bit like Candlemass, and after listening to the tape only once, one might dismiss them as Candlemass clones, something that is totally unfair to be done. They have many things in common, and that's for sure. Such things are the VERY heavy sound, the vocals (that remind me the vocals on the Candlemass demo on a more rough version), and the depressing

lyrics. But there are many differences too, especially in the song structures. At some points they are even heavier than Candlemass, as on the basic riff of "It came upon night", where I was impressed by Chris' vocals, slow and giving a very depressing feeling.

All songs are in the same vein, heavy and basically slow, with "Into battle" and "Sojourner" featuring the ultimate up-tempo doom parts, and despite of the comparisons (that even I used) quite original. Moving to their lyrics, that sound somehow depressing, and fit perfectly in the atmosphere created by the music. They mostly deal with doom topics, such as the doomsday. Some positive thoughts are also included, but not preaching. A big plus is the fact that the lyrics are printed, so you can read for yourself.

Contact them soon, as they're about to get a deal (possibly with Metal-Other recs) which means your copy might be the last one ! Tapes are 6\$, and T-shirts 10\$.

SOLITUDE, John Perez,  
1009 Bert, Arlington, TX 76012, U.S.A.



# CYPERUS

I first heard about Cyperus in Rock Hard one year ago. The review I read was quite positive, a fact that led me to write them at once. Bassist Randy Keller sent me their 5 track tape for free at once (and this was the first tape I got for free...). As the tape shows, Cyperus is a very powerful heavy metal band, with a big dose of originality. The line-up is completed by Jason Celestine (g), Scott Munger (d) and Bruce Roderick (v). Their style seems to be quite close to this of old Jag Panzer (so you know I love it) mainly because of the extremely sharp guitar sound, and the strange vocals. Of course they're far away from J.P., but few bands are close, anyway...

I had lost contact with the band since a long time, and as I was getting no further info, I thought that the band had broken up. But as of a sudden, the answers to my questions arrived.....

WHEN WAS THE BAND FORMED ? ANY LINE-UP CHANGES SINCE THEN ?

The band was formed in Nov 82. I (Randy-ed) was 16 years old. We really didn't have a name or singer for one year and a half. Our first and only name was Cyperus. We have all original members.

WHEN DID YOU DO YOUR TAPE ? WHAT

has BEEN THE REACTION SO FAR ?

We released our demo on New Year's Eve 1987, but didn't send it out to magazines until 88. reaction has been better than we expected-it has been very good ! (We were totally unaware that the "under-ground" existed !!)

WHAT PROBLEMS DID YOU HAVE TO COPE WITH, WHILE YOU WERE MAKING THAT TAPE ? We didn't have much help as to what a young band needs to do-so we did a demo tape and payed it for ourselves. The problems that we had was that we all work in the daytime, and could only afford the studio time from 12 AM to 6 AM, at night. And we had not much time to do the whole project-\$\$\$

ARE YOU SATISFIED WITH IT NOW ?

We think it turned out pretty good for what it was-we hated at the time ! We think it's OK now, but we usually play only 1 or 2 songs from it any more !

WHO WRITES THE SONGS ? ANYONE IN PARTICULAR OR THE WHOLE BAND ?

We all write the songs, some come about differently than others. Usually Jason comes up with the main parts - instrumentally-and Bruce usually writes the lyrics.

WHAT ARE YOUR LYRICS ABOUT ? WHAT DOES "CYPERUS" MEAN ?

Many different things. I would have to go through each song line by line to tell you about them. They vary greatly! Cyperus ! Jason and I were watching a TV show about how classical guitars



## BUTTFACE

AUSTRALIAN FUN HARDCORE-THRASH MAG

ISSUE#1 OUT NOW featuring interviews with MACABRE, KAZUROL, HELL-MITCH, OBLIVION, SKITZO, AFTERMATH, DREAM DEATH, MUTILATED, AGRESSOR, CRYPTIC SLAUGHTER, RECURGITATION, RIGHTEOUS PIGS, DESEXULT, MASS APPEAL, SADUS...plus cartoons, hall of fame, demo/1p reviews, all done in a fun way! if we like you we'll feature you...we'll contact you cuz we don't scab! We appreciate those who want to spread the word of BUTTFACE!!!! So get in touch...if you have an opinion we'll print it! Send \$3 US and IRC if you can. WRITE THE BUTTFACE BRIGADE at either Alan Moses, 107 Northbri Avenue, Salisbury East, S.A. 5109, AUSTRALIA or Stuart Maitland, 34 Fourth Ave, St Peters, S.A. 5069, AUSTRALIA.\*\*\*\*\*

(Cyperus interview ...)

are made, and they mentioned  
Cypress wood. We liked the way it  
sounded, but we wanted our own  
meaning. CY-PER-US

HAVE YOU WRITTEN ANY NEW SONGS  
SINCE THE TAPE ?

Yes of course, the new album and  
single we finished that we have  
now written a few more songs.  
Titles of songs on the new album  
are : "Hot dice in mayhem", "Got no  
mercy", "Mad Henry", "Oppressore",  
"Ode of omen", "Bedlam under the  
big top", "Blizzard crusade" and  
"Local 517".

WHAT ABOUT THE COMPILATION THAT  
YOU WERE FEATURED IN ? DID YOU  
HAVE TO RE-RECORD "JUDGEMENT DAY"  
FOR IT ?

Sad but true. I have not gotten  
around to even listening to the  
album once ! We heard about the  
compilation through the studio we  
recorded at. No, we didn't re-  
record.

DO YOU HAVE ANY OFFERS FOR A  
RECORD ? HAVE YOU SIGNED ?

Yes, we have offers. As of today, we  
haven't signed.

HAVE YOU PLAYED ANY SHOWS RECENTLY  
AND WHAT WAS THE REACTION ?

Yes, a few shows. Lots of moshing !!  
Great fun crowds to play for !!!  
HOW IS THE SCENE IN YOUR AREA ?  
ANY GOOD BANDS ?

The scene here is now getting  
better for HEAVY metal (not glam).  
Queensryche and Metal Church are  
from here.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN YOUR DAY  
TIME ? YOU'VE GOT ANY JOBS ?

I am an engineer at a furniture  
making factory - desk job ! I put  
my hair in a hat all day. Jason is  
working at the state library -  
book job !! Scott works with his  
dad, he investigates the cause of  
housefires. Bruce is an electrician  
We would all gladly quit our jobs  
to go on a world tour.

HOW OLD ARE YOU ?

We are all 22 years old now, Bruce  
is 25.

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT POLITICS ?  
ABOUT WORLD PEACE ?

I may someday write political  
inspired songs. I knew George Bush  
would win - I'm not sure if that is  
good or bad ? I hate the way we  
choose our officials. Nobody in  
this country seems to care !

I don't hope to create world peace..  
I just have a lot of friends with  
a common like-and no political ties.  
Geographic boundaries mean little to  
me. We are all human !

WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS ?

Rock until death ! We will tour at  
our first opportunity ! We will  
never quit !!!

WHAT ABOUT A FINISHING STATEMENT ?

Please write to us, it keeps us  
going !! Join the fun club - buy tapes  
for 5\$ - if you can afford that much -  
look for our new album this year...  
Happy '89 !!!

The latest news of Cyperus, is that:  
Bruce was caught driving without a  
licence sometimes, the debut LP is  
on its way as currently they're  
working on a deal, they opened for  
Metal Church and it was a great show  
they played with Gargoyle in  
Portland, and Randy bought a new type  
writer. So what about giving him  
a chance to use it, er ? Write him at  
CYPERUS: Randy Keller,  
4038-B, 128th Avenue Southeast,  
Suite No. 269, Bellevue, WA 98006, U.S.A

## NEWS

\*Morbid Angel, the death metal Gods  
are about to release their debut LP  
and a single.

\*Billy White, former guitarist of  
WatchTower, is now playing with Don  
Dokken in his new band.

\*Mark Zonder (ex-Warlord-RIP) has  
joined Fates Warning.

\*It seems that the SF crunch  
Mordred is ready to sign a deal.

\*Sooner or later the LPs of:  
Oliver Magnum, Amulance, Annihilator,  
Gammacide, Fates Warning, Voi Vod,  
Sabbat, Holy Moses will be out.

\*Kreator are playing here on March  
25th with Flames. Rumours say that  
Slayer, Manowar, Candlemass, Crimson  
Globe will play here in their Euro-  
tours.

