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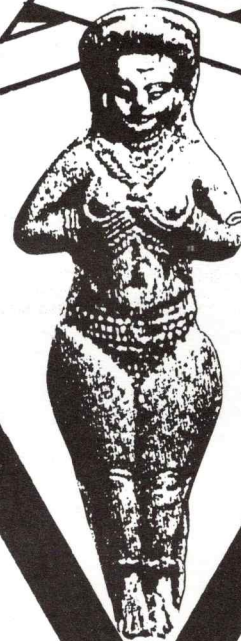
### THE ONES AT FAULT

NIKO SIRKIÄ the editor in chief.  
interviews. reviews. articles.  
scene report (Poland). screw-ups.  
overall view on things. ARUNAS  
BUGVILIONIS scene report  
(Lithuania). VILLE TAPIO interview.  
LORD GRAVEHILL interview. MIKAEL  
JOHANSSON interviews. SAMUEL +  
CRIMSONINK artwork. layout. cover  
photography. TUULAN PIKA-OFFSET  
printing.



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This one is # 304

# HAMMER



PLAYLIST - Niko Sirkiä - Autumn/Winter 1993/1994:  
(in no particular order)

- \* ETERNE 7" EP
- \* FIELDS OF THE NEPHILIM everything
- \* DEAD CAN DANCE Into The Labyrinth CD
- \* IN SLAUGHTER NATIVES everything
- \* LUSTMORD everything
- \* CANDIRU everything
- \* LASSIGUE BENDTHAUS everything
- \* TWO WITCHES everything
- \* PROPHET O'HAPHAZARD everything
- \* GOETHES ERBEN Leben Im Niemandsland CD

salute.

no boring blahblah.  
no endless thanklists.  
no foolish jokes.  
no pathetic predictions.  
no humble excuses.  
no more.  
read on.  
enjoy music.

Niko Sirkiä.

#### NEWS AND UPDATES:

PROPHET O'HAPHAZARD have broken their contract with Deathwish Office / Nuclear Blast Records. Currently they're looking for a new label. They've made a demo of 3 new songs which very well show the development in the band's sound and songwriting.

It may be difficult to contact EMPEROR through the drummer Faust because he's in jail due to certain stupid things he did. Instead, try this address: P.O.Box 53, 3812 Akkerhaugen, Norway.

TWO WITCHES have their "Phaeriemagick" album out now. Once again they have problems with the line-up, the drummer and the bassist were kicked out and surprisingly Anne (synth/vocals, the other of the former members) left the band.

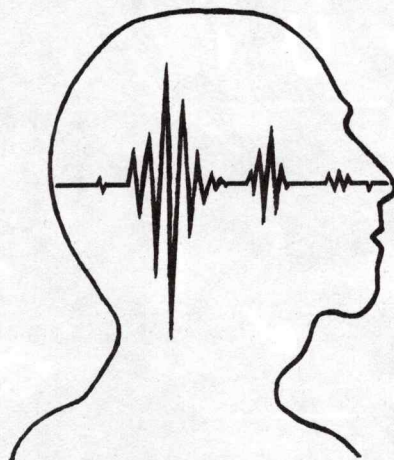
There will be no GRAVELAND release on Demonosound / Hammer O.D. due to several serious things. We'll try to inform you about the band's future activities.

#### ONE MORE REVIEW:

DAWN OF WINTER  
"Celebrate The Agony" mini-CD  
(Tales Of Sadness)

The German DAWN OF WINTER are a good example of a promising Doom/Heavy Metal group. The five songs on this slice of a rainbow are all well played and thought out. The sound is heavy. There are lots of melodies that create a despondent atmosphere. In my opinion a few things could have been done a bit better here and there but the entirety is good anyway. Order it by sending \$10 or 15 DM to Tales Of Sadness, Oli Saalfrank, Burgstr. 11, 49610 Quakenbrück, Germany.

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# PROPHET O' HAPHAZARD



## DEATHWISH OFFICE

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PROPHET O'HAPHAZARD from Germany are for sure a unique duo. They work up into their original sound elements of the early 80's sound produced by artists such as David Bowie, BAUHAUS or JOY DIVISION. Their first record was a 12" EP called "Evolution", including four songs. How do the two members see the EP nowadays?

"As the first P.O.H. record", answers the Prophet O'Haphazard (aka Oliver Gerling; vocals, synth) himself, "as a start, hm, cult. Well, sometimes I'm glad about my record player which doesn't work at 45 rpm..."

Roger Staff (guitars, synth) comments: "Good songs, good times, no money, bad production, the beginning of feeling. PROPHET O'HAPHAZARD is the kind of band I ever wanted to play with."

So we introduced the members also. On the 12" EP there was yet one more member, Matthias Schmöser (guitar on "Till I Hate You"). Where is he now?

Roger: "I played only some bass-tunes in "Till I Hate You" but the parts Matthias played sounded good to me (I didn't know Matthias at that time, funny). Oliver said that Matthias couldn't play the guitar."

Haphazard: "He was and still is a friend of mine... I should phone him up, I think. He sold his guitar to buy some drinks, you know, and that's the true background."

### PROGRESSIVE

Only 10 months after "Evo-

lution" the band released "Cabaret Nostalgia". It was a mini-LP with 6 excellent songs on it. Musically it was a large step forward but staying on the same path, though. It sold about 2500 copies which is surprisingly low considering it was self distributed with a low production budget. After "Cabaret Nostalgia" PROPHET O'HAPHAZARD gained a contract with Deathwish Office (a division of Nuclear Blast GmbH). Their first release on Deathwish was a CD entitled "Time... Invisible Tattoo", put out early 1993. For over five years the band had kept the same original style; it seems they had known exactly what kind of music to play already when they got together.

"For me it wasn't conscious what kind of music I would play with the Prophet. It is the kind of chemistry between us that forces me to play this kind of music", tells Roger. Haphazard agrees: "We didn't ever plan to sound the way we definitely sound. We just play and sound like this. I think you either got an own special style from the beginning or you'll ever be a copy. Progression is another important point, too. The way from your own "top"-performance only goes down!"

### OUTSTANDING

The CD title is a combination of two song titles, "Time..." and "Invisible Tattoo". These two tunes quite stand out from the

rest (not saying that masterpieces like "You And Me Covered In Silence" or "Spiral" aren't some of the best songs I've heard!)...

Roger: "Right, these two songs are quite outstanding from the rest, but the thing is that we realised at the end production, the whole album is in some way about time and everything has its marks like an invisible tattoo from time passing."

Haphazard: "These two songs stand for the main lyrical theme of the album, not nearly answered to myself, yet. "Time..." tells something about how I feel time is working. "Invisible Tattoo" tells something about the megamillion, uncountable ways to decide (or be decided) to go (or be gone) in this special period of your lifetime... (don't you think birth means gone). So I put these two songs together being the album title and question in one, time...invisible tattoo. Well, if time is or isn't an invisible tattoo, who knows it?"

### HORRIBLE

All records of PROPHET O' HAPHAZARD include a different version of a song called "Till I Hate You". Why? Haphazard doesn't know the answers which actually is a strange thing in his opinion, but Mr. Staff has something to say about this:

"Realizing the composition and text could live in many arrangements and rhythms because of its simple but true construct-

ion, we tried it out and it worked."

One more thing about one special song, "Michael Bagle". What's the point in it?

Haphazard: "It's a song for a good friend of ours. His name is Michael Adler, in English, M. Bagle. And the song really sounds the same mood, we get by thinking of him."

There are no official sale figure on the CD yet, but Roger said he feels it hasn't sold enough yet. There are some dissatisfying parts in the work of Deathwish Office such as delaying the release date for eight months. At least Haphazard still has trust on the label:

"Hope they do their best."

Deathwish Office is a division of Nuclear Blast Records which is known as a Death Metal company. What do you think about that kind of music?

Haphazard: "Horrible!"

Roger: "Surprising how many people like this kind of not-music."

### ATMOSPHERIC

Haphazard writes all the lyrics for the band.

"My lyrical inspiration is me with my senses", Haphazard tells, "Some lyrics are just mood or atmosphere, some private and sealed, some clear opinion. But I hope I got a few special messages for a few special people."

Roger adds: "I think there is a certain kind of message in it. I wouldn't stand behind

otherwise. Oliver's lyrics find the points I agree with.

On the info-sheet of Deathwish Office the music of PROPHEET O'HAPHAZARD is labeled as "Psychedelic Non-Hip End Wave". Perhaps it may tell the reader something but perhaps not.

I don't like to be pressed in any labels but everybody wants to know whether we are playing Gothic, Pop, Dark-wave or something else", says Roger. "So we decided if we couldn't change this kind of "label-thinking" to invent a new one: trance-like, nonconventional, at the end of a millennium."

Haphazard explains: "Psychedelic" means psychedelic. "Non-Hip" means: not trying to be trendy. "End Wave": because the New Wave has gone."

#### PERSONAL

The story of how the band got its strange monicker is even stranger than the name itself:

Haphazard: "Once a little dwarf with 2709 noses, 2 eyes, 1 mouth and several yellow dots on the backside of his head whispered to my ears while I slept: Hey Prophet O' Haphazard... go out and be a star....."

Roger: "You can play with this name because you can turn it around and in every constellation it will neutralize each other."

But does Haphazard or Oliver consider himself as a split personality or something with these two names?

"Absolutely not. But I can't demand from my grand pa for example calling me Prophet O' Haphazard all the time."

And Roger well accepts that the Name is also the band's name:

"For myself I like to be more in the background in public but being 50% of PROPHEET O'HAPHAZARD. I love this role, everybody is talking about Oliver when he says Prophet O'Haphazard but in reality the band wouldn't exist if we weren't these two personalities."

Now as it leads to it why wouldn't you both tell something about your personalities?

Haphazard: "Top secret!" (Damned! -ed.)

Roger: "Born 14/01 1943 in Cologne. Grammar school. Study of computer-engineering for 5 years, then break. Playing guitar since the age of 15 (due to a premature ejaculation, adds the infosheet! -ed.), some piano-lessons in east, try to play bass and clarinette (heavy stuff), no lessons. After making music with Oliver for this long time, I just could describe it as I searched for him since I decided to make music and found him at last."

Then, if you had the chance to pick up five records with you when you die, what would they be?

Roger: "Hard to decide. CAN: "Opener". LED ZEPPELIN: "The Song Remains The Same". David Sylvian: "Bone To Barth". KING CRIMSON: "A Guise To...". Brian Auger: "Apollo"."

Haphazard: "DALIS CAR: "The Waking Hour". JAPAN: "Obscure Alternati-

ves". SUEDE: "Suede". FAD GADGET: "Fireside Favourites/Singles". David Bowie: "Hunky Dory".

About their views on religions and philosophy Haphazard advices:

"If you read my lyrics a bit more between the lines, you'll know a whole lot about it."

Roger: "Imagine all the people would live together as friend. Imagine there are no religions, it isn't hard to do. Imagine all the people live together in peace."

(To the end of it he drew a Mercedes Benz sign...)

#### COMMERCIAL

PROPHEET O'HAPHAZARD made a video clip from a cover version of "New Life" of DEPECHE MODE. Why not from an own song?

"I'm not sure about it. I think the editorial stuff of MTV for example is more interested in a cover version of a famous band like DEPECHE MODE than in a maybe better song by a quite unknown band like us (commercialism). I guess the chance is a bit bigger this way, but who knows?", explains Haphazard. Roger has another point of view:

"With no budget to make a video clip we decided to take a cover song because every of our songs would have drawn so many associations with it that we wouldn't be happy with a video done this way."

"If this video will be played, we'll immediately make a new one from our own stuff", adds the Prophet.

PROPHEET O'HAPHAZARD have done new stuff

-- naturally -- and we can start waiting for their next album. Actually I've started waiting months ago... anyway, please tell something about your next album!

Roger: "Like the time we live in, I can't foresee what's coming up. But I think it will sound more compact, a bit harder and of course better."

Haphazard: "Same style and hopefully a little more progressive again. We'll be using some of these old synthies (MS 20 etc.). Wilder, faster, dirtier and another cover version of a big '80's hit will be included."

PROPHEET O'HAPHAZARD as a dinner course would be a dessert like both of them thought. Roger yet adds: "The end of a fantastic dinner but the end of all."

This is the end. How do you feel?

Haphazard: "I hope that the guy above won't ask it the same way! Stone washed at 90 degrees."

Roger: "Headache. No! Great experience. Never had the possibility to write down my opinions that way. Congratulations to you!"

Thanks, I think I deserve it because I managed to interview you both! They're gone. All their releases are for sale on Deathwish Office, distributed by SPV so they are pretty easily available. To quote the info sheet (again!), "it's music for individualists, not for the boring masses!" It means that I recommend this band from the deepest depths of my

# DEATHWISH !!

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"BLACK METAL DAMAGES PEOPLE'S SOULS AND LEADS THEM INTO DAMNATION."

Candlelight Records showed interest towards EMPEROR, and fruit of this co-operation was put out in June. A four song mini-lp which introduced the feeble listeners an improved, mighty version of EMPEROR. Musically they have gone to more unique and melancholic direction whereas the vocals are not as variable as on the demo. Faust, what is your favourite song on the mini-lp and why? Are you completely satisfied with it?

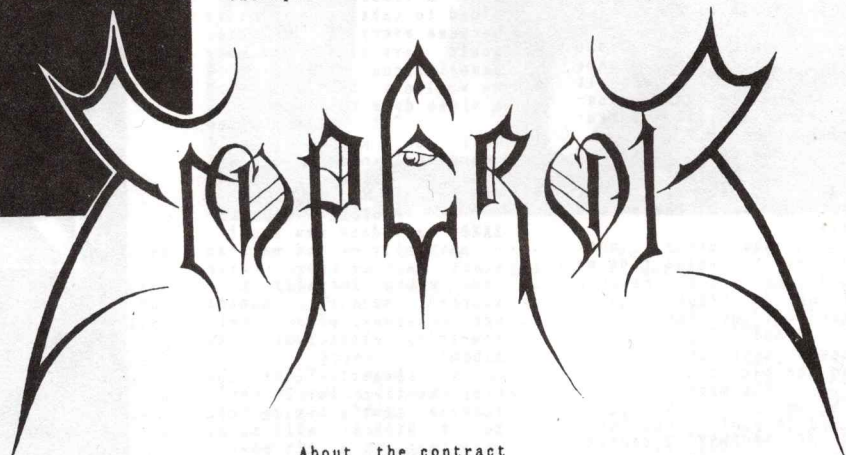
"I suppose it's I Am The Black Wizards because it has such a great atmosphere in it. Especially the synth is great", tells Faust. "I also like Cosmic Keys To My Creations And Times pretty good, but no, we're not completely satisfied with it and that's why we will re-record those two tracks on the lp."

Grishnackh from BURZUM. (TV-stations in the whole Scandinavia showed his arrest) but the article in Kerrang made it so other people all over the world now know about us. The Norwegian Black Metal scene has now got an infamous reputation, and that's how it shall be. We take Black Metal and its lyrics seriously. Black Metal damages people's souls and leads them into damnation. We can now manipulate other people to do actions for us which means we won't get arrested or something like that ourselves (The mob of Norway... -ed.). People can say we're childish or stupid, but they can't say we're harmless..."

"ATMOSPHERE MIXED WITH SHEER BRUTALITY."

Just a moment ago you mentioned the lyrics. What are yours about?

Faust: "Well, it's not me who have made the



To begin with introduce yourself and the other members of EMPEROR. How are you feeling today?

Faust: "I'm Bård Faust, the drummer of EMPEROR. My band-mates are Samoth - guitar, Ihsahn - guitar, vocals & synth and Tchoth - bass. I'm feeling rather bad today, as the weather is hot as hell and I've absolutely no money, so I just have to sit in and watch the wall..."

Wrath Of The Tyrant demo was recorded and put out during 1992. The sound wasn't something to praise due to the bad equipment, but never mind as the music itself was still able to be heard. And what kind of music!? Excellent mystical riffs and structures added with varied, malevolent vocal work. It was enough to wake the attention of both Candlelight Records and Deathlike Silence Production... but before we go

any further, Faust had a couple of words to spend on the demo:

"So far, Wrath Of The Tyrant tape has sold about 600-700 copies, and we get orders all the time, so the number is constantly increasing. But besides this Wild Rags will re-release the demo (+ 2 unreleased tracks) and the demo will also be released on an album in 666 copies by Necropolis Records in the USA, so the demo will be sold in some thousand copies all in all. The response have been totally great. I haven't heard a single bad word about the music yet, only a few complains about the sound, which after all is understandable. I enjoy the tape just as much now as when it was released, and I suppose that goes for the other members too."

About the contract with Candlelight; "It's the usual deal...we get half the money after the pressing etc. is paid."

Does the label have a good distribution?

Faust: "Yes, I guess Candlelight has got a large distribution because they have sold about 6000 copies in advance I think, and that's not bad."

Maybe the article about Norwegian Black Metal helped a bit...?

Faust: "Well, that article in Kerrang really did the trick (although there were some major mistakes there). We have got some mail due to the stuff there, and I know that also MAYHEM and BURZUM has got some. The ones who have written us, agree totally with us and that's cool (because as you maybe read in later issues of Kerrang, not everyone was too fond of our ideas and views, but we had sort of expected that). The people here in Norway (and the rest of Scandinavia) did already know about us, due to the arrest of Count

lyrics, but they're about: darkness and evil, realms beyond, forgotten centuries, death and destruction etc.etc."

Besides Candlelight also the Norwegian Deathlike Silence is interested in EMPEROR to release their debut full-length lp/cd...

Faust: "Well, our debut lp/cd will probably be released on DSP. And yes, things have been going pretty slowly, but at least the last months have been pretty positive concerning the releases on DSP. Anyway, we will see what happen."

What do you think about other bands on DSP?

Faust: "Well, here's my list: ENSLAVED is fuckin' great epic Metal. BURZUM - dark and depressive Black Metal, one of my faves. SIGH is not really one of my faves, but they have some cool parts though. MONUMENTUM - extremely great, I can't wait to hear their album (I agree completely!!! -ed.)! MAYHEM: a 1-

gendary band with one of the best drummers."

Myself I think your band has a real own kind of style, but it's yet hard to describe. But how would you say it yourself? How do you differ from other Black Metal groups?

Faust: "Just look at the Norwegian Black Metal bands...MAYHEM, DARK-THRONE, BURZUM and EMPEROR. None of these bands sound the same, these bands are also the only Black Metal bands in Norway, so I don't understand all the yelling about this "Norwegian Black Metal trend". (But what are then some Norwegian bands like IMMORTAL, BEELSEBUUB, CARPATHIAN FULLMOON, FLEURETY, ENERGIUMEN, SATYRICON etc.? - ed.) Maybe the fact that we use quite much synth makes us different from most other Black Metal bands - at least the way we use the synth."

"Atmosphere mixed with sheer brutality and pretty fast parts is probably the most important element in our music."

### "BLOOD, INVERTED CROSSES AND SOME STUPID ANIMALS."

EMPEROR haven't played live much so far, but it seems it will be better in future.

"We were supposed to play together with GARGASS and GANNIBAL CORPSE", says Faust, "but the gig got cancelled as GARGASS would have wanted too much money for the gig."

So it seems you don't refuse to play live with Death Metal bands...?

Faust: "No, we don't refuse to play with "normal Death Metal" bands as long as we can play and promote our music. And on the other hand we have played with worse bands than GARGASS and GANNIBAL CORPSE (Uh, what is worse than GANNIBAL CORPSE? - ed., being close-minded?), but that gig got cancelled anyway, so..."

"The only stage-show we will use is probably blood, some inverted crosses and stuff like that. Maybe slaughter some stupid animals too (Hm, which one is stupid after all, an animal following its instincts and the laws of Nature to survive or a human being who consciously destroys everything? - ed.). Speaking about gigs, we are supposed to go to England in the beginning of July to open a gig for DEICIDE + maybe play some other shows with bands like BOLT THROWER and GRADLE OF FILTH. Should be cool."

### "LIKE THE OLD MASTERS."

Are you concerned about the continuous growing of Black Metal?

Faust: "Black Metal certainly has had its comeback, but the whole concept of the underground is now so destroyed that it's impossible to turn back to what it once was. Then we must rather try to get the best out of it (as it is). If all the tendencies are buying our records, well then fine because then we get their money and it's better that we get their money instead

TURNUS etc.) so honestly, I rather prefer that a band really tries to look like the old masters in bands like DESTRUCTION, BATHORY, VENOM and so on (none of those used facepaint, as far as I'm able to remember! -ed.). But on the other hand, I think many of the "black metal bands" that exist today will sooner or later disappear, so it won't really be any problem I think."

As for Black Metal, we also talked a bit about the quarrel between Finnish and Norwegian bands. But I think nothing really new or

name to THORNS but decided to split up due to certain disagreements and other activities. The guitarists Samoth and Ihsahn played in THOU SHALT SUFFER which actually should still be alive...

Faust: "And I also played in the legendary IMPOSTOR but nothing big really happened during these two years."

As for EMPEROR's music as a dinner course, Faust thought it would probably be a pizza including meat from a crucified goat. A few course more and I'll quit the magazine and start running a restaurant instead...what delicious little things would I serve...! Back to the business. I also inquired a bit about these after-death things from Faust...

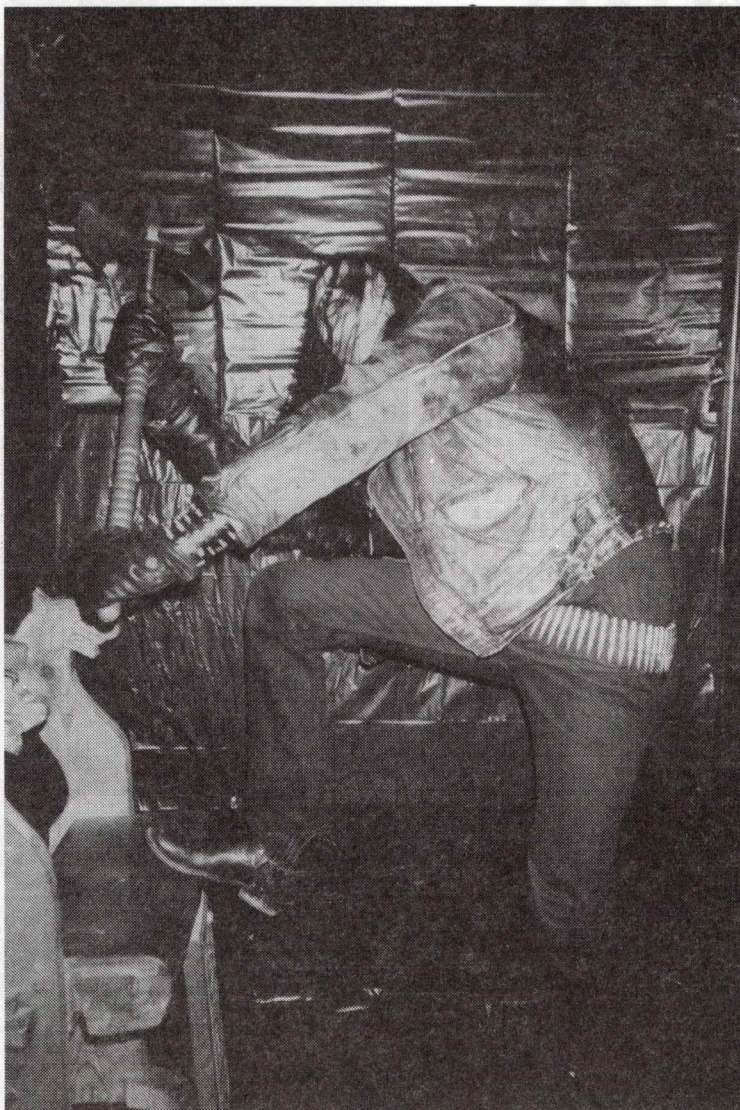
"I know there exists so many views and ideas about what happens after death so I rather prefer to wait and see -- then at least I won't get disappointed in any way. But I hope it's something more than just nothingness", Faust says and goes on: "But on the other hand, I hope we won't get reborn or something like that either, because with my luck I'd probably reborn as a cow or some other stupid animal, or maybe even as a nigger?"

Perhaps it's worthless to say that my personal opinion on things Faust said differ more or less... One has the right to keep his/her opinions, though. Oh, before I end, there still was something Faust wanted to say:

"Thanks for the interview Niko. We still sell our debut demo Wrath Of The Tyrant, so everyone interested, send 6\$ (Europe) or 7\$ (elsewhere) for a copy. Also we have some shirts which cost 18\$ (Europe) and 20\$ (elsewhere). I know it's expensive, but you know Norway... Praise death and drink blood!"

### EMPEROR HORDE

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of a band like OBITUARY for example."

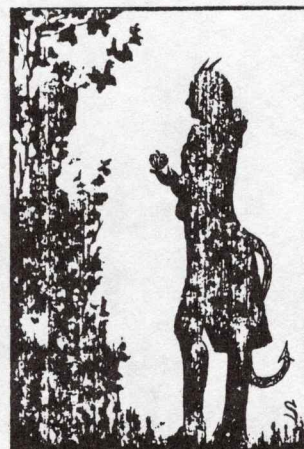
But, don't you think it's about to start looking boring these days that everybody's wearing facepaint, spikes etc. and mostly with no difference to the others? You know everybody's trying to be "so damn fucking evil" but in fact they look more ridiculous...

Faust: "Well, there are many bands who use this "Black Metal - style" if we can call it that, but there are tons more bands which have this standard-style (like OBITUARY, NAPALM DEATH, NOC-

worth printing came up so we skip that subject. As a brief summary, both parties are mocking and threatening each other -- I don't know what made it begin but I'm not interested either. Period.

### "SOMETHING MORE THAN JUST NOTHINGNESS."

Before EMPEROR have been in several other bands. Faust himself played in a band whose name could be remembered from '89-92 period - STIGMA DIABOLICUM. Later they changed the



After hearing the five song mini-LP/CD titled "Into The Drape" released by the end of 1992 on a Greek label Decapitated I decided to try and reach MORTUARY DRAPE. I managed, the result is here. The group consists of three souls who use the obscure names Witness Perversion (drums, lead vocals), Maniac Of Sacrifice (lead guitar, backing vocals) and Diabolic Obsession (bass, backing vocals). For some reason I doubt these are their "real" names... and I really don't know which one of them holds the contact address under the name Maini Walter, the person I had the conversation with. His English may be a bit confusing here and there but I consider it understandable enough.



which we are sure of and life is just a preparation for it."

Have you had experiences with supernatural things? If so, please tell something about it.

Walter: "We usually had spiritual sittings with real mediums but I

What do you think of "Into The Drape"? Is there anything you'd like to change in it?

Walter: "It's very good as recording, sound and cover. Decapitated made a good job for an underground band like MORTUARY DRAPE. I'm sure that people will like it. There's nothing to change in the mini-LP, for us it's perfect as how it is."

But why didn't you release a full-length album instead?

Walter: "I don't know exactly why, the material we had ready was only for a mini-LP. I think that instead of doing an LP (after demos) is better to make a mini-LP for 1st album experience."

The band doesn't know exactly how much the album has sold, but supposedly quite well anyway. MORTUARY DRAPE seems to be satisfied with everything concerning their label...

Walter: "The contract was good and clear as rules. Decapitated Rec. made a great promotion through Europe and world. They made a great job with magazines, radios etc. I'm really happy for that."

#### FROM THE DEPTHS...

The vinyl edition of "Into The Drape" comes with a real goodlooking gatefold cover. The gatefold features a big photo of the group somewhere in a forest... and as for the photos presented in these pages, they were taken in a chapel (!?) near their city.

But it's not only the photography that is more into the dark and occult direction, also their lyrics are very obscure and interesting. Walter kindly explains a bit about the lyrics of their songs:

"Moon represents mystery, fear, terror of human nature but also a



special occult charm that this create. Zombie speaks about life and death of a zombie. Crepuscular Whisper is a nocturnal feeling, a terrifying sensation. Vengeance From Beyond speaks about a real fact that happened centuries ago. Mother speaks about spiritual relation between the great Mother (the mother Nature? -ed.) and men. Each song has a special message which helps to understanding the Drape. And they also create a dark veil of atmosphere."

#### ...INTO THE DRAPE

Even the band's name has a real strong and special meaning...

Walter: "It stands for that invisible veil existing from the dawn of times, to the neverending research of our own existence and spiritual evolution. This veil, the Drape, is Mortuary because death is the only event

can't tell you about it because it's impossible with a few words. Anyway we make necronight (? -ed.) and also other things."

#### GATACHTHONIUM

MORTUARY DRAPE was formed already in 1986. Before the mini-LP they made two demos, "Necromancy" in 1987 and "Doom Return" in 1989. Both of them have a special concept. "Necromancy" is about divination by dead consultation and it is in memory of all those who lived, suffered and died in the sacred name of witchcraft. "Doom Return" is another return on the occultist way. It is in memory of the great magic arcan Baphomet. Both demos are still for sale for \$7 (8000 lire in Italy), ask from the band's address.

"Our older demos are the preparation for "Into The Drape", tells Walter, "the growth of



INDUSTRIAL  
RITUALISTIC  
NOISE CHAOS

LASSE MARHAUG  
NINA GRIEGSVEG 18  
7045 TRONDHEIM  
NORWAY

HERB MULLIN is an interesting thing. The person responsible for apocalyptic noise rituals is Lasse Marhaug from Norway. I must admit that his early stuff is not that enjoyable, but since demo 6 or so the Herb-ian noise has turned on me... or turned me on. Whatever you'd like me to say it. I couldn't call it music but anyhow I find it fascinating. Sometimes this noise violent and sadistic, able to be compared to SI-GILLUM S for example. Then sometimes this is very mechanic and industrial with noise from a metal factory (?). Occasionally there's even a clear rhythm!

