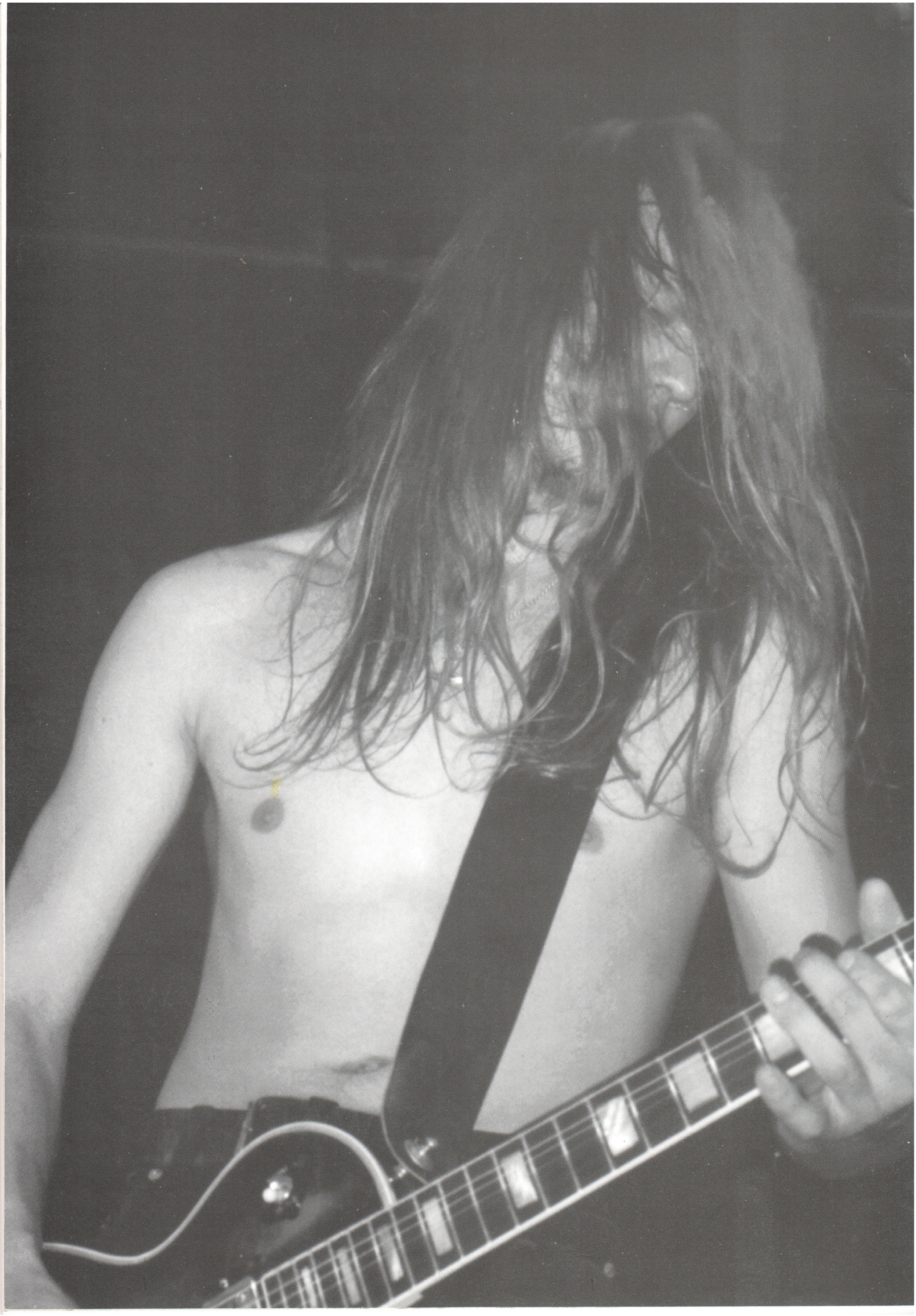
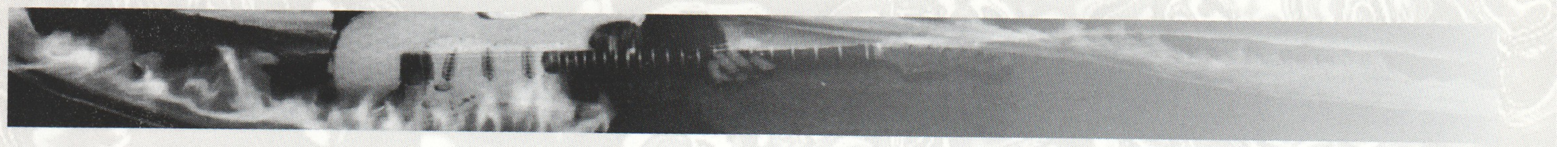
Avalanche Magazine



DISMEMBER - BOLT THROWER
SINISTER - ANNIHILATOR
TIAMAT - FATES WARNING
IMMORTAL

Issue # 2 ,1995





Dear Fan,

Our welcome goes out to our new readers in Russia, Mexico, Poland, Japan and Portugal. We're very happy that Avalanche, after a lot of negotiations, can be bought in these fantastic countries on our planet. Avalanche are able to do much more, because of fantastic sellings and interest from all over this world. Right now you're looking at the professional printed magazine with colors and other fantastic items. Beware, in short time Avalanche will rule the world!! That's why our thanks goes out to you, because you're the one who made it all possible. Enjoy the new Avalanche and keep on writing.

Regards, M. Vermunt

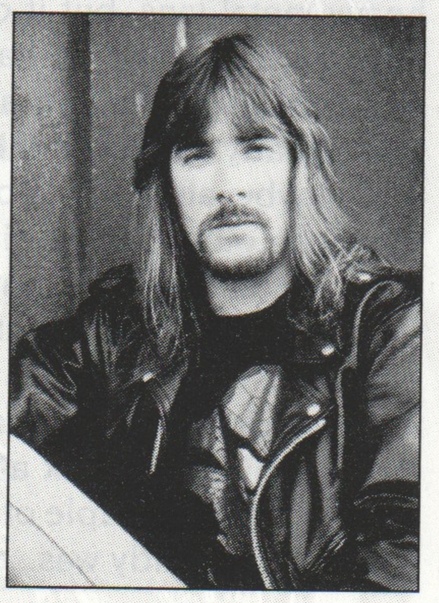
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cover:
Jeff Waters
Annihilator



Annihilator

by Andor Bik

This is one of those days when every correspondent wants to take it easy. But not for me. This person had to do nine hours of hard labour to earn a living and then run to the train to get in time for the interview. This interview promised to be more difficult, if one puts faith in all the articles and so-called interviews, some magazines produce. We could publish a so called true story with questions all the magazines already printed, but...this would not be my style. Not what Jeff Waters expected either. Before I asked the first question of my four page question list, Jeff mentioned he could give the answers before they were asked. During the interview it became clear to me he needed more time to give an answer than he thought.

Avalanche: Before you started the tour for the new album, "King of the Kill", you promised this would be a club tour, especialy for your fans. How would you describe your fans?

Jeff: After the tour of "Set the World on Fire", we did the club, the small hall and theatre tours and stuff throughout Europe. We saw a lot of "Alice in Hell" T-shirts from our first album back in 1989 and some people with "Never Neverland" shirts. We saw a set of new fans. Our first album is really a sort of thrash speed metal, fast from start to finish and as we progressed we added some more melody in our second album. On our third album we had quite a lot of melody and a few ballads. Quite a melodic album! So it brought out some new fans. And ended up getting a bit of both. We got the hardcore, heavy, heavy Slayer fans sortof thing and we also had some "lighter" fans. We did a tour with Judas Priest in arenas a couple of years ago, but we got quite an underground following all over the place here. It's a lot of fun to see the fans there, right in their face.

A: This new album was released by Music for Nations. Did you leave Roadrunner or did they show you the other side of the door?

Jeff: No, it was actually a friendly split, we had another three albums to go on the contract. They basically wanted a million - seller on the last album "Set the World on Fire". There was a pressure on me to write ballads and they went to pushed it on the radio in the States. I went along with that. So I think what they were basically telling me was, that Annihilator was an expensive band,let's take the money and put it in Sepultura. Because they're doing very well. And they asked me if I wanted to go, rather than tie me up to that contract. This way I could find me a label that does believe in the band and believes heavy metal is an OK type of music.

A: Roadrunner wanted a million seller and it flopped. Does this mean "Set the World on Fire" was a failure for Annihilator as well?