\*Running Wild played here on 25/2,  
and they were as always: boring. The  
reaction was extremely good though,  
mainly because this was the first  
real metal (young) band  
that came here.





# SYRUS METAL LIVES ON...

It seems that this issue of our fanzine is dominated by Texan bands, something that I didn't plan to do. But it's just impossible to ignore such a great scene. In San Antonio, there have been some really good bands, the best being the cult band Slayer. Another good band hailing from S.A. is Syrus. They broke up some time ago, but I think that now they are very much alive with a record deal with German label AAARRG recs, which is nothing but good news. You see Syrus even if they still have to be recognised, was a very good metal band. They were playing melodic metal, with emphasis on the heavy sound, and the output was really impressive. This interview, with John Castilleja (9), is not that recent, but it surely points what's Syrus about.

WHEN WAS THE BAND FORMED, AND WHAT IS THE SITUATION NOW ?

Albert and I met at work, we started playing together. I knew Julio (Paz-b), and Ken (Ortiz-d), from previous bands. Mike (Vasquez-v), is a good friend of Ken's, so so he was just there, and we asked him to sing. That was in Sept 83, southside of S.A.. There is no line-up now, the band has broken up.

HOW MANY TAPES HAVE YOU RELEASED, AND WHAT HAS BEEN THE REACTION ?

3 studio tapes, plus the live tape, 4. Response: Fans: have been great, esp in Europe; Mags: very supportive and positive; Labels: not too good, everyone's behind, or indebt. We sold about 1200 copies, we got good reviews, but we were never offered a deal by noone.

WHAT HAVE BEEN SYRUS'S BIGGEST INFLUENCES ?

Iron Maiden, old Priest, Yngwie, Whitesnake, Fates Warning, Metallica.

WHAT ARE THE LYRICS ABOUT AND WHAT DOES "SYRUS" MEAN ?

Albert and I write the music, Mike writes the lyrics. His lyrics are positive, no satanic crap, fiction, mystical fantasy, the struggles of everyday living. "Syrus" doesn't mean anything, we just thought it up. There's Cyrus the Great, in Greek mythology, and Syrus was a

black leader in an American movie, called "The Warriors".

HOW OFTEN HAVE YOU BEEN PLAYING LIVE; AND WITH WHAT OTHER BANDS ? HOW DO YOU SEE THE TEXAN SCENE ?

We were playing about 3 to 4 times a month, in theaters, clubs, and opening for semi-major acts. We've played with Slayer (S.A. I guess-ed.), Juggernaut, Watchtower (Gods-ed.), Helstar, Nasty Savage, Fates Warning, Omen, etc. Usually 400 to 600 people, our largest crowd was 1200 in a football stadium. Texas scene: It's hot (weather). A lot of good bands come through here, it's just hard to get out. I don't really like it, there's not enough studios, Rec'co, music stores, heavy radio stations, but overall it's alot better than other states. Watchtower: masters of techno metal, they rule! Slayer: one of our greatest local influences, they had everything to make it, except the record deal (sound familiar).

WHAT HAPPENED WITH RAY ALDER ?

Ray Alder, replaced Mike for six months, we recorded a demo with four tracks (sorry but this tape I can't release). We used it only for promotional purposes, we mailed it out to record co all over, and still no deal, even with Ray. We mailed a tape to Jim Matheos, he said if he liked it he would help us get a deal with Metal Blade recs. He liked Ray better than our music, so they asked him to join Fates Warning. Naturally he did, we told him to go for it, those opportunities only come once in a life time. So that left us without a vocalist. We tried replacements, we just couldn't find someone we liked. Ray was perfect. So our drummer quit to try other things, Julio quit to attend technoschool (electronics), that left Al and me. So we just blew it off. That was the end of Syrus.

WHAT ARE THE BAND MEMBERS DOING NOW ?

I'm just working, looking for projects, Julio is going to school, Ken is going to Sacramento, CA with his brother, Mike is looking for a band, Al is working and writing music.

WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS ?

In March 88, we did a reunion show, featuring the original line-up, which had been together for three and a half years. We had a really good time. I've sent you a cassette copy of the show, which isn't for sale. I also

video taped the show, which is part of my new promo for record co. It also has a complete history on the band, flyers, pics, clippings. My plan is to hopefully get a deal and keep the original line-up



together. That would rule. That's all we need, a record deal.

ANY ADDITIONS ?

Thank to all fanzines that printed us and all the fans who haven't forgotten Serus. Hopefully our debut album will be out someday. Serus metal lives on !

That about Serus, who finally seem to have the deal they deserved. In the meanwhile, contact them at: 1050 W. Paron, San Antonio, TX 78221, U.S.A.



THE MOST TYPICAL QUESTION...WHAT'S THE STORY OF HELLWITCH ?

I (Pat ) formed the band in Oct 84, and did a one song demo, "Nosferatu", with some guy on seat cushions (drums !) and vocals. In early 85 Dave Silverstein joined on drums, and Andy Adcock on bass. In late 88 I relocated the band to Miami and have been jamming with a new drummer and bassist. We'll have a new demo out soon !

WHAT ABOUT YOUR DEMOS ? HOW DID IT HAPPEN AND YOU WERE ON NRR'S SAMPLER ?

The '84 demo was done on 2 tracks on a tape deck in my old apartment. We sent our '86 demo to NRR and they gave us a deal. We have an '87 demo which kills the '86, and we'll have a new demo out with the new line-up.

WHAT HAS BEEN THE REACTION TO YOUR TAPES ? ARE YOU SATISFIED WITH THEM ?

Everyone seems to like us alot. Labels really haven't noticed us yet. Our new demo will change that ! We've sold 400 copies of the '86 demo, and about 350-400 of the '87 demo. I like the '87 demo much better than the '86. The '86 was too clean sounding. "Torture chamber" from our '86 demo is on NRR through "Thrash metal Attack" comp.. We're hoping that may bring some label recognition.

HAVE YOU BEEN OFFERED A DEAL ?

Well, we were offered a full LP deal by NRR, but it was a poor offer. We are looking for a new label now. We just did the compilation LP with NRR.

HOW OFTEN DO YOU PLAY LIVE ? WITH WHAT OTHER BANDS ? HOW DO THE FANS REACT WHEN HELLWITCH PLAYS ?

Over the past year we've only played 2-3 shows (the scene here is dead !). Since our beginning in early 85, we've played around 30 shows with acts such as Anthrax, G.B.H. and the Exploited. Sometimes people slam and dive, sometimes not (especially in G-ville !). Miami kills ! Total maniacal chaos ! I die when people get into us ! I was surprised at first. Usually we out of town draw 100-300 people.

WHAT BANDS DO YOU CONSIDER TO BE YOUR MAIN INFLUENCES ? WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE SCENE NOWADAYS ? HOW IS THE SCENE THERE ?

I try to be as original as possible in my compositions. I really like Slayer (new LP is fair though), Possessed, Death and Dark Angel. My new faves are

(Hellwitch interview ...)

Devastation(Chicago),Slaughter Lord  
Morbid Angel and Metal Onslaught.I  
think the scene is growing  
definitely,but many of the bands  
are just generic bullshit.Too many!  
The scene in South Florida is good.  
There are 3-4 other death/thrash  
bands.We have local shows every  
few weeks.Out of town acts come  
once every 2 months or so.People  
are into it down here ! Not like  
Shit-ville !!!

WHO HAS BEEN WRITTING THE SONGS ?  
WHAT DO YOU SING ABOUT ?

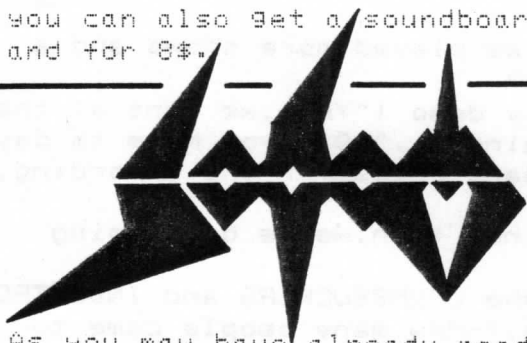
I write almost all music and lyrics  
Andy(ex-bass),wrote most of  
"Degeneration",and Dave(ex-drums),  
came up with the ending of another.  
With the new line-up,I'm writting  
everything.Our lyrics deal with  
many aspects of pain and suffering,  
which usually end in death.Newer  
lyrics will cover such topics as  
Godzilla and experiments on  
comatose humans.

ANY LAST COMMENTS ?