In need of any names to compare HERB MULLIN with, besides the above-mentioned Italian freaks I'd say INTRINSIC ACTION, NOCTURNAL EMISSIONS or the noisiest blur by GODFLESH. But then again HERB MULLIN is unique. Try it yourself, there's a complete discography below.

About the future projects of HERB MULLIN, first I'll mention the split cassette with The Project of EVIL MINDS N'GAI -- because it'll be released by us. More info available, just ask. Split 7"EP's with MORDOR and MEAT SHITS will come true as well as a split tape with SKINFLICK PRODUCTION.

Lasse recommends record/tape labels to write to him in case they would be interested in releasing some HERB MULLIN stuff.

### HERB MULLIN DISCOGRAPHY:

- Demo 1 "Microwaved C.Pus" Our first, unreleased recording. Very primitive, cut-up noise. Crap.
- Demo 2 "The Meaning Of Life" Same as demo 1. Released, but now unavailable. Also crap (more or less).
- Demo 3 "Delirium Acutum" A bit like the first two tapes, maybe not as bad, but a 15-minute crap-noise recording you could do without.
- Demo 4 "Ulcus" A major change from the earlier noise stuff, this 60 minute (only 6 songs) recording is ambient trance cut-up kind of stuff. Not too interesting.
- Demo 5 (untitled) Originally released as a split-tape with Swedish band LUCIUS. Follows where "Ulcus" left, a bit more harsh, but still not very interesting. 15 minutes.
- Demo 6 "Scatterbrain" A major improvement of all the other recordings. This 90 minute tape includes a recording with Lars Skoglund, Oyvind H. Kaldestad and Dag Folkestad. A mixture of noise, cut-ups and experiments. Some stuff is very good.
- Demo 7 (untitled) Originally released as a split-tape with US band BONDAGE HARVEST (R.I.P.), although we never received a copy of it, on Nihilistic Productions. 30 minutes of harsh industrial cut-ups.
- Demo 8 "Deep Space / Full Of Stars" A project with Pete of 60 CYCLE HUM (US). 60 minutes, one song. Deep ambient space trance. Different.
- Demo 9 "Big Dead Dog Pig Bed" Originally intended as a release on Wild Rags Records, but never released. Industrial harsh orgies of extreme noise, and even some great music (wow) by Lars Skoglund. 60 minutes.
- Demo 10 "Hypersleep" 60 minutes of dark ambient industrial rituals. Depressive suicide muzak. Downbeat helplessness and gloomy end-of-the-world noise. Good fun.
- Demo 11 "Mere Stoy" More like demo 9, harsh industrial trance cut-ups. Some songs done with Fred Mirouze (France). 60 minutes.
- "The Truth Is Between Our Teeth" Greatest hits (?) tape release on Black September Tapes. Has songs from the best Herb recordings (a few previously unreleased songs, too). 60 minutes. Black September Distribution c/o George Fertakis, P.O.Box 31807, Athens 10035, Greece.
- Also available from Lasse Marhaug is 3 songs (20 minutes) recorded with Lars Skoglund, Oyvind H.Kaldestad and Dag Folkestad. These 3 songs will in time be released on vinyl, flexi or CD.
- A 30 minute recording with Herb Mullin remixes of songs by bands like DURAN DURAN, 2 UNLIMITED, SHANEN and ENTOMBED is also available. This is not a real demo, it's just for fun (whatever that means).

Tapes available for \$5 US each (in cash). Demos shorter than 60 minutes can be added other recordings (other demos, our songs on vinyl/CD compilations, advance stuff etc.) at your own choice (so that you'll get a full tape).



ideas and the band's level. We sold them a lot and also nowadays we are still selling them. The feedback is good, a lot of people like our works."

During all these years MORTUARY DRAPE have gone through many line-up changes, and the only remaining member of the original line-up is Widness Perversion. But still he isn't alone responsible for the music and the lyrics, according to Walter:

"MORTUARY DRAPE work altogether for music and lyrics."

As the band was before the trend waves of Death and Black Metal, they have been there watching this countless horde of new bands rise... What do you, Walter, think of the many new bands that have just started playing Black Metal?

Walter: "The name new Black Metal bands which have something really new to say and work hard, will have good results."

In my opinion from the music of MORTUARY DRAPE can be found something comparable to bands such as HELLHAMMER, VENOM or MERCYFUL FATE...

Walter: "As you know it's very difficult to be original but we always try to create something new, but still always staying in old Black Metal."

### CREPUSCULAR WHISPERS

Then Walter talks about something about religions in our world.

"Man needs to believe in something superior. It's typical for human nature. Personally and also the other members think that it isn't useful to believe in a religion or a god who can help us whenever we need. We must

believe in only ourselves. We aren't satanists because it's a sectarian discipline and only experts and conscious people can be it. We know it but we aren't interested to forward this discipline."

What is your point of view on what happens after you die?

Walter: "I don't know. I should die to know it. Reincarnation may be possible, also Heaven and Hell. Maybe the spirit goes out of the body but I don't know where."

That's what I recommend everybody to start thinking about as this article is about to end. About the records and merchandise available, the mini-LP can be obtained for \$14 from both the band and the label, and CD format costs \$20. Two-sided black sweat shirts are available for \$20 from Decapitated and both of the demos mentioned earlier must be ordered from the band. Here are the addresses:

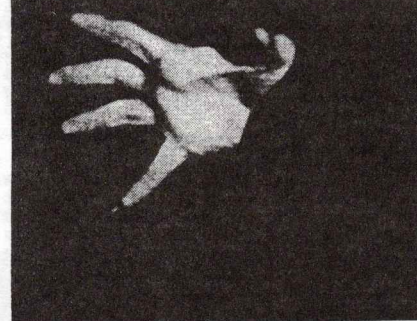
MORTUARY DRAPE  
c/o Maini Walter  
Via del Coniglio n.98  
15100 Alessandria  
ITALY

DECAPITATED RECORDS  
P.O.Box 66084  
Holargos 15510  
GREECE



# TWO WITCHES

FROM THE LAND  
WHERE WINTER KILLS...



Finland for sure isn't the promised land of Gothic Rock. Despite this we have here a couple of groups of this kind. The oldest or at least the most known is TWO WITCHES. They've been around since 1987 when Jyrki (vocals) and Anne (synth, backing vocals) met. The band had several different line-ups until the main foursome established; those above plus Toby (guitar) and Nauku (backing vocals). Also the music formed from NEW ORDER-like synth stuff to an own kind of Gothic Rock.

The band's discography contains several split-EP's, appearances on compilations etc. The complete list can be found elsewhere. In 1992 TWO WITCHES released a self financed (on their own label Darklands) CD entitled *Agony Of The Undead Vampire, Pt 2* which in fact was the first Gothic CD ever made in Finland.

"1000 copies of *Agony*... were printed and it is practically sold out, only a few copies left", tells Jyrki.

Early 1993 "Agony" was kind of re-released by Talitha Records, under a new title "The Vampire's Kiss" and with different sleeves. Also the song "We All Fall Down" was reduced (but it was put to a compilation album instead) and three other ones were added. Later "The Vampire's Kiss" was released for the American market by Cleopatra Records. The band is very satisfied with the work of their label;

"At least they have promoted and advertised us well and payed the royalties in time," Jyrki praises, "Talitha also took care of constructing the deals for the USA and for the compilation album."

"The Vampire's Kiss" has sold over 4000 copies so far, not bad.

#### PHAEIEMAGICK

Last Summer TWO WITCHES entered the studio again. The result of the sessions is the new CD "Phaeriemagick" which was released in September.

"Considerably more matured stuff, better songs both music- and lyricwise", tells Jyrki about the new album.

Already the CD title tells that there are less stories about vampires than before.

Jyrki: "This time we intentionally wanted to keep away from vampire topics. Just because we wanted to see how people react; does anything else than the vampire stuff draw the people's interest towards us. Well, anyhow there is one song that could be considered as a vampire story, though it's from a rather different point of view compared to what was on the first albums."

"Phaeriemagick" introduces us the newest members of TWO WITCHES, Matti (bass) and Timo (drums).

Jyrki: "Manu is a lot younger than us (he's 22) and hasn't played in any other bands before. He's got a bit of an own kind of bass playing techniques. He seems to be an OK guy, suitable for this band. But it's another story how long he'll be with us, hard to predict. Timo came from a heavy band called XIREX (this is what I heard, -ed.) and owns a long Heavy Metal background. He's a bit older than the rest of us. Both Timo and Matti differ quite a lot from the four of us image-wise."

Jyrki isn't sure if this line-up will be any longer lasting than the previous ones; "better not to predict future. Always when I've thought now we have found the right line-up it has weeded out. And on the other hand the line-ups that seemed short-dated have existed over a year and so on."

In the early days people who played in TWO WITCHES played also in other bands and there wasn't enough time for both.

Jyrki: "You must also remember that in such a small town as Tampere there aren't too many musicians interested in Gothic Rock. And especially guitarists in the beginning would have

## THE OFFICIAL TWO WITCHES DISCOGRAPHY:

7"

- \* Pimeyden Jousi/Cat's Eyes-Nazgul // Advanced Art (FIN)  
- Split EP, incl. lyric sheet (Darklands, Candy 001, 1988)
- \* Cat's Eyes-Remix/A Child // Advanced Art (FIN)  
- Another split EP, incl. lyric sheet (Darklands, Candy 002, 1988)
- \* Like Christopher Lee-Live/Vampire Girl-Live // Russian Love (FIN)  
- Split EP, incl. lyric sheet (Darklands, Candy 003, 1989)
- \* Dead Dog's Howl/Mircalla (FIN)  
- Incl. a postcard & cartoons (Darklands, Candy 015, 1991)

CD

- \* Agony Of The Undead Vampire, Pt 1 (Darklands, Candy 1112, 1992) (FIN)
- \* The Vampire's Kiss (Talitha, CD Sate 02, 1993) (GBR)
- \* The Vampire's Kiss (Cleopatra, Cleo 1182-2, 1993) (USA)  
- USA-edition, different sleeves + label
- \* Phaeriemagick (Talitha, CD Sate 09, 1993) (GBR)

TAPE

- \* Agony 1991 (FIN)  
- Promotape only (Darklands, Candy 013, 1991)

VIDEO

- \* Cat's Eyes (FIN)  
- 3-song Video EP (Darklands, Candy 004, 1989)

COMPILATION TRACKS

- \* The Omen //RARE 1-EP -7" (Darklands, Candy 007, 1990) (FIN)
- \* We All Fall Down & Nightmare //That's The Way It Will Be... (GBR)  
- tape (Beton tapes, BT 22, 1992)
- \* We All Fall Down //The Myths Of Avalon -CD (Talitha, (GBR)  
CD Sate 01, 1992)
- \* We All Fall Down //The Myths Of Avalon -CD (GBR)  
- Promotional record, different sleeve + label
- \* Maybe Next Year //Andromeda -CD (Discordia, Disc 003 CD, 1993) (GBR)
- \* Maybe Next Year //Runeberginkatu 8 -CD (Oskun Divari, (FIN)  
Oskul 001, 1993)

CLICK! (=TWO WITCHES)

- \* A Song For You //RARE 2-EP -7" (Darklands, Candy 010, 1990) (FIN)

'ZINES

- \* Agony Of The Undead Vampire, Pt 3 (FIN)  
- Cartoons (Darklands, Candy 014, 1992)
- \* Agony Of The Undead Vampire, Pt 4 (FIN)  
- Fanzine (Darklands, Candy 017, 1993)

BOOTLEGS

- \* Agony Of The Undead Vampire, Pt 2 - Tape (Black Sundays, 1992) (BRA)
- \* ? //Ritual In The Dark -tape (Gothic Chapter, 1993) (FRA)

wanted to be traditional guitar heroes by playing long leads and this kind of thing didn't fit to this band. In the last couple of years TWO WITCHES has more or less been an all-day job without getting money from it. So they who haven't felt it as a kind of life style have dropped."

These days TWO WITCHES actually consists of four members supported by assistant musicians.

#### LIVE APPEARANCE

TWO WITCHES tours Europe in November, as a support for LAGRIMOSA. Most of the thirteen gigs in these three weeks are in Germany where they are in cult status.

"We expect quite a lot from this tour because over there people know us very well due to our albums", Jyrki says. The group's live show is something able to be compared to CHRISTIAN

DEATH for example.

It is different from what Finnish bands usually have. There's a lot of energy, sex and dramatic traits in our show", reveals Jyrki.

"As for the reactions of the audience; it depends mainly on the place. Everywhere in Finland (except for Helsinki) people just stand there their mouths open, wondering what the hell is going on. Two weeks after the come to tell us that it was cool. Abroad it usually depends on how well the audience knows and likes our songs etc. but there people always try to get the best out of our music even if they never heard us before."

#### BUSINESS AND INFLUENCES

All TWO WITCHES albums have been released only on CD format.

"These days it

isn't useful to release records on vinyl as record stores sell only compact discs. Vinyl is dying out. Personally I'm unable to say whether I prefer CD or LP, because I haven't made a decision about it yet. An analog record looks better and is a nice object, but a compact disc is much more practical", explains Jyrki about his view on the record business.

TWO WITCHES has managed to create their own style to which I'm not able to name any influences... except for Gothic Rock in general. Someone called TWO WITCHES as Finland's SISTER'S OF MERCY but I don't agree with it.

Jyrki: "In the beginning the whole Goth scene was an influence to us as well as bands like NEW ORDER etc. Admittedly we, too, take influences from everywhere, from Gothic Rock but also from other music styles. There are six of us today and

# Two Witches

## DARKLANDS

Darklands, a record label and a mailorder owned by TWO WITCHES members, released a lot of EP's and other stuff in past -- mainly from TWO WITCHES but also from other Finnish bands. The latest one was a limited cassette of DANCING GOLEM. Probably it shall be the last one, too...

"Darklands these days is only mailorder of Gothic records", Jyrki comments. "We have no releases planned, the last one was the tape you mentioned. It's no use to release stuff on Darklands as it only sucks lots of money and time without getting anything back. In addition to the mailorder Darklands works now as a fan club for TWO WITCHES."

Do Darklands and TWO WITCHES leave you any spare time at all?

Jyrki: "Actually TWO WITCHES and Darklands are my spare time and everything else as well. It's not useful to separate these things. I live with and through TWO WITCHES. As long as I feel it interesting and enjoyable I see no use to consider it separated from the spare time."

## VAMPIRISM

Vampire movies are -- or at least were -- the main theme in the lyrics of TWO

WITCHES. Obviously Jyrki has watched a lot of them and cannot say for sure what would be his very favourite.

"Maybe my fave would be the Hammer trilogy; three Carmilla based movies", says Jyrki and tells more about his views on them: "They represent the traditional gothic vampire genre with a relatively strong lesbian touch. Stylish, extremely beautiful and interesting yet not that frightening films."

Then I'll ask your opinion on a few special movies. The first one is The Hunger.

Jyrki: "It was one of the first movies I went watching to the bio... partly because of Bowie who is one of my all-time favourite artists. After that I've seen it several times. I think it's extremely fine and tasteful movie; represents very well the gothic horror located to the present time."

Very well said.

Then the silent Nosferatu.

Jyrki: "In fact I haven't seen this one and it is very unfortunate. One of the classics that I haven't seen."

Oh, definitely unfortunate. But what about this newer one, Bram Stoker's Dracula (by Coppola)?

Jyrki: "I like it very much! I'd rather

Two Witches  
c/o Darklands  
Box 29  
33201 Tampere  
Finland



consider it as a love story than a horror film. Extremely well done spectacle, gorgeous pictures and colours, great cuts etc. Plot-wise it worked amazingly well."

Gore/splatter movies are not much appreciated in the TWO WITCHES family: "Our ex-bassist was a gore freak but we're not interested in watching them".

TWO WITCHES as a dinner course would be a traditional black sausage from Tampere. It is made of meat, flour, rice and blood. If you ask me this is definitely the best answer to our dinner course question so far!

all of us have own likings so influences come from everywhere around us. I can't name any one special influence.

The same goes for naming the one special thing that makes the biggest difference from the rest of Gothic bands.

Jyrki: "You'd better ask all those who buy our records" and who come to our gigs."



# two i t c h e s

Jyrki (vocals), Anne (synth, backing vocals), Nauku (backing vocals), Toby (guitar).

# DROWNED PROD.

"Well, I started everything from naught back in October '90, and I produced only demos to Spanish bands 'til October '91 when I joined Hard Vinyl forces to create a serious & reliable record label doing also 7" and lp/cd/mc's. Now Drowned Prod. is a sub-division of Hard Vinyl Records, which is the best and biggest Metal record store in Spain (it has three floors)", explains Dave Rotten - the "boss" of Drowned Productions - how it all began.

Where did you get the idea to start running your own label to produce Death, Grind & Thrash stuff?

Dave: "Just because it's the kind of music I like. I think that would be stupid to work on something I don't like. I also like other styles, but enough to devote my full time & money into it."

Then introduce yourself!

Dave: "Mmmm...I'm 23 years old Spaniard with black hair and pretty tall (not too much, he!). I'm into this shit since '86, so I hate when somebody think I'm just following a trend. I love to play football (Oh God! -ed/ Niko), though I haven't time to do it. I like the Spanish weather (even when we're at +45°C!!) and I think that the Spanish girls are the hottest!! (Yam! -ed/Niko) I do vocals in my own band called AVULSED (Brutal Death Metal, of course...)"

"I'm into bands like INCANTATION, DEMIGOD, ROTTREVORE, IMMOLATION, FUNEBRE, PHLEBOTOMIZED, DARKIFIED, TIAMAT, GOREFEEST and a lot more. The first bands I listened in Death Metal are POSSESSED, DEATH, CELTIC FROST, KREATOR, MORBID ANGEL, SEPULTURA, EXORCIST, VENOM, (early) ONSLAUGHT and bands like that in '86."

## FINNISH SWAMPS

Drowned have released stuff from Finnish bands such as DEMIGOD, PURTENANCE and CARTILAGE. What do you, Dave, think of Finnish bands in general?

Dave: "Actually most of them stinks. Yes, really, now there's something of childish play where

all the bands try to demonstrate who's the most original or who's the most evil & true satanic band. There's only two kind of bands: Black Metal worshippers and Heavy/ Techno influenced Death Metal. All of them are only trying to copy the steps of bands like XYSMA or BEHEBIT, which I think are the only true bands in their style. The rest of the stuff is just crap. Of course there's very good bands that don't enter this game, like DEMIGOD, SENTENCED, DEMILICH, CARTILAGE or PURTENANCE. Those are the best together with (old) DISGRACE, FUNEBRE & XYSMA."

Tell your opinion on UNBOUNDED TERROR's debut lp.

Dave: "In the beginning, when it was recorded, I thought it was really great, and in fact it still is, but now I see that the band is improving more and more, and I see that their 2nd album will be far more brutal and better in every aspect."

## DROWNING

How do you choose and sign a band for Drowned Prod.?

Dave: "Very simple, if I like a band personally, I contact them asking if they would like to work something out with me, and after talking about this, sometimes we come to an agreement. But mostly I guide myself by my own taste, nothing else! I use to offer the same contract to every band, but after that, it changes from band to band. Not all of them asks the same. I'm very able to negotiate everything."

Do you pay any attention to originality and musical ability of these bands that you've signed and those that you will sign?

Dave: "Not necessarily. I don't care if a band is original or very expert musicians as long as I like their music and they're cool people to work with. Of course, that band has to have a minimum of quality, but principally I must like them!! A band can be very original and they can be the best

musicians on earth, but if I don't like their music..."

How many copies of CD's, lp's and ep's you usually print?

Dave: "There's no limit for lp/cd/mc, I'll press as many as necessary. I hate limited editions. As for ep's, I always print 1000 in the beginning, and I repress them if it's necessary."

What kind of response have you got of your latest releases?

Dave: "Great!! I still can't believe how I am signing such great bands like DEMIGOD, SHUBNIGGURATH, PYREXIA or ROTTREVORE!! They're some of the best bands around!! Almost everybody (excluding envy assholes) likes what I'm doing (What, even if I don't like too many of the stuff you've released, it certainly has nothing to do with envy! Gosh! -ed/ Niko), that's really cool from them."

In addition to those mentioned above, Dave will sign DARKIFIED, CENOTAPH and ABSORBED for albums this year. He'd also like to add:

"As for 7" ep's I've signed EMACIATED, I-COONCLAST, SPONTANEOUS COMBUSTION, DETERIOROT and possibly IMPRECATION."

## DEATH UNDERWATER

Fave mags & zines?

Dave: "Actually there's a lot of good 'zines, but I think that some of my favorites are Morbid, Mortician, Isten, F.Y.A.P.T., Thanatography, No Name and a lot more that I can't remember now."

Have you been object of rip-offs?

Dave: "Well, not so many as people claims to exist. Yes, I've been ripped off sometimes, but now I don't give anything if I'm not sure that the other guy is not a rip-off."

Then, what's your honest opinion on Death Metal trend? Is it good or bad?

Dave: "It depends. If the trend is followed by 14-16 year-old boys, then that sucks, because they'll get bored in one or two years, but if it's followed by older people, then they will enjoy it and will try to do something to support it (Hm, I don't think it only depends on people's age... -ed/Niko). Actually I think that Black Metal is more trendy than Death Metal. Just because a lot of children are painting their faces (just like KISS did almost 20 years ago, ha, ha!) and try to be the most evil creatures of the universe by doing ridiculous poses (now I agree with you! -ed/Niko). That really sucks!! Death Metal is a style of music that was created 10 years ago, and it's more than just a trend, at least for me!!"

Now it's about the time to end this article. Anything to add, Dave?

Dave: "Thank Ville for this long interview, I've gladly asked it. Thank to everyone I met in Finland, I hope to see you again!! DEMIGOD rules!! Their lp/cd/mc is out now, buy it!! Don't be a clone, don't care about other's comments, just so what you think is right. A big fuck off & suck-my-dick to Richard C. from Wild Fags (I thought it was "Rags"... -ed/Niko) for being such a rip-off!!"



DECEIVER are a strange band. I can't say they're unique or something for their sound is not that much different from other bands of this brutal kind. Still it is evident that DECEIVER have their very own style where they mix influences from Death and Thrash Metal and Grindcore and even throw in some Hardcore touches!

DECEIVER have been doing this since 1990 and it means they quite know what they do, and do it pretty well. Since their self financed debut 7" (1990) they have had a few line-up changes. Both demos (Eternal Massacre, November 1992 and Rules Of Conduct, February 1993) were done with the same line-up which was follows:

Hatsa (drums)  
Tane (guitar)  
Janne (bass)  
Kyke (guitar & vocals)

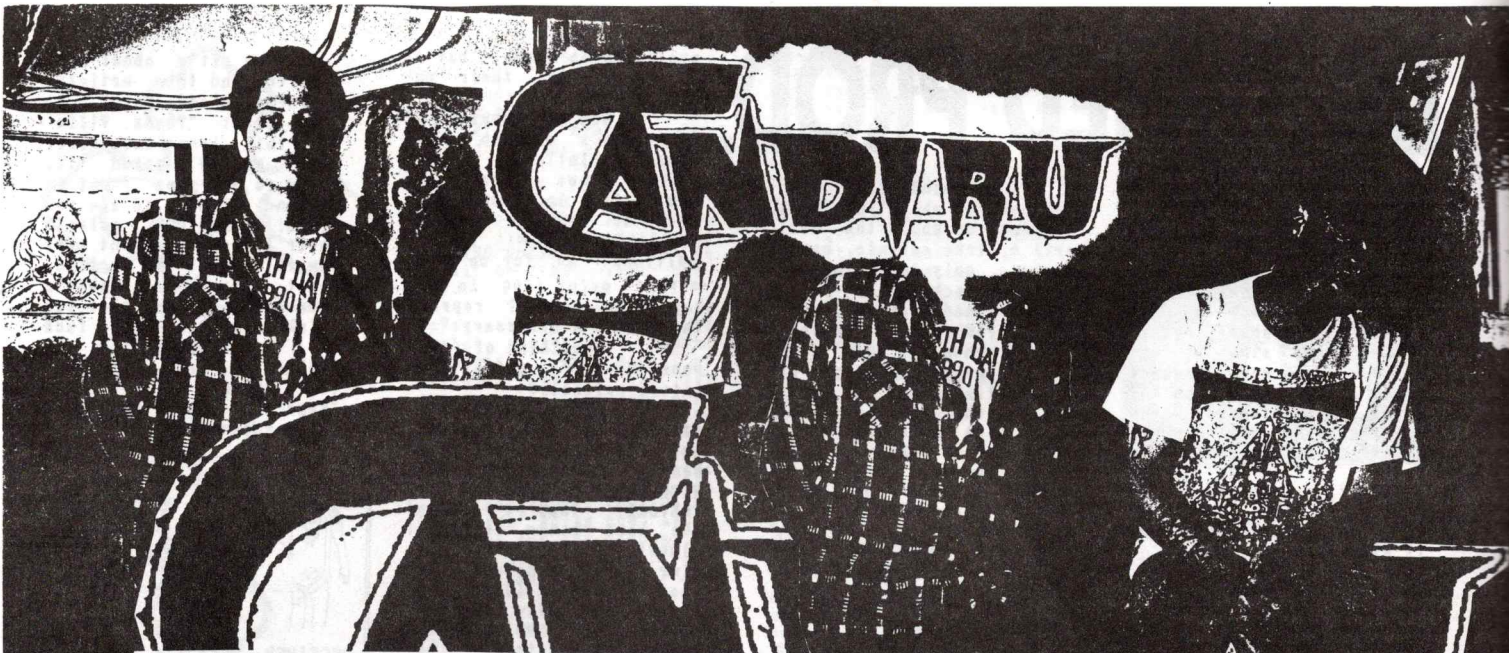
After several gigs (even one in Poland) Tane left the band and the replacement (whose name I don't remember at the moment) was found from a local Industrial Metal band RELIC.

Early 1994 DECEIVER are going to record their third demo. If their plans come true it should be an interesting item worth checking out. Meanwhile, both demos and the 7" are available for \$5 each (or about 15 mk in Finland). Write to Kari Tynnmaa, Järkäriäpuistikatu 17 B 22, 20460 Turku 46, Finland. Before I close I must remind you of the CD compilation "Requiem" (Exhumer Productions) which features When You're Dead from the second demo of DECEIVER. The suffering will continue...



interview  
by  
Ville  
Tapio





1. A minute, parasitic South American catfish capable of inflicting excruciating pain on bathing victims by burrowing into bodily orifices such as the penis or vagina.
2. A brutally warped, extremely original, surrealistic Industrial band from Pennsylvania who inflict painful joy on listeners through soul crushing, off-time barrages of mind bending, experimental, Neo-industrial Grunge.

\* Guess which one is our subject this time?

CANDIRU caught the attention of Relapse Records with a four song demo entitled "Piscatorial Terror" early 1991. The first sign of their cooperation was a 7" EP "Disadvantage Of Surprise" which got a response great enough to create an album deal. "Unloved And Weeded Out" CD/MC was then released late 1992.

Pat: "Unloved..." is a good record I think for the "way-out there" theme of it. The sound quality is not up to complete CANDIRU standards though. Sure, there's things that would be changed if we re-did it, but for the experimentation value, I think it stands tall."

It was recorded already by the change of 1991/1992 but mixed not sooner than in August 1992. Why?

Pat: "CANDIRU re-recorded and mixed version one of "Unloved..." in late '91 and early '92. Shortly after this, I went to England to help out SCORN. All this time we were listening to this version and were thinking, "This can be changed - this can be re-manipulated; vocals can be added here" etc. So after I returned from England, we sat down and discussed with Relapse and went back into the studio in August '92 to re-mix and add to the LP. We added "Wish I Woulda Killed You" to the LP as well (Good 'cause it kills! -ed.). "Dangled Bait" was also a product of the re-mix sessions."

"Unloved And Weeded Out" has sold a bit over 4000 copies by now, as for feedback, Pat didn't have much to tell: "not really anything overwhelmingly substantial except a CMJ review and a few writeups and mentions in national magazines and free newspapers. I haven't seen reviews in many underground magazines yet..."

Pat: "Yeah, Swag is great but things just didn't seem to focus... Swag plays in a local band called SWAG 45 who are more in the vein of fuzzi-grunge stuff. It's cool!"

Pat: "ANAL GUNT destroyed the PA system slowly but surely and threw drum sticks at lesbians. MACABRE played in rain and thunder! A truly amazing set and the whole crowd was singing along! ST.VITUS, DEAD WORLD and EXIT\*13 were all great too! So it was a great show, and like I mentioned before, watch for a live mini-CD. I think there was some people there that liked us. Who knows?"

Hm, I think I do except if all there were closeminded morons...

After "Unloved..." CANDIRU released a split-7" EP with FAT HACKER on Pat's own record label Red Stream. It sells well considering it's a pure underground release, and many distributors, ourselves to be mentioned (!) are spreading it.

Pat: "It's doing great! I think it's great! It's just one of the ugliest (yet slick) things I've ever owned - and I had the pleasure of releasing it! FAT HACKER is CONTROLLED BLEEDING/SKIN CHAMBER members. Their side is total insanity to say the least!!!"