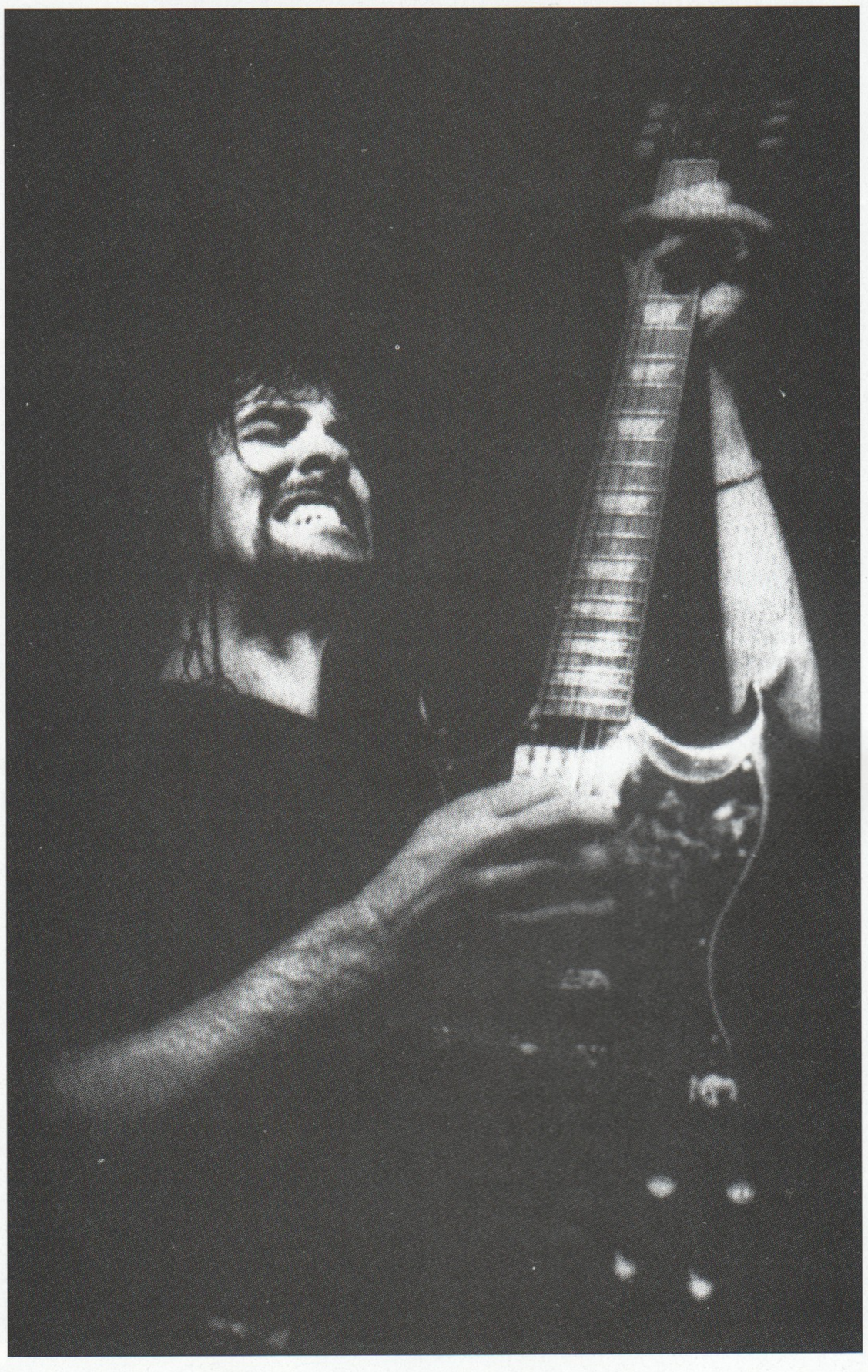
Jeff: Well it wasn't for us, because it opened up new markets for Annihilator. With "Set the World on fire" it was the first time we really cracked in to the Japanese charts. It has its drawbacks on the heavy metal fans, but it opened up new markets which we would not have entered if we hadn't made "Set the World on Fire".

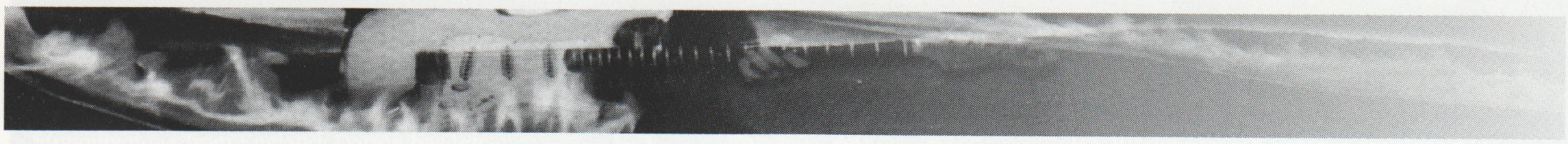
A: Annihilator changed a lot the last years, four new singers. You already expected this question, at the end it's just you. Why?

Jeff: Maybe after this album we'll start the cycle all over. Randy Rampage our first lead-singer, will return. It's kind of funny, I don't think I know any band that has had four different singers on the first four albums. Black Sabbath has had many lead-singers and Anthrax had three but never four in the first four albums.

A: In Black Sabath we have seen a comeback as well, perhaps Randy will come back after all. But why the changes?

Jeff: On the first couple of albums I had problems getting along with the singers. Randy was...ehm...well, let's just say we all, a lot of us, were realy screwed up on drugs and boose and different things like that and it was very difficult living on a tour bus with ten guys traveling all over the place and some people were really screwed up. Well, I was really screwed up on boose for many years and Rampage had his problems. Coburn, our second singer, had his problems. The only singer we did not have problems with was Aaron Randal, but he went to do a solo project. His kind of music was more like Black Sabath and Alice in Chains. He is still recording demos and stuff in my studio at home, we stil get along pretty well these days.





A: In a formal interview you told you are not such a perfectionist any more, but the feeling of "it can be better" will never go away. Does this mean working with you is giving the maximum of your abilities and more?

Jeff: You can ask them, they are right there. (To the other band members) How much of an asshole am I? Everybody starts to laugh at this question.

Randy: I would say he doesn't expect any less work than he puts in himself and he is a perfectionist which makes us better. He wants us to play as good as we possibly can. Which has personally made me a lot better musician since I joined the band.

Cam: (short for Cameron but he does not like the name) Well, Jeff kicks our ass you now, just when we need it.

A: About your new album, "King of the Kill", the first two albums were more about fantasy when you read the lyrics and the last one is more about reality. "King of the Kill" has a few songs that have to do with addiction. We've heard you had some problems and you were trying to quit. How is it to leave the bottle out of your sight this time?

Jeff: I've quit for three years and twentyfive days - January first '92 I quit, I know exactly when I quit! I have not had one sip of alcohol since then. I had a pretty bad problem with alcohol and I drank very heavily for quite a lot of years. It got crazy back then. I was losing band members, I was losing relationships, family members. I wasn't getting along with managers and record companies didn't want to deal with me because I was always screwed up and I was always yelling: "I want this and that". Now I still want this and that but I got a little bit more polite.

Jeff: You can ask them, they are right there. (To the other band members) How much of an asshole am I? Everybody starts to laugh at his question.

A: You wrote about hell and about meeting your maker ("Set the World on Fire"). Are you religious?

Jeff: No. I wrote it with something else in mind. Not about religion but about seeing Saddam Hussein and what he is doing, about dictatorships and how through history dictatorships just made people ended up suffering. So it was no really religious type of theme, just about dictatorships.

A: Now something about life and touring. In my opinion touring means not being home for a longer period. Do you miss it, home?

Jeff: Oh yeah, definitely. This is our first show that we've done with Cam as a bas player. Randy the drummer and Dave, the guitarist, we have done the "Set the World on Fire" tour in the United States and Japan. But, I just got married and have a little baby-boy and another one on the way in June. So I miss home already. We have been on the road for so long that we don't care. We want to get out and tour right now. We can write letters and talk on the phone, but we want to be up on the road.

A: What does touring mean to you?

Jeff: It means two things for me. The road; well you heard that one already. But also seeing different cultures. And meeting many friends on the last tour, two years ago. A lot of press people, a lot of record companies and fans I've known since since six years. I'm still keeping in contact. So each city I go to, sometimes I meet old friends. They come out to the show and I can see what they are doing with their lives, how much they have changed. And the last big thing is seeing the fans in the "Alice in Hell" T-shirts. The ones that have been your fans for quite a while. But also seeing new fans that like your music. That's the best thrill, definitely!

A: Will you play songs from the third album. It was not very successfull here in Europe..

Jeff: Sure, I think the "Set the World on Fire" album was successfull in Japan. I had the numbers back in my mind, but they had to be more commercial, they had to be a little more accessible, little slower, little nicer. With "King of the Kill" we didn't have to worry about a thing, not at all. But the songs on my third album, I like them anyway.

A: You are especially doing a club tour, how would you describe playing in a club?

Jeff: It's the best! When I was younger my dream was to play in front of a lot of people, playing in an arena. It finally became reality on tour with Judas Priest. We got to do all the bowl rings and the arenas and festivals and all that stuff. So I got to do it, but after a few shows you say: "Wait a minute, the fans are about 50 feet over there, like past the corner". You really don't get to talk to them or slap their hands or see them, hear them, but that's all.

This way they're right there, you can see faces, recognise fans from before and people you know, they're right there! You can just relax and not worry about a lot of stuff. And from the musical point of view it's a lot easier, you can soundcheck and hear yourself and get better as a musician because you can hear the other guys and get tighter and get better as a player. In the arena you can't hear yourself, it's just a big wash of sound.

A: Are you satisfied with the band you've got now?

Jeff: Oh definitely. Right from the beginning Annihilator (in my opinion) always had good musicians. Sometimes they got fired, had a drug problem or they didn't get along with me. Sometimes they left to do a solo project. We have had a guy like Mike Mangini, our last drummer, the band Extreme took him. (Assumes a crying voice) Took him away! But what I'm trying to do is find someone who's better than the previous guy to keep up the standard for our fans. Because when you change line-ups all the time, fans have problems relating to the band. Annihilator fans have realised that I do the main portion of the writing and that each time they see us we have a good line up. But this doesn't mean next time this line up shows up again. We are not a million selling megaband, we don't have a lot of money. For now it means dedication. If anyone decides to go to a bigger band, for example if Cam decides to go to Metallica (last word is spoken fast with a touch of hope, almost as if he wants Cam's dream to come true).

A: Does he want to?

Jeff: Jason Newsted is his idol.

A: Kick Jason out!

Cam: Yeah, let's do it.

Jeff: But what I am tring to say is this. You have to be good to play Annihilator, the music is kind of complex. Drums must be very good and so on. So if I find someone they usualy ask a lot of money. Now I'm touring with guys that are really dedicated. If they can get better offers they should go, because Annihilator is not a big money band. I cannot pay a lot and I cannot promise better times.

At this point the interview came to an end. I could go on for hours having hundreds of questions but they wouldn't be interesting for the readers. Maybe some day I'll write them down and return to Jeff Waters to see what has become of this underrated guitarist.



Dismember

by Jesse Vermunt

Formed in 1988, this Swedish band has been on the road for quite some time already, their third album will be released in late April. We read a lot about bands changing their style but Dismember does not want to listen to this kind of bull, play like we've always played seems to be the rule they live by, and they are, as far as I know, telling the truth because they've just released a mini album called Casket Garden and when you listen to this album you know for sure,this is Dismember. What's happening ?