Thanks for the interview Manolis.  
Keep up the great work with your  
zine,and to all your readers,  
SUPPORT YOUR SCENE ! Watch for the  
new Hellwitch demo !

That's all with Hellwitch,who I  
think are a very good thrash metal  
band,so don't hesitate,and write:  
Hellwitch,P.O. Box 2341,Hollywood,  
FL 33022,U.S.A

PS:Both demos (86,87) are for 4\$  
each plus postage.At the same price  
you can also get a soundboard tape,  
and for 8\$.



As you may have already read,the  
German thrash trio Sodom,was here  
in Dec for a show.Despite the fact  
that everyone who had promised to  
help me get in contact for an  
interview,was talking bullshit,I  
managed to get a short interview,  
through phone with Tom(Angelripper)  
the day after the gig.His english  
was worse than awful,so it's too  
small,but still better than nothing  
WHAT ARE SODOM DOING NOW ?

Now,we go to the studio to record

the new album in next month,and then  
we'll try to get to America.  
WHAT PROGRESS DO YOU SEE ON SODOM TILL  
NOW ?

We are a little bit technically better  
but we'll try to get on the next album  
a little bit more power.

DOES THIS MEAN YOU'LL SLOW DOWN ?

We've some parts a little bit slow,but  
we are not the fastest band anyway,  
there are other bands much more faster  
than we.We don't want to be the  
fastest band,but the most powerfull.

WHAT'S THE REACTION TO SODOM BY THE  
THRASHERS ?

I saw yesterday when we played how  
many fans came,and the new live album  
already sold 30000 copies,I think we  
have many fans.

ARE YOU HAPPY WITH YOUR LABEL ?

No,not happy but...we're on it for  
five years ! It's very difficult to  
find a better record deal,or a major.

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE GERMAN  
SCENE ?

There are not so many good bands,I  
like Kreator,Tankard...but the other  
bands don't have the chance today to  
get a record deal.

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE SHOW  
YESTERDAY ?

The people were crazy,the organisation  
was very good we're really satisfied.

DID YOU LIKE THE GREEK BANDS THAT  
OPPENED FOR YOU ?

I liked them ! They gave me their LPs,  
when I'm home I'll hear them,but I saw  
them a little bit yesterday and I  
liked the drummer of the first band  
very much !

YOUR FUTURE PLANS ?

We want to record a good album next  
month.

IT'S TITLE ?

"Agent Orange"it's a gas they used in  
Vietnam.And I want to go to America to  
play !!

DO YOU HAVE MANY FANS THERE ?

Really ! there's a big crowd of Sodom  
maniacs there !!

YOUR LAST WORDS ?

I wish you good luck with your fanzine  
and we'll try to come again when we  
make the European tour,it's a really  
good place ! I liked the people !!

Unfortunately,Tom couldn't understand  
my questions,and he was giving  
irrelevant answers most of the time(I  
rearranged the questions now..),so  
I didn't manage to get some info on  
the Sodom live LP,but I hope you don't  
mind !!



A while ago, one day as I went into a record store, to get my usual dose of metal, and to my great surprise, as soon as I got in the store someone pointed at me, and said: he might be interested!" to my great surprise, I looked at the one he was talking to, and whom do I see....Charlie and Steve from the excellent Chicago band AFTERMATH. They were here on vacation, and what a better chance for an interview, er?

I arranged an appointment, and the next evening I went to their hotel for an interview. Later, after the interview, I took them with me to my neighborhood, far away from the dirty, foggy, noisy center of Athens where their hotel was.

Anyway, let's go on with the interview, most questions are answered by the band's singer Charlie (who happens to be Greek).

-When and how did you start AFTERMATH?" "we started in Oct '85, it was me and Steve who started the band, and then we wanted a drummer, so we knew Pete, we talked to him, we got him to be the drummer, we started practicing us three for 6 months and then we got Adam. We did our first show, and Adam stayed in the band for about a year. Then we got rid of him, because he was you know...he couldn't play what we wanted, and we got this John. He played bass but he was really a guitar player. He played bass for about 6 months, and then we decided that we wanted a second guitar, so John was a great guitar player, we switched him on the guitar and we are a fivepiece looking for a bassist right now."

-Did you play any concerts in the first days?" "when we started?" -Yes, "our first show was in June 86." -What was the reaction?" "the first show was pretty good, not great because nobody knew who we were, but..."

-Did you play with any other bands?" "yes, three other Chicago bands, Devastation, and some other."

-What difficulties did you have to cope with in the early stages?" "just trying to get the things together, write good songs." -And then you recorded your first demo?" "we recorded it in Nov 85..1986 I think and we recorded it live on a 2 tr and not 24 tr, it was 4 songs. We passed out a few, you know, it did alright." -And what did the mags write about it?" "it was mostly in small fanzines, not big mags reviewed it, and there were pretty good reviews." -How many copies did you give out?" "of the first one...about 200"

-What did you do after that?" "after that we played more shows and a year later, June 87, we did our second demo."

-How did this happen? It's a good quality demo!" "Yeah, we went at the studio Solid Sound, and you know...good engineer..." -Did you have to pay a lot for a good budget?" "yes, about a thousand bucks for the recording, on 24 tr."

-What have you been doing since then?" "since then, we've been doing shows, practicing, writing new songs."

-What bands have you played with?" "with the CRUMBSUCKERS and INDESTROY in Chicago, SACRIFICE, and other local bands." -How many people come to see you?" "when we played with the CRUMBSUCKERS, the last time, there were about 500."

# AFTERMATH



-What was the reaction to the 2nd demo ?"that was good !good reviews in big mags,it sold about 600 copies."

-Now,can you tell us who is writing the songs ?"I write all the words, Steve and John write all the music."-How did it happen and you're in the Metal Forces' compilation LP ?"we send Bernard Doe our demo,he reviewed it in the mag,he liked it and then two weeks later after I send it he asked us if we wanted to be on the LP,because he liked it alot."-The trax on the LP are on the tape OK ?"yes,exactly the same recording."

-What are your influences ? What bands have influenced you ?"METALLICA, SLAYER,B.SABBATH,old stuff,who else...". Steve:"VOI VOD,DBC probably to get more technical,TROUBLE...CRUMBSUCKERS..."-Do you pay any extra attention to your lyrics ?"yes,alot"-What are they dealing with ?"well, 'when you will die is about a family,the grandfahter is really rich, he's a really bad old man,he just uses them & everything,promising to give them money,but the family lives poor."-Interesting !"interesting, yeah,weird subject er? Next,'going no place' is about someone's life that's going no place,working all day,having no fun,just goin to work and home.Never having the chance to do anything.'chaos' is about just how everything is in'chaos,you know...it's about the world with all of wars,and all of drugs and everything.'meltdown' is about the accident in Chernobyl (how the hell do you spell it ?-ed.),you remember in Russia ?

-What do you think about it ?..Did you like it ?"yeah,I thought it was great..HA HA HA..and then 'war for freedom'is about a country fighting for their freedom,you knw they're..."-Like what country ?"let's say like Greece,when they were fighting against the Turkeys,something like that,they wanted to be free..."

-Generally,what subjects do like writting about ? What are your inspirations ?"real subjects,like things that happen,things that I'm interested in,anything as long as it's not stupid.Something that has a meaning into it."-Would you ever write about sex,parties,r & r,etc?"no, never,I couldn't write that words anyway."

-What do you think about politics ?"like what ? anything specific ?"

-Lets say about mr Reagan !"I liked him a little bit,but now I don't,he is OK for America I guess,but he's no good for the rest of the world"

-That's for sure !

-Now lets ask you Steve some questions...What do you think that has influenced your playing ?"like what bands ?"-Yes,bands,players,etc."I like SLAYER,STEVE VAI,..."-What do you think about the guitar heroes, Malmsteen,Moore,Chastain...?"well,Malmsteen is very repetitious and boring,he's fast,but it's the same scale over and over,and I like to have more variety."-What about the concept of being a guitar hero ?"a band for the guitarist,and not a guitarist for a band ? No,I'd rather be the band,I'm not interested,in going on stage and doing a big guitar solo.You have to work as a group."

-What about the combination of the HC scene with the thrash scene, should the thrashers and HC fans stay separate,or should they join forces and..?"they should stay separate,because it's two different kinds of things,like putting classical music and country music.But I like alot of crossover."