Your side as well! Don't underrate yourselves! But, but, on the split you had this Andy "Swag" on second bass & backing vocals. Why isn't he in the band any longer?

"After the successful release of the split EP, Relapse is pressing a limited edition EP release with two tracks not contained on the cassette version of "Unloved..." 1500 copies handnumbered and signed. Following that may be a live mini-CD from a show we just did. Possibly some unique tracks on exquisite compilation CD's as well."

From this we could go on talking about live shows. There are two members in CANDIRU, so the band couldn't manage live without at least the drum machine...

"The D.A.T. machine sends the samples and drum machine patterns outward -- it's operated by remote control -- while Kipp and I play bass and guitar, respectively. I also sing/murmur", explains Pat.

On the 19th of June CANDIRU played on "Nuclear Festival" which mainly consisted of bands on Relapse/N.B.A.

Pat: "It was really great! It was in a huge field operated by sub-human lifeform. The sound man was - especially foolish (a track called "Hatred" was dedicated to him), but the whole event was a very cool day."

What about the bands who played then?

There was one thing that confused me about "Unloved..." CD, on the cover a sticker where read "mind warping industrial death metal". Death Metal?

Pat: "With the sticker - Relapse put that on there - the acceptance of Death Metal should enter more into the CANDIRU sound I think. I like the rawness and speed and certain moods and feelings of Death Metal/Grindcore/crust music. But the new CANDIRU material is pretty fucking far away from any of that and "Unloved..." album has not much at all to do with Death Metal besides a few things here and there. Support classic Death Metal, though!!"

Yes of course, it captures the strongest power and aggression ever!

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Then we'll take a look what hides behind the curtain of "publicity" -- how do these people spend your spare time?

Pat: "We are into Hockey (Sega) and Kipp loves the sport. Hockey games are accompanied by huge alcoholic consumption sprees of Black & Tan 16 Oz. cans. I smoke hemp as well. We're both 25. This is Kipp's first band, but I played in S.B.S., DISTORTED WORLD, EXIT\*13 and SCORN." He goes on: "I still work part time at a local establishment for weakeners. Other than that CANDIRU and Red Stream eat most of anything that is considered time. The main object at this point is to clear time for sleep, which is infrequent at this point."

I guess it would also be interesting to know what kinds of music you guys listen to...

Pat: "It might be, I personally really like the following bands at the moment: THE APHEX TWIN, COIL, ZOVIEF FRANCE, FAT HACKER/SKIN CHAMBER, SEVERED HEADS, NURSE WITH WOUND, DARK STAR, INTRINSIC ACTION and alot others. Kipp is currently into: JFK, SKIN CHAMBER, PRAXIS, ROLLINS BAND, ST. VITUS and tons others!!!"

As for how painful kind of process it is to make a CANDIRU track finished, Pat gave an example: "The newly completed CANDIRU tracks have taken about one year and we are still working on them! The attempt to combine percission with chaos is just a hard thing to accomplish!"

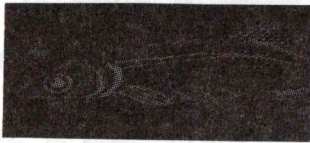
They still have a solid amount of rhythms, ideas, fragments and completed tunes for the second album.

Pat: "As far as recording or release, it's a little bit off yet. I'd say in the near future we'll start talking about recording a new LP for Relapse."

Lyrics are an interesting part of CANDIRU. But what are they mainly about and is some kind of message important for you?

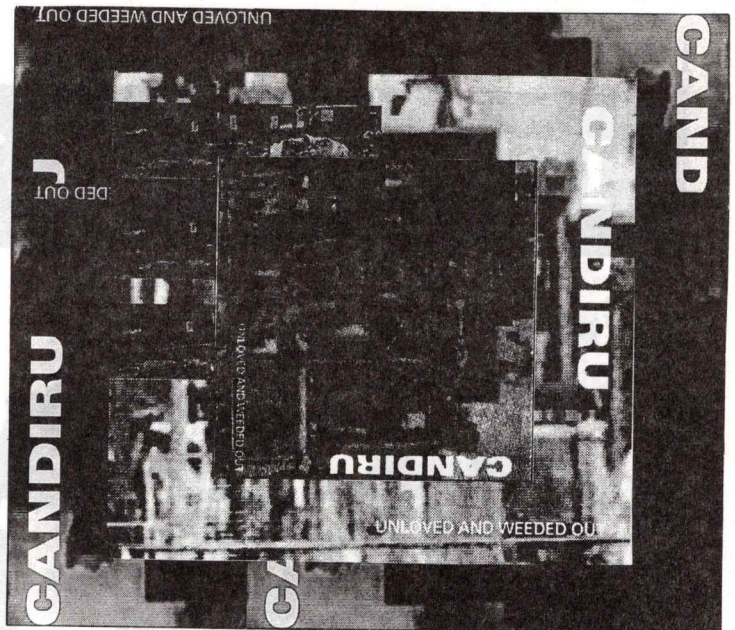
"I always drink human milk".....???

Pat: "I always drink human milk!!!! I am so glad you said that! (You did so tool -ed.) Yep, there is a lighter side to CANDIRU. But lyrics are the main ingredient for a tone in a CANDIRU track. Lyrics drift in and out of subconscious states channeled at programming humans into believing that there is actually something to gain in life. Whether positive or negative is up to you."



Please tell something about your label Red Stream. When and how you started and so on...

Pat: "O.K., shortly after I returned from England and we remixed the album I started Red Stream by releasing S.B.S. "Taste It!" EP (which coincidentally is pre-EXIT\*13 - early grind stuff) and buying a lot of compact discs, records and magazines on consignment. After making mailorder catalogs, getting in touch with alot of people and working with other labels and distributors I relea-



sed the CANDIRU/FAT HACKER EP, and got a ton of compact discs, records and zines, again. I just put out the next Red Stream catalog. Please send 2 IRC's for it, and you will receive it!"

The aim for Red Stream is to carry every cool item we can get our hands on! And release records and compact discs! The next Red Stream release will be a 7" by the BRAIN POLICE. Please watch for it, it is devastating. experimental grunge with industrial/death metal overtones!!"

If the music of CANDIRU was a dinner course, what would it be?

Pat: "Well, it would have to be a huge, living, freshly born centipede with 17 eyes (why not 69?! -ed.) and a big appetite. Question is... who would be dinner?"

Okay, what about Red Stream then?

"Red Stream would be more like a big fucking pizza."

Yam, yam. To the end Pat would have liked to extend his warmest greetings to me for everything, for this? Hey everybody, write to him and tell him to stop smoking his hemp too much, why not drinking a nice dose of human milk instead? "It makes your body..." what?

Pat (the final gasps): "I'm in a bit of an alien mood after that last question. First, I'll mention that the CANDIRU/FAT HACKER split EP is available from Hammer Of Damnation and quite possibly the "Unloved..." CD. (Good commercial! -ed.) Remember, stark suspicions may be unnatural...why fuck on vinyl floors anyways?"

# CANDIRU

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# MONUMENTUM



Roberto Mammarella is the man behind a unique Italian band MONUMENTUM. He also runs a notable underground record label Obscure Plasma which works under the name Avantgarde Music from the beginning of 1994. Roberto Mammarella is the man who answered my questions. Many things have happened afterwards that have changed things considering the MONUMENTUM album "In Absentia Christi" for example, but I decided not to mess this nice little interview with such things. Everything is updated in the "news" pages elsewhere. Now, read on.

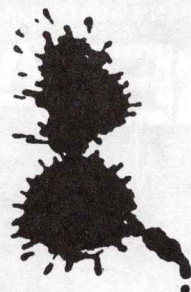
First please present yourself to the readers. Your background, age, habits, activities, interests etc. Also present the new line-up of MONUMENTUM + if there are any news to tell of something...

Roberto: "I'M A CREATURE WHO STILL HAS NOT FOUND A REAL MEANING AND ROOT OF LIFE. I JUST KNOW THAT I'M HERE. BORN AS THE LOVE-FRUIT OF TWO HUMANS, THAT SOCIETY CALLED "MY PARENTS". THIS HAPPENED 24 YEARS AGO. ACTIVITIES. WELL MUSIC IS TAKING THE MAIN PART OF MY LIFE SINCE 10 YEARS, AND IT'S ONE OF THE FEW THINGS STILL GIVING ME SOME ENTHUSIASMS. IT BECAME MORE THAN AN HOBBY

IN THE LAST 4 YEARS, FOR SURE. THE BAND, A ZINE, A LABEL... THE STRANGE AND UNUSUAL LETTERS - NETWORK ETC. I GUESS THE THING HAS BECOME EVEN TOO BIG NOW FOR ME. IN FACT I CAN'T LIVE ON THESE THINGS, AND I ACTUALLY HAVE TO WORK, HAVING FINISHED THE SCHOOL SINCE A WHILE. I DON'T WANNA SOUND VICTIM OR ANYTHING, BUT I WOULD NEED 36 HOURS PER DAY AND NOT JUST 24. SO THERE ARE NO FURTHER HOBBIES. IT'S NOT JUST LACK OF TIME, BUT A GENERAL LACK OF ENTHUSIASM. HOBBY ARE SOMETHING FOR THE JOY OF LIFE. AND I DON'T HAVE THAT MUCH HAPPINESS OF LIVING IN THESE MONTHS. THE NEW LINE-UP OF

MONUMENTUM IS... WELL, LET'S SAY IN THIS WAY: MONUMENTUM IS A MUSICAL PROJECT NOT A REAL BAND. NOT OFTEN REHEARSALS, NO GIGS AT ALL. IT'S AN OPEN PROJECT. OK, I CONSIDER MYSELF THE MAIN CREATURE BEHIND IT, BUT I'M OPEN TO HAVE DIFFERENT MUSICIANS, COLLABORATORS, IN EACH RECORDING. FOR A COMPLETE LACK OF TIME (I WANNA HURRY DOWN THE THINGS FOR THE RECORDING OF THE LP), IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO REPLACE THE ABANDON OF THE 2 PERSONS WHO PLAYED IN THE BAND SINCE 2 MONTHS AGO. SO I DECIDED TO RECORD ALL INSTRUMENTS, WHILE I CAN'T REALLY SING THAT WELL.... NEWS? WELL, I HAVE RECORDED NOW ALL

DRUMS AND SYNTH PARTS. IN THE SUMMER EVERYTHING ELSE WILL BE PUT ON THE MASTER TAPE FOR OUR DEBUT LP/CD "IN ABSENTIA CHRISTI".





What do you think about your "Musaeum Hermeticum" demo nowadays? In my opinion it still has something new to offer when thinking about the "scene" in general... it seems you were some years ahead -- nowadays it's fairly common to use "strange" non-Metal instruments as you did!

Roberto: "YES, I AGREE PERFECTLY. NOW, I DON'T WANNA SOUND BULLOCK OR STUPID SAYING "WE DID THESE STUFFS BACK IN 1988/89". BECAUSE AT THAT TIME WE ALSO HAVE BEEN KINDA FOLLOWERS OF OTHER BANDS (CELTIC FROST MAINLY). MUSAEUM HERMETICUM SHOULD BE STILL AN ACTUAL PERFECT SOUNDING TAPE. IF RE-RECORDED NOW IN BETTER WAYS. WHEN THAT TAPE CAME OUT, I ASSURE YOU THERE WERE NOT 500 UNDERGROUND LABELS, 2300 FANZINES AND 500,000 PERSONS WRITING LETTERS AND BUYING DEMOS. PEOPLE MOSTLY CARED ABOUT THRASH LPs OF ROADRUNNER, NOISE, AND MFN RECORD LABELS. THAT WAS UNDERGROUND. SO MAYBE THAT DEMO CAME OUT TOO SOON. MAYBE IF IT WOULD HAVE BEEN RELEASED AFTER 1990, IT WOULD HAVE REACHED MORE RESPONSES AND INTEREST."

Any comments about the split-EP with ROTTING CHRIST? How has it sold? It must have been pretty good promotion for MONUMENTUM who seemed to be rather unknown in the underground before it...?

Roberto: "IT JUST HAS BEEN RELEASED TO GIVE A SIGN OF LIFE... WE HAD JUST BEEN REFORMED (OR AT LEAST THE PROJECT CAME IN LIFE AGAIN). IT IS SOLD OUT IN 1000 COPIES AND THERE WILL BE NO RE-PRESS AT ALL. GOOD PROMOTION BECAUSE ROTTING CHRIST IS FAR MORE KNOWN! BUT AS I'M SAYING QUITE OFTEN, A LOT OF PEOPLE BOUGHT IT AND WROTE BACK SAYING: "SINCERELY I BOUGHT THE EP FOR R.C., BUT SOON I REALIZED THAT THE COOL STUFF WAS ON THE OTHER SIDE..."

Have you recorded your LP already? Can you tell something about what it consists of? Is the new material radically different from the old? I heard the vocals will be done by the ICONOCLAST singer. Will he go on with the style your former singer Mark had on the demo?

Roberto: "AS SAID, I HAVE TO RECORD ALL INSTRUMENTS, SO IT BECOMES MORE DIFFICULT AND TAKE A LONGER TIME. I HAVE TO ENTER THE STUDIO, RECORD ONE INSTRUMENT AND GO HOME WITH THAT TAPE, REHEARSE THE 2nd INSTRUMENT ON THAT BASIS AND ENTER AGAIN THE STUDIO. YOU KNOW! ANYWAY,

DRUMS HAS BEEN DONE, AS WELL AS THE 80% OF SYNTHS PARTS. IN THE SUMMER I'LL RECORD BASS + GUITAR, AND YES, THE VOCALS WILL BE DONE BY ANDREA, EVEN IF HE SINGS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT THAN IN HIS BANDS ICONOCLAST AND SINOATH. HE SINGS IN A MONUMENTUM WAY, NO PROBLEMS. THE MUSIC IS NOT RADICALLY DIFFERENT. IT'S DARKER AND HEAVIER. MORE SYNTHS AND KEYS. ORIGINAL VOICES, ALSO IN ITALIAN LANGUAGE. STRANGE INSTRUMENTS AND SO! WE WILL HAVE ALSO A COUPLE OF TITLES FROM THAT OLD DEMO."

How did you get the deal with DSP? What kind of a deal do you have?

Roberto: "THE DEAL IS A VERY PARTICULAR ONE. WE AGREED ON IT SINCE AGES. BURONYMOUS AND DEAD (TIL HE WAS ALIVE) DEEPLY WANTED MONUMENTUM ON DSP, AND THEY GOT IT IMMEDIATELY. IN THIS ACTUAL COMMERCIALIZED "SCENE", I STILL BELIEVE IN SITUATIONS OF STRONG AGREEMENT WITHOUT SPEAKING OF CASH, DISTRIBUTION DEALS AND SO ON. TODAY, BANDS SIGN ONLY IF LABELS ASSURE A SPV DISTRIBUTION DEAL, OR FASHIONING THINGS LIKE THAT. IT'S NOT MY CASE. DSP IS THE PROPER LABEL FOR THIS LP. THEY HAVE (IN SOME WAY) RE-BUILT THE INTEREST IN MONUMENTUM, FROM MYSELF SAME, AND BETWEEN PEOPLE. SO I CAN'T IMAGINE THIS LP ON ANOTHER LABEL. BOTH PARTS KNEW, WHEN WE AGREED ON THIS, THAT IT WOULD HAVE TAKE A GOOD TIME TO BE REALIZED, BUT THERE WAS NO HURRY AT ALL. IN THE MEANWHILE, DSP SOLVED THEIR FINANCIAL TROUBLES AND MONUMENTUM THEIR LINE-UP ONES. I DON'T PRETEND MUCH FROM DSP, BECAUSE I THINK THEY ARE DOING A COURAGEOUS MOVE: THEY RELEASE AN LP OF A BAND WHICH DOESN'T RECORD ANYTHING NEW SINCE 1989, SOMETHING LIKE A DEAD BAND, WHILE THEY COULD CHOOSE ONE OF THESE NEW MORE FAMOUS BANDS. I JUST WANT THIS RECORD RELEASED IN A REASONABLE TIME, DECENT LAYOUT AND TO GET SOME COPIES. I DON'T DREAM TO LIVE AND BAT WITH THE BAND, NEITHER MAKING TOURS INTEREST ME. DSP IS PERFECT."

I think MONUMENTUM has lots to offer to kind of people who are not a of the Metal scene. What I'm thriving to here is that lots of people may have prejudices about DSP ("only pure Black Metal", you know) and its releases and so they perhaps won't have the chance to notice your album...

Roberto: "MAYBE, BUT ANYWAY THESE PEOPLE WOULDN'T BUY OUR RECORD EVEN IF RELEASED ON OSMOSE OR ROADRACER. WE HAVE NO CHANCES TO

RELEASE THE LP ON A GOTHIC/WAVE LABEL. IT'S SOMETHING COMPLETELY OUT OF OUR WORLD. ANYWAY, WHEN A PERSON IS INTERESTED IN SOMETHING, PASS OVER THE NORMAL DIFFICULTIES. THERE ARE SOME CHANCES HOWEVER THAT ALSO NON-METAL PEOPLE WILL NOTICE THIS LP, AS DSP NOW WORKS STRICTLY LINKED WITH VOICES OF WONDER, WHO OVER THAN AN UNDERGROUND DISTRIBUTOR OF NORWAY, IS ALSO A RECORD LABEL WHO PUBLISH UNDERGROUND ALTERNATIVE BUT NON-METAL STUFFS. THEY HAVE THESE KIND OF CONTACTS AND NETWORK, SO I'M TRUSTFUL."

Isn't it then that DSP might have a too good distribution? I mean how do you feel if you see a few 12-13 year-old kids dressed in sport suits and DEICIDE shirts buying your album?

Roberto: "THIS NEEDS A BIG SPEECH, AND SHOULD TAKE HOURS OF DISCUSSION. IT'S A STRANGE SITUATION: SINCE A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO, ALL PERSONS INVOLVED IN THE SCENE COMPLAINED ABOUT THE FEW INTEREST OF PEOPLE, THE FEW LABELS, A FEW ZINES... NOW WE ARE IN THE OPPOSITE SITUATION. TO MY POINT OF VIEW, WE FACED IN THE LAST 3 YEARS AN EXTREME EVOLUTION, WHICH HAD TO STOP IN A MID POINT, AND INSTEAD IT RAN THRU 2 EXTREME AND OPPOSITE POINTS. TIL 1989, THERE WERE 5-6 LABELS, AND THE DREAMS OF EACH BAND WAS TO SIGN WITH NOISE, MFN OR METAL BLADE. THERE WERE NO SMALLER LABELS. BANDS GOT SIGNED AFTER HAVING RELEASED 4-5 DEMOS, AND REACHED THAT POINT IN A GOOD AGE-MOMENT (LET'S 24-25 YEARS OLD). NOW THERE ARE A LOT OF SMALL LABELS, EVEN MORE THAN THE NUMBER OF GOOD BANDS REALLY DESERVING A DEAL. LOTS OF RECORDS RELEASED. BANDS GET SIGNED EVEN BEFORE RELEASING A SINGLE DEMO TAPE! PROFESSIONALLY PRINTED MAGAZINES, PEOPLE BUYING DEMOS AND RECORDS. IN THE PAST WE COMPLAINED FOR OUR MISERY, NOW WE COMPLAIN FOR THE "FICTITIOUS RICHNESS" OF THE MOVEMENT. THE PROBLEM IS THAT ALL LABELS HAVE RUINED THE SCENE. AND I'M HERE TALKING ALSO AS LABEL-OWNER! THERE ARE A COUPLE OF LABELS (YOU KNOW WHICH ONES) WHO HAVE COMPLETELY COMMERCIALIZED THE SCENE. AND NOW, ALL BANDS PRETEND THESE SPV-DISTRIBUTED LABELS DEAL, AND THEY ARE ILLUDED TO MAKE CASH. WHICH IS IMPOSSIBLE, BECAUSE THE DIMENSIONS OF THE MARKET HAVE BECOME SMALLER: DURING 1985-1989, THERE WERE FEW BANDS SIGNED, BUT THOSE THRASH RECORDS SOLD A LOT OF COPIES (EVEN 50,000 COPIES), WHILE TODAY,

WITH ALL THESE SMALL LABELS A RECORD IS YET A SUCCESS IF IT SELLS 3000 COPIES... THIS IS THE SITUATION: WE HAVE COMPLETELY LOST THE SPIRIT WHO BUILT UP THE MOVEMENT. THERE IS NO MORE PLACE FOR UNDERGROUND - HOBBISTIC LABELS. IF YOU DON'T HAVE A REAL DISTRIBUTION, BANDS IGNORE YOU. IF YOU DON'T ANSWER A LETTER IN A WEEK YOU ARE A RIP-OFF... AND THINGS OF THIS KIND. I TRIED MYSELF TO BE SOMETHING LIKE A "SCENEPIONEER", TRYING TO AVOID THE COMMERCIALIZING OF UNDERGROUND, AND MOSTLY TRYING TO LET FALSE TRENDY CHILDREN STAYING OUT OF THE SCENE. BUT THEN ACTUALLY, I SAW THAT THESE CHILDREN SUCCEEDED ANYWAY TO BUY THE RECORDS FROM SOMEONE OTHER, EVEN PAYING THEM DOUBLE PRICED. SO THERE IS NO MORE PLACE FOR "WANNA BE A PIONEER OF UNDERGROUND" HEROES. THIS IS THE SCENE THAT WE (LABELS), YOU (BANDS) AND THEM (BUYERS) HAVE TRANSFORMED INTO A RECORDS MARKET. YOU CAN ACCEPT IT, AND STAY INSIDE, OR REFUSE AND STAY OUT OF IT. FACTS NOT THEORETICAL SPEECHES! I RESPECT BHERIT, WHO COMPLETELY PISSED OFF OF THIS SITUATION LEFT THE WHOLE LETTERS NET, REFUSED TO SIGN WITH LABELS WHO OFFERED THEM A LOT OF MORE AND SO!"

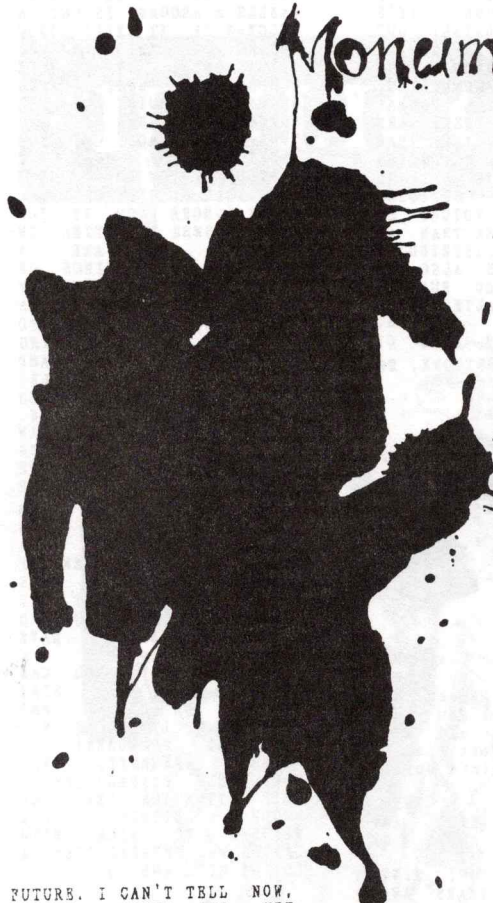
Now everybody's saying others are "wimps" or "untrue" if they think a bit differently. Even there seems to be a kind of "war" going on. Where will all this lead? Will anyone gain anything from this?

Roberto: "NONE WILL GAIN I THINK. ANYWAY I THINK IT'S ONLY A VERBAL WAR: YOU KNOW, PISSING ON OTHER'S HEADS DURING INTERVIEWS AND SO. I PUT MYSELF OUT OF THIS. I ONLY SAY THAT IF SOMEONE WILL DISTURB MY WORK AGAINST ME, I WON'T SPEAK AT ALL. I KNOW HERE IN ITALIAN MAFIA PEOPLE WHO WOULD KILL FOR 3000, AND I CAN ACTUALLY AFFORD TO FLY OVER THERE AVOIDING TO JUST SPEAK DURING INTERVIEWS..."

I've never seen a group photo of MONUMENTUM. If you'll take photos, I suppose you'd want to reflect something that is central in your music. What would it be?

Roberto: "YOU ARE RIGHT. WE TOOK JUST A FEW WITH OLD LINE-UP, AND BESIDE OF THIS, I WANNA BE RECOGNISED AS MUSICIAN NOT AS TOP-MODEL. I HATE NORMAL PHOTOS WITH MEMBERS JUST STANDING IN FRONT OF THE CAMERA WITH SERIOUS FACES AND WEARING UNDERGROUND T-SHIRTS. I LIKE CONCEPT PHOTOS. I HAVE 5-6 IDEAS TO MAKE SOME PHOTOS IN THE

# Monumentum



FUTURE. I CAN'T TELL NOW. BECAUSE THERE ARE YET EVEN TOO MANY IDEAS-RIP OFFS. BUT STAY SURE THESE PHOTOS WILL HAVE A REAL MEANING, AND WILL BE GROTESQUE. SORRY I CAN'T ANSWER PROPERLY THIS QUESTION."

More about photos. Myself I think there are more interesting (and atmospheric things to express in photos than clown-like people with facepaint and inverted crosses (this is how I see most of the new BM bands...)). Don't you think some bands look (and sound, and ARE) nothing more than ridiculous these days?

Roberto: "I 100% AGREE WITH YOU. THIS IS ANOTHER BAD POINT. IT SEEMS LIKE MANY BANDS FIRSTLY THINK TO MAKE EVIL PAINTED PHOTOS, THEN COMPOSING MUSIC. I HAVE SEEN RECENTLY SOME PHOTOS THAT SHOULD BE PUBLISHED FOR "MENTALLY HANDICAPPED LITTLE CHILDREN MAGAZINES". TO ME THESE PEOPLE IS NO LESS RIDICULOUS THAN L.A. POSER BANDS ALA POISON, DOGS D'AMOUR ETC... OF COURSE I'M SPEAKING ABOUT NEW JUMPED ON THE VAGON BABE-BANDS. NOT THE OLD ONES WHO ARE DOING THIS SINCE YEARS."

What is the most evil thing you've ever done?  
 Roberto: "BEING EVIL IS SOMETHING THAT MUST SHOW IN DAILY SITUATIONS, EVEN WITH NORMAL AND SMALL ACTS OR WORDS, AND NOT NECESSARILY WITH WILD AND EVIDENT ACTIONS. MY WAY TO BE EVIL, IS TO BE ALWAYS HARD TO STAY WITH PEOPLE. I HARDLY GIVE ANY SIGN OF ENTHUSIASM FOR OTHERS. NEITHER SIGNS OF FRIENDSHIP, NEITHER FRIENDLY WORDS. I SEE MYSELF AS A MISANTHROPE, AND I COMPLETELY IGNORE THE 90% OF THE PEOPLE STANDING AROUND ME. AND PEOPLE SUFFER WHEN IS IGNORED, ESPECIALLY PARENTS. OH, ONE TIME AGO I RUINED AN EYE TO A SCHOOLMATE GIRL WITH A PENCIL: IT WAS A CASUAL ACCIDENT OK, BUT WHAT WAS STRANGE TO ME, IS THAT I DIDN'T FEEL ANY KIND OF DISPLEASE, BUT AN HIDDEN SENSE OF PLEASURE..."

What in your opinion is the thing in Monumentum that differs the most from any other band/artist?  
 Roberto: "WE ARE NOT A BAND. AND HOWEVER THIS IS A THING THAT OTHER PEOPLE MUST NOTICE, NOT ME."

Now make a list of 5 records that you'd take with you when you die. Are these the same that have the strongest affected to your musical taste and the progression of it?  
 Roberto: "TOO HARD TO SAY. TOO MANY RECORDS LISTENED IN THESE YEARS, AND I WOULD JUST FORGET A LOT OF THEM. LET ME SAY HOWEVER, THE FIRST 5 WHICH APPEAR IN MY BRAIN: VIOLET THEATRE "DETACHING FROM SATAN",

COCTEAU TWINS "GARLANDS", MERCYFUL FATE "DON'T BREAK THE OATH", CHRISTIAN DEATH "ATROCITIES", CELTIC FROST "TO MEGA THERION", DEATH IN JUNE "GUILTY HAVE NO PRIDE", DEAD CAN DANCE "SPLBBN & IDEAL", BLACK HOLE "LAND OF MISTERY" A LOT OTHERS! (Are you not able to count? There were 8 of them! I talked to the Horned and he will only give you 8 jolly-good pop-crap albums!! -ed.) SOME STILL HAVE TO COME, AS THE STUDIO LP OF MAYHEM!"

Once you said that the sooner you die the better + this life is worthless. Or that's how I understood. Anyway, wouldn't it be something to be able to create something in your short & miserable life that there poor souls after you will remember and wonder how and why you did it? What do you want to achieve in your life?