D; Right now we are in the studio, mixing the new album, it will be pretty much the same as people were used to, more heavy though, faster and also a few melodic songs, you could say this is a more advanced album. It doesn't differ that much from the older albums except from what I told you, but everybody is writing lyrics now. On the first album Freddy wrote most of the lyrics.

A; It has been delayed for some time, why?

D; We had some problems with guitars and shit but everything worked out quite well.

A; A little bit about the history of Dismember now, on " An ever flowing Stream " there is a song Skin her Alive, this song had to go to Court, why?

D; I wasn't there, but yes it had to go to Court, there were some problems about the lyrics of this song, it was cool, they played the song over and over again in Court but eventually they said there was nothing wrong about and with this song, it was totally blown up by the media....

A; True, but you did it again....

D; Ha ha, yes, we teased them a little with the song Bitch on Indecent and Obceen, we wanted to irritate them....

A; This didn't have effect on the contract you had with Nuclear Blast, you're still with this label, are you that satisfied?

D; Yes, basically. Sure every band has it's problems with their record company just like any other kind of job you have, there's always something between employer and employe.

A; Dismember played at the big N.B. festivals with Benediction, I was told there were a few problems between you guys when you were touring with Grave a few years ago....

D; There were a few problems.

A; I want to hear more....

D; O.K., we " argued " a little about who did the head-lining, it almost got out of hand but in the end it turned out right.

(This is not what Benediction told me.....Avalanche 0.1)

A; What's the reason behind the bloody and evil pictures of dead, skinned bodies on the albums, do you guys plan to make it as serial killers in the near future?

D; No way! We wanted to shock people, like on the first album, with all the pig blood etc., everybody loved it, so why change it?

A; What really gets to you in this world, War, Famine or...

D; War definitly! We have a song called War now, I really hate people that create the wars, as well as lyers, racists. I live in Stockholm, together with a lot of immigrants, it's not easy but they need to be given a chance, but war is something that really pisses me off the most, look at the material they are using these days, if there is going to be a W.W.III, earth is going to explode believe me.

A; What would have to happen before you'd freak out?

D; If Dismember started to play Punk Metal! No. serious, I think somebody that is very close to me would have to die, I'd go crazy! I don't care if I die, I know this could happen because we do a lot of tours, travel a lot by bus, but yes, that would drive me mad.

A; About touring, is there anything planned?

D; Nothing planned yet, we probably will be touring, maybe with Grave and Morbid Angel, that's up to the management, if they can find some who would want to play with us that's good, I don't care, as long as we get to play.

A; Do you believe that D.M.(Deathmetal!!) will lose it's strength beyond the year 2000?

D; We still sell records, we still do concerts like any other Deathmetal bands so I don't think it will become less popular, maybe more different styles mixed into another form of Deathmetal.

A; Favorite drink?

D; Pepsi! (This scared the hell out of me, probably there's something wrong with this musician!).

A; 1995.....

D; A new year with sorrows and problems but with Dismember going for the top!

EUROPEAN NEWS

Stunning news from England; Darren has left Anathema, during the recordings of the new album there where difficulties about the way Darren was handling the vocals. We will inform you about this in the next issue. Info: look for the Anathema fanclub address.

The Belgium based label; Afterdark are very busy organizing a Blackmetal festival tour. BLOODSHED 1995 will feature:Hades(Norway), Occult (Holland), Satanas (U.S.A.), Ancient Rites (Belgium), Enthroned (Belgium) and more to be confirmed soon. Info: Afterdark ++32 14 632 312. Venues allready confirmed are; The Baroeg in Rotterdam and Vandijk in Merksplas, Belgium.

Sadist are touring in Italy and France at this very moment. After that they will record their second album on Nosferatu/Rising Sun.

Before releasing their third album; Sinister will go on tour with Deicide together with FleshCrawl, Brutal truth and labelmates Kataklysm. They will play in; Germany, Switserland, CZech republic and Holland. Make sure you see them because they will play some new songs that will surely blow you away. Their cd-release is scheduled somewhere in June.

Dutch hardcore outfit; Noisy Act Of Protest will support Extreme Noise Terror on their tour.

More extreme news: Impaled nazarene will tour somewhere in May together with Sadistik Exekution and ABSU. (Info: Osmose productions)

Portugese avantgarde Blackmetal act; Moonspell are signed to Century Media, watch out for this act because they will go really far!

Dismember just released a mini album on Nuclear Blast, which will give a perfect first look on the third upcoming album; massive killing capacity (Re.Date:end of May)

Meshuggah are getting pretty populair. Pushed by members of Machine head and Clawfinger. Fans are discovering the power of this Swedish mega act. Reasons enough for them to release a four song EP including three brand new songs plus a live version of Gods Of Rapture, recorded in Sweden during the Hultsfred festival, August "94. This EP will be sold for the price of a single!

Cradle Of Filth cancelled their tour, because they don`t want to sleep in a tour bus. They were expecting hotels every night. More Filth news...The band thinks that they are allready that big. They ask huge fees to play shows, that huge that they are too expensive for most of the venues, so don`t expect C.O.F. playing a lot this year....

DYNAMO Open Air 1995.....
Please, Please, Please...don`t go by car!!! If the roads are blocked again, the city council of Eindhoven will not allow another D.O.A. next year! If you do go by car, please remind that it will cost you;FL 50,- to park and FL 150 & tow away costs when you are parked wrong! So come by Bus, train, plain or whatever, but leave your car at home! (UK Fans: The National Express/Euroline Coaches have daily services to Holland! Adult Return:55 Pounds inc. Ferry)

Speaking about rumours...Venom will unite!!!...or won`t??? They still hate eachothers guts, but they will try to be a band again. To be continued...

Some Euro fanclub addresses:
Anathema: P.O. Box 666, Huddersfield GB-HD1 4YS, England. Phone/Fax; ++44 48 45 47 224.
MetallicA European fanclub: Breidberg 28, NL-6074 DG, Merick, The Netherlands.

D.O.A.1995: Paradise Lost, Biohazard, Eleven Pictures, Nevermore, Grip Inc., Machine Head, Mental Hippie Blood, Dubwar and Dog Eat Dog.

JOIN AVALACHE MAGAZINE... An international metal magazine. Besides interviews, CD/EP/Demo reviews and concert reviews also special American news and European news.

Look also at page 23 !!!!!

NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS EUROPEAN & AMERICAN

AMERICAN NEWS

U.S Blackmetal act; Satanas are signed by Belgium based record company Afterdark, They will surely play at the Bloodshed festivals in September.

ABSU (Osmose prod.) will tour with Impaled Nazarene in May info:Metallizee concerts or Osmose productions.

Metallica and Elektra have come to a goodeal for both partiesin their courtcase.

More Metallica news: Bassplayer Jason Newsted has a side project called MI 8. They`ve just released a demo on wich Jason took care of the vocals. More about MI 8 in next issues of Avalanche Magazine.

Avalanche Magazine was one of few Magazines that had the opportunity to do a interview with Nevermore frontman; Warrel Dane (Elsewere in this issue) Reason; he became sick during the press day he had at the Century Media office.

The Tabloid section: Megadeth`s frontman Dave Mustaine saved the life of a girl in New Zealand. Davy read a suicide note on his computer via Internet, and wrote her back with the words:` " I`m with you in Spirit" That impressed her so much that she decided to solve her problems and went back to her parents.....

Incantation has changed their line-up due to of personal differences between bandmembers. John decided to kick a few out of the band.

Relapse news; There are plans to record a Doors tribute compilation, "Universal Grind". Featuring contributions from Benediction, Deceased, Amorphis, Exit 13, Pungent Stench and Macabre. There are still a few problems with the recordings because each surviving Doors members must listen to/and approve each track. (Anal Cunt and Pungent Stench will cause obvious problems)

Autopsy's drummer/vocalist Chris Reifert has put a new band together called Abscess. Soon to be released....

Exit 13, 1995 sees this enigmatic, hemp-fueled caravan stretching their boundaries even further with the release of "Just A Few More Hits" in May.

Avalanche Magazine is still looking for radio stations around the world. Please send a tape with a recording of your show and give information about your show. Don't forget to put a contact address in your letter, that way bands and recordcompanies can send their stuff to you. Also we still want you to send us your play-lists, we will give away free cd's to every fifth sender. We want to have information of venues around Europe, real metal venues or organizers that way we can inform our readers what places they can go to on holidays or just for fun. Make a small biography about your activities and send it to the Avalanche office.



Incantation

by Daan Bakker

This band, from the U.S have been around for quite a while now. With their new album, "Mortal Throne of Nazarene" they prove once again to be an extremely pure, brutal, death metal band, that stays true to its roots. I talked to John McEntee (guitars) about Incantations' music, visions, plans and the shitloads of problems.

A: I've heard you've had some line up changes. For what reason?
John: Actually Incantation has had an unstable line up for about a year before recording the new album. The drummer of the first album left the band and we had some problems finding drummers. Then we had a sessiondrummer, Jon Brady helping us out. But things never got totally stable. Right after the recording our singer decided to leave the band. We got stuck because we were supposed to do a tour in the summertime. We had the choice between trying to find a replacement for the tour or cancell it. We decided to go ahead with the tour. With the new singer it wasn't quite stable, he knew how to sing and play the guitarparts but the drummer and the bassplayer didn't feel comfortable doing the tour without Craig (former singer). I guess they had rather cancelled the tour. Staying in our hometown wasn't the right thing to do for me, I felt unable to work with the band and have a fresh start with all the pressures of being so close to our old line up. I think the only way to get rid of the old bad blood was to get new blood in the band that wanted to keep the original concept of Incantation.

A: What's Incantation all about?
John: It's like a basic thing. We just want to play as brutal and agressive as we possibly can. Four guys playing their guts out. I guess in the tradition of older black metal bands, like Possessed and Celtic Frost, bands that influenced us. We tried to come across more in that thing of death metal than the newer, more acceptable death metal.