-Anyway,back to AFTERMATH,are there any labels interested ? Have you got any offer ?"yes,we've got a few,from NRR,Combat etc but we don't to sign right now.We're gonna send the 'killing the future'demo out cause we want to record our stuff as a fivepiece,with the new material. And we're gonna wait until this tape is done just for record labels, and then we'll start looking for a deal."



-In what countries have you distributed your demo ? "Greece, about 13 countries, Poland, Belgium, West Germany, New Zealand, Australia, S. America... Except Africa countries and stuff like that. Mainly in Europe."

-Any last comments ? "if anyone wants to buy our demo it's 6.50 \$."

-Where are people supposed to find the 50c ? "Well, then make it 7 \$ !"

"Tell all the Greek thrashers to start working hard in order to make the Greek scene competitive to the other Europeans !"

Steve: "Buy the tape, and I hope you'll like it."

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U.S.A.

# Hallows Eve

Hallow's eve this speed metal outfit has been in the metal scene for some years. After releasing two LPs, earlier this year they released their third, titled "monument". This LP dissatisfied some of the band's fans, and maybe there was a reason, as I wasn't satisfied with it too. Here's an interview with Tommy Stewart.

-For how long has the band been together ? What is the thing you mostly remember about this very first days ? What would you advice the newer bands ?

"We've been together for 5 years this Oct. Those first days, I lived in the streets so my advice to young bands, would be to get ready for the worse"

-Who came up with the name ? What does it mean ?

"I came up with the name, sort of honouring my celtic past."

-How did you get the contract with Metal Blade ?

"We made one tape, and they heard it and send us a contract right away. We only had those two songs !"

-Are you satisfied with the first two LPs ? How did they do ?

"We like 'em fine. To date those two have sold 40,000 copies or so."

-When was 'monument' released ? How is it doing ?

"It was released on March 25th, and we've sold about 50,000 in just four months, so we are happy."

-Who wrote the songs for this LP ? Do you see any progress between this and your previous ones ?

"once again, Stacy and I wrote all the lyrics, and everyone contributed to the music. The progression I see in this third LP is in our teamwork."

-What bands do you think that have influenced you ? What bands do you like ?

"the RAMONES, SEX PISTOLS, MOTORHEAD, but I also like VOI VOD, AGNOSTIC FRONT. I like all kinds of stuff, but you have to realise that I'm 29 and I saw the DEEP PURPLE Machine Head tour ! I remember THE BEATLES on Ed Sullivan in '64 ! I've been here anywhille."

-How often do you, play live ? With what other bands ?

"A lot ! We're known in the US as a touring band. We just finished one nine week stint and we are back out next month for 60 more dates. Who have we played with ? Over the years we've played with ANTHRAX, SLAYER, MOTORHEAD, KING DIAMOND, EXODUS, NUCLEAR ASSAULT, FATES WARNING, and about twenty others."

-Do you want to add anything ?

"Please, just go out and get the thing ! It honestly speaks for itself !"

# CYBER KULTUR

With the integration of various influences of which some aren't overexuberantly used or referred to in metal, like jazz and funk, Cyber Kultur tries to make itself known in a time when there is a vast amount of untalented bands churning out their products regularly. Although Cyber Kultur still have quite a bit of unexplored territory left, I predict that their future musical endeavours could capture the attention of the people who feel that perhaps they've been left behind by the forever turning wheels of the thrash/death metal bandwagon.

Although Cyber Kultur hail from Texas, and have in their ranks Chris Orloski, who used to front Eldritch Rite on their legendary demo, and Tim Gerron who handled the drumkit in The Answer, I couldn't really classify them along the usual and in my opinion highly underrated, great power metal bands, like Assalant, Arcane, Assalant, Wicked Angel etc.. The other founding, and most productive member is Steve Mariotti on the guitars, whilst the line-up is completed by the bass player Chris Adams. In case you're wondering what Cyber Kultur means, the bio has kindly incorporated an additional paragraph to explain the band name: "Cyber Kultur" is a coined, conceptual name, where "Cyber" implies the integration of man and machine, and "Kultur" is used in it's most general sense, to mean a highly ordered society. "Cyber Kultur" depicts a structured society, in which man and machine have successfully mated. Anyway, I personally think it's a name that reaches a certain standard of originality and intelligence. After many rehearsals and reh-tapes, the band recorded a five song demo in the form of "Synthesis", on May 19, 88. The production is remarkably good, although the guitar sound could be

improved, taken in consideration that it was recorded and mixed in six hours at Heads up studios, somewhere outside of Lewisville, TX.

The five songs are in order of appearance, "Center of the Universe", "Decompressions", "The Planet is dead", "Penetrate" and "Parade". As you may have noticed not the usual "exhibitions of violence" titles on show here, but Cyber Kultur is lyrically speaking quite different. The lyrics are written by Steve and Chris (who is also the editor of Gray Matter, which is in my opinion one of the best zines around, if we judge the writing style) and together they cover a vast range of non-cliché topics, like philosophical statements about individuality in "Center of the Universe" to variations on the post-nuclear theme, as the bio puts it (although I personally see a distinct similarity to the 60's science fiction novelist Roy Bradbury, in terms of topics and atmosphere created) in "The Planet is dead".

Cyber Kultur's music is mostly mid-paced heavy metal, with various detours taken into other musical genres, like the Red Hot Chili Peppers' style "Parade". The first song, "Center..." is representative of Cyber Kultur's music. The guitar work, is by far the weakest factor, it's mostly kind of dull and uninspiring, whilst it's mainly the bass and drums that give the songs a much needed boost, with some passages and breaks. A strange fact as well is that only the shortest song, "Parade" has a guitar solo, the rest of the songs have no guitar solos, although I have a reh-tape, which does feature a solo in the song "The Planet is dead". Vocalist Chris Orloski delivers a vastly improved performance over his last demo effort in Eldritch Rite, and he shows some great songlines and nice lyrical interpretation. "Decompressions" shows a some good basswork and is far better than "Center of...". "The Planet is ..." and "Penetrate" (with some chaotic HCish speedparts) are along the same lines although they could use more variation as they have the tendency to become a bit long-drawn. The final song "Parade" has some funk overtones as well as really strange lyrics, which don't make much sense (I disagree, these lyrics are great !!-ed). The demo is well packaged with a cardboard cover, as well as a lyric sheet, and it's recommendable.

(Cyber Kultur ...)

although I believe an additional guitar player to add more variation and solos, could produce wonders. The price is 5\$ from the following address :  
Cyber Kultur, Steve Mariotti,  
11210 Bayou Place Drive, Houston  
TX 77099, U.S.A.

# DREAM THEATER

Christian Rademaker

One of the most promising bands of last year was no doubt, Majesty. Although the sound on their instrumental "rough mix" demo was poor, the highly original nature of the music and the great musicianship that it displayed convinced a lot of people, (including us), that this was a band with a bright future in front of them. They've now got a record contract, and a new name. They changed it to Dream Theater, because of legal problems with another band that had the rights to the name Majesty. Their music consists of a mixture of all sorts of influences ranging from metal, progressive rock and jazz to classical music. They've combined all these elements to become one of the most brilliant and progressive bands ever to appear, next to Sieges Even and Watchtower. The songs are very complex and progressive and all musicians are very talented. I can strongly advise anyone with an open mind to check out their album, when it's released. Dream Theater's line-up is: Mike Portnoy-d, John Petrucci-g, John Myung-b, Kevin Moore-kb and Charlie Dominici-v. Here's the interview we did with drummer Mike Portnoy, just before the release of their monumental LP...

COULD YOU TELL US SOMETHING ABOUT THE BAND'S HISTORY? WHEN AND HOW DID YOU COME TOGETHER, HAVE THERE BEEN ANY LINE-UP CHANGES?

John, John and Kev all played together in various bands, when they were in high school. In September of 85, I met John and



John, while we were all attending the Berklee College of Music in Boston. We spent a year together there and wrote the material on the '86 demo. When we returned home to New York, Kev joined up with us along with our former vocalist, Chris Collins.

WHY DID YOU RECORD A DEMO WITHOUT A VOCALIST?

The '87 instrumental demo was recorded during the year that we were auditioning singers to replace Chris. Although we didn't have a singer, we were writing a lot of new material, and were progressing at a very fast rate. We recorded that demo, only to document that period onto tape.

WHO'S THE NEW VOCALIST; WHAT KIND OF VOCALIST IS HE, AND HOW DID YOU FIND HIM?