Roberto: "I'M A SOUL IN CANCRENE IN A CASUAL HUMAN CONTAINER. ANY KIND OF SUCCESS IN LIFE, WILL BE DELETED IN THAT COLD AND WELCOMING HOLE IN THE GROUND. THIS IS THE REASON WHY I CAN'T HAVE ANY KIND OF ENTHUSIASM IN ACHIEVE MATERIAL SATISFACTIONS IN LIFE. ESPECIALLY IN RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER HUMANS. BECAUSE OUR EVERLASTING FRIENDS WILL BE WORMS IN A WOODEN COPPIN. I CONSIDER MYSELF A GREY SOUL, AN UNREAL EXISTING, OR AN UNEXISTING ENTITY. I'M DEAD SINCE BIRTH. ANYONE WHO STILL HAS ENTHUSIASM OF LIFE IS NOT CONSCIOUS OF DEATH. I HAD SO MANY HOURS OF MEDITATION CONCERNING DEATH. ALSO WITH MANY CEMETERY VISITS AND SO. I BECAME COMPLETELY CONSCIOUS OF THE EVENT "DEATH", THAT ACTUALLY A PART OF ME IS DEAD IN THAT MOMENT. MY ENTHUSIASM IS DEAD. MY TRUST IS DEAD: ACTUALLY I'M A WALKING DEAD. AND THIS IS ALSO ONE OF THE REASONS WHY I WILL END EVERYTHING, OBSCURE PLASMA INCLUDED, IN A FEW TIME. AND I'LL JOIN THE LEGION OF GREY INDIVIDUALS JUST LIVING WAITING THE END."

Please tell about your fascination towards MANA MANA.  
 Roberto: "MMH, I KNOW THIS BAND HAVE ALSO RECORDED SOME SHITTY STUFFS, BUT I'M COMPLETELY MAD FOR THEIR "TOTUUS PALAA" LP, WHICH IS ONE OF THE MOST DEPRESSING STUFF EVER RELEASED."

If the music of MONUMENTUM was a dinner course, what would it be?  
 Roberto: "DEFUNCT'S BREAD."

If Obscure Plasma was a dinner course...?  
 Roberto: "A DISAPPOINTING TASTE MEAT WITH FISH-SHAPE."

I won't ask much about Thanatography as it seems you'll quit it. What was the best and worst thing in zine-editing in your opinion?

Roberto: "THANATOGRAPHY IS DEAD YET ACTUALLY, SO NO ISSUE #5 AT ALL. FANZINES, AND HERE COMES THE SPEECH OF QUESTION #7, HAVE ACTUALLY LOST ALL THEIR MEANINGS TODAY. I DECIDED TO END IT, BECAUSE OF EVIDENT TROUBLES OF CASH, WHICH IS COMPLETELY TAKEN BY THE LABEL, AND WE CAN'T AFFORD TO PAY (AS FOR ISSUE #4) SOMETHING LIKE 3/4 OF BUDGET TO MAKE AN LP. THEN, THERE'S ALSO A EVIDENT LACK OF TIME. BUT IN THE END, I COMPLETELY LOST ALL ENTHUSIASM IN ZINE MAKING, WHEN 4 BANDS REFUSED TO ANSWER AN INTERVIEW, BECAUSE THEY HAD "TOO MUCH TO DO". AND SEEN THAT I BECOME TIRED TO FOLLOW, WORSHIP AND LOSE TIME BEHIND 15 YEARS OLD TOO BUSY CHILDREN, I DECIDED TO GIVE AN END TO IT. MOROVER, THERE'S NOTHING TO PROMOTE ANYMORE, BECAUSE PEOPLE CARE ONLY TO BUY THEIR WONDERFUL CDS! SORRY BUT I CAN'T SEE ANYMORE GOOD THINGS IN ZINE EDITING. THIS SCENE IS THE "PARADISE OF THE POOR", AND ZINE MAKING IS THE MOST PATHETIC ASPECT OF IT. I KNOW THAT WITH THIS ANSWER I WILL LOSE ALL YOUR RESPECT (No, I quite know what you're up to, -ed.), BUT I DON'T WANT TO OFFEND YOU: I HAVE BEEN A ZINE EDITOR FOR 3/4 YEARS, SO I ALSO OFFEND MYSELF. AND IN THE END, THE FACT THAT I'M HERE USING 2 HOURS OR MORE TIME TO ANSWER YOUR GOOD INTERVIEW, MEANS THAT I ANYWAY RESPECT AND APPRECIATE YOUR WORK (Glad to hear 'cause this issue was a LOT of work! -ed.). OTHERWISE I WOULD REUSE AND SEND BACK THIS INTERVIEW."

Please tell me your opinion on everything you've released on OPR. Have all of them been successful releases? The MAYHEM live-LP/CD seemed to be the thing to clearly raise you somewhere above hundreds of others, to a position where people will keep an eye on the label and its future releases.

Roberto: "ALL RELEASES BECOME SOLD OUT IN A TIME. SOME GAINED MORE POPULARITY, SOME MORE INTERESTS, SOME DISAPPOINTMENT. MAYHEM GAVE US SOME POPULARITY FOR SURE, BUT THE FACT THAT I HAVE NOT COMMERCIALIZED THIS RELEASE LIKE BEING MORBID ANGEL BASEBALL CAPS, MEANS THAT I STILL GIVE TO IT A CULT-RELEASE MEANING. SOME BANDS REMAINED UNKNOWN OR DISBANDED AFTER RELEASING SOMETHING ON OUR LABEL, LIKE ANGUISE, HOUSE OF USBER, EUGARIST. SOME OTHER WERE PROCLAIMED BY OTHER LABELS, LIKE PAN-THY-MONIUM. I ONLY

HOPE THAT OBSCURE PLASMA WILL BE FOR EVER KNOWN AS AN UNDERGROUND LABEL: WE ARE NOT RECORDS MERCHANTS."

Hey, I think I know what you're going to eat for breakfast next morning! In "Forest Of N'Gai" zine you said you'll eat 10 of those zines if you ever release anything by an Italian band (except for ICONOCLAST) on OPR, and now you've released the SINOATH cassette EP! And: even before you release the SADIST 7"EP! Good appetite!

Roberto: "SADIST AND ICONOCLAST WERE RELEASED BEFORE THAT DECLARATION, AND SINOATH WAS ACTUALLY AN EXCEPTION WHICH I WOULDN'T REPEAT ANYMORE ANYWAY. YES, I ASSURE YOU THAT "FOREST OF N'GAI" WAS ACTUALLY QUITE HARD TO EAT, BUT IN THE END I ADDED A BIT OF SALT AND TOMATO SOUCE, AND THE RESULT WASN'T THAT BAD. A VEGETARIAN COURSE AT LAST... AH."

What about the future plans of Obscure Plasma? Roberto: "TO RELEASE THE 2 TODAY'S BEST ALBUMS RECORDED: OPHTHALMIA "JOURNEY IN DARKNESS" AND THERGOTRON "STREAM FROM THE HEAVENS". I CAN SUGGEST YOU IN PARTICULAR TO CONTACT THIS LAST BAND, WHO COMES (WHAT A COINCIDENCE) FROM YOUR SAME TOWN... I RECOMMEND THEM TO YOUR ZINE... (No way...ha. -ed.) OTHER SPEECHES OF DEAL ARE UNDER WORK WITH SOME BANDS ESPECIALLY ABYSMAL, MOONSPELL AND UNBURIED. OTHERS TOO (ATARAXIA AND CARPATHIAN FULLMOON must be mentioned. -ed.)."

What do you think about OPR's distribution today? Is it that you have Relapse Records handling the US distribution? What about SPV for Europe as you mentioned?

Roberto: "IT IS STILL MAINLY LINKED TO A TRADING BASIS WITH OTHER LABELS. WE ARE IN THE FOCUS POINT TO CHOOSE IF CONTINUE IN THIS UNDERGROUND WAY, OR JOIN THE LEGION OF RECORDS MERCHANTS WHO ARE THE OTHER LABELS. YES, RELAPSE IS TAKING MANY COPIES OF OUR EACH RELEASES FOR THE USA. SPV, WELL, I DOUBT TO WANT AN EXCLUSIVE DISTRIBUTION DEAL, WHILE I PREFER TO GET MANY DIFFERENT LOCAL DEALS. THEY HAVE IGNORED MY REQUESTS TIL NOW. BUT I WILL NOT SELL MY ASS SO BASILY ONLY TO HAVE THE FASHIONABLE LOGO SPV PRINTED ON OUR RELEASES."

What is the biggest mistake OPR has done, or are there any?

Roberto: "SADIST 7". I STILL HAVE SOME COPIES OF THIS SHIT IN VINYL FORM: ANYONE INTERESTED, JUST SEND 2\$ FOR POSTAGE AND WILL GET A COPY. BUT MAYBE 2\$ ARE EVEN TOO MUCH FOR AN EXCREMENT. BUCARIST AND SINOATH WERE OTHER MISTAKES TOO, BUT FOR DIFFERENT REASONS. BECAUSE OF TOO MUCH ENTHUSIASM WITH THESE 2 BANDS, I PASSED ON MY USUAL WORK AND PRINCIPLE BASIS, BUT THE 2 RELEASES ARE GREAT! IT'S ONLY A MANAGING MISTAKE."

How are your relations to your parents? Once you cursed your mother for cursing you... what about getting married in church and having say four children?

Roberto: "MY PARENTS ARE A COUPLE OF HUMAN LOSERS, AND I'LL NEVER GAIN FOR THEM ANY KIND OF SATISFACTION LIKE ALL SONS DO TO THEIR PARENTS. I DON'T GIVE A SHIT TO MY PARENTS. I ONLY USE THEM. THEY PAY ME BATH + SLEEP AND SEVERAL OTHER THINGS, AND THIS PERMITS ME TO USE MY MONEY ONLY FOR THE LABEL ETC. MY MOTHER IS A CHRISTIAN LOSER, AND MY FATHER A VICTIM OF WORK. THE BEST THING FOR THEM SHOULD BE TO DIE IN AN ACCIDENT SOON, AND BEST FOR ME TOO, SO THAT I CAN GET EASILY THE MONEY THEY SAVED IN ALL THEIR YEARS OF WORK. I'M A COMPLETE NIHILIST AND COLD INDIVIDUAL, SO I CAN SAY THESE WORDS REALLY EASILY AND WITHOUT REMORSES. I'LL PROBABLY GET MARRIED, BUT ABSOLUTELY

NOT IN CHURCH. ONLY CIVIL MARRIAGE! HEY MAN, CAN YOU IMAGE ME IN CHURCH SAYING "YES". (Can you hear me laughing?... -ed.) CHILDREN? I COULD HAVE CHILDREN ONLY IF MY CONCEPTION OF HUMAN RACE WOULD INCREASE. ACTUALLY, I WOULD CONSIDER MYSELF A ASSASSIN GIVING BIRTH TO ANOTHER HUMAN REPTILE LIKE ME. MOREOVER I HATE TO HEAR CHILDREN CRY AND MAKING NOISES."

Still about baptizing, I'm quite sure you'll agree with me when I say it's one of the most horrible things to join a new-born baby to a religion which perhaps will be something truly loathable to him/her when he/she is grown up and understands facts. Are you blasphemous in your opinion by the way?

Roberto: "I AGREE COMPLETELY. I DENIED MY CATHOLIC BAPTISM, BUT MY SOUL HAS BEEN IRRREMEDIABLY SOILED BY IT. BAPTISM IS STILL A SICK LARVAE BREATHING INSIDE OF ME. YOU ARE BLASPHEMOUS WHEN YOU KNOW TO OFFEND A GOD: SINCE THAT TO ME "GOD" IT'S ONLY A 3 LETTERS WORD CREATED BY MEN, LIKE "DOG", SAYING "PIG GOD" HAS NO MEANING. BUT I SAY IT FREQUENTLY, ONLY TO HURT THE HUMANS STANDING AROUND ME."

Do you know the true story "Devil's footprints" (Devon, England 1855)? Do you have any explanation for it?

Roberto: "HOW CAN YOU EXPLAIN THAT NO DEVIL OR GOD WILL SAVE YOU FROM THAT COFFIN? CAN'T YOU YET IMAGINE IN KAARINA CEMBTERY A WONDERFUL BLACK MARBLE GRAVE WITH NIKO SIRKIA WRITTEN ON THE FRONT OF IT?"

(Yes, but I won't be buried like that! -ed.)

Sometime you said you live by the cemetery. Does it affect your life in any way?

Roberto: "COMPLETELY. I'M COMPLETELY FRUSTRATED BY IT. I SEE THE PHOTO OF MY RELATIVES BURIED THERE IN ANY MOMENT OF MY DAY. WHEN I GO THERE, I WATCH IN SILENCE FOR HOURS, BUT IN THE END YOU BECOME THE WATCHED PART NOT THE WATCHING ONE."

In the interview for Thanatography you asked me what would I do if I had an hour to talk with the pope himself. Now I ask from you!

Roberto: "I'D TRY TO GIVE SENSE TO MY LIFE, SHOOTING HIM IN FACE, JUST AFTER HAVING KISSED HIS HANDS."

I feel like ending it now. Thanks for your time and concentration. I hope you got inspired by these questions or at least that I didn't bore you to death. If there's anything you'd like to add - now it's the time for it. To the end please tell me what kind of feelings you're having right now.

Roberto: "I FEEL OK. NOT BORED AT ALL. GOOD AND LOOONG INTERVIEW. I HAVE NOTHING TO ADD. WELL MAYBE YOU COULD HAVE ASK SOMETHING ABOUT THE LYRICAL CONTENTS OF THE SONGS. BUT WHO REALLY CARES...? (I actually did ask about it, but for some reason the computer seem not to have printed it on the question sheet I sent you! Damn! -ed.) NIHIL EST SINE SPERMATE."



AVANTGARDE  
MUSIC

ROBERTO MAMMARELLA  
C.P. 19  
20010 Vanzago (MI)  
ITALY

## SCENE REPORT: LITHUANIA



by Arunas Bugvilionis

Ave unholy readers of Hammer Of Damnation mag! I'm Dark Duke Aras, the dark side of Peccatus Altar mag. and I want to acquaint you with the present Lithuanian underground scene. Now it's the time to scream, after a long period of deathlike silence...

Each of you knows very well that we are free now, free with our ideas, with our religion and with our desires... you must know that Lithuania was the last and long existed civilized pagan land in the world. We were persecuted by plagues... the first one was Christianity that attempted to our land, to our riches and to our customs... shit, they didn't get what they wanted... The second plague was communism, the most stupid idealism ever. Communists thrust to us their stupid ideas and alien gods... hrah, now these idiots have got their bright future...

After dethroning communism the underground scene became reality. Here I'll tell you about life of our Metal heads, about gigs, shows, 'zines and of course bands. Let's begin.

Vilnius is the capital of Lithuania, and the capital of the underground scene. Here are so many Metal heads, 'zines and bands. So many good bands and 'zines but also so much shit (like everywhere else in the world). Here in Vilnius were organized the biggest and the best gigs so far. So, here was the first big show... it was SEPULTURA. I hate this band (I feel quite the same. -Niko) but so many Metal heads lost their minds -- the band played in front of 5000 people! The second big show was a periodic gig entitled "Death Comes...". This was a true underground show. It was at the end of 1991, many bands played to around 400 people. It was such a success that "Death Comes 2" was organized. There were only three bands, REGREDIOR, DISSECTION (R.I.P.) and CONSCIOUS ROT. The Swedish TEMPERANCE were supposed to be

there but they didn't come due to some problems... this time there were 700 people and it was the best underground show so far. The third "Death Comes" is being planned for the end of 1993... we will live, we will see...

As you know we have some problems with our economic structure... anyway the prices are here so low (to you). For example vodka costs \$1, cigarettes (Camel, Marlboro) the same price... for \$2 you can live here for one day. It's very small, you'll scream... yes, but our salaries are so fucking small too. For example, me. I'm working in Lithuanian TV, as a scene builder, and my monthly pay is \$20! My mother works also in Lithuanian TV, as head producer, and her monthly pay is \$40, and it's one of the biggest pays in state works... and after this -- tell me how can I buy your demos for \$4? or CD's for \$14 when for one demo I can live here two days and the price of CD is my monthly pay?! And believe me, there are so many people here who live so bad as I. Yes, money is the biggest problem here, and it destroys the underground, it separates young bands, it constrain our death-thrashers to rip-off, no, no, no... I don't protect this shit, I hate it, and my rule is: "If you can't fuck, don't fuck" but who can stand the temptation?

So, it's hard to live here but I'm glad that I was born in Lithuania. I like this land with lots of gloomy forests, with dark pagan habits etc.

About Satanism in Lithuania; there are some underground organizations (the true ones), also here is a local Church of

Satan" but this church is pure shit because they follow the LaVey's way and religion (...so? -Niko). Anyway we have a big problem with occult literature, it's very hard to get any true stuff (what the hell is true to you after all?? -Niko)...

OK, now it's the time to talk about the second and the biggest part of the underground scene. First, I'll tell you about compilation tapes... There aren't many of them here, but some exist. All compis are run by 'zine editors... The first compilation is called "Compilation Of God's Yexation". The first volume is out and it consists of 10 songs. C-60 tape, good b/w cover (drawn by me!). All bands come from Lithuania, each has two songs on this tape. Write to the address of Vital Wound mag (elsewhere).

The second compilation is called "Marche Macabre" and it's ours. Two volumes are available. The first is a C-90 tape with 23 bands from the whole world. The second volume is a braincrushing release: 40 bands, C-180 (two tapes!), brutal cover (drawn by me). Don't hesitate about the quality, it's excellent! So, the vol.1 costs \$5 or 7 DM and the second one \$7 or 10 DM. Only cash.

The third compi, Dark Conglomeration tape "Black Wind Fallen Wood". Yeah, it's done by me. Only Black/Doom bands. 18 satanic bands, C-90 tape, professional dark cover drawn by me, 2 intros and 2 outros created by me. Any true (? -Niko) satanists who are interested in this tape write. It is only for trade.

The next compi was released by "Death Industry" 'zine from Alytus. I don't know anything about this, write to D.I. for more info.

'Zines, the heart of the underground. There are many 'zines in Lithuania. It's great but on the other hand many of them are unprofessional toilet papers. If you are looking for good support, beware of these stupid kids: Subterranean, Dominion Of Terror and Morbid Infection. I don't want to mention here all that shit, I'll just talk about the best ones...

The best mag in Lithuania is Vital Wound. Issue #3 is out now. Very long and interesting interviews, reviews and a story about horror movies. Anyway, this 'zine must be a common journal, if not a Peccatus Altar Prod., our firm who took care of designing Vital Wound. Write to: Plikas, Zaibo 10-75, 2050 Vilnius, Lithuania.

Another good journal, a nice mag is Peccatus Alta. We were the biggest and the first mag here. Many people have liked it. 30 interviews, 9

bio-articles, 3 scene reports, 120 review, 50 A4 pages. The cost is \$3 or 5 DM. Personally we aren't totally satisfied with this issue, we were ripped off by the print-house. (It's a good mag anyway, believe me. -Niko). Now, we're working on the next issue which will be more professional more brutal and more honest. So, support us. Write to me: c/o Arunas, Kauno 19-17, Vilnius 2006.

The oldest 'zine is Deathmare (What, you just said the oldest was yours! -Niko). Now it's called Thy Kingdom Come. The fifth issue was published and the last two numbers written in English. The quality is fucking bad but interviews are interesting... Contact: c/o Arunas Norvaisa, Zuvinto 13-16, Kaunas 3031, Lithuania.



Drowned In Blood 'zine was designed by us so no doubt about the quality! 50 A4 pages, but anyway the write-ups are so monotonous yet quite informative... Contact: M.Kairys, P.Plechavicius 27-36, Kaunas.

Death Industry have four issues made. It's cool and interesting but the printing is bad. All four issues were written in Lithuanian but the next one will be in English. Write to: Donatas Bagdonas, Zenaites 8, Alytus 4580.

I can also mention other reliable 'zines such as Revelation, Raganos Ir Alus, Brainstorm, Cory Danger...



Let's write about Lithuanian bands. CONSCIOUS ROT have two demos. The first one is old (1991) but the new one "Congenital Passivity" is

# Peccatus Altar

UNDERGROUND MAGAZINE

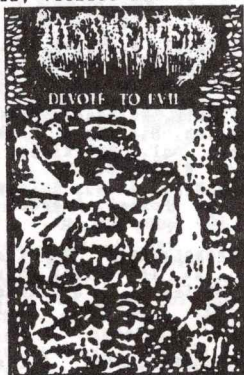
good. Pro-tape, color cover etc. Their music is more listenable live, though. They have some line-up problems at the moment. The address is: Juodas, Polocko 43-8, Vilnius 2007.

**DEAD BEAUTY** is a very original Death/Noise band including two members from **CONSCIOUS ROT**. They have one demo out, called "Farewell By Greeting". More info through the address above.

**REGREDIOR** is the



most known and (now) the best Lithuanian atmospheric Death band. Two demos are out: "Under The Aegis Of Darkness" (1992) and "Born In The Coffin" (1993). Now they have deals with Shiver Rec. and H.M.I. Rec., both for 7" EP's. These are out now. I've heard those tracks and they are very brutal, atmospheric and great! Professional Death stuff. Contact: Carcass, Putino 8-12, Vilnius 2009.



**ILLOHNNED** play slow Death Metal with very extreme vocals. They have one tape called "Devoted To Evil". Their new songs are a bit different, it reminds me of Grindcore. Soon **ILLOHNNED** will record their first real demo. Contact: Caramba, Vytanto 9-1, Lentvaris.



**ANUBI**, the first dark band in Lithuania. Very weird and strange style. Their music reminds me of **INVERTED PENTAGRAM**. They call their style "Atmospheric/Industrial/Dark/Egyptian Black Metal... It is wrong, their it is some kind of dark/psychedelic Metal with a touch of industrial and Doom (after all who gives a shit about how their music should be described? Everyone can make up his or her own opinion by listening to it! -ed.). Their lyrics are about Egyptian gods and so on, but the guys are rather ignorant about occult and satanic science, they don't know what they talk about. They think that Egyptian sorcerers use inverted crosses and pentagrams in their occult sciences, it's a bit funny. Musically I like this band and I can recommend them to you. But on the other hand their stupid false image destroys my good opinion... (after all who gives a shit about... part 2". So fucking what?! The music counts not any bloody image -ed.). Contact: Ptah, Rimvydo 18-36, 3028 Kaunas.



**DISSECTION** - pure Death Metal. This band don't exist anymore, but I want to write about them because their work was so necessary for our scene. They made two demos, "Suffocating Syndrome" (1992, extreme stuff!) and "Pyramid Of Hate" (1993). I think you can get them from ex-DISSECTION drummer Meinardas Brazaitis, Pasielaičiu 20-83, Vilnius 2022.

**GRAVEHOLE** (known before as **GRAVESIDE** if it tells you something) is a Death/Thrash outfit. They have two demos which I don't know the titles of. Anyway I don't like this band. Strange style and strange lyrics written in Lithuanian. Contact: Rolandas, Ateities 14-9, Pa-nevezys 5309.

**MORTUARY PROPERTY** is a professional group playing pure Thrash. They have one made one demo entitled "Insect Killer" and it shows to us a very high quality Thrash Metal. M.P. is one of the best Thrash bands in Lithuania. They have a deal with Come Prod. For info write to Come Prod. through the address of Vital Wound Mag.

**VOID** is also a very young band, they play some kind of Death/Thrash. Common band. A demo out soon. Contact: Rimvidas V., Savanoriu 56-32, Vilnius 2015.

**BURYING PLACE** is a very progressive uncommon and original techno Death band. I like them a lot and I think that this band has a great future. Their debut demo is called "The Last Disaster Of Humanity". They need your support, order this demo for only \$4! Their address is: Mike, Virsuliskui 73-48, Vilnius 2056.

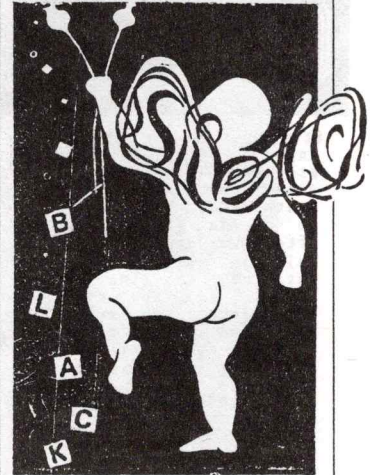
I must also tell you about a band that don't have a name yet. They stand among **POCCOLUS** and **DIEDWAYTHE**, and yet they don't know which to choose. However this is the best Lithuanian band, they play Black Metal with a pagan soul. They use uncommon instruments and it creates a very gloomy atmosphere - my dream became a reality! Check out this true band. They deserve it! Contact: Audrius, Seliu 24-1, 4910 Utena. (They chose the name **POCCOLUS**. -ed.)

We have also some underground record labels in Lithuania. I already told you about Come Prod. So let's talk about **Peccatus Altar Prod.** A well known title in this report... yes it's once again me. **Peccatus Altar Prod.** will release professional cassettes with colour covers. This label was born to support every talented band from Baltic states underground scene. The first release is Estonian Satanic Death Metal gods **RATTLER** with their debut MC "Sanctum Regnum". It costs \$5, get it from me. And it's not the last release of ours, just write for more info (enclose 1 dollar).

That's all for now. Of course I can't inform here about all Lithuanian bands. We also have good bands like **KATEDRA** (thrash classics), **DISSONANCE**, **PARANOIA**, **SPELLBOUND**, **NEGATOR**, **DARKSIDE**, **MORGANA** and so on... As you see, the Lithuanian scene is growing. It's great! If you want to know something more, you can write to me. A. Bugvilionis, Kauno 19-17, Vilnius 2006.

**SIELA**  
"Black Opium Land" MC

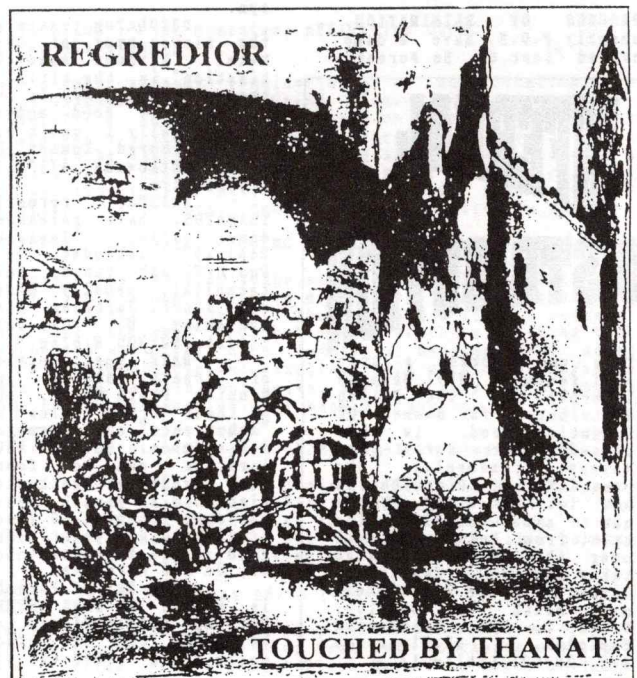
This cassette contains 10 songs of depressive pop with a slight Gothic touch. Some of it is pretty good, some then not that good. It is too ordinary, everyday stuff while I was waiting for a darker and more Goth-sounding approach. But some good news must be that they are about to put out a new cassette which should be a lot more depressive. Ask from Aurelius Sirgedas, Maironio 33-2, 4910 Utena.



**O P I U M L A N**

**POCCOLUS**  
"Kingdom Of Pocolus" demo

They've just made this four track debut demo. Despite the unclear sound I'm able to find out what **POCCOLUS** are about. Black Metal with a pagan soul as Aras said earlier, with a Gothic edge I'd like to add. They have some very good riffs there, but the arrangements aren't always the best-working kind of. Hopefully **POCCOLUS** are able to work a bit more on their tracks and then enter a professional studio; then it should be some kind of an enjoyment to listen to. Meanwhile, check the band out at c/o Audrius Simkunas, Seliu 24-1, 4910 Utena, Lithuania.



DUE TO A SHITLOAD OF POLISH DEMOS THAT WE HAVE RECEIVED WE DECIDED TO FEATURE THEM ALL IN THE FORM OF A "SCENE REPORT"...



Starting with the most known acts, **IMPERATOR** started ages ago. They play some kind of occult Death Metal partly similar to early **MORBID ANGEL**. After two demos the band released their debut LP entitled "The Time Before Time". It was reviewed more deeply in our third issue and I have my doubts about if it's still available. Ask from P.O.Box 56, 90-955 Lodz.

**VADER** made three demos and signed to Barache so most of the readers know them. If not, write for info to c/o Peter Wiczarek, ul Gietkowska 7/1, 10-170 Olsztyn.

**PANDEMONIUM** have done two demos of which the second, "Devilri" has been largely spread. Their kind of Black/Death is comparable to early **CELTIC FROST** but as a big dose it sounds too monotonous. Many people really praise it though so perhaps I'm wrong? Send \$5 to c/o Piotr Zubrzycki, ul. Kochanowskiego 13/56, 91-469 Lodz.

**PASCAL** play extremely technical Thrash which can be heard from their 6-track demo "Collection Of Destroyed Brains". Techno-Thrash maniacs should love it, I guess. The tape comes with great-looking color cover. \$5 to **CARNAGE**, 05-119 Legionowo 5, P.O.Box 50.

**PROGRESS OF ELIMINATION**, shortly P.O.E. have a demo called "Last Of Be Forest"

# INFERNAL DISTRIBUTION

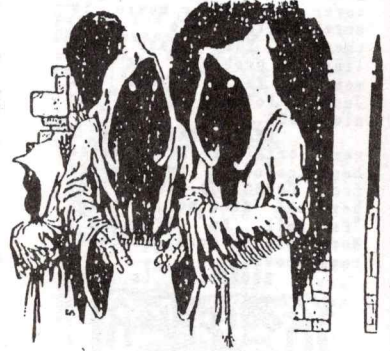
This one deserves a special feature. Why? Because Infernal is the Polish distributor for Hammer Of Damnation prod. Is this biased? For sure, yes. Anyway, Przemyslaw who runs Infernal Distribution has lots of stuff (tapes and "zines mainly) for sale, from Poland and all over the globe. He also takes part in a few zines, Diabolic Noise and Infernal Death to mention. Write to him: Przemyslaw Popielek, ul. Sloneczna 6/2, 20-621 Lublin 17.