A: Do you think, that with this new line up, all problems will be gone?
John: Obviously the problems we had before are gone. But I'm sure there'll be new problems. People are always changing as far as what they want to do. I think this line-up will be able to stay together for quite a while because the amount of dedication that these members are putting towards the band. I really don't see that much of a problem. I'm happier than I've ever been in quite a long time. For a long time I was very unhappy with the input of the other bandmembers. It seemed like it was almost a solo project for me when I wanted to be a band and now it's more like a band thing. It's definately a lot better as far as playing live.I'm sure that will appear in the music too.

A: I understand the tour you just did with Grave and Fear of God was pretty fucked up ?
John: Yeah, we had no bassplayer. Our bassplayer left two days before the tour so that was very unfortunate. We were extremely pissed about that, especially the other two guys because it was their first chance to show their stuff. They thought it wasn't fair for everybody elses hard. I was a little bit more accepting. The same happened to me a couple of months before that, when we did a little summertour with our old singer Craig. I was like " Not this shit again," you know. Well, we did the tour without a bassplayer, we just made sure to turn a little extra bass-tone in the guitars and it went over really good. We got very good responses. Even without





the bass player, people were saying that it was just as good or better than the old line-up.The vocals changed too,they couldn't believe how much it sounded like Craig. Definitely good times for us.

A: Did you get along with the guys from Grave and Fear of God?

John: We got along really good with Grave. We had a good time talking about old demo tapes and stuff, they're really cool guys. Fear of God is pretty cool too, but they've got a lot of problems among them. The singer has some drinking problems. If they wouldn't have had problems in the band, we probably would have gotten along better.

A: Plans for a new tour?

John: We're hoping to get a European tour going, we've been trying to get in touch with some booking agents over there. Right now we're trying to find out what we can possibly get as far as touring goes.It just costs a lot of money and we haven't been getting that much support from our record company, so a lot of stuff is done on our own pretty much, at a low budget. We have no money, it sucks.

A: When I read the lyrics, it seems obvious that Incantation has a very strong contempt of religion.

John: Yeah (laughs).

A: Could you tell me something more about that?

John: Well, all lyrics on the last album were written by our ex-singer Craig,but basically it is about not believing in the christian religion and not believing that Jesus was immortal and everything. It's more like believing that he was just an activist and not the Son of God, it's amok upon christianity. We're just trying to say that we believe that christianity is a bunch of lies and that people are pretty much programmed.We try to put that in our lyrics, real dark and blasphemous. The lyrics on the new album are really good I think, for anti-religious blasphemous lyrics.

A: Which bands inspired you the most?

Avalanche: Sex.... John: Sex rules, at least with a chick,haha!. The more sex, the happier I get.

John: Mostly the bands that I grew up listening to, as far as death metal goes. It's kind of trendy now, but bands like Venom and Possessed. I mean, we were influenced by these bands before the big black metal trend. People used to look at us like we were crazy, they were like:"Celtic Frost?!, you're influenced by them? What the f@#k?" you know, I was like "F@#k that, you don't know what the f@#k you're talking about." and now everybody wants to be influenced by them! Celtic Frost, Bathory, Venom, Necrophasia, the old Sacrifice stuff. Like early Napalm Death, just real agressive stuff that I grew up listening to. We've always tried to remember where the music came from and where we came from as musicians.

A: Lots of people say that Incantation has a lot in common with Cannibal Corpse and Suffocation....

John: They don't know what they're talking about! Honestly, I'am not really a big fan of either of those bands. I'm actually good friends with both of those bands. They're awesome guys and I'm happy for everything that they've got, but it's just a different thing that they're trying to do. I know they also listen to old death metal bands, but they walked a different path. We're more based on keeping a real dark dimension in the musicstyle.

A: Did you visit a concert of Cannibal Corpse and Sinister last year in the U.S.A.?

John: Yeah, we toured with Sinister. It was nice to see those guys again. Both bands play a different style than we do, but it was nice to see how popular they were.

A: Do you agree when I say that Incantation doesn't believe in the power of fast, complicated riffs?

John: Incantation doesn't give a shit what kind of riffs they are at all. The riff itself isn't quite as important as the feeling you get when you hear the riff. If it sounds heavy and brutal, it's an Incantation riff.

A: What is it that you do when you're not busy with Incantation?

John: About a year ago I started a small distribution thing, just a mail order catalogue from local metallers, CD's and stuff like that. That's basically what I do, besides that there's not that much to do, party a little every now and than.

A: So basically your whole life is based upon music?

John: Yeah, I've been into music all my life.I don't feel like doing anything else that would be worthwhile.

A: If there would be one thing you could change about this world, what would it be?

John: Huh...f@#k! I'd turn the music-business people into really cool human beeings instead of what they are now; a bunch of backstabbing assholes! I guess I'd take away their greed. You've got to love music, don't only do it for the money.

A: Could you respond to the following words; Fascism....

John: That's very stupid. We did a tour in Europe and went into East-Germany. I learned a lot from it.I found out how real it was and still is. In the U.S., a lot of people think it's a fantasy thing. It's definitely a very serious thing and I don't agree with it.

A: Sex....

John: Sex rules, at least with a chick,haha!. The more sex, the happier I get.

A: Satan....

John: Satan's cool, he's definitely a friend of mine.

A: Cooler than God...

John:F@#k yeah. I'd rather hang out with Satan and party, than go to church and live sad.

A: Anything that you'd like to say to the Incantation fans reading this mag?

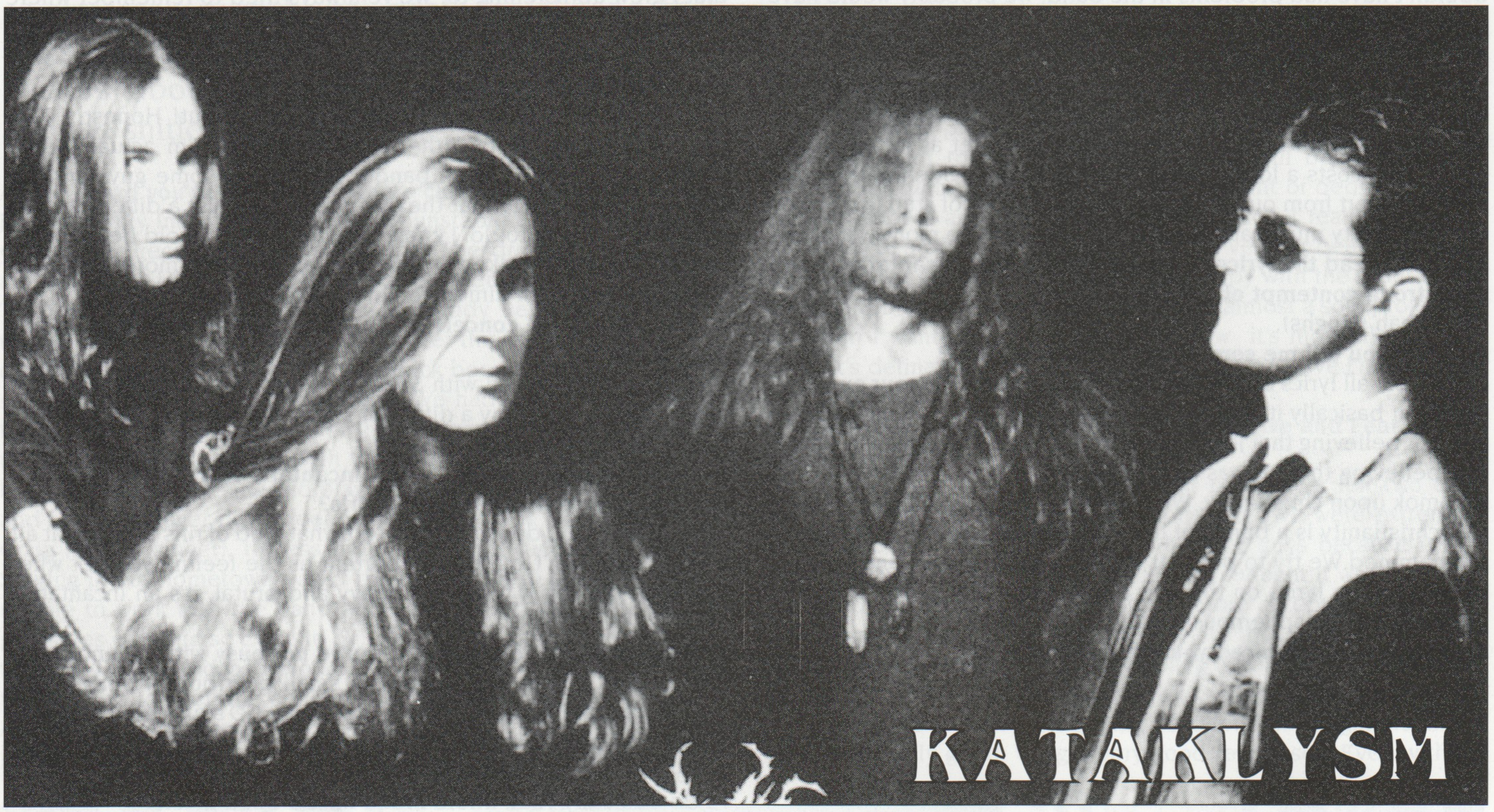
John: Stay true!



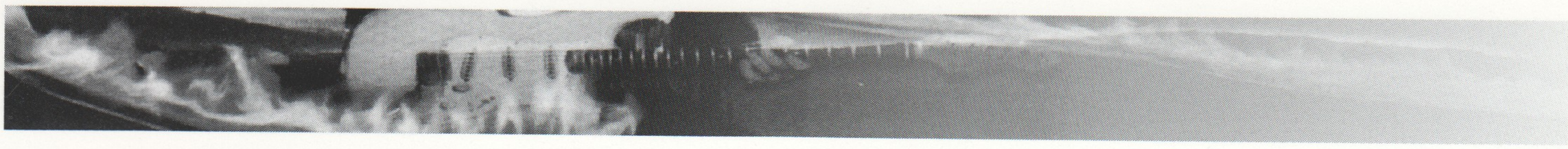
Kataklysm

by Daan Bakker

The Canadian death metal scene is highly underestimated these days, that's for sure. And Kataklysm is the living proof of that. Just listen to their debut album Sorcery and find out about the brutal, original intensity this band has to offer. As you can read in this interview: Kataklysm has no limits...