Charlie Dominici joined the band in November of 87. We had interviewed over 90 vocalists before we found him. We were very picky (and patient) to make sure that our new singer would fit the chemistry of the band perfectly. Charlie has a very different vocal style than the typical metal singer. He has many pop and soul influences, which really adds to the originality of the music. He also plays other instruments, which makes it very easy for him to understand the nature of the music we write.



(Dream Theater interview...)

WHO INSPIRED YOU TO PLAY THIS KIND OF MUSIC AND WHAT OTHER BANDS DO YOU LISTEN TO ?

We listen to so many bands and styles, that it would be ridiculous to specifically list them all. Because we are musicians, we like to be very open to anything we hear. We feel very comfortable writing in this style of music, because we try to take the writing and the playing to it's fullest potential—we are trying to break any boundaries that an average band might fear breaking.

HOW DID YOU COME UP WITH THE TITLES OF THE INSTRUMENTAL SONGS ? WERE THEY CHOSEN WITH THE PROSPECT OF ADDING LYRICS IN THE FUTURE ?

The titles on the '87 demo were only working titles that were inspired by the moods created while writing the songs. A song like "Death of Spock" which now has lyrics, has nothing to do with Mr. Spock.

WHAT ARE YOUR LYRICS ABOUT, AND WHERE DO YOU GET YOUR INSPIRATION FOR THEM ?

The topics of the lyrics range from song to song. To sum up the lyrics on our album, the different topics are: faith, truth, death, fiction, relationships and dream. The inspiration comes from day to day situations, that either bother us, make us happy or inspire us.

HOW DID YOU GET YOUR RECORD DEAL ?

Because our demos were always recorded on 4-track machines, we never bothered shopping for a record deal. We wanted to wait until we had a proper sounding quality recording to represent us. It turns out that we got our record deal through a friend of ours (Chuck Lenihan from the Crumbsuckers) who told Steve Sinclair (head of Mechanic Recs) all about us and got him very curious to hear us. Steve contacted me and came down to a rehearsal and flipped out ! And here we are!

WHAT ARE THE TITLES FOR THE SONGS ON THE ALBUM, WHICH ONES WERE ALREADY ON ONE OF YOUR DEMOS ?

The album consists of four songs chosen from the '87 demo, and four songs written since then. The four from the '87 demo, are: "Afterlife",

"The killing hand", "Ytse Jam", (instrumental) and "The ones who help to set the sun" (formerly "Death of Spock"). The titles of the four new ones are: "A fortune in lies", "Light fuse & get away", "Only a matter of time" and "Status seeker" (which is just remixed by Terry Brown to be released as the first single).  
HOW HAS YOUR MUSIC DEVELOPED SINCE THE RECORDING OF THE ROUGH MIX DEMO ?

The new songs are still very long and complex in arrangement, but are more mature in terms of songwriting. They are also some of the most progressive and heaviest songs we've ever written.

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE NEW STREAM IN HEAVY METAL OF PROGRESSIVE/TECHNICAL MUSIC WITH BANDS LIKE SIEGES EVEN AND WATCHTOWER. WILL IT BECOME AN IMPORTANT ASSET TO HEAVY METAL ?

I hope so ! It's great to hear Metal bands who obviously put alot of time and effort into their songwriting and musicianship. Although we haven't heard Sieges Even yet (hopefully we will soon), we really respect what bands such as WatchTower, Fates Warning, King Diamond, Mekong Delta, the Crumbsuckers are doing. I hope this style of music starts to become more and more recognised and appreciated.

DO YOU THINK THAT YOUR MUSIC WILL ALSO APPEAL TO PEOPLE WITH OTHER MUSICAL TASTES THAN HEAVY METAL ? (e.g. JAZZ)

Definitely ! I think that our music has a little bit of something that will appeal to everybody, whether they listen to Metal, Jazz, Classical or mainstream rock (or even Norwegian folk music !)

HAVE YOU DONE ANY LIVE GIGS, AND IF SO WHAT KIND OF AUDIENCE DID YOU ATTRACT AND HOW DID IT RESPOND ?

Right now, we've been spending alot of time playing out live and tightening up our show, so it will be ready to go on the road when the album is released. The crowd response has been overwhelming and very encouraging. All different sorts of listeners seem to be showing up to our shows.

(Dream Theater interview...)

HOW IS LIFE IN WHAT IS SUPPOSED TO BE THE ONE OF THE BUSIEST PLACES ON EARTH (N.Y.C) ?

Just as you described it : busy ! HOW IS THE NEW YORK MUSIC SCENE, ARE THERE ANY BANDS THAT PLAY A SIMILAR KIND OF MUSIC TO YOURS ? The N.Y. scene is great. There are always plenty of clubs to go on, bands to see and things to do. However, I would not consider too many of the local bands as up to par as the scene itself. There are mostly either poser bands, or untalented thrash bands. The only bands from this area that we really enjoy are the Crumbsuckers, Hittman and Ludichrist.

HAVE YOU GOT A MESSAGE FOR ALL THOSE OPEN MINDED PEOPLE HERE IN EUROPE ?

Well, thank you very much for the support. We really appreciate it and it is very encouraging. Our debut LP, "When dreams and day unite", will be available in February of 89, and we hope to see you on tour soon after.

Interview by Edwin Hautus ,and  
Christian Rademaker

\*\*\*NEWS FROM AZRA INT\*\*\*

- "High n' mighty" is the title of the debut LP of the Southern CA band Commander. They are said to be good despite of the commercial approach.
- Intruder's debut LP is still selling very well, one year after it's release. The band is now recording the follow up, which will come out on Metal Blade.
- Dissension's second LP, titled "We the fooled" is out.
- Mighty Wrath is a new white-metal band from NY. First release from this band is a shaped pic-disc, whilst a full length LP should be on it's way.
- As known Dark Angel's debut ("We have arrived") was released on Metalstorm recs. Now that D.A. are on another label, the guys at Metalstorm found a nice way to put an end to their contract ; the release of "Welcome to the Slaughterhouse" on a shaped pic-disc.

## TEXANEWS

As of February 11, 1989 these are the important news that I know of : WatchTower has found a new singer and is currently playing shows in Texas (we know that too-check the interview-ed). Mike Soliz (Assalant, Militia) is the new frontman replacing Jason McMaster who is now the lead singer of a glam/grunge band, Dangerous Toyz. D.T have signed a deal with a major label CBS, and their debut LP will be out soon. Dallas band Process Revealed have released their 4th demo ("4: Yet another"). It's more hardcore than their other stuff, but very, very strong. Write to them at : Steve Murphy, 317 Meadow Creek/Coppell, TX 75019, U.S.A. Steve Murphy is also the bass player for Rotting Corese who are in the process of getting back into the touring circuit. I just saw an awesome gig in Houston with Rotting Corese. The old drummer Randy is back, so it sounds like jazz thrash ! Write to Steve for information. Austin band Cyber Kultur have been working on new material for a second demo. The material is a little more technical and progressive. Write to Steve Mariotti, 11210 Bayou Place Drive, Houston, TX 7709, U.S.A. From Coreus Christi, Angkor Wat have been doing well and gigging across the state. Many new thrash bands are springing up in the Houston area. Dead Horse is one of the bigger ones. Contact Randy Haagh, manager, 3620 1/2 Broadway/Houston, TX 77077, U.S.A

Chris Orloski

## Thunderbolt

German Underground Metal Magazine

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# VINYL OVERDOSE

## ANACRUSIS: SUFFERING HOUR

### ATROPHY: SOCIALIZED HATE

I'm doing these two reviews together, because I find many common things between these two young American bands. They both released a demo that got many great reviews, Anacrusis, "Annihilation complete", and Atrophy, "Chemical dependancy". After the good reaction, they both got a deal, and both came up with very good albums.

None of them presents something totally original or new. Anacrusis sound like a combination of Slayer and Trouble. They have the intense of Slayer, the heaviness and the doom-feel of Trouble. Atrophy goes for a more thrash approach, in the vein of Slayer, early Metallica, etc. What I like in these bands, is the ability to sound very fresh enjoyable, with their well structured songs. From Anacrusis I'd pick up as my faves "A world to gain", "Present tense" and "Annihilation complete". From Atrophy, "Chemical dependancy", "Preacher, preacher" and the title song. Both bands also have very interesting lyrics, which is a big plus for them. The last common thing between them is their Greek-based names...