(yeah, neither do I understand the title!). Musically they remind me of old **GRAVE**, a more grinding type though, but I feel the few noisecore blasts and track titles like "Skate Song" are rather moronic. Marek Kwiatek, Zamiany 12, 02788 Poste Restante, Warszawa. Marek also edits a zine called **Fallout Cerebral**. **NECROLOST** have a demo entitled "Faces Of Evil". It consists of 14 tracks so there's a lot to

heavy and effective. Write to **Carnage Records**, address somewhere above.

**ARMAGEDON** play fast Death/Thrash which reminds me of the Swedish **MERCILESS**. Mainstream stuff with a lot of aggression. "Dead Condemnation" demo available from **Carnage Records**.

**CELEBRATION** must play some kind of Death Metal, but the tape I received was damaged to unlistenable condition. The color covers try to be



## A report on the POLISH METAL INDUSTRY

listen to. Quite similar to **SAMAE** or **PANDEMONIUM**; if you like them I advice to get this for \$5 from Tom Franczak, Pilsudskiego 74/45, 34-600 Limenowa.

**NECROLATRY**, with their "Confessions" demo play quite typical Death Metal comparable to **MORBID ANGEL** for example. 6 tracks + intro + outro. c/o Pawel Wasilewski, Poste Restante, 50-900 Wroclaw 2.



**XANTOTOL**, the black duo made a promising tape entitled "Glory For Centuries". Besides three of their own tracks (+ intro and outro) it includes a **SAMAE** cover "Into The Pentagram" (it seems this band and especially this song is very popular in Poland!). The music is mainly slow and primitive but it seriously lacks of melodies. So it may turn out a bit boring in the end. Promising anyway. c/o Venom, Zielna 44, 99-300 Kutno.

**SCUM** is for Grind-core maniacs. 12 tracks on their "Degradation" demo should be aural manna for fans of **TERRORIZER** and old **NAPALM DEATH**. Promotion & distribution: Tomasz Strzelecki, os. Sikorskiego 1/23, 63-700 Krotoszyn.

**DESOLATOR** trades on the slower type of Death Metal. "Without Anaesthetization" is the title of their 2-song demo. It has some fairly good moments but generally I can't help getting bored. Tomasz Orzel, Gietkowska 6/15, 10-170 Olsztyn.

**TRAUMA**, formerly **THANATOS**, have released a demo called "Invisible Reality". Included are 6 Death/Thrash tunes, quite technical, usually midpaced stuff. Jaroslaw Misterekiewicz, Ul. Plk. Dabka 115/24, 82-300 Bibliag.

**HATE** must consist of freaks deeply into Finnish Death Metal, some of their track titles are "Abhorrence" and "Demigod" for example. Musical similarities can be found, too. Ordinary Death stuff with a mild Thrash touch. The demo includes 6 tracks + nice color cover. Hate Prod., ul. Bartnicza 9 m 45, 03-358 Warszawa.

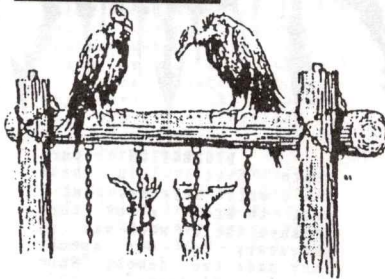
"The Day Of Pariah" is a demo by **DARK OPERA**. Nothing extraordinary can be found but the band's early Death sound is very

"brutal" to the least... A **Carnage Rec.** product.

One more demo put out by **Carnage**: "Necronomical Exmortis" by **BETRAY-ER**. 6 tracks of more or less typical Death/Thrash. At least to the band themselves this is an important record, it is dedicated to their ex-guitarist who died some time back then.

**DEAD INFECTION** chose a nice photo of entrails to their coloured demo cover. Sad that it is more effective (disgusting) than their music which is nothing special. 9 tracks of Death Metal. Slawek Cywoniuk, ul. Palacowa 4/42, 15-064 Bialystok.

## DDT



**DDT** doesn't sound good as a band name, but forget it as their music surprisingly does. It is much in the vein of early **CELTIC FROST**, they even made a cover of "Dethroned Emperor" on their demo "Fineness Of Brutality". Admittedly good! \$3 to Jacek Zajac, ul. Spacerowa 36, 12-200 Pisz.

**MYSTIFICATION** have out a 5-track demo titled "Morbid Time". To my ears it sounds like a fusion of Death, Black and Thrash Metal, recalling my mind "the old days"... One special thing is that they (seem to) sing in Polish, at least the song titles are in Polish. Mariusz Michalowski, w. Polskiego 29/17, 88-100 Inowroclaw.

### FANZINES

I won't talk much about Polish fanzines, instead I just give addresses of some of them. Write to them for more info. Just as a hint; all of them are more or less dedicated to all kinds of (Death) Metal...

**FALLOUT CEREBRAL**. 9 issues, A4, in English. Marek Kwiatek, Zamiany 12, 02788, Poste Restante.

**HOLOCAUST**. 6 issues, A5, in English. P.O.Box 12, 86-105 Swiecie 5.

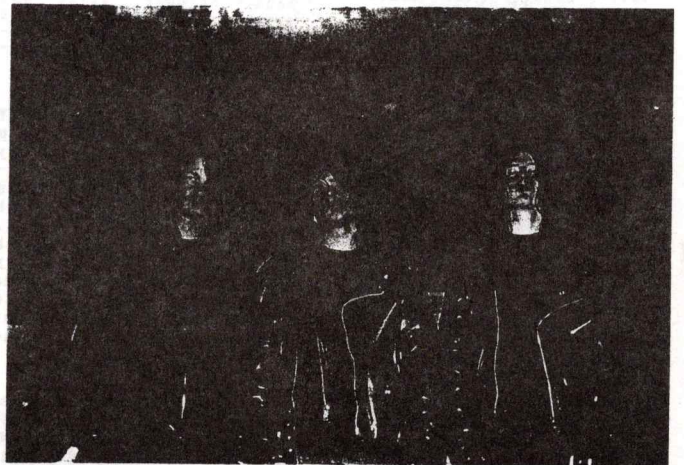
**ESOTERIC**. 2 issues, A5, in English. Mirosława Mackiewicz, ul. Wybickiego 13 Bb/5, 81-842 Sopot.

**SCREAMING DEATH**. 3 issues, A5, in Polish. Pogodna 2, 22-600 Tomaszow lub.

**DAEMONOLATRIA**. 2 issues (?), A4, in Polish. Slawek Brzezinski, ul. Skopenki 19/33, 37-450 Stalowa Wola.

**DISTEMPERED MIND**. 2 issues A5, in English. P.O.Box 89, 51-672 Wroclaw 9.

**KINGDOM OF DEATH**. 1 issue (?), A5, in English. Mariusz Sowa, Slowackiego 182/47, 97-300 Piotrkow Tryb.



Pandemonium

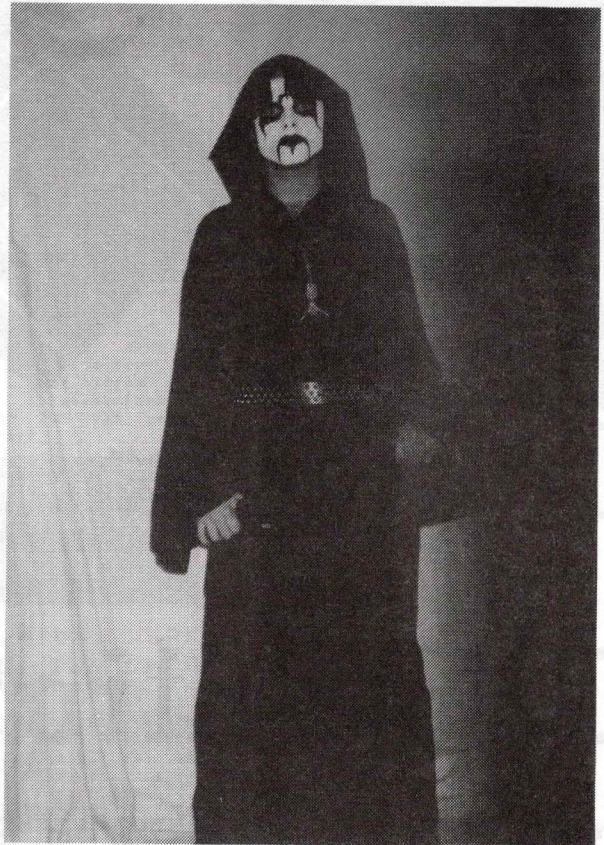
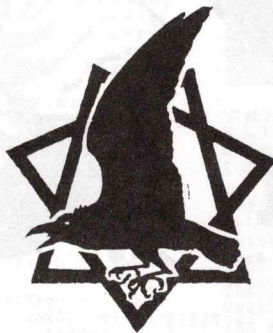
# GRAVELAND

My first acquaintance with GRAVELAND from Poland was a demo called "Necromantion". Back then (1992) behind the "band" was only one person; Robert Fudali. The demo contained 7 songs + intro, fairly typical yet utterly dark Black/Death Metal.

Soon after my interest had been wakened up I came across "Drunemeton". Rob's second demo. This tape, including many songs and even more intros etc. was a notable thing that I still like quite much. The dark Metal sound had been added with more mystical and chaotic elements and the result was an apocalypse in musick! The overall Celtic influence on lyrics and the atmosphere was the very last nail to my oaken coffin...

Around mid 1993 Capricornus joined Rob. The first effort with this line-up was "In The Clare Of Burning Churches", released in late Summer. This tape was the very last thing to convince me the potential of GRAVELAND. During Autumn we signed a deal for a mini-CD to be released on Demonosound Records (division

of Hammer O.D. prod.). It will be out early 1994 including around twenty minutes of apocalyptic pagan Metal musick. For more information on this release write to us. The band can be contacted through Maciej Dabrowski, ul. 9-go Maja 36-5, 51-671 Wrocław. The demo "In The Clare Of Burning Churches" and a new promo tape "Epilogue" are still available from the band's address, for \$5 each I guess.



DENIAL OF GOD from Denmark have been around since 1991. They play Black Metal, too, but better than most of the new bands. Their fast parts remind me a bit of BLASPHEMY and the slower ones... EMPEROR? Not exactly but that's the direction. The members call their music Black Horror Metal so now you know, don't you? Their debut demo "Osculum Infame" that was released in June 1992 is more or less straight ahead stuff and the sound is rather messy. You'll get the obscene feeling of DENIAL OF GOD from those five tunes anyway.

Their second effort, "The Dawn Of Aemizaez" demo released in October 1993 includes five tracks again but now with a good sound (due to the 16-track studio). The evolution of the band is heard easily; they have added more and more melody and still kept the music aggressive. It results well even though there are still some things to get better with.



The current line-up consists of Ustumallagan (vocals), Azter (guitar) and Uksul (drums). They don't have a permanent bass player but are obviously looking for one all the time. One more problem is the lack of a proper rehearsal place, but despite this they keep going. At the moment DENIAL OF GOD are negotiating with record labels for a release of a 7" and a mini album but no deal has been signed yet.

"Osculum Infame" demo '92 is available for \$5, and "The Dawn Of Aemizaez" demo '93 for \$6. Outside Europe add \$1 per tape. Also teeshirts with the demo cover motives should be available soon, ask for them. Write to DENIAL OF GOD c/o Azter & Ustumallagan, Buen 2, DK-6340 Kruså, Denmark.

## A FEW REVIEWS HERE, TOO...

**PUNGENT STENCH : For God Your Soul... For Me Your Flesh CD/MC (Nuclear Blast America)**

This is the re-release for America (finally) with a new cover (excellent! Where do they get these pics from?) and a couple of tracks re-recorded. Listening to this is quite a nostalgic experience; when this was first released in Europe I used to listen to it a lot. Some of the tracks still seem to do the trick due to how primitive and powerful they are...

**EXIT-13 : Don't Spare The Green Love CD/MC (Relapse)**

This is a kind of compilation of EXIT-13 material; including Spare The Wrench Surrender The Earth 7", Green Is Good! LP and The Unrequited Love For Chicken Soup 7" plus for those who already have all this there are a couple of unreleased tracks. Everything is completely remastered which means the sound is good. I think EXIT-13 are definitely the best Grind (?) band ever mainly for they aren't afraid of adding their music something from every music style without forgetting the certain sense of humour these dudes must have. Love or hate it but here they are. And album with brand new material will be out soon.

**MORTIFICATION : Post Momentary Affliction CD/MC (Nuclear Blast/NBA)**

I have a real strange combination here. MORTIFICATION play average unimaginative Death/Grind without anything real special to offer. The lyrics are based on Christian ideology that praises everything humble and forgiving while the music is meant to be aggressive, punishing and whatever... Quite a contradiction. Also, I thought Death Metal lyrics were about death and cruelty...? But, even if you call Post Momentary Affliction a "life metal" record it doesn't give you much.

**DEAD WORLD : The Machine CD/MC (Relapse/Release)**

Wow, here's the new DEAD WORLD album. After their debut which was reviewed elsewhere they've dropped one member but developed to a better direction. The Machine is like a colossal caterpillar that goes slow but sure, crushing anything that comes on its way. Very nice Industrial mechano-Metal added with noise experiments and sampling, with malevolent deranged vocals. Crawl back in your holes, when the work day's through...One cog in the machine, the machine runs you...

**HYPOCRISY : Osculum Obscenum CD/MC (Nuclear Blast/NBA)**

More brutal Death Metal from Sweden. This kind of reminds me of other bands on Nuclear Blast, all play more or less typical Death Metal but however do it pretty well. Oh, here's a VENOM cover Black Metal but unfortunately it's nothing compared to the original version.

**IMMORTAL : Pure Holocaust LP/CD (Osmose)**

I liked their debut but this is a mild drawback in my opinion. These new tracks go mainly very fast and it causes a serious lack of feeling. Fast & brutal Black Metal, no more, no less.



# Jukebox of Damnation



**XY SMA** pre-  
sents their  
new album,  
"First & Magic-  
al" CD (Come-  
Back)

The first? Of this kind of music, yeah. Magical? For sure. This is the new XY SMA! If you don't get the point buy it. 10 tunes, compared to "Yeah" less brutal and Deathly but more melodic and rocking. They have gone further into that unique xymatic style of rock'n roll. Janitor's vocals are still in the same vein, brutal but if you say-you-don't-hear-the-words-then-piss-off style. I won't say my fave songs as there are eight of them. The remaining two are the acoustic "Can't Imagine Your Death" (someone said it's "blues", no comments!) and the "outro" "It's My Sound" because I can't get much out of them. Eight of them -- brilliant! Balance check: my voice should be at the centre of both loud-speakers...

**SMALL PARTY** **CRUEL**  
Do You Believe  
In A Pencil?  
CD (self finan-  
ced?)

Two songs in over 70 minutes. These sounds were made with the use of washing machines and wind tunnels. Perhaps it could be called ambient noise, or just NOISE. The disc comes in a hand-painted box and obviously it's very limited. In all an extremely interesting product even if I doubt I'll ever understand its true meaning... I would not recommend this to anyone who works 10 hours a day in a noise factory! (Where did I steal that idea from?) Forget all that Seattle grunge shit and get this -- at your own risk -- from 1432 - 16th Ave #2, Seattle, WA 98122, U.S.A.

**DISEMBOWELMENT** C D  
D u s k  
(Relapse)

Two of the songs have been taken from the band's 1991 demo and the third, "Cerulean Transience Of All My Imagined Shores" is previously unreleased. I must also give the titles of the demo tracks just to show how magnificent they are: "The Tree Of Life And Death" and "A Burial At Ornaments". Wonderful? Yes! The attracting uniqueness of DISEMBOWELMENT can be noticed from other things as well. They play an original kind of Doom Metal; very slow, heavy and depressive though sometimes they reveal the other side of the coin by blasting ultra-fast, powerful grind. The vocalist could be from any Death Metal band in general, deep growling voice from which at least I'm not able to hear a single word... maybe they don't sing in English? Oh well, to the whole this is excellent stuff, "Cerulean..." especially due to the strange (?) guitar that creates a real dreamy feeling.

**DEAD WORLD**  
Collusion CD/MC  
(Relapse)

First of all the cover and outlook in general is real outstanding. Can't describe, buy our own copy and see...

Half of the songs are something many wouldn't call music. Some kind of sounds of wind and machines... it makes a great effect between the "real" songs by making the record more coherent. The other kind of songs then are heavy Industrial sounding banging Metal. Fairly similar to each other but not enough to bore the listener. The vocals sound choked in a special way and he mixed cuts make the whole thing sound more mechanic.

Fans of early GOD-FLESH may find "Collusion" enjoyable; I did but still I wait more from DEAD WORLD as I strongly feel they have ideas and power to make their music sound even more heavy and industrial. Recommendable.

**AT THE GATES**  
With Fear I  
K i s s T h e  
Burning Dark-  
ness CD/LP  
(Deaf/Peace-  
ville)

AT THE GATES knows no peace. On their second full length effort this five-piece keep on unleashing restless power through hyper-technical musical explosion, varying from uncommon tranquil moments to the edge of

pure holocaust. No one can say these fellows couldn't play their instruments, and the vocalist is busy getting rid of his lungs along with the flow of blocked hate and anguish. The lyrics are one dark star to read and think about. There's also a DISCHARGE cover which I don't know anything more about. I must admit I like this album pretty much when I'm on certain mood even if technical Death wasn't my type of music. "Blood of the sunsets, the golden wine of the sun."

**RELAPSE**  
RECORDS

P.O. BOX 251  
MILLERSVILLE, PA  
17551 U.S.A.



# Pentagram



special. The total of 7 tracks, playing time around 38 minutes. Ask from P.O.Box 15, Bassonia, 2061 South Africa.

**MORTUARY DRAPE**  
Into The Drape mlp/cd  
(Decapitated)

It was about time to let this band be on vinyl. Here are 5 songs of old Black Metal... old but still fresh and a personal kind of. It reminds me of bands from the early eighties such as MERCYFUL FATE, HELLHAMMER and sometimes also DESTRUCTION. The bass is not any background instrument here as it is doing important melodies like the guitar, too. The vocals are pretty varied changing from wicked whispering to aggressive shouting/growling and even almost "clear voice... The singer's pronouncing is very strange and un-English but it only adds to the obscure feeling. The common sound on the release is quite "old" and raw and it fits perfectly to their music. A couple of times the guitar melodies are not so far from turning a bit childish, but it doesn't disturb me that much. Of these five songs I'd like to name Mother, Crepuscular Whisper and Zombie as my favourites.

**PENTAGRAM**  
Day Of Reckoning CD/LP  
(Peaceville)

This is a re-release of PENTAGRAM's second album, originally released by Napa Records in 1987. There are seven songs of old Heavy/Doom Metal in the vein of ST. VITUS and BLACK SABBATH. The singer recalls my mind Ozy Osbourne in his early days. Although this isn't my fave type of music I can find some rather enjoyable moments, and for Heavy/Doom fans this is a mandatory purchase! The third album of PENTAGRAM should be out on Peaceville early 1994.

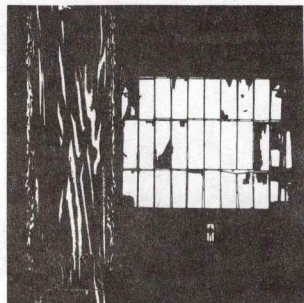
**SIL-KHANNAZ**  
Conception Of Madness MC  
(Valentine Sound)

After two demos this Malaysian quartet made this album on cassette. Death Metal again, but well produced and with some more original ideas. Eight tracks and intro, not my fave type of music but anyway much better than many others. Ask from Valentine Sound Prod. Sdn. Bhd. Lot 336, 3rd Floor, Campbell Complex, Jalan Wangi, 50100 Kuala Lumpur. Includes a great looking color cover including practically everything. Recommendable.

**THE DEATH OF AFRICA...?**  
Compilation CD  
(Inhouse)

This compilation features four Metal bands from South Africa. VOICE OF DESTRUCTION play some kind of Doom tinged Death Metal. Listenable, but nothing to praise actually. ABHORRENCE (nothing to do with the disbanded Finnish one) play Death Metal, too, with quite a Thrashy approach. Sometimes they sound like OBITUARY. Neither this one is anything special... RETRIBUTION DENIED are the typical example of a grinding techno-Death Metal act. Wandering the highway of BOLT THROWER, SUFFOCATION and such they aren't delivering you much new ideas. DEBAUCHERY is the last one here and unfortunately not better than the others. Brutal Death/Thrash, mainly mid-paced and lacking of originality.

In all this CD may give a clear picture of the South African Death Metal scene, but too bad that the bands and their tracks aren't anything



**BEWITCHED/F-UNCUNT**  
Split-LP  
(Warmaster)

Quite a package is this one, including lyricsheet, two big posters and stickers and limited to 600 copies! BEWITCHED from Chile have five tracks on their side. Dark way of Death Metal is what I hear, spewing out some interesting ideas on arrangements and vocals. Better than your ordinary Death Metal band for sure. But F (they dropped the "uncunt" from the name) is something even stranger than I expected! There's only one song here, entitled "Pronimo" but it's rather long. Hm, I'm not able to name their influences, they come from everywhere and nowhere at the same time (you see I'm not able to describe my thoughts and feelings at

all! Sorry). The lyrics are in Finnish, translated to English though but the vocals are a bit too low on the mix so that it's not that easy to hear what it's about. Weird texts fit like a glove to this kind of music. Try it, inquire from Warmaster Records, A.A. 056642, Medellin, Colombia.

**DISMEMBER**  
"Indecent And Obscene" CD/MC  
(Nuclear Blast)

The Swedish deathsters are here again, with perhaps even more gory artwork than before! The title says it's indecent and obscene and that's not only for the cover. The music is raw, nasty and brutal Death Metal performed the way you would expect from DISMEMBER. Sunlight Studio gives a kind of "familiar" sound but I guess it fits to this music, which, even if not being my fave type, is well made. The lyrics are pretty straight-forward and dumb, but who reads them anyway?

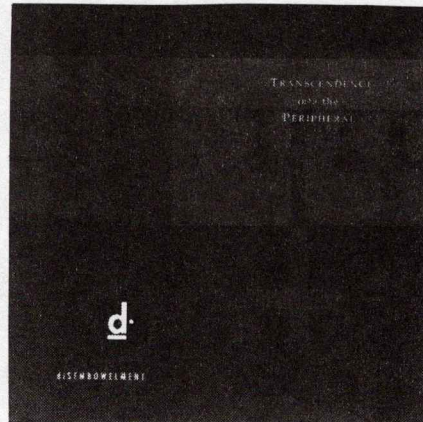
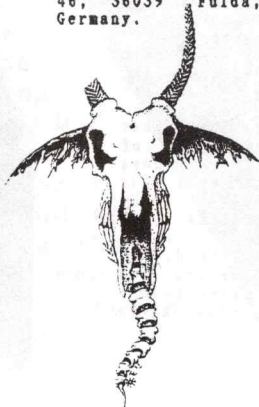
**EMBRACE THE LUCIFERIAN SOUNDS!**

**THE WINE OF SATAN**  
Compilation LP  
(Spellbound)

There are eight Black Metal bands here, with one track from each, all of them first time on vinyl. The bands are BEHERIT, CORPSE MOLESTATION, PANDEMONIUM, MASTER'S HAMMER, THE BLACK, CRUCIFIER, PERDITION HEARSE and MORTUARY DRAPE. The best one in my opinion is MORTUARY DRAPE, their song "Into The Catacomba" totally rules! Good tracks come also from BEHERIT, MASTER'S HAMMER and PERDITION HEARSE, and the rest isn't too bad either. This should be a "must have" item for all die-hard black metallers, so get it for \$15 from P.O.Box 79022, 17202 Himitos, Athens, Greece.

**REQUIEM, MORBID SYMPHONIES OF DEATH**  
Compilation CD (Ex-humed)

This one features 18 underground Death Metal bands with one track from each. The sound is good of course. The overall quality musicwise goes from boring to enjoyable, depending on the bands. The bands are OBSCURE INFINITY, DECEIVER, EXOTO, FERTILIZER, DISGUSTING, FERMENTING INWARDS, DEFUNCTIS, VERNIN, DARKSEED, OBFUSCATION, ICONOCLAST, DARK TRANQUILLITY, ABHORRENCE, BENIGHTED, HUMAN WASTE, FULMINATION, SICKNESS and BETHLEHEM. Available for \$15 from Christian H. Gerlosierweg 46, 36039 Fulda, Germany.



**DISEMBOWELMENT**  
"Transcendence Into The Peripheral" CD/MC  
(Relapse)

First of all the cover art and layout is real outstanding, some of the best I've seen since a while (I have the cassette version, by the way). These 6 tracks include everything that was on "Dusk" mini-CD but in re-recorded form. Musically DISEMBOWELMENT are built of transcendental Grind and darkwave Doom if it tells you anything. This record is full of dark melodies and ingenious ideas which together create a heavy, "transcendental" atmosphere. The sound is very clear yet very heavy. The vocals are from guttural shrieks to tranquil chants depending on whatever fits to each part. This is great, go and buy it!

**THE HERALDS OF OBLIVION**  
Compilation CD  
(MC (Roughage))

This compilation features 5 more or less typical and boring Death Metal bands. Their names are DEMOLITION, CATALEPSY, BRAINSTORM, MUTILAGE and DECOMPOSED U.A. The sound is excellent, all musicians play well but the music is rather crap. I've heard too much of this kind of stuff. Anyway, Death Metal freaks must love this...

Hellollll

Black Axe's Distribution, Zine and Production, is going on. If there is Bands/Labels/Zines etc. needing distribution, production etc. please get in touch of us! Send a samplecopy of your product, with the wholesale prices for 5-20 copies and we will try to help you!!!! Our mailorderlist is also available for \$1/L.R.C. (World) or 2.30 mk Stamp (Suomi)

NO RIP-OFFS.  
Write to:

**Black Axe**

c/o Timo Tuomaala  
Salitutie 9  
FIN-24800 Halikko  
Finland



**BURZUM**  
Aske mlp/cd  
(Deathlike Silence)

Stemmen Fra Tårnet will leave a cruel mark on my skin. Quite simple but so very effective riffs laid on mid-tempo and added with Count Grishnackh's agonizing, blood-freezing screams are a memorable experience. Hate and winter put to music, that's what it is.

Dominus Sathanas is an interesting tune with no drums at all; two (sometimes three?) guitars combining together depressive sad harmonies. There're also some spoken words and normal vocals... or at least that's what I think they are, they are recorded very quiet. It is the thing that dissatisfies, my a tiny bit as I'd be curious to hear them properly.

A Lost Forgotten Sad Spirit should be familiar for the owners of the debut lp/cd of BURZUM. Here it is, too, in a new long version. Musically it is very depressive and again the vocals chill my spine...



**ROSICRUCIAN**  
Silence cd  
(Black Mark)

Yawn. Boring Thrash which the band tries to flavour with a bit more Deathly vocals here and there as well as with stupid animal voices put to some track! I'd rather drive to the countryside and listen to pigs snork and then listen to my SEPULTURAS separately anyway... (Damn what a liar is in me, no SEPULTURA albums belong to my collection...luckily!).

**FETISH 69**  
"Brute Force"  
mini-CD  
(Intellectual Convulsion)

FETISH 69 mix Industrial, Metal and alternative Rock and the result is pretty good. The bass is loud and makes the music sound entirely heavy. Vocals are powerful but some effects or other kind of variety would make it a bit better. Also some samples are used. I'd consider replacing the drummer with a machine being a good move; not that the drummer was lousy but a machine would make the sound more mechanic. All in all quite an enjoyable dose of noise.

**ETHERIAL WINDS**  
Saved mini-CD  
(Malodorous Mangled Innards)

Suddenly I've discovered that Holland is the home for many Doom/Death Metal groups. ETHERIAL WINDS are one of them, not bad though. There are four tracks plus intro and outro on this disc. The band creates some pretty good-sounding melodies but I don't like their Death Metal blasts which are even rather common. Also the vocalist is a bit boring.

**DECOLLATION**  
Cursed Lands CD  
(Listenable)

This is a strange one. I could call it Death Metal but on the other not at all. DECOLLATION is fast, heavy and original but above all; extremely technical. You won't hear one riff more than say five seconds until it changes to another one. The music varies from calm passages to furious up-tempo blasts with the pace I'm not able to follow. Listenable but not that enjoyable to my kind of "primitivists" (does anyone know what this guy is talking about? - the second personality of Niko). I'm still scratching my head, my mouth open, wondering how the hell these five people are able to play these songs...

**ARMOURED ANGEL**  
Sigmartyr  
mc/cd-ep

Sorry for placing this maybe to a wrong review category in my opinion, but fuck you as here it is anyway. The Aussie threesome is playing their really own kind of Metal. It's mainly midpaced, with a bit "thrashy" guitar work and "deathly" yet original and nasty type of vocals. Overall the sound of ARMOURED ANGEL is extremely heavy. The last of this four songs (entitled Ordained In Darkness) differs a bit from the others with mainly spoken (or otherwise even more original) vocal parts. Still there's a clear ARMOURED ANGEL stamp on it. Thrashy Metal with a unique approach. \$6 (mc) or \$7 (cd) to P.O. Box 253, Kippax ACT 2615, Australia.