Avalanche: Can you tell me something about the background of Kataklysm?
K: We started off in '91 and released a demo in '92. We did a lot of promotion with this demo for a record deal. Which eventually happened with Nuclear Blast. That's how we started, a bunch of guys that came together and wanted to do something that was original, something different.
A: What were your biggest influences?
K: The original bands like Napalm Death, Celtic Frost. Our main influences are everything that's agressive, it can be any style of music. As long as it's agressive and original they've influenced us.
A: What do you think of the future of Kataklysm?
K: We're still gonna push this album, do our best to promote it, we really want to go on tour. I think this band has got a lot to offer, I think we're an original band and many magazines agree with that. We're just gonna keep on pushing it and try to getto the top of this style.
A: Plans for touring?
K: We're talking with our label, I think we're gonna come to Europe soon, maybe in May or something.
A: Could you tell me something about the mythological concept of this album?
K: In this album there are two trilogies. One of them is called "The Resurrected Portal of Heaven," it's about a guy that get's possessed by the son of Satan and he's trying to get his mind controlled. The other one is called "The Rebirth Vortex of Creation" and that one deals with life. The evolution of mankind and the way the human race was started. The title "Sorcery" is a concept of the name "Kataklysm", we had a 7"EP that was out a while ago that was called "Vision the Chaos", that was Kataklysm part one, about the end of the world. This is part two, called "Sorcery", It's like after the end of the world, life comes back to the old times. The old evolution with the sorcerers and the magic and it starts over.
A: What is it like to be a band from Canada, Are there a lot of expectations from the Canadian fans?
K: A lot of people support us here, because they really want us to make a point in the death metal scene. That's very hard, because we're not from Sweden or Florida, the big places where the death metal bands are coming from. It's hard for us, I think if we would have been from Sweden, we would have been signed right away. There are a lot of good bands here, there's a lot of talent in Canada, but there's no promotion and people don't push "our" music.
A: What's the death metal scene like in Canada?
K: It's happening, but the bands don't promote themselves. When Cannibal Corpse plays there are a lot of people show up. When a local band plays, 150 people show up. So the scene is not bad, it's pretty good actually.
A: When someone is listening to Sorcery, I can imagine that the intro of "World of Treason"(the last track) is the last thing he expects...
K: Yeah, we wanted to create a song completely different from the rest of the things that we do. That's the way we are, we like to do things that are spontanious and different. We decided to do a song like that, so that people can relax and think. That song has got a lot of emotion.
A: How do you like the idea of making this music for the rest of your life?
K: I don't mind, it's a way for me to get agression out. Some people go kill somebody, I rather play death metal to get agression out. It's like a sport for me for as long as my body can take it.
A: If you wouldn't be in Kataklysm, what other band would you like to join then?
K: Ehm...maybe that would be Testament or Pantera.
A: Respond to the following words...Exit 13.
K: I like them, they're spontanious and they try to do something different, it's good and original.
A: Amorphis.
K: Very good band. They changed from their demo, their demo was very brutal and agressive and they changed their style into a very melodic style, but I guess it's working good for them.
A: Sorcery.
K: I think it's a strong debut for us. It's a very good concept what Kataklysm is about, but I think Kataklysm has no limits and Sorcery is just a starting, for many albums to come from us.



Nevermore

by Marijn Vermunt

When your favorite leadsinger used to be in Sanctuary, you can imagine how surprised I was that finally after several years without Sanctuary and lots of rumors surrounding this band, I got the opportunity to talk to worlds best (in my opinion) leadsinger; Warrel Dane and his new band Nevermore. I had lots of questions (If I wanted it, I could fill an entire magazine with these questions) but unfortunately I had to leave some out. Warrel's new band Nevermore, released their debut a while ago. This album and especially Warrel's voice, sounds like he used to sing in Sanctuary; energetic,powerfull,exentric. Nevermore begins where the last Sanctuary album "Into The Mirror Black" ended.

Avalanche: To refresh my memory; What happened with Sanctuary?
Warrel: Some of the members in the band saw what was happening in the Seattle scene and thought it would be a good idea to change our musical direction a bit, to..kind of follow the trend. The rest of us didn't want to. We wanted to remain to our roots and that pretty much caused the whole problem and that ended in our break-up.
A: Was there a fight?
Warrel: Yeah, I broke my finger in the fight. It's a good reminder of what happened I think (laughs).
A: As I told you, I was a big fan of Sanctuary. When I heard Nevermore's debut I was really surprised, because the music is a continuation of what you did with Sanctuary...
Warrel: Right. We were very lucky to find a guitarist (Jeff Loomis) that can translate music we wanted to do, as well as we did. Maybe he was a fan of Sanctuary? I don't know.

...Warrel took some time to ask Jeff if he was a fan of Sanctuary, after that he continued his answer...

Warrel: Yeah, Jeff was a fan. He's not purposly trying to write in the same style. I have been very influencial in the songwriting in Sanctuary, maybe that's were it comes from.
A: Nevermore is a new beginning. What are your expectations?
Warrel: Yes, definately a new beginning. Expectations, I don't know. This business is so unpredictable, who knows? If I can just make enough money for a pizza and a couple of beers every night, I will be happy.
A: And make music, I guess?
Warrel: Yeah, the music is in the blood!
A: The album was recorded as a four piece band. I heard you searched for a second guitarplayer. Why?
Warrel: We always wanted two guitarplayers. We played some shows in Seattle and the songs sounded good with one guitarist, but I think, to let the record translate well "live", we need two guitarplayers. We found this guy named Pat O'Brian, he was kind of playing deathmetal in Kentucky. We recieved a tape from him in the mail, he came out and jammed with us and now he's moved to Seattle. He will be a permanent member of Nevermore.
A: So, we can expect much from him on the next album?
Warrel: Yes, I have the feeling that our next album will be much better. We allready started writing and we will record it as soon as we can do it. With Sanctuary, I think we took too much time inbetween records, the songwriting proces was very involved sometimes. When we did this album we went into the studio with the intention to do it really quickly to get it as raw and honest as possible. I hope that translated well.
A: What does the name Neil Kernon mean to you?
Warrel: It means that I feel goddamn lucky to work with the guy. He moved to Seattle to hang out in clubs. Our drummer at that time, knew him and gave him one of our early demo's and he liked it. So, he came out to some shows. He got involved before there was any money involved, that should tell you something.
A: It took several years before the new album was recorded. What did you do all those years?
Warrel: (Laughs) I cooked Italian food at a restaurant in Seattle. I became quite good at it.
A: Further?
Warrel: I wrote many songs, we picked the best of everything. There are still some very good songs, written in the past that we will probably use on the next record, a couple at least. We had lots of time to write songs. We all lived together in the same house. We got along real good this time.
A: This cooking must have been a well payed job...
Warrel: Actually, no. A pretty avarage thing. It's a good restaurant but they didn't pay as much as other restaurants (Laughs).



A: Are there things in your musical life that you hate to do? For instance: interviews?
Warrel: No, I don't hate to do interviews. Funny you ask this question, because in Sanctuary some of the members, refused to do them. I was always forced into that position. It doesn't bother me. I actually enjoy doing them. Somebody in the band once told me that I was too friendly to people and that I needed to be an asshole sometimes.
A: Besides making pizza's and music. Do you have hobbies?
Warrel: I like to read. I'm a big fan of the Ann Rice novels. I read all of them. Maybe you know "Interview with the Vampire"?
A: Yeah, I got the book for my birthday and just started to read. Wasn't there a movie made from that book?
Warrel: (Enthusiastic) Yes, the movie is really good. Compared to the book it translated very well because the novallist, Ann Rice, wrote the script.
A: Are you married?
Warrel: No, but I....That's a weird question because I was considdering it before I did this interview. I was thinking about it. I tell you the honest truth (laughs).
A: With who?
Warrel: Someone I've been seeing for about six or seven years now.



A: Suppose you were a journalist, with who should you wanted to do an interview?
Warrel: Timothy Leary. Because I admire some of his theories. I wouldn't force people to use drugs, some of his opinions are cool. Just because of that I would like to ask him some questions.
A: Are you a rockmusician, who lives his life with the motto; Sex, Drugs and Rock'n Roll?
Warrel: No, not really. I try to stay away from drugs because some drugs can be really destructive. I saw the news today, they are talking about legalization of Marihuana in the US for medical reasons. There's a big debat over it. It might eventually happen. That would be a good thing because, I'm not a doctor but I heard that it helps cancerpatients.

...When I tell Warrel that some doctors in Holland give older people who have problems with sleeping, the advice to smoke a joint, he's really surprised and shares the opinion that softdrugs deserves to be legal for a good cause...