## HOLY TERROR: MIND WARS

WOW!!! What a goodie this is! These guys still play the great epic/speed style metal, as they did in their debut and in their demo. They have improved technically, lyrically and in their song-writing. This LP didn't grab me at first, but now after listening carefully to it I can say that it is a very good investment. Now, they sound more original than on the debut, and I can't see how someone could compare them to Megadeth (as on the 1st LP) or another band. Their lyrics are very good, intelligent, and after reading the lyric-sleeve, I understand that they are not much fond of the church... My fave track on this release is "The immoral wasteland", with "Judas reward" and "Damned by judges" not far behind.

## HITTMAN: HITTMAN

Finally the debut of this highly praised NY band, is at the stores. I know that it will do well, as Hittman is a high quality metal band. My complaint is that they're nothing else than that... You cannot find something original on this LP, it's just heavy metal, class metal. All songs are well played in the classic Hittman mould, as we know them from their demo and EP-tape (all songs of which are on the LP). Their style is polished metal, with not many hard edges, with catchy choruses, and shining guitar soloing. The best songs are: "Metal sport", "Dead on arrival", "The test of time" and "Behind the lines". I'm not sure that Hittman will stand the test of time though...

## VARIOUS: IS THIS HEAVY OR WHAT? 7" EP

Under this title, a young Swedish metal label, that tries to promote Swedish thrash bands on the one hand and a magazine of the same name that will soon appear, released a 7" EP, with four bands from Sweden: Damien, Atrocity, Tribulation and Gravity. Damien's "Hide and seek" is the opening track, a great mix of Megadeth's technicality with the structures of Savatage, a thrash metal epic, brilliant. You may already be familiar with them, through their demos or their own EP, so you know that Damien stands for quality. Following track is Atrocity's "Hiding from tomorrow" which didn't grab me at all, with many problems apart from the poor sound, such as the typical melodic-speed style, and the poor song-writing.

Both tracks on the B side, Tribulation's "Pecuniary aid" and Gravity's "Misanthropy" sound like an American version of Bathory to me, really very-very heavy. The first is heavy, mostly mid-paced, led down by vocals that lay in the HC side of the Araya spectrum. The second is the thrashiest of all tracks in this EP, total mayhem, sheer brutality, but still not noise, a great (for the hard thrashers) song.

I overall liked this release very much, and I think it's a great idea for individuals to go onto putting out vinyl. The price is \$5 worldwide, from: Jorgen Sigfridsson, Kvarnskoogatan 2, S-754 20, SWEDEN

## SIEGES EVEN: LIFE CYCLE

If you want to do yourself a big favour, then follow my advice: go and buy this LP at once. You can find more on Sieges Even in the interview.... You might find it difficult at first to get into this stuff, but if after listening carefully to it for three times you don't find it brilliant, then you're reading wrong zine. This is how close to excellent can an LP be. Whichever point of view you see this from, you understand that these guys are doing great work!

They sound a little bit like a mix of Watchtower and Hades, with some more of Rush influences thrown in for good measure. Comparisons to MT will obviously be made, as especially the songs "Life cycle" and "Apocalyptic disposition" from side A, have many things in common with the Texan Gods. But be sure, no rip offs here, just pure music. What tracks can I choose for being the best? The off-the-wall "Repression and resistance" or the epic "Srtaggler from Atlantis" which takes some 13 mins. But maybe I should pick out "David"! All tracks are very good, excellent musicianship, great lyrics covering a subjects such as social criticism, fantasy etc., and all in all one of the two best releases for 1988! (The other being VoiVod's LP by the way...). Buy at all costs!!!

## NOT FRAGILE: WHO DARES WINS

This is quite a different case to the above, as N.F. (more about which in the interview) go for a more typical German speed metal style, but with many pros. This is their debut release, and it's a very promising vinyl indeed! Their sound is kinda like early Helloween, but with quite different vocal style. N.F.'s surely one of the best German bands in this style (along with Blind Guardian), and they manage to give some fresh air to their fast and heavy structures, with melodic singing, esp. on the choruses. Best song is "With all my might", but the others are following close to it, so check out "High into heaven", "Down in the streets" with the first being not far from the Helloween territory. A very good debut, that promises a happy future for Not Fragile.

## \*\*\*\*\*IN BRIEF\*\*\*\*\*

### REALM: ENDLESS WAR

Another quality speed metal LP, with many Rush influences and progressive touches. Very good and noticeable the Beatles' cover "Eleanor Rigby". Very good musicians, quite original style. Best track is the old demo track "All heads will turn to the hunt".

### CANDLEMASS: ANCIENT DREAMS

The new LP of the Swedish merchants, and yet another step forward for the "sleep" metal genre. It's heavy as "Nightfall", and furthermore it sounds more refreshing. Tracks that stand out are: "Ancient Dreams", "Mirror Mirror" and "The bells of Acheron".

### CRIMSON GLORY: TRANCEDENCE

This second LP of THE class metal band, allows us to see how mighty this pack is. Many claim this to be the best LP for 88. Surely not, but the freshness musicianship and bright/polished sound makes this a good LP. Also it's a bit more melodic than the debut, and the lyrical ideas are interesting.

### OMEN: ESCAPE TO NOWHERE

Another big disappointment, as the change of singer saw Omen going for a more mainstream metal style. Not really bad though, but as a fan of J.D. Kimball I can't judge fairly.

### ARTCH: ANOTHER RETURN

Finally the Norwegian, highly praised in Metal Forces band release their debut. Is it as good as it's said to be? I think not. At least not to that point. It's good, heavy metal, with Iron Maiden and Helloween touches, but I can't find something that really gets me raging.

#### B.O.C.:IMAGINOS

Who would expect this...the coming back of an old classic band,that in the last years has dissapointed us.1988 saw a new BOC,with the original line-up,many fresh ideas,and a brilliant LP to back up !!! Apart from the BOC musicians,on this record appear many great players,such as Mark Biederman (Blind Illusion),Joe Satriani,etc.There are 9 cuts,and the song list contains even a new version of the oldie "Astronomy".All songs are very good,well executed,complicated,with some progressive hints.I'd pick up "The siege and investiture of Baron Von Frankenstein's castle at Weisseria"(what a title,er ?) for my fave.Another song that impressed me was "In the presence of another world",melodic with a mysterious feel on it.Very interesting is the lyrical content of "Imaginos",about a very complicated story,that I have not understood yet.

#### NIGEL FOXKES INC:WAR OF THE GODZ

Nigel Foxke,"the best musician in Greece",as the local major press calls him,has come with a second record,but under a different name,because the Dutch Thanatos had the rights for that name.Back to the LP now...I must confess that I was dissapointed with it (or I was expecting too much) It's true that Nigel is a good guitar player,and he writes some good songs,but he cannot make it... Over the last two years I've seen him live twice, and I know that live he (and Wolf-b,Johnny-d),is a hot act.I guess that it's the production that ruins his work,as the same tracks sound much better live.Of course there are some other minor disadvantages,as the use of letters instead of words (e.g.tu/you,4/for,etc),the keyboard intros,and the weak vocal performance of Nigel himself (he's looking for a singer nowadays,so if u'r interested contact me...).This is not a bad record at all,but it's a pity,cause it could've been alot better.

#### ADRAMELCH:IRAE MELANOX

Italy has always had the misfortune of the lack in good metal bands,Just like Greece ! I think that this is changing nowadays,since bands such as Lord Crucifier (they're in England,but they're from Italy),Extrema,Nuclear Symphony,and AdraMelch appear.AdraMelch is going for the melodic style, not wimpy or anything,but still not very heavy. They show some influences from power rock,and progressive metal acts such as Fates Warning.They even have some common parts with Greek metallers Vaval and Sarissa (they all suffer from poor production,ha ha !!!).They're good at their instruments,and I liked very much the singer,even if his English is not that fluent).At some points keyboards are used too much for my taste,but it is still OK.Generally good,and who would expect it ? Contact them at :AdraMelch,Gianluca Corona, Via De Amicis,20123,Milano,Italy.

#### HADES:IF AT FIRST YOU DON'T SUCCEED

I wonder,if I'll find words for this review. Well,the second LP by the NJ speedsters is waiting for you at the stores.Like most other techno-speed records,it's not very easy to get into it at first but after a carefull playing,while reading the lyric sheet,I was amazed.I loved their debut,and fortunately this one's even better.They've changed their style a bit,for better.There's more variety here,and there are some points that remind the old demo days (but this doesn't mean they don't play fast anymore).Dan Lorenzo,who's the main composer has improved a lot,all of the songs are great.The best though isn't his,but Ed Schulman's, and it's "Aftermath of betrayal".Alan Tecchio's lyrics are also excellent,thoughtfull,covering topics that no other metal band has ever done,such as opinions on "Opinionate",the experiments on animals ("In the meat time"),sexism ("I too eye"). More info on this album can be found in the interview,but I tell you after hearing this LP, you'll join the Hades fans.