**NECRONY**  
Pathological  
Performances cd  
(Poserslaughter)

Gore-core. CARCASS-influences (no plagiations). Brutal vocals. Insane speed. Some "weird" stuff (flute/jazz-guitar) a'la PAN. THY.MONIUM (no plagiations part II). \$16 / \$18. Poserslaughter Records, P.O.Box 41, D-10205 Berlin, Germany. Also 7"ep and demo available. The same address.

**BLASPHEMY**  
Gods Of War lp/cd  
(Osmose)

Three hammy ish's ago I reviewed the Satanoskinheads' debut album Fallen Angel Of Doom... Then, over two years ago, I had found myself wondering why I ever liked that dirty piece of blasphemous chaos. But I did anyway.

This time the production is much clearer while the music is even faster and more a blur! New tracks such as Gods Of War or Atomic Nuclear Desolation represent something familiar with the first NAPALM DEATH (!) platter yet keeping it how the Horned One likes it... Is this something to be called Blackcore perhaps? Anyway, I, due to the lack of prophecial tendencies, can't say how



**ROTTING CHRIST**  
Thy Mighty Contract  
lp/cd (Osmose)

I was waiting quite a lot from this release, and this Greek foursome didn't make me disappointed! The Sign Of Evil Existance starts it all, being perhaps the fastest song this band has ever written! The vocal duty on this one have been done by Morbid (synth) and it sounds truly vicious! Necromayhem (guitar) sings however most of the time on this album (as before), his voice varying from dark half-whispering to aggressive barking. Musically they seem to concentrate more to the slower stuff but there are faster parts as well. The riffs are excellent all the time and the synth gives the finishing touches to a great result. Here are eight tunes and as my objects of divine adoration I name Transform All Suffering Into Plagues, Exiled Archangels, the above mentioned The Sign Of Evil Existance and The Fourth Knight Of Revelation. One of the few bands of these days which I don't fed up praising.

time will let this turn me on but by now I find Gods Of War (with its 10 track plus several intros) as an interesting kind of experience.

Oh, and at least the cd version contains the band's legendary demo Blood Upon The Altar as "bonus"... (luckily as without it this would last only a bit over 20 minutes!) Ah, this (never mind the fact the tracks War Command, Nocturnal Slayer, Blasphemy and Blasphemous Attack are now featured here twice...!) recalls my mind the times several years ago -- those were the days! This also shows that, take it positive or negative (or neither), BLASPHEMY haven't actually progressed anywhere in (about) five years.



# OUT NOW!!!

Let your ears wither while putting your soul to sleep in the cradle of Raagoonshinnah. Aaaaak.

# Pan-Thy-Monium

### PAN.THY.MONIUM "Khaooos" LP/CD (Osmose)

Experimental Metal from Sweden. PAN.THY.MONIUM have progressed. The songs are more complex and better structured. It might also be the reason for why this is more difficult to get into than their previous album "Dawn Of Dreams". Many different instruments have been used again to make the sound colourful, and again they more or less succeed in it. I only would complain about the vocalist whose growling is a bit too dull and unclear. I don't understand a word. But who could understand Swedish anyway? All in all a pleasant record.

### MYSTIFIER "Goetia" LP/CD (Osmose)

The Brazilian barbarians have returned with their 2nd album. Actually I have only a three track adv. tape to review but I think I got a picture clear enough. Death/Black Metal played like these musicians knew well what they were doing. Among top speed blasphemy MYSTIFIER have put a few gloomy passages and even guitar leads. The vocalist does his job with aggression but takes it a bit too safe by not varying his voice that much. Probably Goetia will be liked though it's nothing truly special.

### MARDUK "Those Of The Unlight" LP/CD (Osmose)

This one of the unlight was on another side of the advance tape mentioned above. Only three tunes here as well. MARDUK is a cross between Black and Death Metal but different compared to MYSTIFIER for example. These Swedes really know how to capture pure aggression into music! Especially the title track is real extreme concerning its power. The singer shrieks his throat to a bloody mess but sometimes different kinda vocals could fit better. Riffs are quite typical to this kind of music, but of a better type. If MARDUK go through the whole album with this speed it might be rather numbing...but I can't say for sure, buy the album to be sure.

**SINISTER**  
Diabolical Summoning  
CD/MC (Nuclear Blast /NBA)

SINISTER do brutal Death/Grind Metal the way everybody knows they are doing. The sound is good & quite heavy and the musicians seem to play well, but it's not enough. The music is dull and boring, however probably enjoyable for the ones into technical playing and brutality.

**CANDIRU**  
Unloved And Weeded Out  
CD/MC (Relapse/Release)

"Mindwarping Industrial Death Metal" says the sticker on the CD. Quite right except for the Death Metal part. I think this is closer to even Electronic/Techno than Death Metal. "Mind warping sound punishing dirge barrage of ultra-heavy surrealistic industrial grunge psychosis" says the flyer and I don't feel like adding much to it. More info in the interview on these filthy pages. Release your mind!

**GOETHES ERBEN**  
Leben Im Niemandsland  
CD (Dark Star)

Leben Im Niemandsland is a live record which features mainly GOETHES ERBEN classics (my opinion), beginning with Das Ende and ending with Der Weg. Judging by the strong atmosphere on the CD it seems like Oswald Henke's darkwave poetry worked live very well. I can't but recommend Leben Im Niemandsland to those who'd like to hear something obscure and extraordinary. I must also remind you about their new studio album Tote Augen Sehen Leben which should be released by now.

Coming soon:  
-MYSTIFIER "Wicca" CD  
-PYOGENESIS New MCD

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**RESURRECTION**  
Embalmed Existence  
lp/cd  
(Nuclear Blast)

The only lightspots of this Floridan Death Metal mediocrity are the interesting spoken intros (one to each track) but the music itself can't help drowning in the mass. An exception is the last tune, the KISS-cover War Machine. This goes high above the own compositions of RESURRECTION but the brutal but powerless growling vocals and the Morrisound production change the once so magnificent song to only a feeble raped memory of the original version. By the way, the cover painting is quite cool.



**AMORPHIS**  
The Karelian Isthmus  
lp/cd  
(Relapse/Nuclear Blast)

The land mates AMORPHIS musically reminds me of certain British Death Metal bands like ANATH-EMA and MY DYING BRIDE. In their slowish/mid-paced music the band cultivates plenty of melodies which vary from frustratingly childish to gloomy and atmospheric..the latter are perhaps more dominant. Momentarily even some fast parts can be found; it of course gives more colour but on the other hand destroys the feeling that the melodies create. A nostalgic surprise was the cd-bonus track, **Vulgar Necrolatry of ABHORRENCE**.

**MASTER'S HAMMER**  
The Jilemnice Occultist  
lp/cd (Osmose)

Perhaps this is even more than what I expected from MASTER'S HAMMER. This classical operetta contains 11 songs that all are extremely good and even more original! Many of their last demo's tunes have been included, but I don't mind as they are here in even better versions. The music is a unique combination of Death/Black Metal and classical music and this could not work any better than here! The six-men line-up works well and keyboards and tympani fit like a glove to the more metallic instruments. The vocals are incredible as well; it sounds like Storm (vocals & guitar) had cut his throat before going into the studio. And here and there he even follows the ingenious melodies without losing this vocal inhumanity..Nothing to complain about. A masterpiece.

**ACROSTICHON**  
Engraved In Black  
lp/cd/mc  
(Modern Primitive)

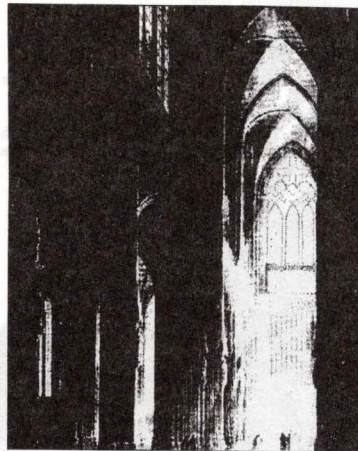
Death Metal with crushing heaviness is what ACROSTICHON stands for. Closeminded Grindlovers can forget this release but this may turn out very enjoyable to the fans of BOLT THROWER... not meaning that this band would imitate the British five-piece, but the heavy sound (with existent double-bass drumming) and occasional mid-paced/fast parts of ACROSTICHON just remind me of them. The female vocalist (also bassist) Corinne surely does her throat-cutting job well, but the bio exaggerates abit saying "she definitely puts down to shame any other girl ... she can compete with most of the best male vocalists as well." In my opinion no one can match the unbelievable Lori Bravo of NUCLEAR DEATH! A 9-track package of heavy quality Death Metal...

**IMPALED NAZARENE**  
Tol Cormpf Norz Norz  
Norz lp/cd  
(Osmose)

The song list present 18 titles, but don't be confused: half of them are just some kind of intros. I guess someone could call them songs as well, but... those nine "real" (?) tracks last together only around 23 minutes and the rest is 6-7 minutes... But what the heck, the music! The album is VERY brutal, Mika's vocals are very powerful (sometimes arranged in an irritating way though, like in I Al Purg Vonpo), the speed is mostly at its maximum, lots of dark effects and so on...But in full this does not work. Maybe it's because of the big number of intros that sometimes seem to be there just to lengthen the timing (but sometimes they are...interesting, like Impure Orgies); or maybe - I don't know. Anyway this is a disappointment to me after their great demo and ep. Hopefully the next album is a step forward...?

**MAYHEM**  
Live In Leipzig lp/cd  
(Obscure Plasma)

A tribute to Dead. A gig from 1990 officially pressed on vinyl along with two studio songs (from 1990 as well) featuring one of the most memorable Black Metal vocalists, whose voice we probably are not able to hear after this. With cruel sound and unpure, ultra evil music this is a perfect example of a "like it o hate it" release. A classic cult album. \$14 (lp) \$18 (cd) (outside Europe add \$2 per item) to Obscure Plasma.



**PYOGENESIS**  
Ignis Creatio lp/cd  
(Osmose)

Five slow and doomy Death Metal tracks is what this album has got to offer - despite the small number of tunes this is still long enough to be called an lp. PYOGENESIS sounds nowadays quite a lot in the vein of PARADISE LOST in Gothic-album; especially the guitar work is quite alike. What can be found as well are the female vocals, acoustic guitars and the already mentioned slow rhythm (which speeds up occasionally, though). So, the result could be close to a masterpiece, but in my opinion it isn't. Why? As a whole this sounds quite "rushed", it feels like the band was in a great hurry in the studio. The sounds are a bit unsuitable (but you may get used to it). Also the arrangements missucceed here and there. Even the track called Underneath Orion's Sword doesn't impress me like it did before due to the added speedy parts and again this feeling of hurry. But the last one, the title track sounds pretty enjoyable by having only the keyboard and spoken vocal. At the end: do not misunderstand me, this is much better than most of the stuff that is being released these days. Besides, the lyrics turned out very atmospheric and interesting.

**SENTENCED**  
North From Here cd  
(Century Media / Spinefarm)

I was waiting certain things from this album and one half came true - the other (pity) didn't. I thought North From Here would be extremely technical: it is. And that is the very thing that leaves me only half satisfied; countless breaks, tempo changes and weird structures kind of hide the power and atmosphere. Still these two important elements are there but not obviously enough. Eight tracks of modern jazz (?) in a Death Metal suit seem to be too much for my lousy primitive anti-taste of music...? One (more) positive thing is that the bassist, T.Jarva handles now all the vocals and his voice is very cold and angry!

**BEHERIT**  
Drawing Down The Moon  
cd (Spinefarm)

The REAL debut album of BEHERIT...at last. The sounds are quite good and clear unlike on previous records of the band. However I think Holocausto's vocals, otherwise being very good and original, are mixed too loud.

About tracks, here are twelve of them as well as the intro that was already familiar from both the BEHERIT promo-tape '92 and THE LORD DIABOLUS demo. Some of the songs are from these above-mentioned tapes, but most of them are previously unreleased. BEHERIT is not at all as chaotic as 2-3 years ago, there is a lot of slower and even melodic parts in these tunes - a thing I after all don't consider bad. I enjoy the most these songs full of synths and effects, such as Summerlands (true melancholy!), Lord Of Shadows And Goldenwood and Nuclear Girl, but the more "metallic" songs sound good as well. Actually I think I didn't find any bad song on the whole album. Great.



**PHLEBOTOMIZED**  
In Search Of  
Tranquillity  
7" (Malodorous  
Mangled Inn-  
ards)

Seven members!!! Oh, but "only" six of them play on this recording, the one with the violin wasn't allowed to enter the studio... Seriously, I found three Death Metal songs from this red piece of vinyl, from which I found lots of slow parts and even more keyboards. In a way this is a brutal version of THE GATHERING.

**SOULGRIND**  
Santa Sangre 7"  
(Malodorous  
Mangled Innards)

SOULGRIND is a fusion of Industrial and Black Metal. Even a very strange one... But still I don't get much from these four tracks. Why? Perhaps it's the sound which isn't the best really. Or perhaps it's the song structure which is a bit messy and sometimes annoying. Or perhaps... never mind. Try it yourselves. "If this doesn't sodomize your brains, what does?"

**SCEPTICAL**  
SCHIZO The  
Plight 7"  
(Wounded  
Love)

When thinking back at their self financed debut 7" I'm a bit disappointed. It had some enjoyable moments and of course I was waiting for even more of such pleasant things... but no. These two songs don't have as strong feeling as the previous two. These are Doom/Death Metal played in an original way. Long songs, by the way, 6'40 and 8'30! The sound is not too bad, though. After all, this 7" is not bad. I just expected too much I guess...

**INTRINSIC** ACT-  
ION Dazed 7" (AWB)

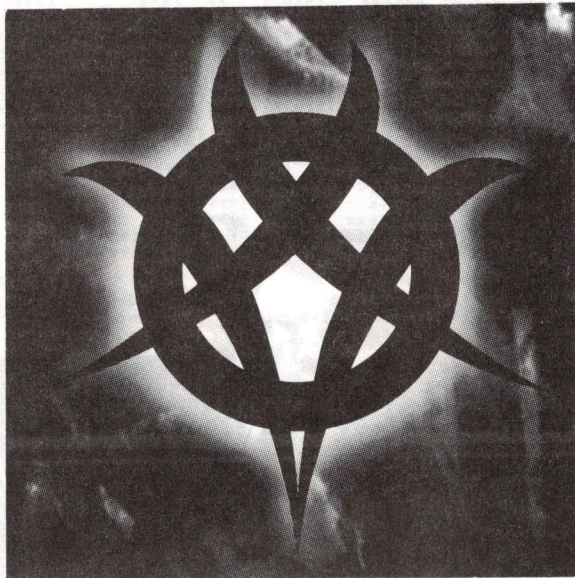
Another dose of noisy experiments brought to mortals by AWB Recording. Three songs, limited to 500. Apocalyptic electronic NOISE! And for all fist fucking lunatics, the cover is sooo beautiful!

**CONVULSE**  
Lost Equilib-  
rium  
CD-ep (Relapse)

These two songs are less Death Metal than their previous releases, but more towards "Yeah" album of KYSHA. Rocking riffs upon a Death Metal base. Unfortunately this is not much for my taste due to irrational (my opinion) arrangements, Rami's voice (rather typical growling) and the certain similarities with KYSHA. Still I must admit that this beats their early material for sure.

**DEAD WORLD** 7"  
(Relapse/  
Release)

Nowhere actually is told that this is DEAD WORLD, but I think I'm right. Who else could be on Relapse doing the same kind of music and having a song called "Dead World"? This sounds like the band used to but it's even a single bit heavier! The vocals are twisted in a severe way and it sounds cool on this kind of industrial banging. Side 2 surprises a bit being played with violins or cello. The lyrics have been written by someone called Brenda Rose. This 7" is carved on transparent green vinyl as a limited edition of ?? copies.



**ZEMIAL**  
Sleeping Under  
Tartarus  
7" (Gothic)

The intro has been taken from the soundtrack to "The Omen" if I remember right. Classical opera/choir stuff sets the atmosphere... The title track shows what ZEMIAL are really about; quality Black Metal with little BATHORY-influences and the certain Greek spirit... the synth is used in right places - when needed. Guitar leads are a bit "Quorthonian". The vocals are quite typical to this kind of music; diabolical barking... however it sounds much better than some other bands'. As Falling Into The Absu begins I learn I've heard nothing yet! The band haven't put any faster parts to this song and the result is extremely heavy and dark! In times it is comparable to slow stuff of some other Greeks such as ROTTING CHRIST or VARATHRON. The riffs are nearly ingenious! Incredible! They have managed to create the true sound of melancholy and the whispers and tympani give the ultimate highlight! This song is close to a masterpiece! The last one, The Scourge Of The Kingdom drops me gently back to the ground as not being as good as what I heard before. Not bad either. Gothic Rec. P.O.Box 452, Downey CA 90241-9998, U.S.A.

**MACABRE**  
Nightstalkers  
7" (Relapse)

5 tracks of humorous yet horrible "murder-Metal". At least some of these are from their latest album "Sinister Slaughter", but I didn't recognize them all. This is limited as well so all MACABRE fans and other sick people should go for it before it's too late...

**ANAL CUNT**  
Morbid Florist  
CD-ep (Re-  
lapse)

One thing is clear: I don't like noisecore at all due to the lack of atmosphere... Anyway, here you are, 14 (or actually even more) songs of pure grinding noise. Comes with cardboard cover which is oh so lovely! I think it would be interesting to see ANAL CUNT live.

**HYPO-  
CRISY**  
Plea-  
sure Of  
Molest-  
ation  
CD-ep  
(Relapse)

4 tracks of Swedish Death Metal which sounds a bit "American" here and

there. HYPOCRISY does the thing quite well and obviously know what they are here for. I even found a few good Death Metal riffs that differ a bit from the mainstream, but whether this band is better than dozens of others is left to the listeners to decide.

**SUFFER**  
On Sour Ground  
7" (New Wave)

Two songs of Swedish Death/Thrash, recorded at Sunlight and produced & mixed by Tomas Skogsberg. The music is quite typical, fast and technical with many breaks and so on. The synth has been used, once again in a rather boring way. The singers shouting is quite irritating. I feel this drowns in the mass, very sad.

**SIGILLUM S**  
Terror Auto-  
Obstetrics  
7" (AWB)

The Italian preachers of psycho-industrial sickness and free will -- SIGILLUM S. This 7" contains two songs and is limited to only 500 copies. For all those who think that Death Grind/Black/whatever Metal is horrid, try this. This is electronic aural rape. This is the ultimate industrial insanity. This is the torturer of any feeble soul that loves common music. This is a paradise of Experimental Noise. I love it!

# HELLWITCH

**HELLWITCH**  
Nosferatu 7"  
(self financed)

On side 1 there is the 1984 demo version of the title tune, with bad and "old" sound but also with the "old" feeling of Death Metal. Side 2 features a live recording (1990) of Torture Chamber with not-the-best sound either. In a way this is a kind of collectors' edition as it is limited and hand-numbered to only 500 copies. Pity if it's sold out by now but HELLWITCH have a lot of other stuff for sale as well, ask from P.O.Box 2341, Hollywood, FL 33022, U.S.A.

**MORBID SYMPHONY**  
Permanence In  
The Dark Earth  
7"  
(Corpse Grind-  
er)

This is again one of the records that turn out hard to review. I can't spew out many bad words but verbal adoration is impossible, too. This is what I can tell you: two songs of quite typical Death Metal concentrating to heavy, midpaced elements. The band has some ideas of their own and as a whole it doesn't sound the worst ever...but not too good either. Death Metallers can try this one -- perhaps they'll like it but I won't give my word about it. "For the cemeteries shall be their cathedrals and the cities shall be your tombs..."

**ABHOTH**  
The Tide 7"  
(Corpse Grind-  
er)

Ha, judging from the band photo this could be some kind of funk/thrash/fun/rap music, but suddenly I find two songs of Swedish Death Metal. The Tide is a pretty slow and heavy one, presenting a boring vocalist and quite unoriginal riffing. Another tune, Configuration then begins with grindcore speed -- this is really faster than the title track. However the pace doesn't help anything... This really must be "Death" Metal as you'll get bored to death by listening to this. Yawn. Sorry. Or actually I don't feel sorry at all, I feel rather happy as it seems I've come across with longer 7-inchers than this...

**IMPALED NAZA-  
RENE** Sadgoat  
7" (Osмосe)

The A-side contains the Tom Jones cover "Ghost Riders". This version is obviously quite furious, quite an extraordinary cover choice for these s/m cyberpunks (?). The B-side features the title track. This one is good, in my opinion much better than their other new songs on the debut album. Really outrageous stuff and the synth choir here and there gives more feeling to it. This 7" is limited to 1000 copies so there may not be too many of them left by now...

**EXTERMINANCE/  
MASS PSYCHOSIS**  
split 7"  
(Shredomatic)

EXTERMINANCE plays typical Death/Grind both fast and heavy with a brutal growler. One tune included. MASS PSYCHOSIS performs Death/Thrash. Sometimes melodic and all the time technical in an irritating way. Different kinds of vocals combined together sound rather silly. Carved on red vinyl. \$5 (+\$2 overseas) to Rod Day, P.O. Box 2063, Cumberland, MD 21503-2063 U.S.A.

**NIHILI LOCUS**  
Sub Hyerosolyma  
7" (self financed)

ex-OMICIDIO from Italy come back with a three track 7". The last one entitled "Nebulae" is some kind of outro/ending to this piece of vinyl, the other two are more real. NIHILI LOCUS play quite typical mainstream Death Metal without many surprises. Some more atmospheric passages can be found, but that's not much to satisfy my needs. But when thinking back I must admit that this is a LOT better than the demo of OMICIDIO in past. Distributed by Obscure Plasma.

**SOLITARY CONFI-  
NEMENT**  
Poluted Earth  
7" (self financed)

I wonder why the hell they wrote the ep-title wrong by missing another "l"... Anyway everybody should get the idea about the band's lyrics; I consider the texts boring and moronic. Bad. The band haven't brought their Thrash/Death technically too high so there three tracks remain quite aggressive. Good. \$3 + IRC to Guido Lohmar, Strasserhof 3, 5068 Odenthal 3, Germany.

**ROTTREVORE**  
Fornication In  
Delirium  
7" (Cenotaph)

Two songs, "Unanimous Approval" and "Conspiracized" are technical Death Metal with many breaks, tempo changes and the vocals straight from a bathroom drain. This should be played 45rpm but it always sounds like I was playing it 33rpm -- those vocals and the fact there aren't many fast parts create that impression. ROTTREVORE sound much like an average Death Metal band these days. The covers are in colour, by the way.

**CEREMONY**  
Inclemency 7"  
(Cenotaph)

Brutal and technical Death Metal from Holland. The band makes these two tunes sound skullcrushingly heavy...maybe the good & clear production helps also. Someone also played the keyboard to a couple of places. The guitar solos are there, too. Worthless to say anything about brutal growling vocals as I think it wouldn't surprise anyone. On the second track I also also heard female vocals a few times... Not bad, probably many Death Metal fans like this 7".

**SATAN'S BAKE**  
SALE  
Taste It! 7"  
(Red Stream)

5 tracks of Industrial Grindcore with a humoristic touch back from 1987! This could've been a masterpiece to some a few years ago when this kind of music reached its peak in popularity...or is it predicting the second coming of Grindcore? Figure it out yourself.

**CANDIRU / FAT  
HACKER**  
split-7"  
(Red Stream)

CANDIRU, on this recording as a trio, rapes our ears with two songs. "Plugged In" is sampled noise. "Propulsion" is more what one could wait from the band, very heavy industrial grunge. Surprisingly they put in also some Thrash...sounds like a mechanized version of old VOIVOD.

FAT HACKER, members of CONTROLLED BLEEDING creating dirt clogged machine assault. "Skin Me" sounds like an insane mix of Hardcore and Industrial. "Burn, Scrap Metal" is VERY noisy with an industrial edge...insane. INSANE!

**NORDOR**  
His Fictitious  
Grandeur MC  
(Obscure Plasma)

Another interesting act from Greece. On this tape there are two songs + played intro & outro. The music can be described as Black/Death Metal, but very experimental kind of. They use quite a lot of effects on the vocals and elsewhere as well. The result sounds real dark and occult. "Labyrinth" is the better tune for my taste. As a whole this is a real interesting ep but I still need more NORDOR stuff to listen to!

**SINOATH**  
Still In The  
Grey Dying MC  
(Obscure Plasma)

SINOATH didn't after all release another demo, instead this ep was carried out. Anyway, these three songs continue the triumph of this Italian Black/Death/Doom band. Their approach is very original, very atmospheric and heavy where the synth is an important instrument. The tunes are well written and variable enough so that you won't get bored by listening to this many times through...try yourself if you don't believe.

**EUCHARIST 7"**  
(Obscure Plasma)

Greeting Immortality begins with acoustic guitars (intro?). Fairly beautiful but I've heard better. The actual track itself is Death Metal both fast and slow. Occasionally it recalls my mind AT THE GATES -- the guitars do a bit the same kind of thing and the fast parts capture similar kind of hysteria. Part of this may be also the aggressive barking vocals... Into The Cosmic Sphere is quite the

same, perhaps (even) more technical. It ends (outro?) with another piece of acoustic guitar work. One of the better Death Metal groups from Sweden...at least were as I heard EUCHARIST have split up.

**BEYOND DAWN**  
Up Through The  
Linear Shades  
7" (Adipocere)

BEYOND DAWN from Norway combines many things together. Death/Black Metal, weird technical parts, rock-sounding (?) passages etc. I can't help it but every now and then the vocalist reminds me of Janitor of XYSMA...not a negative thing at all. As said the band has some interesting things in their songs but the whole is pretty confusing due to all these different-sounding influences, unexpected breaks and so on. Someone should give BEYOND DAWN an album deal to see if the music works better with a longer dose...?

**GUT**  
Spermany's Most  
Wanted 7"  
(Malodorous  
Mangled Inn-  
ards)

8 tracks of gory and perverse Grind/Death. You could compare this to IMPTIGO or early CARCASS. Some clips from splatter movies can be heard in-between the tracks. I prefer not to list the titles, but I can always tell you the line-up: Spermoaked Consumer Of Pussy Barbecue (vocals), Organic Masturbator Of Thousand Splatter Whores (drums & vocals), Cadaveric Vaginaripper Of Putrefying Orgasms (bass) and Torturer Of Lacerated And Satanic Tits (guitar). The cover fits to all this, lovely.





**SOLSTICE**  
An Era Of Weary  
Virtues  
7" (M.M.I.)

SOLSTICE are heavy. They are doomy and deathly and they, too, know what is that thing called melody. Two songs, together 14 minutes of music that is fairly common these days (especially in their home land Holland), don't sound bad after all. It's just the continuous double bass drumming and growling that make me a bit uncertain about deciding whether this is good or not.

**PYOGENESIS**  
Lowland Of Im-  
piety  
(Symphonies Of  
Death)  
7"

This 7" brings us a bit older tunes compared to their debut album. It only means this is more Death Metallic, not bad anyhow. The sound is extremely heavy but still clear. In all the two tracks, "Sacrificious Profanity" and "Lowland Of Impiety" are rather close to their '91 demo. Someone even stole my drawing to the back cover! The front cover looks pretty good anyway. SOD Rec. Mauricio Naranjo Narvaez, A.A.21057 - Cali, Colombia.

**BHAOBHAN SIDHE**  
The New Order  
7" (Wimp)

EXMORTES did split up -- BHAOBHAN SIDHE is a kind of replacement. Primitive guitar riffs played on monotonous drums. Both are very low on the mix while the almost whispering, BLASPHEMY-like vocals have been put louder. 4 tracks from the extremities of primitivity, one of them is an instrumental... A must for fans of EXMORTES while waiting for the end of the world.

**RENAISSANCE**  
Tired Blood  
7" (Shiver)

En, there is actually only one song on this 7", but it's divided to two parts (one on each side of course). The music is a progressive kind of mix between Death and Doom Metal, pretty good but more melodies wouldn't harm. And exactly when I start thinking that the vocals (growls) are a bit boring they give me melodic singing... Their CD will be out soon and according to this 7" it may be good. Check out. Shiver Rec. Hans De Wyngeert, Amerstraat 112, 3200 Aarschot, Belgium.

**BARBACK**  
Skullgrave  
7" (Rotthenn-  
ess)

Uh, this is chaos! First of all the sound is really raw, I'd say horrible... especially the guitar. Music is some kind of Death/Thrash, rather primitive but still sometimes weird. I couldn't describe this as an enjoyment but it is extreme and so something to get acquainted with. Ask from Rotthennes Rec., c/o Nelson Augusto dos Santos, Caixa Postal 1197 - Ag. Central, 01059 São Paulo, SP Brazil.

**SIEGRID INGRID**  
The Choice  
7" (Rotthenn-  
ness)

Who the hell gives his band a name like that? He, he who found out that "Sepultura" was already used... SIEGRID INGRID plays Thrash/Death with so called "mosh" parts, and it sounds quite a lot the way SEPULTURA does. SEPULTURA are very popular so it is likely that many people would like this seven-inch. I don't...

**PSYCHO**  
Mass Consump-  
tion  
7" (Thrash)

"Boston's heaviest and fastest band announce their 11th release..." says the info sheet and it tells anything needed. Grind Core the way the band know what they're doing - it's their 11th release for dog's sake! Write to PSYCHO, P.O.Box 623, Kendall Square, Cambridge, Mass 02142, U.S.A.