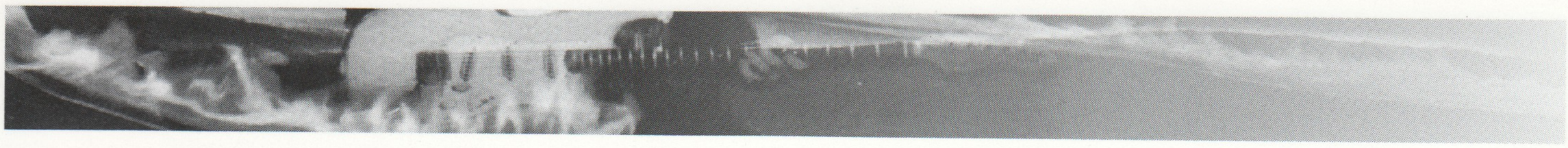
A: Suppose you had the chance to life a next life. Which job would you choose to do?
Warrel: We were talking about medical uses of drugs. It might be nice to be a doctor and help people. I was always in the music, I never thought of anything else. If given the option, I'll might choose that.
A: Name two positive things and two negative things of your home-country the USA..
Warrel: One negative thing; We had a 5,0 on the Richterscale earthquake. Second thing; It rains a lot.Two positive things are; We have a really good music-scene and we starting to brew some really good beer.
A: Are you familiar with the where-abouts of your former colleagues in Sanctuary?
Warrel: Yes, the good thing is that we have become good friends again and that makes me really happy. Dave Budbill quit playing drums. Lenny (Rutlidge), he's got a band together, I think they are looking for a bassplayer now. I don't know the name of his band. Sean (Blosl) is not playing anymore, I don't know what he's doing for a living.
A: Is it difficult for you, because of your way of singing, to keep your voice in shape when you're singing "live", day after day?
Warrel: Lucky for me, I've had no problems so far. Even when I drink myself silly, I can still sing.But I definately have to stay away from sigarette smoke because that will effect my voice. If I'm sitting in a room with people who are smoking, I have to go. I have to stay away from that when I'm performing. When I'm sick, I drink honey and lemontea, that helps alot. But so far, I haven't had many problems.
A: Are there plans for a European tour?
Warrel: Were touring Germany with Blind Guardian, starting in the beginning of May and we will play the Dynamo festival in Holland. I kind of freaked out when I heard that. I tell you, getting up that stage will be better than any drug there is in the world.
A: And a tour in the USA?
Warrel: Nothing is planned yet. There was talk of putting together a quick tour in April but nothing has been confirmed yet. Maybe we'll do a tour before we come over, or maybe after the European tour.
A: Final question. Is there anything I forgot to ask you?
Warrel: (Laughs) No, I don't think so.....

CONCERTREVIEW

Fates Warning, Dream Theater
February 15th, Vredenburg, Utrecht.

I'm a big fan of Fates Warning, ever since I love metal. Many new bands were influenced by this progressive act. One of these bands who were influenced by them are Dream Theater. You could imagine that I was very dissapointed to hear that my favorites weren't headlining this tour. One of the main reasons that Fates Warning didn't headline the dutch dates was because they hadn't played in Holland for many years, besides that Dream Theater of course (?) sold more albums. I went to this third gig in Utrecht with high hopes.They really did a fine job on that fantastic stage in the Vredenburg. Both shows were completely sold out, together with many people I enjoyed their music. The songs they played were taken from almost every album. Of course they played "Monument","Eye To Eye" and "Leave The Past Behind." Fates Warning played for about 55 minutes after which the stage was made ready for Dream Theater. I'm not a big fan of this band so if you want to know how they were doing, read some other magazine.

Marijn Vermunt



Bolt Thrower

by Jesse Vermunt

This band has always been one of the bands that influenced a lot of young, upcoming musicians, trying to become what they have become theirselves; one of the best " Metal " bands in the world by beeing honest and expressing their thoughts and feelings. Their fifth album " Bolt Thrower for Victory " is out now, again showing interesting and fast new riffs, together with new developments within the band, meaning that both their vocalist as well as the drummer left the band at the same time, what happened.....?

Gavin; I think we have just come to the end of it, Karl had some difficulties with the way things were going with the band for instance; the musical ideas of the band so he decided to leave, together with the drummer, he's gone too! It has been on the rocks for some time, we did a few tours and we didn't know how long it was going to last with him, with them.

A; Did they have plans?

Gavin; Yes, they wanted to do something like Soundgarden does, different music, I don't care, if they want to do something with dance music, go ahead, I mean when we asked him if he wanted to leave he said yes, he didn't have to hide anything, he just wanted to hang around, do the B.T. for Victory album and maybe he was hoping he could get something out of it, but we said don't hang around if you think you have to because we want someone that is into and with the band, not someone that is just not dedicated.



A; So it was time to call Martin....

Gavin; Yes, sort of, we already had him when we sat down after the (cancelled) U.S.A. tour but yes we wanted him, we have been good friends all these years since we met him during the time he was still playing in Pestilence so it wasn't hard to find a replacement, the drummer was another problem but we found a new one, he's young (17!) but we know he's dedicated, this is someone that will improve more and more in the years to come, when he's 25 he will play the shit out of your pants, believe me!

A; And of course Martin said; No thanks!

Martin; When they told me they wanted me, it hit me like a Thunderstruck, this was my band, one of the bands I admire, so the choise was easy, Yes Thanks!

A; But you live in Holland, and they live in England....

Gavin; It is a four hour journey, we live close to the airport and when he's over we try to do as many things as possible, the lyrics, the riffs and other things and what doesn't go that well, he just takes it home.

Martin; There are 24 songs on the tape they gave me and I had to learn them, I just put in the tape and sing, it's as simple as that.

A; But you have a different voice, does the audience react to this fact?

Martin; I just try to do the older songs just like Karl did, the way of singing I mean, but I can't change my voice, people have to accept this and as far as I know, they do.

Gavin; I think B.T. fans have different oppinions about his voice but whats more important, the music or just his voice? If you are into the music you are into his way of singing.

Martin; The power and the energy is still there, it is good for everyone in this band because now we all have to try much more to let the music speak, a new vocalist with different ideas, a new drummer with a lot of new developments, Bolt Thrower has new ideas but the music stays the same.

A; About new ideas, are there new songs we have to know about?

Gavin; I have ideas for the next thousand years, make no mistakes about that haha, no seriously, there is new stuff but we will have to work on that together, with Martin, with our new drummer and eventually we will record another album again but this is just a matter of time, time we will get after the touring, but it will come!

A; With war as the main idea behind it....

Gavin; Yes, this is something that has always been in the songs and won't dissappear, the whole world is a war, live is war, Bolt Thrower is war.

Martin; The last album is more about things happening today so we'll continue writing about this because like Gavin said, look around you, you see, hear and read things about war so why change the subject if the subject is still there and growing?

A; Barry is the one who delivers all the music, has this always been the way B.T worked?

Gavin; Yes, Barry creates the riffs as easy as I can snap my fingers, sometimes when I'm over at his place he puts on his drumcomputer and starts playing, there has hardly been a moment I said; ,, this sucks"!

A; So death metal is still number one?

Gavin; Don't call it Death Metal, it's so stupid always categorising music, we play music, fast and agressive music, music we like.

Martin; During my time with Pestilence I discovered that as long as you make music people like, it doesn't make any difference what kind of music that would be, Bolt Thrower plays heavy metal with dark, low vocals, the music could as well be compared with early Judas Priest as far as I know, but only advanced.

Gavin; No Anthrax though!!!!

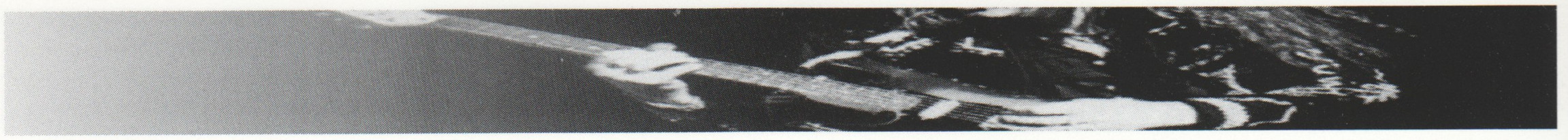
A; Is that the concept of B.T., no Bullshit, just play?

Gavin; No categories, no bullshit, no future, just make music!

Martin; Fucking A! Gavin; We're not looking for sportscars outside, big houses or lots of money because that is something you can't take with you, this is what we are, this is what we do, if you like it fine if you don't, good for you! We just make music, record albums, bring 'em out, if you want to buy it, go to a store, it's there, there's hardly any big promotion for us, we don't need it we do what we want to and we'll keep doing it till the day we die, amen!

A; Do you consider yourself one of the best Metal bands in the world?

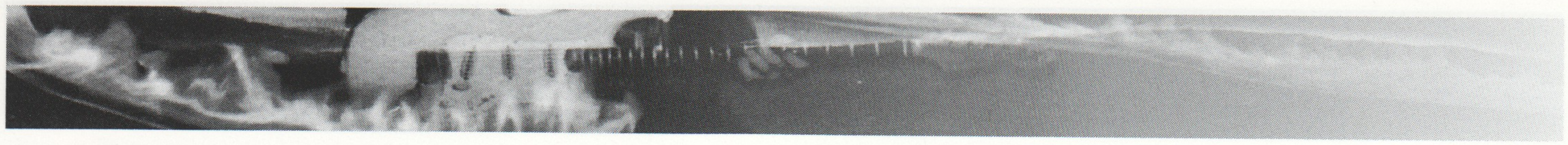
Gavin; If I said yes, I know a lot of people would think I'm arrogant,but I will say yes, because if I wouldn't think that way I wouldn't be here! We can lay the heavy riffs down, make no mistake about that. I've been there plenty of times listening to new parts and stuff like that, totally blowing me away. A lot of bands have guitarplayers who can play solos like you've never heard before and if you listen to them you go like; " great, this is



A; People make mistakes, an old saying, sad but true, has Bolt Thrower made mistakes?
Gavin; Everyone makes mistakes, but it's not about making them, it's about learning from them!