#### HAMMERWITCH:RETURN TO SALEM EP

Being told that this band sounded like Jag Panzer, I bought the EP at once.But I was dissapointed, because,even if some similarities with J.P. can undoubtedly be found(check out "Brainchild"), overall this EP is nothing special.The musicians aren't bad-their problem is the poor songwriting, and the clichéd lyrics.The structures are boring, and don't feature something you've not heard before.The lyrics are...let's take a look at the titles:"live for metal","Psycho","Burned at the stake","Judgement day","return to Salem" and the above mentioned "Brainchild",which I think is the best track here.Don't take me for wrong it's not very bad,it's a quite good effort for a debut on a very small label.Finally Hammerwitch made me reconsider my belief that all Texan bands are Gods ! I guess that even if I haven't put you off, you won't be able to find this,but try at the label's adress: DIA management,P.O. Box 200876, Arlington,Texas 76006-0876,U.S.A.

#### MANOWAR:KINGS OF METAL

Everyone who has known me for the last years,could reassure you that I'm a Manowar die-hard.But what I hear in their last two LPs is far from my taste. Manowar stands for heavy,original, epic music with some of the best vocals.What we have here is an up tempo song,"Wheels of fire",which lays between "Violence and bloodshed" and (the godly)"Kill with power",not too bad.Next is "Kings of metal" the sing-along stupid song,even worse than "Fighting the world","Heart of steel","The crown and the ring" and "Kingdom come" are all boring,slowish tracks,with even some piano tunes thrown in for good measure,and surely not my cup of tea,thank. There is the classic bass solo,great as always,and it shows the high musicianship."Hail and kill" is a bit better than the others,but still worse than every old tune of 'em.Then comes anarrated story, that is an insult to the previous narrations in "Defender" etc..Last song is "Blood of the kings", which is kinda review of Manowar's past,consisting lyrically of parts of old songs,and it's not that bad.I must confess that this LP was one of my biggest disappointments ever,but I still love the old stuff,I have a growing collection of 20 live tapes...but I think that it would have been better if they had stopped in 85,so that they would remain the Metal kings !!

#### KING DIAMOND:THE DARK SIDES EP

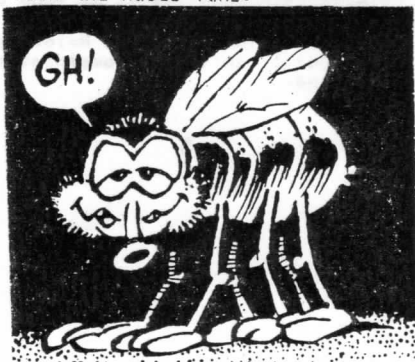
This is an EP with some "rare" songs of K.D..All songs are good,but I can't see any other reason for this release than cashing on the fans.But if you don't have the "Halloween" EP or any of the other singles,this is a good way to save some money,by getting all B side tracks.

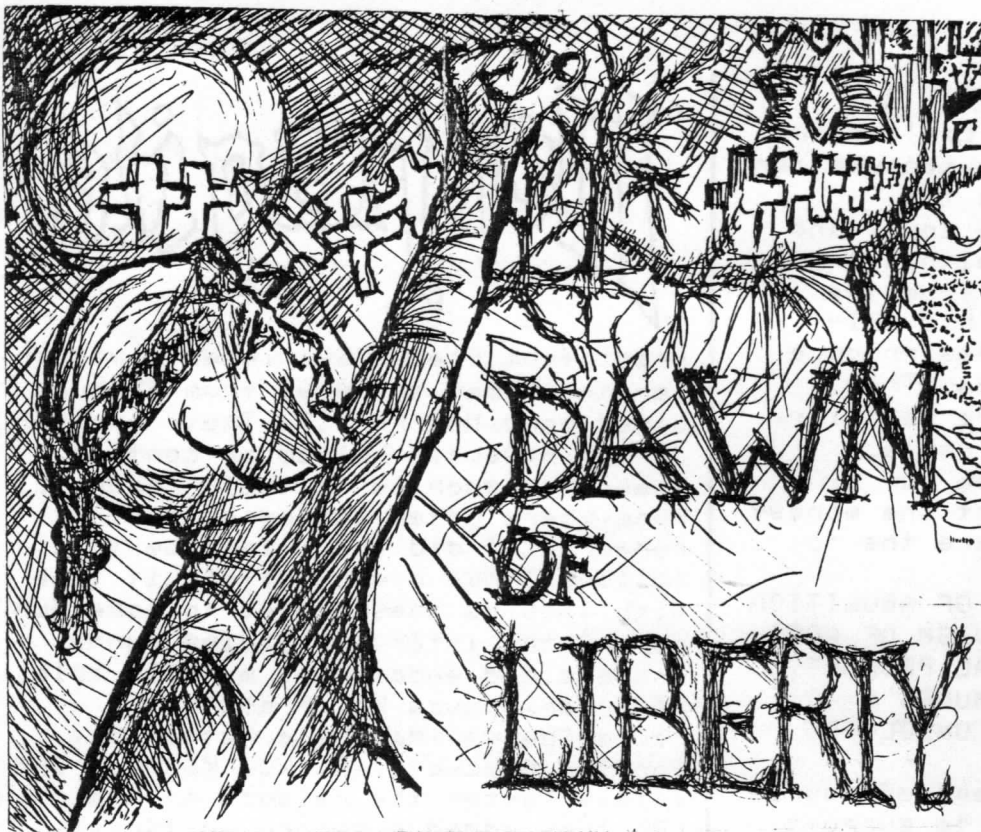
#### DORSAL ATLANTICA:VICTORY 7" EP

A small Swiss label has it's debut release out in the form of a Dorsal Atlantica 7" EP. D.A. is a fine techno-thrash band from Brazil,that already has some LPs (3 I think) out.Musically the biggest influence of them has to be Slayer or Megadeth I suppose,and since they add a strong dose of musicianship and originality this is a very interesting EP.Unfortunately,almost all of the typical Brazilian stuff is here...rather bad vocals,lyrics about death,and stupid names (Hard-core,Vandalo etc..).Surely very good stuff,and it's orderable for 5\$ from Pierre Moix,Postfach 57, CH-4008 Basel,Switzerland.He's also looking for other bands for future releases,so if you're interested,write him.

#### DESTINY:ATOMIC WINTER

Destiny is another band from Sweden,that has it's second LP out.They were formed back in the early 80's,and despite of the rather good reviews,they didn't have much success.Lately they put out a demo tape that proved to be good,and now the LP is out.The first thing that you will notice on this LP is the cover which was made by the famous Derek Riggs.But don't worry there are even more good things on this record.Their style is pure heavy metal,with emphasis on the melodies and heaviness.A minor is the (few) commercial edges,on songs such as "Spellbreaker",that put me down a bit.My fave track is "Who am I ?" real metal,pure class.Generally a promising LP,and I feel that Destiny will go much further.





I had never heard of Dawn Of Liberty, until my friend Seyros (also known as Captain Death) introduced them to me. Their style isn't easy to be described, but to me they sound like a cross between punk and metal, but still quite different to the typical crossover bands. A good description is "punk gone Metallica". Seyros had done this interview for his zine and he gave it to me to put it here as he couldn't put it there... The interview is with Stefan(v), wilst Frits(g), Tweeva(b), Danny(g) and Stijn(d) complete the line-up.

PLEASE GIVE US SOME INFO ON THE BAND !

D.O.L was formed in 85. Since 82 we played in different bands. The actual members played always together and two others joined us after playing in rock/pop/metal/experimenting bands.

WHAT ARE YOUR BASIC INFLUENCES ?  
We just don't have any particular influences. We play hardcore with lots of metal influences, but we don't orientate ourselves on a certain group.

HOW ARE THINGS GOING WITH THE HC/PUNK SCENE IN BELGIUM ?

Lots of bands, too numerous to mention ! Lots of gigs with great atmosphere !! Anyway bands who have LPs are Hate Crew, Heibel Dirty Scums, Ear damage, X-Creta, Capital Scum... They all play at a

high level. Two labels exist : the national "Punk etc" and the international "Hageland recs". The second has released Skeezicks, Upset Noise, Neuroot etc.