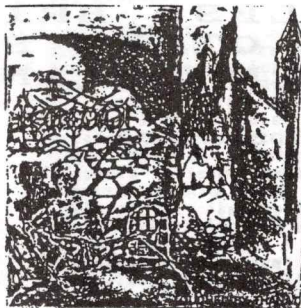
**MORDANCY**  
The Progressive  
Downfall  
7" (Shiver)

MORDANCY create melodic Death Metal, and two of their songs have been carved on this 7". This is quite technical, mainly mid-paced and "semi-brutal" if it tells anyone anything. After listening to it through I feel slightly bored, even though there were a few good ideas on these songs.



**THOU ART LORD**  
Diabolou Archae-  
es Legeones  
7" (Molon Lave)

This EP has two tracks from their demo but the sound is better and so THOU ART LORD sounds much better on vinyl. Fast and malevolent Black Metal sometimes similar to ROTTING CHRIST (due to same members...?) that should give a kick to all who love this kind of musick.



**REGREDIOR**  
Touched By Tha-  
nat  
7" (M.M.I.)

3 tracks of Death Metal that is mainly based on things that are brutal. The speed changes from fast to slow and melodies and synth effects can be found, too. All this can be heard from other bands' records, too, so I don't think REGREDIOR are very special...even though it is on opaque green vinyl.

**DEAD**  
Slaves To Abysmal Perver-  
sity  
7" (M.M.I.)

Fie! Someone did let the grinding German perverts on vinyl! The cover and lyrics are something that would be banned from big record stores but as this is underground business it shouldn't cause trouble. The DEAD isn't the type that would catch people's attention, it is that brutal deathly Grind that many have heard already. But check out, just for the cover (and red vinyl) if you don't have better things to do, wankers.

**GORE BEYOND**  
NECROPSY  
This is an EP  
you want!  
7" (M.M.I.)

I'm not sure about if this is really the EP I want, but I must admit that it's an interesting thing anyway. GORE BEYOND NECROPSY are everything that is cliché in Death/Grind but it's not enough, they go beyond the clichés in a humorous way... Five tunes of insanity should make you move your ass and the drum machine makes sure your head blows off with the fastest drumming ever made! Does this sound like an EP you want?

**CATACOMB**  
The Return Of  
The Ark  
7" (Sacra Sin-  
done)

This is the Italian CATA-COMB this time, and I suppose this is the best of all CATACOMBS. They have an own style of Doom/Death Metal with plenty of original and good-sounding ideas. Calm parts are there as well as the more aggressive ones and it all works well. Tomorrow It Happened is perhaps the best song of these three. Write to Orlando Carmelo, Via C. Cassana 195, 00121 Rome (Ostia), Italy.

**TEMPERANCE**  
One Grave  
7" (Shiver)

Is it the old MERCILESS that were recalled my mind while listening to this? Yeah, take it positive or negative but TEMPERANCE sound a bit like that. Fast Death/Thrash with a couple of slower and more tranquil parts. These two songs clock in a little over four minutes each and they contain a lot. Maybe the entirety isn't always that well thought out, or maybe it means this is just too technical... but who thinks about things like that?



# MORE OR LESS BRIEF REVIEWS ON DEMOS AND OTHER SONIC REPULSIONS IN THE FORM OF AN AUDIO CASSETTE

**MELANCHOLY PES-SIMISM** plays brutal Death Metal on their demo 1992. Besides the music also the extreme vocals stay in the DM mainstream. 5 tracks of music (+ intro) lack of originality but I don't see it any worse than other bands of the same kind. A color cover and lyrics included. \$5 to Metal Age Distr. c/o Peter Franek, Nabrezna 10, Vrutky 03607, Slovakia.

**SARNATH** have two tracks on their promo tape. They play quite an original kind of Death-rash, not very fast but melodic. Some of the melodies sound like Heavy Metal and some other rather childish. With this demo **SARNATH** got a deal with Better Than Them Records (Italy)... c/o Petri Penttinen, Kuohutie 2 C 19, 80160 Joensuu, Finland.

**VISCERAL EVISCERATION** combine gory lyrics & artwork with music like **PARADISE LOST**. The mix works pretty well until they throw in the orchestral parts and a female vocalist... I sounds like the band forgot to think how the entirety of the tunes works out. Colour cover with photos, lyrics etc. follows the tape. \$7 to Dominik Lirsch, Posthorngasse 3/13, A-1030 Wien, Austria. This should be released very soon on CD by Napalm Records.

**NECROBIOSIS** make their 8 Grind/Core tracks sound quite like the debut LP of **CARCASS** or "Harmony Corruption" of **NAPALM DEATH**. Two extreme vocalists are there, of course. This has been done pretty well, but those mentioned did it better a few years ago... \$4 (\$5 overseas) to c/o Petri Poskiparta, Pajusuontie 11, 23500 Uki, Finland.

**MORTUARY PROPERTY** Thrash Metal with a touch of Death from Lithuania. Luckily they don't go too technical and the singer's voice is quite of an own kind. Some similarities to early stuff of **EXODUS**, **SLAYER**, **CORONER** or **SODOM** may be found. \$5 (\$6 overseas) to Coma Prod., Zilvicu 25-2, 5300 Panevezys, Lithuania. Top professionalism...

**REGREDIOR** has a demo out, 9 tunes of midpaced Death Metal without forgetting the guitar leads. The vocals are brutal but monotonous. As a whole not bad but I've heard the same several times before. \$6 to Bomba, Zygimantu 6, Vilnius 2001, Lithuania.

**DAWN** stand for Swedish Death Metal. Good sound, typical growler, four songs, printed cover, not that much own ideas that I would notice. Andreas Fullmestad, Villa Björknäs V-g, S-585 92 Linköping, Sweden.

**DEATHRUNE** is from the USA. 5 tracks of Death Metal, mostly slower stuff with a few Thrash riffs included. The vocals reminds me a bit of **PESTILENCE**. Cool cover but boring music. 9 Carriage House Lane, Hamaroneck, NY 10543 U.S.A.

To **MYSTIFICATION** (Finland) I'd like to say that I wouldn't like to eat a raw apple. Instead, let it grow ripe, it could taste better. No address here...

**LEGION OF DOOM** has three quite typical Death Metal songs plus a cliché intro on their promo-demo. Nothing really new, but I think they should have an EP available now as well... c/o Mortuary, M.Karaoli 129, Kesariani 161 21, Athens - Greece.

**MARTYRIUM** has 4 tracks on their demo. The riffs are quite boring and drummer thinks he's playing modern jazz (at least it sounds so here and there!). The covers feature member photos with corpsepaint, bullet belts and so on... Maik Kalkmann, Triftstr. 25, 4500 Osnabrück, Germany.

To **ANCIENTS REBIRTH** I'd like to say the same as to **MARTYRIUM** (above). Some promising passages were found, though. They also spill blood onto the covers. c/o Dennis Widén, Vallnovägen 50, 311 33 Falkenberg, Sweden.

**THROMDARR** have made some tapes and the one I have here is entitled "As A Wind Cries". It's fairly short with only 2 tunes + intro + outro. They call the music Black Metal but I think this is Death Metal with both fast & slow parts including a not-bad growler. Musically nothing extraordinary. A new demo should be out now. c/o Feast Services, P.O.Box 8, 11100 Riihimäki, Finland.

**DAWNFALL** are a Black Metal band and have a 3-track demo out. It is quite promising, sounding a bit like **HELLHAMMER** or **MORTUARY DRAPE** with screaming vocals. Newer reh. tapes show the progression to more original direction. \$5 to Chr. Albert, Böckerstr. 14, 3000 München 60, Germany.

**TWILIGHT** and **CTHONIUM** partly consist of same members. Both play Black/Death Metal, demos with bad sounds are available for unknown prices from the address I just lost. Damn.

**BETHLEHEM** have a couple of demos out. They call it Dark Metal. Slow music with some good passages but the few faster parts ruin the growing atmosphere. They should have a 7"EP out now, too. Jürgen Bartsch, Auf dem Wiler 30, W-4048 Grevenbroich 4, Germany.

The Greek cult band **NECROMANTIA** had an excellent demo available. Two songs (around 20 min.) of avantgarde Satanic Metal. It was limited to 500 copies so I have doubts about its availability. Ask anyway from P.O.Box 79006, 17202 Himmittos, Athens, Greece. Their album should be out these days.



1/5 of Necromantia

**QUIETUS** makes strange noise on the demo. Sounds like the guy was playing with a broken vinyl on the turntable. Michael Coenen, Tubastraat 5, 3208 DS Spijkenisse, Holland.

**ANATOMY** is another Death Metal band sounding like all the others. 6 tracks of mainly midpaced stuff. \$6 to P.O.Box 211 Gladstone Park, Victoria, Australia.

**FUNERAL REVOLT** sent the adv.tape of their 5-track mini-LP (should be out now). Death Metal again but their approach is a bit darker and more atmospheric. Ask for the mini-LP from Black Power Records, P.O.Box 31990, 10035 Athens, Greece.

**NEPENTHE** play Death/Black Metal with an insane screamer on vocals. Quite well structured stuff, at least the 3-track dose of this demo shouldn't bore you. P.O. Box 30085, Kansas City, MO 64112-0085 U.S.A.

**OLIVER MAGNUM** play techno-Thrash for a change. I don't like it but I must admit that the band knows well what it doing. And does it very well. Sometimes the singer sounds like Dio. 5-track demo for sale for \$7 (\$8 outside U.S.A.) at P.O.Box 3951, Enid, Okla 73702 U.S.A.

**PAGAN RITES** have several demos and other releases available. Their music is great; "old" and original kind of Death/Black Metal (which they call "Pagan Metal") full of more or less good riffs. The songs are closer to primitive than technical but still have variety enough to keep the listener interested. Write for info + releases to Harri J. Juvonen, Andersbergströgen 171, 302 55 Halmstad, Sweden.

**ATER** follow the steps of bands like **ANATHEMA**. Some atmospheric elements can be found from their 4-track demo "Ours". 20Fin or \$5 to Marko Hautamäki, Kiertotie 5, 61100 Peräseinäjoki.

**APOLLYON** stand for the melodic type of Black/Death Metal. They have a two-wong promo for sale (\$5) which has a few pretty good melodies but too dominant synth and the untalented Black Metal vocalist don't make the overall sound too good. Ellevang 13 1.tv, 7100 Vejle, Denmark.

**TRISTITIA** contain some members of **PAGAN RITES**. There's one demo out, pure Doom/Heavy Metal with overall pretty dark feeling. The singer is good. The 4-song tape costs something like \$5 or so. Address above.

**AVULSED** states their influences as **FUNEBRE**, **INCANTATION**, **GOREFEST**, **SUFFOCATION** and so on, and it can be heard on their latest demo. Fast basic Death Metal. Extreme grunt-vocals, boring riffs, usual arrangements etc. Many bands do the same thing much better. \$5/\$6 to P.O.Box 37062, 28080 Madrid, Spain. They have two other tapes available, too and **MHI** Records will release their 7".

**EVE OF MOURNING** produce pretty good and heavy Doom on their demo "Acheronian Winter". I'd like to hear a bit more melodies and some variation on the vocals (which are quite good anyway), but doom merchants shall dig this 45 minute breeze of winter. \$6 (\$7 overseas) to P.O.Box 306, Palos Heights, IL 60463, U.S.A.

**GRAND BE-LIAL'S KEY** is unique; Black Metal truly different from the trendies. Great despondent melodies, which could be compared to only early **MERCYFUL FATE** or **MORTUARY DRAPE**, emotion-wise. The demo with 4 tunes is available with an unknown price from 32 S.Hudson St., Alexandria, VA 22304, U.S.A. And I'm not sure if the address is valid because at least I didn't receive an answer from them...

**DANCING GOLEM** did release a five song cassette through Darklands. It sounds like depressive Goth-pop in the vein of **THE CURE** for example. Quite good in general but the vocalist could do his job a bit better. And developing to a more original sound wouldn't do bad either. This is very limited but ask from Darklands, Box 29, 33201 Tampere, Finland. Band contact: Pikkuauro 3 A 6, 13210 Hämeenlinna, Finland.

**PREPROPHECY** play Death Metal. The ordinary type: fast, heavy, brutal etc. I don't know how they differ from



the others, or do they at all? Kaapro Ikonen, Sotarovastintie 9 A 2, 00370 Helsinki, Finland.

**NOMINON** (now called **MAJESTY**) don't call their music Black Metal because of this new trend. Well, I don't know what else this would be. Black Death from the worse areas... There are better things to waste your money to, but this demo costs \$4 to Juha Sulasalmi, Gängläten 6 A, 55307 Jönköpings, Sweden.

**MOONSPELL**: more Black Death, this time from Portugal. They have many good ideas but as a whole it doesn't work the best way. 3-track demo available for \$6. P.O. Box 28, 2700 Brandoa, Portugal.

**CONGESTION** combine early Death Metal and Gothic music, and the result is good! On some songs the balance between aggression and bombast is not exactly what I'm looking for but that's not a thing big enough to be complained. **VERY** recommendable! \$4/\$5 to P.O. Box 8, 11101 Riihimäki, Finland.

**PRIMORDIAL** consists of a mix between Black, Doom and Death Metal. The approach is quite original and enjoyable. They have a load of good ideas the songs work well, too. Their 4-track debut demo can be purchased with \$5 from Alan Averill, 22 Station Rd., Sutton, Dublin 13, Ireland.

The worst tape I've heard since ages: **KALMA ANKKA / BLACK ROSE** split demo. Two bands who both sound like they had just been starting playing, together with a few own "songs" + covers from AC/DC and PUNGBENT STENCH. Doing this in a small garage for fun is nearly understandable but who would record it and even spread it? Ask from Black Axe Distr., Salituntie 9, 24800 Halikko, Finland.

**FORSAKEN** from Malta are fairly similar to early **CANDLEMASS**. Despite bad sound their five song demo was not bad at all, it's sold out now though. They should have released an EP which I haven't heard, but ask anyway. Albert Bell, Norviva House, Vial Kottoner, Fgura, Malta PLA 17.

**SKINFLICK PRODUCTIONS** call their music "Cyber-Industrial Hate". That's what it certainly is. Noisy and aggressive, with vocals that occasionally remind me of some hardcore Punk bands. Two demos available for \$5 each. S.F.P.D. 2 Bron-Y-De, Bangor, Gwynedd, Wales, U.K. LI57 4TL.

**SEPOLCRUM** have out a demo with four nice tunes of Death/Doom Metal. Melody and heaviness is evident. They too use female vocals and the synth but with talent, must be added. I've heard better stuff but this isn't that bad either. Alessandro Nunziati, Via F. Gentile No 7, 00173 Rome Italy.

**BORN FROM FEAR** sound very much the same as early demos of **HELLHAMMER**. And I'm not talking about a typical trendy "Black" band! The music here is early primitive style of (Death) Metal, with rather bad sound and so on. 10 tracks + intro for fans of "old" Metal. P.O. Box 454, Shippenville, PA 16254 U.S.A.

**BAG OF FLESH** is closely related to **BORN FROM FEAR**. This one is primitive, too, but far less listenable than the one above. And it seems this isn't at all as serious... ask from the same postbox (above).

**INQUISITOR** should have their second demo out soon. Anyway, their first consists of five Death/Thrash songs with lots of aggression and hate. It is mainly very fast but they still have some slow and heavy riffs included. Sometimes this reminds me of **DEAD HEAD**. If you want to experience again the aggression of early Death/Thrash send right away \$6 to Erik Sprooten, Mandenmakerstraat 79, 3841 VD Harderwijk, Holland. Color cover included.

**SENTENCE** from Costa Rica deliver you primitive Death Metal the way it was played back in early 80's. There are 9 tracks on their latest demo, some of them pretty good and some of them rather bad. The drummer is pathetic, but on their next recording they are supposed to have a good canman. 9 tracks + intros and outros + colour cover + lyrics for \$8. P.O. Box 334-1002, Paseo De Los Es-tudiantes, San José, Costa Rica.

**MYTHOS** include some ex-BELIAL members and their music is partly similar, too; fast and evil Death Metal. The sound is very heavy yet clear enough which suits well to the music. If you want aggressive straight-forward Death Metal without over-technical crap and honeyish melodies then check out **MYTHOS**. Their demo is sold out but the debut CD should be out relatively soon on Listenable Records. Contact the band at Teemu Hautaniemi,

Konttitie 25, 90440 Kempele, Finland.

**THOU ART LORD** is one more Black band in Greece including some members of **NECROMANTIA** and **ROTTING CHRIST**. Their 3-track demo is pretty good, Black Metal played fast and brutally. Compared to the bands I just mentioned **THOU ART LORD** aren't as good as they lack a bit of those gloomy melodies... a band worth checking out anyway. They also have a 7" EP and a split-EP (with **ANCIENT RITES**) out on Molon Lave Records. Contact: c/o Gotmog, P.O. Box 79022, 17202 Himitos, Athens, Greece.

**INFAUSTUS** sent a tape which surprisingly doesn't contain anything! A blank tape, that is. It seems I didn't even reach the band as they haven't written back or anything. Maybe you can find out what's going on. Try: c/o Eric Muniz, 372 N. via Marsala, Anaheim, CA 92806, U.S.A.

4 tracks + intro are on the demo of **DROWNED**. I'd say this is quite ordinary type of Death Metal with an occult touch on lyrics (judging by the titles). Another one in the crowd of these bands... Tillmann Benninghaus, Heerstr. 131, 14055 Berlin, Germany.

**WITCHCRAFT**: 4 tracks on their demo are well done Thrash, not that fast but pretty heavy instead. Their music doesn't break (many boundaries but I like the female vocals which are rather brutal with some high screams. Their new demo should be out soon and of course being better than the debut. c/o Sherena Fawzy, Skolebakken 66, 4. tv., DK-6700 Esbjerg, Denmark.

"8 trax of dark/ancient music", says the flyer advertising the demo of **AS SAHAR**. Whatever it means I'd say this is primitive Black Metal quite close to **BURZUM** for example. The band produces rather good riffs and so but it's nothing to die for anyway... yet? \$6 to blk 58, Marine Terrace, #07-57, Singapore 1544.

**FAVOR** play the usual kind of modern Death Metal -- what is the difference to other bands of that kind is left fairly unclear but at least the band themselves believe in their potential due to putting a lot of deutchmarks on visual things and promotion. \$8 to Rainer Landfermann, Oberwinter, Lärchenweg 17, 53424 Remagen, Germany.

**MEMORIUM** have a sense of melody but it must be developed into a higher form before anyone (or at least I) praise it. 4 tracks of Heavy/Death/Doom/whatever Metal, ask from Daniel Andersson, Andershill, 51010 Horred, Sweden.

**ABORTION** have made 10 bad and short Grind Core tracks and put them on a demo. They have also found a "gory" color picture for the demo cover. Yuck. c/o Anton Varga, Branc 11, ekr: Nitra, 95113 Czechoslovakia.

"...some kind of experimental noise with keyboards", says the bio of **SACRILEGIOUS EXCREMENT**. However this isn't anything I'd consider "experimental noise", maybe very noisy and mud-sounding Death/Grind instead. Lyrically S.B. is about gore and intestines of human corpse and other weird things... but lately they seem to be "more Black Metal and goat worship". Oh well. \$3 or something like that to JP, PL 23, 32441 Alastaro, Finland.

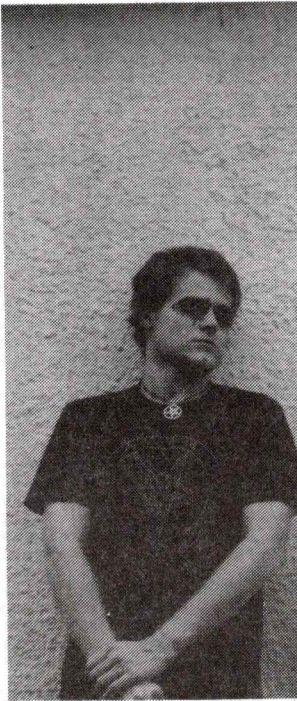
**NOCTURNAL FEAST** did put out a demo with musically is quite close to **IMPALED NAZARENE** or **BEHERIT**... except for that these bands did it better. Later they changed their name to **BLACK DAWN** and a new demo should be out - I haven't heard it though. Send your letters to c/o Janne Kuru, Juvosentie 2, 60550 Nurmo, Finland.

**KAWIR** is the new band of ex-BELIAL member and here he goes on nearly similarly. There is a promo tape available and even though it includes only one song it is absolutely fantastic! Mysterious and deeply atmospheric Black Metal is what "Sinn (The Blazing Queen)" is about... the vocals have been done by guess whom (I'm not going to tell you the answer though). This song will be released on a split-EP with the Japanese excellencies **SIGH**, **KAWIR**, **Aetopetras** 35, Nea Liosia 131 22, Athens, Greece.

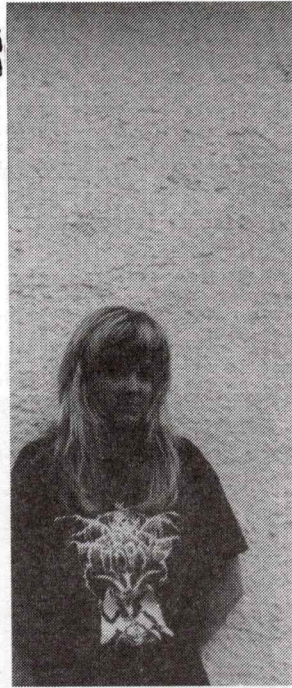
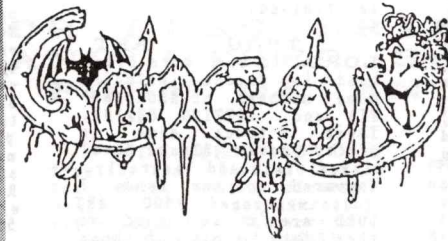
**HOMICIDE** from Italy have a new demo available. Pretty good Thrash actually, they have brought up some original ideas that make this more listenable than for example their previous things. Very technical with lots of breaks... The singer more shouts than sings which is a bit of a shame. Hm, goes H.R. Giger know that one of his paintings can be found on the cover? Alex Gioia, Via Pezzan 9, 20146 Milano, Italy.



PAVOR



by Mikael Johansson



"GORGON was the first Black Metal band from France", starts Chris (guitar, vocals). "It was composed by me and two girls in the beginning. We have played four concerts so far. The line-up has changed sometime, now we are five: Patricia (drums), Frank (guitar), Namad (keyboard), Patrice (bass guitar) and me."

The Patricia played before in WITCHES and Namad still plays also in a techno-thrash group CATALEPSY as a guitarist/vocalist. GORGON have made a demo called "Call From Unknown Depths" and over 200 copies have been spread worldwide. Judging by this demo their music is the kind of BATHORY-oriented Black Metal, the "true" spirit is there but they have managed to keep a kind of own sound which has the potential to grow and develop to an interesting form. Chris himself would describe their music like this: "Structured morbid Black Metal with a lot of hatred."

"It's a shame to all Black Metal bands which make noise because of a

fake of original ideas and technic! A good song with bad sound will always be better than a shit song with good sound", says Chris and undoubtedly everyone will agree with that.

The lyrics of GORGON deal mainly with the "usual" Black Metal topics:

Chris: "Our lyrics are about Elizabeth Bathory's love, sorcery, witchcraft, war, hope in Satanism, hate towards Christianity and also morbid dreams."

"I would be pleased to have Jesus Christ's voice on a song of GORGON. Do you imagine a more blasphemous thing? (No way! -MJ) Some secret words for the Christians on a Black Metal tape! It would be too unholy!"



What does Satanism mean to you?

Chris: "Freedom of acts and thoughts. No limit to an eternal life of pleasure, lust and also knowledge because Satanism isn't just worshipping (Why on earth did you use the word "just" there ?? -ed/Niko) but a great part of studies!"

As for Chris' taste of music, in addition to "classic" Black Metal bands like SAMHAEL, VENOM, BATHORY and CELTIC FROST to mention he listens to some other kinds of music, too.

Chris: "Yes, bands like CARNIVORE, TYPE O NEGATIVE, THE EXPLOITED, WARFARE and sometimes old ACCEPT. Also some hardcore stuff because I like the simplicity in that music. In fact I like these bands even if it may appear strange (You are right there. -MJ) but I don't listen to them very often

because I haven't the time with all the good stuff created by Black Metal bands. I like the music with feelings and that's why I like these bands. They bring something else than dark feelings."

GORGON as a dinner course would be something that certain other bands, too...

Chris: "A pizza because it's simple to create, everybody can do it, there are a lot of different elements (red like blood) but combined it's good!"

To close the small talk Chris had something to say: "Thanks for your help. Our 2-faced printed shirts in XL are ready for \$16 and our demo costs \$5. If you like pizza you will like it, ha ha... Our mean songs will surprise you, so I hope you will appreciate them too! Join the abysses..."

GORGON  
Chris Chatelet  
Les Romarins Bt 10  
Bd Du Val-Claret  
06600 Antibes  
FRANCE

FUNERAL WINDS are another Black Metal band, this time from Holland. They started in 1992 by making an unofficial promo tape. Early 1993 FUNERAL WINDS made their first official recording, a demo called "La Majeste Infernable". Gorgoroth (vocals) is not completely satisfied with it: "The tracks are really evil but only the sound is shit. But our new song is much better than the old ones; our new release will be a killer with a better sound!"

After listening to the demo I'd say you are influenced by Norwegian bands...

Gorgoroth: "Yes, most people say we are influenced by Norwegian bands. I like to hear it because I like Norwegian bands very much, but my opinion is that we are more influenced by the old SODOM."

Lyricaly FUNERAL WINDS are about darkness and Satanism, but anyhow they aren't into the work

by Mikael Johansson

of the (in-)famous Aleister Crowley.

Hellchrist (guitar): "It didn't influence me... I hate this phrase 'do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the law'!"

#### SAD-BRAL

So far FUNERAL WINDS have done only one gig, it was with ANCIENT RITES, ENGRAVED and OCCULT.

"That gig was very great", tells Gorgoroth, "soon there will be more gigs."

They use face paint which seems to be a rule among Black Metal bands nowadays (see photo). They account it for it looks very evil (someone could



# FUNERAL WINDS

have a slightly different opinion on this, though... -Niko).

As for Black Metal in general, Gorgoroth got into it back in 1986 after hearing VENOM. This music is still/again (??) their favourite music. Just look at the list of Hellchrist's fave bands and magazines:

"If it is dark and hateful I like it... bands like VENOM, BATHORY, SODOM ('85), HELLHAMMER, CELTIC FROST, VULCANO ('86), MAYHEM, BURZUM, DARK THRONE, DISSECTION, ABRUPTUM, ABIGAIL, EMPEROR, APATOR, SARCOFAGO and more. Mags: Hammer Of Damnation of course (hm, this may be dark but not that hateful. Thanks anyway. -Niko), Holocaust, Humble Return Of Christ And Horny Muhammed plus more..."

The guitarist Hellchrist makes the music for FUNERAL WINDS. He describes the songwriting process:

"I make riffs in my ritual chamber, while I burn candles and cut myself, it turns out very evil this way! Esteban (drums) and me make the songs complete in our rehearsal room, and Gorgoroth yells his satanic verses..."

The members didn't seem to be that fond of our "standard" question about the band's music as a dinner course...

Hellchrist: "We hate fun so stop this crap questions please!"

(I'd like to say that you are incorrect. It is NOT a fun question. It is there for testing the answerer's imagination and so on. -Niko)

For future FUNERAL WINDS have planned to make a split-LP with ABIGAIL, or a new demo. More gigs should become true, too. Meanwhile, you can get yourself acquainted with their music by ordering their demo for \$6. Also two sized black t-shirts are for sale (\$17). Write to Gorgoroth, Biezeveld 34, 3085 RE Rotterdam, Holland.

**REMAINS** come from Italy, too, but they aren't as much Thrash as **HOMICIDE** for example. The sound of **REMAINS** on their 4-song demo is closer to Death Metal. They also add should I say "progressive" things to the music but I find it rather irritating. The sound on the tape is not the best but I still find the members playing quite well together. **Mik Montaguti**, Via Belvedere 82, 20069 Zola Presoda (BO), Italy.

The **Aussies** **CORPSE MOLESTATION** have put out an interesting tape. There are three tracks of brutal and grinding Death/Black Metal added with intros and effects which combine them as one. The songs themselves are real furious but the midtrons let you breathe a while between the tracks. Check it out if tranquillity haunts you. **Damon Burr**, Unit 4/60 Zetland Rd., Box Hill, 3127, Vic. Australia.

**REIGN-TERROR** come from Japan. It is Thrash/Speed Metal sometimes close to early **TESTAMENT** etc. At least the two tunes here are as typical as they could be. If you want speedthrash with no surprises then get in touch with c/o **Mahiro Yamada**, 1-18-18-103 Minamiyawata, Ichikawa-City Cihba 272, Japan.

**APATOR**, the lone morbid soul of Holland has a new tape available. There are 19 tracks of cruel vocal hate and aural blasphemy. **APATOR**'s "songs" consist of the song title repeated many times with a nasty distorted voice. Nobody could like it but that's not the point. The point is that this is morbid! And so are you if you listen to this say 24 hours without breaks... **APATOR**, Meiendaal 99, 3075 KG Rotterdam, Holland. \$3?