unbelievable." But for me and the rest, that doesn't mean shit, just give me three heavy chords and you've made my day, do you know what I mean? It's nice if you play well but you have to do it together, look at Steve Vai, he's got no band, just soli all the time!
Martin; It's always hard to say whether you're the best band because as soon as you print that down people go like urgh, fuckheads, but if you look at us you know you've paid for something, look at a band like Death, there's no show, he's just standing there with his guitar up against his breast and playing, give us some money and time and we'll give you a show you've never seen before! We, as a band, are all driven by perfection, wanting to make the best things ever made and I guess if you are that way and think that way you can call yourself the best because everybody tries to be the best, why shouldn't we?
A; Trying....
Martin; If we were given the money Pantera gets or Kiss got, believe me, they wouldn't stand a chance, so we still have to try!
Gavin; We can't compete on equal foot, financially, that's our problem, so, as said, we just have to create the best things to show the world we are the best.
A; Tiamat has a song called Gaia and in that songs there's a frase; " When Nature calls we all shall drown", do you think Nature will call, soon?
Gavin; Well, it's pretty much sussed out with Nature but the Earth will take care of itself, it has always done that, it has survived the Dinosaurs, the Stone Age, Brons Age, we'll be gone, it will still be here but if you mean something is bound to happen, I agree!
Martin; When Nature calls, I will try to keep my fucking head above the water, that's for sure!
Gavin; When Nature calls we'll have a big, fast fucking speed boat!
A; People make mistakes, an old saying, sad but true, has Bolt Thrower made mistakes?
Gavin; Everyone makes mistakes, but it's not about making them, it's about learning from them!
Martin; Like you said, everyone does, but as long as I learn from them things will only improve, I might fuck up a few lyrics here and there but I know what went wrong so I will make sure that it won't happen again, last night I fucked up, tonight it won't happen again but the best thing of all is as long as you know from yourself you've made a mistake you will try to do it perfect the next time, we don't have to tell our bandmembers that they made a mistake, they know!
A; Did you make a mistake with Pestilence?
Martin; I didn't make a mistake with Pestilence, Patrick made a mistake with me! At that time we were going for it, we had the same spirit B.T. has now It wasn't my mistake with Pestilence, neither was it with Asphyx, this may sound silly but if it had been all my foult, Bolt Thrower wouldn't have asked me to join their band but I made mistakes during my time with Pestilence, I drank too much, performing bad but I learned, I've never been drunk on stage again.
Gavin; They say experience everything, regret nothing, if he hadn't done Pestilence we wouldn't have met him so...
Martin; It was a good lesson for me, Pestilence built and opened the road for me and I took the band further but when I left and they continued with Testimony of the Ancients I felt sorry for them and the fans, they changed but it is always rotten for a band and the fans when a band falls apart, just like B.T. did in a way but life goes on and so does B.T.!
Gavin; A lot of good bands split because of problems within their band but also because they don't get enough support from their label, it is all about survival, trying to keep your head above the water, not only when Nature calls (!) but also in real live, thank God we are independant, we don't have a booking office telling us what to do, no record label pushing us to the edge, only good friends helping us with our ideas, making it work.
A; So, if all the bands lived and worked like B.T. does, there wouldn't have to be so many bands twisting their music style up side down, just because other people want them to?
Gavin; Exactly, because everyone wants what is hapening now, record labels searching in every country to find a band that does what's commercial these days, it's like the grass growing on the other side but as soon as bands have recorded the album that music is gone, someone else is pushing another style of music! Were glad we are independant, nobody tells us what to do, we've got a lot of different labels but everytime we left, we don't care, if we have to built our own label because nowbody wants us because we are fuckheads, fine, we do that, but Erache still wants us although we think they are chickenshit, they leave us alone! Every other label sucks too, all of them, if they want to do buisiness, fine but stay the fuck away from me afterwards, I don't want to end up like some dickface with a suite talking nice, say yes and please all the time, no thanks!
Martin; As long as you're free to do what you want, it won't effect your music and performances! Gavin; Maybe it's not a lot of power, but it feels real good.
A; Soccer....
Gavin; 11 people against 11 others with a piece of dead cow, running aroud for 2 hours, that's no game, that sucks. You know what would interest me? 11 on 11 to the death!
A; Will B.T. play on D.O.A.?
Martin; That's very difficult to say because first of all you have to be friends with the ones that organize the whole thing, it's all about side deals and who you know but I've had some problems with a few of them before during my time with Pestilence and Asphyx so I think B.T. can forget ever playing there.
Gavin; It's a festival, so that's not going to happen because we don't play at festivals, they just shuffle the bands up on the stage and off they go! I know that people want to see good bands and a lot of them too for their money, a lot of money, but to me it's all commercial Bullshit.
A; Please answer the following phrases with true or not true (you may expand a little here and there); " In Battle there's no law "(first album!) could be called a big mess....
Gavin; True and not true, because it's like the first album, a beginning band with a few ideas put together on a tape, three days to record and mix the album, it was pretty hectic, it was a pressure situation but it was the date, that's what I look at when I hear bands, the date. What was around in those days, there was no scene, death metal did not exist, Napalm Death was around some time but it was all just a bad timing, the music wasn't bad, not perfect but certainly not bad and ehm....(Gavin obviously likes to expand a lot...) Gavin; I'm done!
There should be a law against alcohol....
Gavin; Not true!
Martin (at the same time); Not true!
Gavin; Why alcohol and not pot and why pot and not heroine and why this and not that....
Martin; As soon as you start to make it illegal the criminal gangs will get their hands on the things that are not allowed and things will get out of control and then you have to fight such a big organization to end their business, so where is the end?
Gavin; To me, a man is someone who can hold his drink, I don't care whether he drinks fifty beers or not, just get a grip on what you're doing.
Earache is still number one.....
Gavin/Martin; Half the truth because no label is the number one label but Earache doesn't bother us too much.The only thing about record labels is that they get a lot of profit from the bands, look at the prizes they ask in the stores for an album, it's rediculous, if they'd sell the albums for half the prize people would buy records more easelly and the bands would become bigger more touring, better sound coming from their album, more fans buying t-shirts, stores selling more products etc. money for everyone, that's how it should be but you know it's not, me and Martin know it's not going to happen so why should we be nice to them? Goodnight!

And a good night it became, they were touring in Europe with Cemetary and Brutality (this supposed to have been Asphyx but you'll here more about that later) and showed me they still are (one of) the best band (s) !



Sentenced

by Marijn Vermunt

I talked to Taneli Jarva from Sentenced on their first European tour which they did with headliner Tiamat. Sentenced made two albums before their current album "Amok", which I have to admit, is a very good and refreshing album. Sentenced's music is progressive and original, they could be the second succes from Finland besides Amorphis.



Avalanche: Introduce yourself and the band and tell something of Sentenced history.
Taneli: I'm Taneli Jarva from Sentenced a metalband from Finland. We've been around since 1988. Miika Tenkula started Sentenced and in 1991 we recorded our debut album "Shadows Of The Past" on a shitty rip-off label somewhere in France. After that we recorded our second album "North From Here" in 1992/93 and we were signed by Century Media records. Right now, our present album "Amok" was released after which we got the chance to do our first European tour with Tiamat.

A: It's the first time that Sentenced are playing outside Finland. Are you satisfied so far?
Taneli: Yeah, especially Germany worked out OK. Due to Tiamat we got the chance to play some very interesting shows in good big places. I must admit that the market for the music we play, is in Germany, but we are looking forward to play in the Eastern countries like Poland. It's been going very well, we have no problems so far.

A: "Shadows Of The Past" and "North From Here" were musically different from "Amok". What was your motivation to make such a different album?
Taneli: We couldn't do the same thing over and over again. After "North From Here" we started writing songs, the music that turned out was different. We choose the songs which fittet the best for a new album. We had no idea what the new album would be like. At the end we were very surprised that this album was so different from "North From Here". We definitely are satisfied with it.

A: Besides Amorphis I can't mention other bands from Finland. Does that mean that the metal-scene in Finland is very small?
Taneli: Maybe Finnish bands do not break out that easily. Amorphis are doing very well just like ourselves. There are a couple of other bands like Impaled Nazarene which are doing OK. I also play in this band. I like doing it a lot. I guess these are the biggest bands from Finland.

A: Where were you born?
Taneli: I was born in Oulu, it's a town up in the north of Finland, but most of my life I lived in Rome, Italy.

A: What was your motivation to play music?
Taneli: I'm in the music, as long as I can remember. My first album was "Killers" by Iron Maiden, that was when I was 7/8 years old. After that my passion for music grew year after year. You can say that music is my life, that's why I'm in Sentenced and play music.

A: What has your prime priority; Sentenced or Impaled Nazarene?
Taneli: Of course Sentenced. I write the music, play guitar and I write most of the lyrics. Sentenced forfills most of my desires. In Impaled i'm only the bassplayer, the drummer writes most of the music.

A: Are the fans outside Finland different from the Finnish fans?
Taneli: It's hard to say. We have seen many different kind of audiences on this tour. Of course it's always the Tiamat audience because they're the headliners. Sometimes the audience is very wild, very bizar like jumping around and coming on stage doing harm to us. I really don't see too many differences.

A: What is it that you want to achieve?
Taneli: That's a tough question. I actually never thought about it. Do we have a goal?...as a good professional band get the succes we deserve. (laughs) A very diplomatic answer.

A: I think so too. It's a very easy answer!
Taneli: I never had these star dreams. I really don't want to be a rockstar. Like Kurt Cobain? (laughs). I just want to make music and when possible make our living out of it.

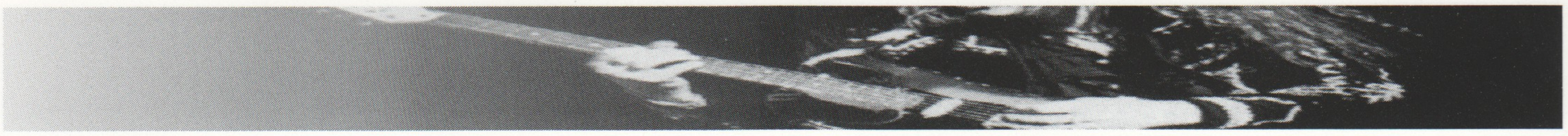
A: Plans for the near future?
Taneli: I heard about some festivals in spring and summer of this year.

A: Don't tell me you will play the Dynamo Open Air festival!
Taneli: I really wouldn't complain doing something like Dynamo or Roskilde. There were some rumors about the Full Of Hate festival. A tour is not possible because when we return to Finland there probably will police to pick me up because I must do the civil service in the Finnish army.

A: "We can't do two albums alike, we just can't do the same thing over again". This is a statement by you. Listning to this , I'm curious for the next album...
Taneli: Me too! We wrote some songs before the Amok album, which we definately want to release some time. I guess we'll bring something new again. We feel very comfortable with the kind of music we play, even more than before. I don't know which direction we will go.

A: Expectations?
Taneli: Expectations!? I don't know. Somebody said to me that this album would eighter be a total flop or sell good. We don't know.