WHILE VISITING BELGIUM, I NOTICED MANY SKINS. DON'T THEY BOTHER PUNKS WITH THEIR MACHO-FACIST ATTITUDE ?  
At typical HC gigs, we don't see many skins. Maybe five or six. They usually are calm but sometimes punk themselves have to throw them out. At concerts like Peter & The Test Tube Babies there are fights.

ARE YOU VIVISECTIONIST ? CAN VIVISECTION SAVE HUMAN LIVES ?

First we have to look for other alternatives and it's proven that there are alternatives. We must finance those projects so that they have a better chance to succeed. Of course we are anti-vivisectionists, and we think this anti-movement is well organised to do something against it. Almost every country has an organisation against animal experiments. I personally think that man is more important than animals. I say it in the context that I really believe if there are no other alternatives, it's allowed to save a human being. Lots of people say "I will never do it", but if that situation comes to them ? They would just do the same. Anyway I never heard something in that particular situation. Hard question that of yours !

WHAT DO YOU THINK IS THE MAJOR THREAT THE WORLD ENVISAGES NOWADAYS?

(D.O.L. interview...)

It is the solution. We can't control anymore our greed. This consumption machine alongside with the production machine are cruel and immoral. It has to do with economic imperialism, especially from the U.S., but also from the big oil-producing countries. They produce things mostly not needed. They analyse our consumptive behavior, and terrorize us with useless products. Nature must be our pattern in life and not the money-profit attitude. THEY are the terrorists!

IS ANARCHY IN ASPECTS OF ABOLITION OF AUTHORITY, COLLECTIVISM OF AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY AND SELF-DISPOSED COMMUNES A SOLUTION TO MANKIND'S UNSOLVED PROBLEMS?

It would just be a dream of course. Few years ago, I hoped to support a global revolution. We mustn't be naive. And a solution to mankind's problems, well... No, it just depends on how big these are. There will always be problems no matter which system. World problems are too complex to be solved with anarchism. People aren't ready for something anarchistic. I still believe in small communions where people live more or less anarchistic, but anarchism as a system isn't a problem solver.

DO YOU CONSIDER YOURSELVES AS AN ANARCHIST PUNK BAND?

Well, we work without contracts, managers etc. We are totally independent and everyone just says what he thinks. Only three of our members have sympathies to anarchism, two don't. So we don't consider ourselves as an anarchist punk band.

SOMETHING MORE TO ADD?

Thanks for the really nice interview. Write to us for details.

As you see, this band is totally different from the other stuff in this issue, but I wanted to present something alternative in support of our open minded attitude.

DAWN OF LIBERTY

Stefan Joosten, Broesveldstraat 15,  
3580 Neerpeelt, BELGIUM

# Not fragile

Apart from Sieges Even, when I was in Germany, I met the guys from Hamburg based band, Not Fragile. Their manager Jürgen Hegewald helped me contact them. They took me to their rehearsal room, where after attending a rehearsal, I did the interview that follows. I had a very difficult time with them, as they wanted to make fun during the interview, giving funny answers, and endangering my valuable recorder. Anyway Not Fragile is Raico Ebel (g), Matthias Better (b), Torsten Buzcko (v), Markus Köhn (d) and lately (after the release of their LP) they added a second guitarist, whose name I'm sorry I don't know how is spelled... Sorry mate! Answers were given by no specific member, they were answering all together (at the same time...)

CAN YOU PLEASE GIVE US THE STORY OF NOT FRAGILE?

N.F. started in 1980. In 1983 we recorded our first demo, and this one was called "Big brother". By that time we played 15 gigs. In 1985, we recorded our second demo, called "Made of metal". We sold 300 copies from this tape, worldwide. After the "M.O.M" demo, N.F. stays on three samplers, the 1st one is "Breakout", there are 2 tracks, the 2nd one "Metal warrior" with 1 track. Through the "M.W" we get the deal on Metal-Other recs. Then came the 3rd sampler called "Iron...".

WHAT ABOUT THE LP? WHEN WAS IT RECORDED & HOW DID YOU GET THE DEAL? The label came in contact with us. We recorded the LP in Jan 88, and we got the deal through the "M.W" sampler in England. There was one track from N.F., & many magazines & radio-stations in England said that our track is the best one, and then we get the deal.

HOW MANY GIGS HAVE YOU PLAYED UP TO NOW, AND WITH WHAT OTHER BANDS? We've played 150 gigs over the eight years, and we've played with Running Wild, Sieges Even, Mania, Vengeance and some more, but the most famous band was Running Wild.

WHO WRITES THE SONGS, AND WHO THE LYRICS ?

Most of the songs we write together and the lyrics come from me & him (!!! Torsten & Raico-ed).  
WHAT ARE YOUR LYRICS ABOUT ?

The lyrics are about fantasy and also about fairies, monsters and hell... I must say we doesn't kill any women on stage. We also don't eat babies.

WHAT BANDS DO YOU THINK THAT HAVE INFLUENCED YOU ?

Slayer, Sodom, Venom.. (laughs-ed). If we are influenced then we are by Helloween and I-Maiden, maybe Metallica, we don't think any other. But we say N.F.'s N.F., and there's no other group in the world who do the some kind of music as we.

DON'T YOU THINK THAT YOU HAVE THE TYPICAL GERMAN SOUND ?

What is the typical German sound for you ?

THE SOUND OF HELLOWEEN, RUNNING WILD, MANIA, NOT FRAGILE...

(all together) No !!!!

IN WHAT BANDS DID YOU PLAY BEFORE YOU MADE N.F. ?

I (Torsten) formed N.F. in 1980, this is my first band, and the only one.

My name is Matthias and I only played in N.F.

I, Markus, the drummer of N.F. Not Fragile is my first professional band-or semi pro, since 83, thanks.

My name is Raico and I played in Prophecy (along with Mike Kiske-ed) and then in N.F. since Nov 87.

My name is xxxxx, and I played before in another band, and I now play in N.F. for 2 months.

WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING SINCE THE RELEASE OF THE LP ?

We had been waiting for the LP ! And created some new songs for the next LP, and we hope it'll come out in 1989.

ARE YOU SATISFIED WITH THE LP ?

The songwriting is great, the sound is great, and we're proud of the LP (laughs). But the next LP is gonna be better, yeach !

ARE YOU SATISFIED WITH YOUR LABEL ?

(ironically) Yeach !! In Germany there's no promotion, we must buy our own LP by ourselves, we must pay it ! Since two weeks we know it's been released here in Germany so we must buy OUR LP by ourselves

And the big shit is that the label didn't even tell that the LP was out now in Germany and also they promised us a tour, T-shirts with our names on them, a single before the LP was out, and they told us that everybody would get a test pressing before the LP comes out, but NOTHING of these happened, so they're shit guys.

WILL YOUR NEXT LP BE ON THE SAME LABEL ?

(all together) No, No, NOOOOOO !!!

THEN WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS ?

Lots of girls and a lot of money and many many records which will get gold and platin... That's shit. The future plans of N.F. are to get a good record deal to make a good LP and to make a tour... all over the world.

I'VE ALSO HEARD THAT CBS OFFERED YOU A DEAL. WILL YOU ACCEPT ?

Yes, but where did you hear this, because it's not true, just fantasy. RUMOURS... I'M TIRED, SO WHAT ABOUT A FINISHING SENTENCE ?

We hope our future plans come true and also that we can tour all over the world and especially that we play Greece, in Athens. Not Fragile wants to thank you for the interview and a lot of greetings to all the readers of Metal OverDose, and all the metal heads in Greece. OK ? good ....

I wasn't very sure about N.F. but they proved me at their rehearsal that they really are a very good band, that deserves support. These days they are playing some shows in Germany, and I hope that they get a deal soon... Contact them through their manager, at NOT FRAGILE, JURGEN HEGEWALD, FRIEDRICH-EBERT-STR 29, 2210 ITZEHOE, WEST GERMANY

## HEY,

WE'RE LOOKING FOR PEOPLE WHO WOULD LIKE TO HELP IN DISTRIBUTING THIS ZINE. IF YOU THINK THAT YOU CAN SELL SOME COPIES TO FRIENDS ETC., THEN GET IN TOUCH NOW ! I CAN GIVE YOU LOWER PRICES, SO THAT YOU CAN MAKE SOME BUCKS FOR YOURSELVES !!!

HEY, WHAT'S UP?



ADRIANO (88)