**CAUTERIZER** have a 4-track (+ intro) demo available. The intro sounds pretty eerie though it's not that unique. The music is Death Metal from the slower and doomier areas, but there are faster parts, too, so that you're able to bang your head or something. The vocals are very low, a bit dull after a bigger dose. **Gucka**, Humlegränd 4B, 179 60 Stenhamra, Sweden. The cover photo is quite nice.

**DIVINE EVE** are pretty slow as well, a bit like **WINTER** in times. The speed rises up here and there, too, and in the end it isn't as doomy as I first thought. Not bad anyway. Ask from 3600 **Sailmaiker Ln.**, Plano, Texas 75023, U.S.A.

**MUSICA ETERNAL** are an interesting outfit. Fast Black/Death highlighted with lots of synth and drum programming gives an original result. Yet something must be done to give the whole more an "experienced" feeling. Contact: **Mathieu Broque**, 17 place du Maréchal Juin, 35000 Rennes, France.

**ARGENTUM** play dark and devastating Death

Metal. This isn't a unique band but by developing their style **ARGENTUM** would become an outstanding extremity. 4 tracks for \$6 from c/o **Khadee**, 7a. AV. No. 574 Col. Cumbres, Monterrey, N.L., 64610 Mexico. The cover picture is fantastic, I must add!

**POWER DRIVE** are a Finnish Speed/Power Metal band. According to their demo '92 I'm not sure at all whether they should be taken seriously or not. The cover picture is childish, the lyrics are cliché (the titles are "Metal Eyes", "Nightmare", "The Train To Hell" and "The Power That Led To Grave") and the music itself suits well to all this. **Harri Tekoniemi**, Langkujavägen 160, 66520 Veikars, Finland.

**RECTUM** play Speed Metal riffs with some Grind shades and a pathetic growler overall. Enforced pricks? Find out from **Heikki Vähäkopus**, Tellervonkuja 6 C 31, 90570 Oulu, Finland.



REIGN TERROR

**AS SERENITY FADES** are one more band playing melodic type of Death Metal, comparable to

**MY DYING BRIDE** or **ANATHEMA**. I must admit that they are better than the average type of their kind. The **Keen** is in my opinion the best of these four songs, and the color cover is pretty nice. About \$5 to **Sami Kotiranta**, Pähkinärinteentie 26 A 5, 01710 Vantaa, Finland.

**CAEDES** have 5 tunes on their demo; well played and pretty technical but not that original Swedish Death Metal. Not recorded in Sunlight Studio, but this is still much too typical. c/o **Englund**, Lars Kagsgatan 16E, 41503 Gothenburg, Sweden.

**FLEURETY** are another dark band from Norway. The two members don't call their music Black Metal but I still think it sounds like that and even the members yet act like that. They cleverly combine melody and mysticism to the otherwise rather brutal Metal, but it's so much a pity that the sound is too

thin. Hopefully their forthcoming **BP** (on **Malicious Prod.**, Germany) has a clearer and heavier sound. A **Nordgaren**, Grav, 1914 Y Enebakk, Norway.

**PHENOMENON** is quite an interesting musical phenomenon. 3 tracks + intro & outro present a band who mix some atmospheric things with their melodic type of Metal. Fairly good in general. **Pasi Ripatti**, Kaituentie 46 D 93, 50160 Mikkeli, Finland

**MORNINGSTAR** recall my mind two old Finnish bands; **SACRED CRUCIFIX** and **A.R.C.** Their "Black'n'Heavy Metal" sounds a bit like early Thrash. Fast parts are straight-forward and aggressive, slower ones then heavy in the nice vein of early **CELTIC FROST**. The legendary (?) "Uh!" shouts can be heard, too. Actually **MORNINGSTAR** are a delighting one in the Black Metal sky, they concentrate on calling back the roots of this

**FAIRLANE** are an exception among all these Death Metal bands. They play pretty good and catchy Hard Rock, and seem to be well aware of what they are doing. I'm not sure though if **FAIRLANE** differs enough from other Hard Rock groups, but as I said this is pretty good anyway. 20mk or about \$5 to **Feast Services**, P.O. Box 8, 11101 Riihimäki, Finland.

**EVISCERATE** are an extremely brutal Grind/Death five-piece from New Zealand. The vocals are low as hell and riffs quite simple. The pace is mainly on the top but slows down occasionally. They aren't anything real special but fairly brutal anyway. c/o **Nathan**, 5 Meldrum Pl., Christchurch 5, New Zealand.

**GLACIAL FEAR** thrash hard and heavy with a little Death Metal influence. The vocals remind me of **SEPULTURA**. Powerful, not technical. 3-track demo available from c/o **Molé Gianluca**, via Conti di, Loritello 13, 88100 Catanzaro, Italy.

**FATAL HAT-RED** have the same intro on their demo that was on the legendary **HELLHAMMER** demo "Triumph Of Death". Their music then is not similar to the hammering lords of the early 80's, this is a mix of Death/Grind/Thrash, and not a bad one at all. Traditional music combined with a modern technical sound. Brutal growling vocals. Contact: 6857-188th Street Cloverdale, B.C., Canada V3S 5M1.

**FIFTH DOMINION** are another brutal Death Metal band, this time from Ireland. The vocals recall my mind **DEICIDE**. The music is fairly technical with a lot of breaks, not to forget some guitar leads. The certain Irish influences wouldn't do bad to their music... **David Mc Keever**, 14 Tamarrisk Ave., Kilmarnagh, Dublin 24, Ireland.

**OVERFLASH** advertises himself (one-man band) as Death Metal mated with Cyber-Techno. On the 3-trk sampler it sounds like **PESTILENCE** or **DEATH** flavoured with drum machine, harpsichord and some samples. Not bad, but adding more these "Cyber-Techno" influences would give a better end result in my opinion. I can imagine that Death Metal guitars with a techno beat could sound amazing... **MNW Records**, Musikätet Waxholm AB, Box 271, 185 23 Vaxholm, Sweden.

**DECORYAH** are a truly original thing in a Metal scene. A load of melodies in both riffs and vocals create an ethereal atmosphere which is a good thing itself, but there are a few areas where some development wouldn't do bad. The arrangements are a bit... hm, inappropriate here and there, especially when the keyboards are considered. The occasional female vocals sound excellent... Also a ? out on **Witchunt Rec.** (which I haven't heard), but ask for the demo from **Jukka Vuorinen**, Pilykatu 1, 20780 Kaarina, Finland.

**NEOLITHIC:**  
Death/Doom from Poland. There melodies are there, some of them good but some a bit naïvé. The vocals are brutal growls the way one could expect from a band like NEOLITHIC. I'm not sure if this address is valid 'cause I saw an other one (which I don't remember right now), but try at least: Kassandra Rec., Daniel Krawczyk, Rabsztynska 3/21, 01140 Warszawa, Poland.

**PSEUDOLOGIA FANTASTICA**  
are quite the same case as NEOLITHIC, here and there pretty good but in times not so good. More rehearsing and stuff like that could do. Tist van Enrik, Karel Soetelaan 87, 2150 Borsbeek, Belgium.

**FILII NIGRANTIIUM INFERNALIIUM** (what a name!) play dark Black Metal sung in Portuguese. The sound doesn't represent the potential of this band well at all; it is quite thin and not heavy enough, especially the guitars sound sometimes even ridiculous. With an appropriate production this 3-track tape could sound even excellent, but now it feels only rather pathetic. Dark Records, Apartado 142, 2830 Barreiro codex, Portugal.

**PENTACLE**  
don't forget the ancient feeling. "It still rules", says their flyer and it can be heard. 4 tracks of early Death Metal without exactly copying anyone. Hm, something is missing; is it roughness of the sound which is here replaced by crystal clear production? Well, at least PENTACLE play their music the way they want, and it is always important. \$6 to c/o Wannes Gubbels, Franse hoef 17, 5531 PD Bladel, Holland.

The Swiss **TROM** will have their self financed debut CD out soon and I received a sampler tape. This is something real good; Gothic music mixed with psychedelic guitars still reflecting aggression and horror atmospheres! Lyrics are in French. Look out for this nice avantgarde experience on a cute rainbow-coloured disc as it's something worth listening to. Henri Kottisch, Quai Jeanrenaud 8, 2003 Neuchatel, Switzerland.

**ULVER** from Norway play pretty good "folklore" Me-tal, lots of acoustic gui-tar but also Black Metal type of riffing. The drum-work is very technical with lots of breaks - doesn't suit too well to every part. The lyrics are in Norwegian and sung with real strange voices. Check out just for originality's sake! \$5 to Kris R. Solfjellshogda 5, 0677 Oslo, Norway.

# Goethes Erben

**GOETHES ERBEN** can only be loved or hated. I love them. Their music is a web of plain rhythms and simple melodies that together with very atmospheric German singing/pronouncing rises to unbelievable spheres. Their brand of Dark Wave is both ugly and beautiful at the same time. The feelings of agony and desolation that **GOETHES ERBEN** create are nearly touchable.

Everything was begun in January 1989 by Oswald Henke (voice, lyrics) and Peter Seipt (music, keyboard, drum programming). After two cassette releases Peter left **GOETHES ERBEN**. The new line-up was built early 1991; Oswald Henke was joined by Mindy Kumbalek (percussion, keyboard, saxophone) and Conny R. (guitar, bass). The trio made two cassettes and finally signed a contract to a German label Dark Star. The debut CD "Das Sterben ist Ästhetisch bunt" was released in February 1992.

Later that year **GOETHES ERBEN** toured Germany for the first time. Just before the tour was supposed to begin Conny R. decided to leave the band. Fortunately they managed to get Peter Seipt to help them as a guest musician. During the tour Dark Star released their second CD.

The third release was a mini-CD, out in the beginning of 1993. During Spring 1993 the group made live performances under the title "Musikalisches Theater mit Goethes Erben und Gästen"; "Musical Theatre with Goethes Erben and the guests". The line-up was as follows:

- Oswald Henke (voice)
- Mindy Kumbalek (keyboard, snare, saxophones)
- the guests:
- Troy (acoustic guitar) (from CATASTROPHE BALLET)
- Vladimir Ivanoff (keyboard, percussion)
- Rose Bühler-Shah (violin, voice)
- Alexandra Feil (violin, dancing)
- Dasha Gashewitsh (cello)

Material from the live shows were released in September 1993 on CD entitled "Leben in Niemandsland".

The third studio album of **GOETHES ERBEN** is being released soon. The title is "Tote Augen sehen Leben".

Now I'm going to ask them a few questions. First, how did you get the idea of making this kind of music in the beginning?

"At the time, there was nothing comparable to what we do - a combination of music and theater. In each **GOETHES ERBEN** piece, the main roles is played by the lyrics. This combination of music and theater was a new concept which we wanted to try out."



How do you see the progression of **GOETHES ERBEN** during its five-year existence?

"Since our early days, our music has gotten more complex. At the beginning, our pieces were very minimalistic with simple melodies and not very many instruments. But now as well as then, our main instrument is the piano - sort of trademark for the music of **GOETHES ERBEN**. Since the beginning the lyrics have also gotten more complex, with a much broader vocabulary."



"The members of **GOETHES ERBEN** have also changed throughout the years. Oswald Henke was a founding member, and Mindy Kumbalek came along in February 1991. All other former members were not willing to make sacrifices for the music. These people were irresponsible, and were not prepared to make **GOETHES ERBEN** the most important thing in their lives. For this reason, only Oswald and Mindy remain, and since there have been bad experience in working with former members, Mindy and Oswald will remain the only two permanent members of **GOETHES ERBEN**."

Please tell something about each of your releases.

"Das Sterben ist Ästhetisch bunt" is our debut CD and the first part of a trilogy. The lyrics all deal with the topic of dying and the limits between sickness and death. The music is very simple and basically used to enhance the lyrics. "Der Traum an die Erinnerung" is the second part of the trilogy and the lyrics are directly related to those of the first album. The album deals with dream (youth), nightmare (reality) and insanity (future). "Tote Augen sehen Leben" is the third and last part of the trilogy. The album will be released in March 1994. The lyrics deal with different sick changes of the human psyche. Musically, it is much more complex and variable, ranging from industrial to classical. "Leben im Niemandsland" is the conclusion of the trilogy. It's a live representation of pieces from the first 3 albums as well as new songs. It was recorded with the assistance of 5 guest musicians. Our goal with this record was to bring out the classical elements of our music. "Die Brut" is a mini-CD which deals with the subjects of violence and racism. With this CD, we as a German speaking band, clearly made a stand against violence and racism."

What has been the general reaction on your records and live shows like? How popular are you in Germany?

"People either love or hate **GOETHES ERBEN** (like I said, too!). A listener really has to

interpret the hidden meanings behind the lyrics and be able to relate to them in some way. Our popularity seems to be growing especially in foreign countries, such as France and Belgium. In August 1994 we will also be touring Europe for the first time."

Would it be possible for you to make one GOETHES ERBEN record completely in English?

"No. GOETHES ERBEN is a German band. Oswald is German, and he can write and think best in his own language."

But don't you think it would make you more popular abroad if you sang in English?

"Maybe we could reach more people if we spoke in English, but that is not our goal. We make music for ourselves because we enjoy it, not because we want to be world famous! By the way, we provide English translations of our lyrics and are glad to answer questions for people in foreign countries who may not understand everything."

What are your musical and lyrical inspirations?

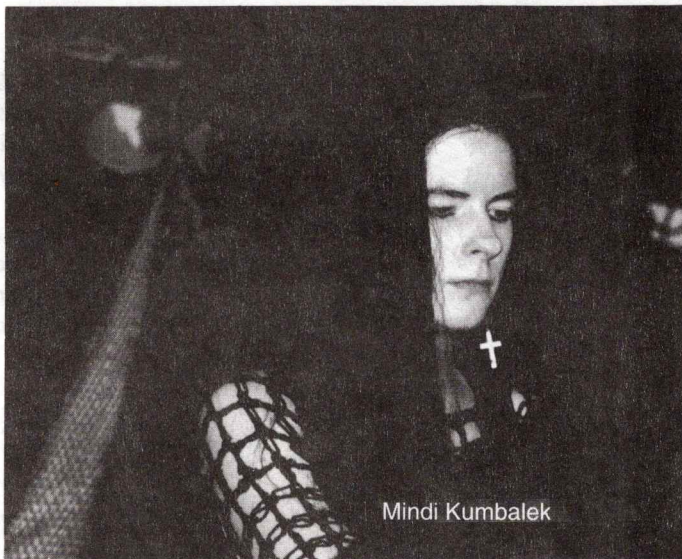
"We are inspired from life!"

What in your opinion is the most important emotion considering your music and why?

"I think our songs are very negative and deal with all negative emotions which exist. But it's not because we are always depressive, dark people. That's not true! We only write about negative things because these are the things that we need to let out and to express in some way. Music is like therapy to us. When something hurts us, we write about it, and by writing music we feel much better."

What about other bands that you are involved with?

"GOETHES ERBEN is the most important thing in Mindy's and Oswald's lives. When we do have



Mindy Kumbalek

## Goethes Erben Discography:

- "Der Spiegel dessen Weg durch stumme Zeugen zum Ende führt" MC 1990
- "Goethes Erben Live" MC 1990
- "Das schwarze Wesen" MC 1991
- "Live - Festival d'Etage" MC 1991
- "Das Sterben ist ästhetisch bunt" CD 1992
- "Der Traum an die Erinnerung" CD 1992
- "Die Brut" mini-CD 1993
- "1. Kapitel" CD 1993
- "Leben im Niemandsland" CD 1993
- "Tote Augen sehen Leben" CD 1993

c/o Goethes Erben:  
Spitalgasse 8 - 95444 Bayreuth - Germany

DARK STAR  
Grosse Johannisstr. 15 - 20457 Hamburg - Germany

spare time, Oswald is a guest musician with the band ARTWORK. He contributes his voice and lyrics to some songs. Mindy has her own solo project called STILL SILENT, in which she works with various other singers."

Please choose one song that would be the best example of your music to a person who has never heard GOETHES ERBEN.

"I cannot choose just one song to represent our music because we pur-

posely try to do something different with each song. Each song is musically different from the rest, and the lyrics deal with different topics each time."

If the music of GOETHES ERBEN was a dinner course, what would it be?

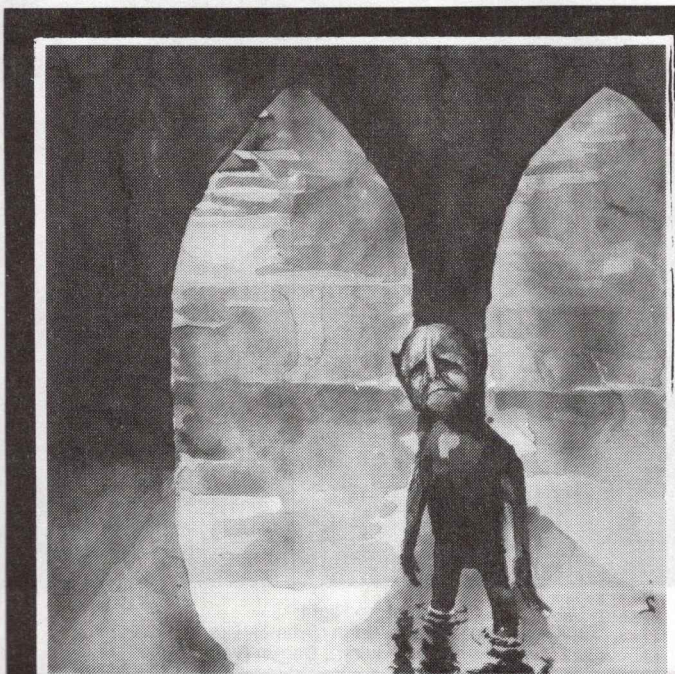
"It would be a type of stew - many completely different elements combined perfectly for a harmonious, appetizing result."

If you had the chance to pick up five records to take with you when you die, what would they be and why?

"Each week I have different favorite bands, but some will always be classics to me. But if I could only take 5 with me when I die, I would take the 5 from GOETHES ERBEN (luckily we only have 5). I feel good when I hear my own music. It's emotions transposed into notes and each song evokes a different feeling in me."

I advice to keep your eyes and your heart open for GOETHES ERBEN. They are extremely cold and seriously insane when the atmosphere of music is considered. The dark side of your consciousness shall always welcome them, whether you wanted it or not.

# Goethes Erben



2 song 7" E.P.



By combining elements of Goth and Doom ETERNE create the true sound of melancholy.

Your eyes were originally made for crying.

\$6 USD -- 25 FIM -- 10 DEM

HAMMER OF DAMNATION Production  
c/o Niko Sirkiä  
Nurmelantie 6 D 3  
SF-20780 Kaarina  
FINLAND

# Anathema

Peaceville Records, P.O. Box 17, Dewsbury, West Yorkshire WF12 8AA, U.K.  
Tel: 0924 457821 Fax: 0924 455120

1990: "An Iliad Of Woes" demo. 1991: "All Faith Is Lost" demo. 1992: "They Die" 7" (Witchhunt rec.) + "The Crestfallen" 12"/ mini-CD (Peaceville Rec.). 1993: "Serenades" LP/CD (Peaceville Rec.). The dark, sombre sound of the records was received well by everyone. Lord Gravehill asked the questions, Darren (vocals) answered.

I'm sure this has been asked many times but one more time: Why did you make 4 versions of the song "They Die"? Weren't you satisfied with it or what? Will there be more versions of it?

Darren: "I haven't actually been asked this question but it is a good question! It's simple really, basically we recorded it originally on our demo; then we needed two songs for our 7" so we chose our favourite two tracks and re-recorded them. We did make "They Die" different on the 7" as we had a very dirty and dark sound and also added a clean guitar and feedback type ending."

They also recorded the song on the 12" as a CD-bonus track because the 7" is now very rare.

Some people also needed to hear it without the orchestral ending that it has on our "Serenades"

album", adds Darren, "For the album version we entitled it "They (Will Always) Die" to give it a very final sound and to make a statement that wars will never end as long as there are people on earth to fight them."

Darren also told that there won't be any more versions of this song.

\* \* \*

The sound of ANATHEMA could be described as a melodic and bombastic type of Death Metal. There are several other bands in the U.K. doing basically the same but all of them have something personal. It seems that ANATHEMA has also received the deserved recognition as "Serenades" went in at Nr. 2 in the indie Metal charts in England. After its release it

was also Metal Hammer's "Album of the month" and on the MTV "band of the week".

Darren: "We went into Academy studios in W.Yorks (very near Peaceville offices) in June and July of 1992. In this time we recorded all "The Crestfallen" EP and most of "Serenades". Then we spent August remixing some songs and writing some more music for the rest of the album."

In September they went back to the studio and completed the recording of "Serenades".

I think the fact that we spent time and also had a break of assess what we'd done so far gave our album the fresh sound that it has. Obviously we are extremely pleased with the result."

\* \* \*

Darren and the other members -- Daniel and Vincent (guitars), John (drums) and Duncan (bass) are not pleased with only the lp, but actually everything they have recorded and released.

Darren: "Our older recordings are musical pictures of what we were about at the time. The feelings we had at the time of recording went into the song and are preserved forever just like an artist's painting."

The guitarist Daniel is in a way the main song writer in ANATHEMA. But where do come the ideas for such songs and where do you get your inspirations?

Darren: "Daniel doesn't necessarily come up with the ideas. The ideas and inspirations are sort of equal, he just knows how to transform someone's idea into music and then we pass comment



Left to Right:  
Back - Vincent (Guitar), John (Drums), Duncan (Bass)  
Front - Daniel (Guitar), Darren (Vocals)

of change it. He did write most of the songs whereas "Dreaming: The Romance" was born in studio just falling together piece by piece. Our inspirations come from any member of the band... Someone just suddenly gets an idea and we talk about how we can use it or we actually jam on the idea if we have our instruments with us."

After jamming on the ideas they start to take shape and then the mood of the song comes to light and elaborate on this mood and emotion by adding lyrics I think are suitable.

All of their ideas are natural and inspirations often come when rehearsing...or when they are half asleep with lots of thoughts flooding through their minds.

\*\*\*

Even if the band's name is ANATHEMA Darren isn't very interested in any religions including christianity. He also claimed that becoming famous haven't changed any of the members at all except for the number of letters they receive. No doubts about it, Peaceville is a fairly "big" Metal label these days and each of their bands must deal with publicity, be it good or bad.

"We're really proud of being on a label like Peaceville", tells Darren, "There aren't many labels who are honest like Peaceville and of course they are also a label who have some absolutely amazing bands. Our deal with them is for 4 albums."

ANATHEMA didn't have any deep discussing sessions about what kind of music would they start playing: "We just play music that comes naturally..."

The members' taste of music isn't too close-minded as Darren said they listen to any music as long as it has that bit feeling and passion.

How often do you practice and in what kind of place?

Darren: "We practice in some rehearsal studios in Liverpool city centre whenever we feel like -- and whenever we can afford to. Sometimes we practice when we have a lot of ideas in our heads that need to be taken a step further. We always try to do some rehearsals before gigs also."

Now we're slipping to uncommon directions, but anyway: if Darren could change one thing in the world, what would it be?

Darren: "I'd have world peace and harmony", he says and goes on talking about life itself, "Life is an amazing thing that should be appreciated by all... I haven't a clue what comes after it other than death. I'll just have to wait and see what happens... I try my best not to think about dying or else I get too emotional. All that sadness is saved for our music and lyrics."



VARATHRON from Greece have been around since 1989. So far they have put out two demo tapes, one 7"EP (Black Vomit Records) and a split-LP with NECROMANTIA (Black Power Records). All of them have been spread fairly well, the demos together around 1500 copies.

Stephan (vocals): "The 7"EP "A Step Beyond Dreams" sells 1000 copies and our split-LP 1500 copies and more..."

The band has had some line-up problems which haven't yet been completely solved. Besides Stephan "Necroabyssious" VARATHRON contains Jim Mutilator from ROTTING CHRIST on bass and Necroslaughter from ZEMIAL on guitar. The drummer is missing...

Stephan: "We use session drummers and we are looking for a faithful occult guy for the drummer place!"

The co-operation between dark bands in Greece is something to envy. People help each others' bands etc. Within this "circle" I (Niko) think are VARATHRON, ROTTING CHRIST, NECROMANTIA, THOU-ART-LORD, ZEMIAL and a few others...

Stephan: "Greece has a strong scene with great bands but contains big fashion victims! "Beautiful" empty winds without faith and passion. All the false going to Flankad and burning there!"

What do you think about today's underground in general?

Stephan: "Well the underground today is not so underground. Embrace godly bands and people but also a lot of false people who believe in money and the "easy" way of life with false memories!"

VARATHRON has played live only a few times, probably due to afore-mentioned line-up problems. Hopefully it will be better soon. Anyway, they write all the music together. What about the lyrics?

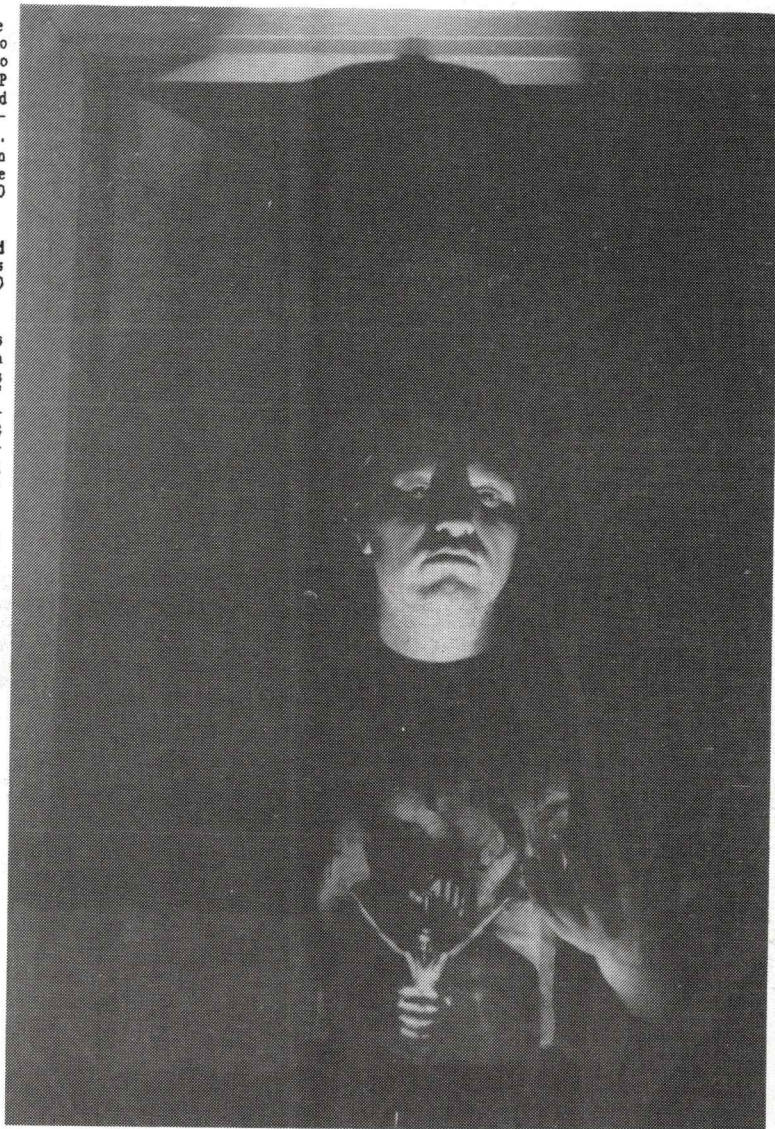
Stephan: "Our lyrics talk about ancient legends, wars, ruins and evil winds, screaming trees, horizons and deserts, forgotten kingdoms and full-moon nights..."

Which is the more important to you, the music or the lyrics?

Straphan: "The most important in the meaning. The occult meaning between the lyrics and the music. The most important is the eternal evil and the abyssic hordes of Shub-Niggurath."

Perhaps someone already thought about it, Stephan is very interested in black magic.

"I'm not so strong yet and I don't have the mystic books that talk about the keys that open the gates... I don't like the "simple" black rituals for love, hate, doing evil to one person etc. I want to open the gates and call back the Ancient Gods, to see the utter macrocosmos and the inner microcosmos in the eternal sky..."



by Mikael Johansson

# THE UNSPEAKABLE

## VARATHRON

What influenced you to start playing Black Metal?

Stephan: "I love that music and especially the apocryphal psalms...I think it's a travel over the edge of life, a journey beyond the crypts of Hell, something strange and evil, a mystical desire..."

So, quite obviously his (5) all-time favorite records are from that direction as well:

"Well, I listen to a lot of music and I have a lot of fave records... my five best LP's? Well, first the godly "Triumph Of Death" HELLHAMMER, "At War With Satan" VENOM, "Black Sabbath" BLACK SABBATH, "Sacrifice" BLACK WIDOW, "Altars Of Madness" MORBID ANGEL... I think the history of "real" music contains a thousand great albums and will born more and more...", tells Stephan.

If your music was a dinner course...?

Stephan: "A dinner course?? Well, our music is for the midnight haws and this time only vampi-

res eat my blood and fresh flesh...!!!"

The full CD of VARATHRON should be out by now on Cyber Music. The title is "The Lament Of Gods". With three other people Stephan edits Blasphemous Magazine whose third issue should be out now as a thick pack of dark Metal music... To contact the band, the mag or anything write to

**C/O NECROABYSSIOUS**  
**P.O. box 1265**  
**45110 IOANNINA**  
**GREECE**  
**OR**  
**C/O Mutilator**  
**Delmisou 2**  
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