A: Anything left to say?
Taneli: Yeah, Listen to our new album. When you think it's good than buy it!



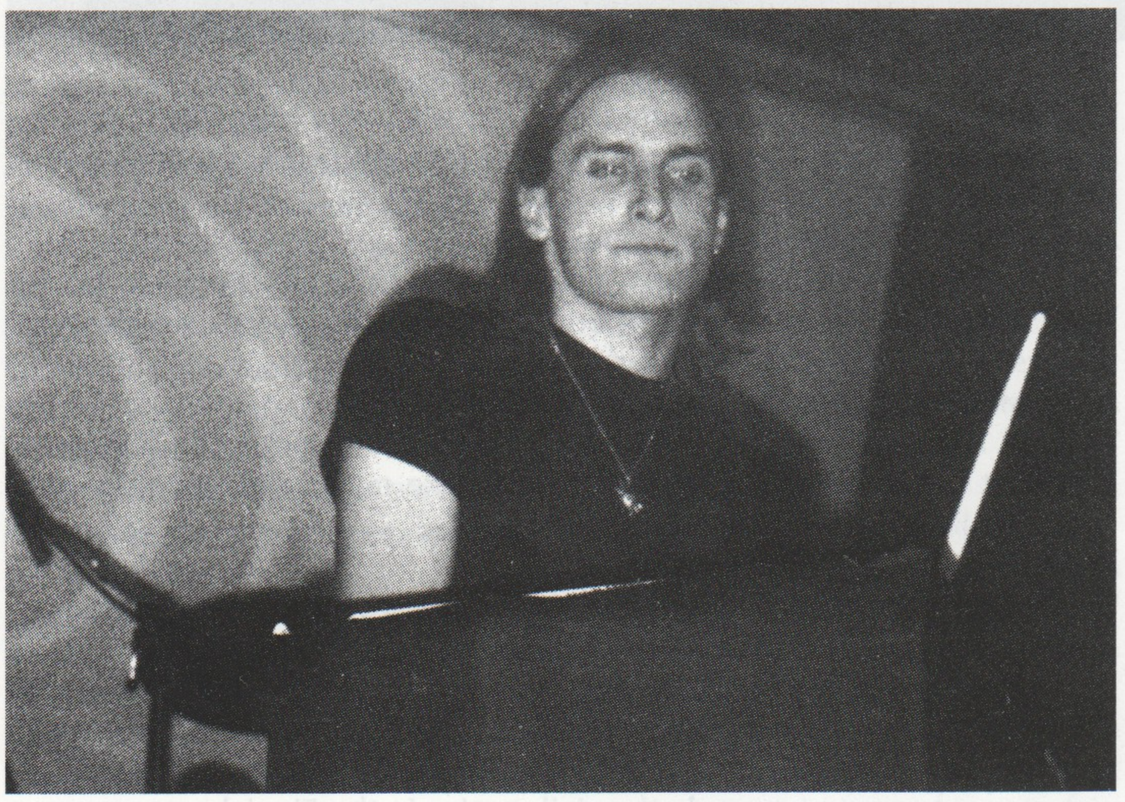
Tiamat

by Jesse Vermunt

THE SHOW MUST GO ON .....

With their new album Wildhoney, Tiamat is very close to become a band never to be forgotten. This album shows us that they have so many thoughts about music in general, so they've combined their abillities of writing music in a way it's hard for me to ask things about the album, nevertheless Johan told us all about their album and the way things are going now and will be going in the future.....

" The critizism towards the album is great, it's 100 times better than we were used to, they've accepted our new way of making music, asked me many times if there were reasons for this musical change, well there are no reasons, I don't care what it sounds like, we just play the music we like. Me and the bass player wrote the music, he did most of the parts and I'm very pleased it worked out this way, he wrote music that I like very much, although the lyrics are still in my hands. I still write them as well as I do all the promotion of Tiamat, the selling of the T-shirts, the light show, everything and that's maybe for a lot of people reason to think that I'm Tiamat. But that's not true at all, I need the other bandmembers, without them I, we couldn't have pulled it off this way."



" In the end I'm the one that makes most of the decisions, yes, but that's not more than usual because in every business you need someone that makes decisions, like a magazine for instance, there's always someone at the top deciding what will be in the magazine or not, I'm that guy too.
Every band needs someone who controls things, who creates, I created the concept of Tiamat, there should be no borders, no limit in what you want to do, what you can do, we're trying to get to that point that we will be totally independant to the outside. But it's hard to get there. You get influenced by a lot of people around you, managers, record labels, we are longing for that point , so we don't have to care anymore."
" Will there be a way back? I don't know, Tiamat will reach the top, the end, and that will be the end of it all, the end of Tiamat. I think when you start somewhere and you've reached your goal, you have to stop, although it's a big part of my life, there are always things that you get attracted to you know. I'm not going to die when Tiamat dies, there will be a lots of new things, new inspirations. Everytime we are in Europe, we're touring a lot, about four years now, people seem to see me as Johan from Tiamat but I'm just Johan from Stockholm, nothing more, nothing less. I'd like to do many things after the band but now I'm still with Tiamat, playing with a lot of fun, but it gives problems too you know. When we are on stage we put up a show for them, for us. I don't want to go to bed every night, taking with me the frustrations built up every day, I want them out of my body, my spirit, my life.Sometimes one show lookes more agressive than the other,for example nature. Nature reacts to things that happen around her. Sometimes I even hope Nature will react to certain things, because we treat Nature so bad. I think we'll get what we deserve, in my oppinion that's not pessimistic, quite the opposite, it's optimistic because Nature will survive, survive humans. One life is not important, an African guy starves, dies at this very moment but that's not important. At this moment there are too many people living on this planet, we need things like catasrophes, disasters, famine to survive. If we would all become 110, the world would be a fucking chaos! Everytime we do something to compete with Nature, if there's a disease, we will find a cure, we get A.I.D.S, we will find something to fight it but Nature will strike back over and over again, for instance, we are manipulating with genes nowadays to create the perfect human, to get rid of diseases before they even exist, why? The quality of the sperm of man is not the same as it used to be. In the 60s the quality was twice as good as it is today, so we wont win the battle, we cannot win from the future. That's also the reason I do not know what is going to happen with Tiamat. We play what we like, the things we are doing on the stage, we don't think about that. We've made the most succesfull album of Tiamat by far. For us it's great. We've made a complete different album like people were used to hear from us. Century Media took a lot of risk by pumping so much money into this album, into us. They thought, there should be space for at least one band like us, but this doesn't mean everything because C.M. is not the biggest label there is. So they are depending on us, yes. We sold a lot of records already, over 50,000 in Germany alone. This is easy for me to say, I know, but I could lie about the truth if I'd want that. The truth is that we sold 50,000 copies of Wildhoney in Germany. For the rest of the world? I don't know, maybe we've reached 100,000 already, I don't know. We're not like other bands, saying we sold more than we did. For example; to enter the charts in Germany, you must sell more than 10,000 copies. Morbid Angel said they sold over 80,000 copies there, maybe, but why weren't they not in the charts then? When we asked the distributor, it seemed they sold about 12,000 copies!"
" Wildhoney sold more than Astral Sleep and Clouds together, that says enough. For me Tiamat is making music like we did on Astral.. and Clouds. Yes, it's about building our own religion. You're right when you say that when you put all the lyrics next to eachother, you get a story, the story of Tiamat; a bible. When we did the other albums, we kind a closed the Old Testament. With Wildhoney we opened the thirst chapter of the New Testament, we are getting closer.This is the only way we will go to the top, keep on making and creating something else, trying to do things people do not expect. Like the things I did tonight. I played some sort of drums, connected to the keyboard. I mean, that's different. Like on a few songs I don't use my guitar. I just stand there, singing (Gaia, Do you dream of me, red.). It feels great because you don't have to use all the instruments at the same time. If it sounds good without one or two instruments, why not?"
" 25th floor.....This was a song written by me and the producer. It's an introduction to Gaia, same tempo, same piano sound as the intro of Wildhoney. It's pretty hard to understand these different tunes because it's totally different than the song "Do you dream of me". Just acoustic guitars with a lot of emotions behind it, in the voice. This song was written for and about the difficulties in a relationship, like dreams. In dreams, things happen you can't get any grip on, they happen, whether you like it or not. Dreams cannot be translated, they are there, but you will never know the truth. If you say things to eachother, about love and faith, you have to accept that. Accept what the other person says, but is it the truth? I want my girlfriend to dream of me, she says she does, but is she telling the truth? I cannot enter her mind, twist it up and down to find out whether she's telling the truth, I'd like it though, I whish I was able to enter someone's mind and find out what he or she is thinking, words don't mean enough to me, thoughts do. I know I should trust someone when he or she is telling the truth, according to them, but it's hard, very hard, but..... the show must go on....."





Depressive AGE

by Gabrielle Weerman

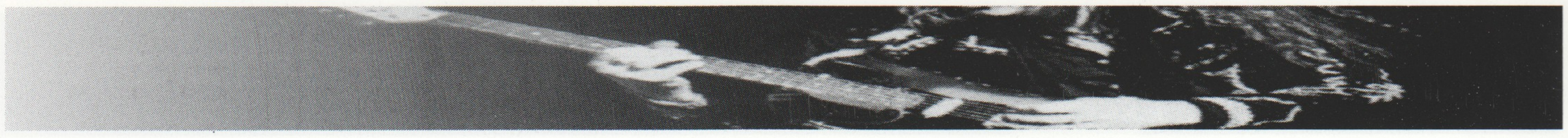
EATS LIVING NAKED SNALES, WANTS TO WALK NAKED IN THE SKANDINAVIAN SNOW. IS THIS GUY SURE HE'S GOT A WEAK SOUL? ANYWAY, INTRODUCING JAN LUBITZKI SINGER OF DEPRESSIVE AGE.

For whose souls are weak

A:You're on tour now, how's that going?
It's a German club tour, we have a few days off now, it's going okay. There are about 300 people at the shows, that's okay for this time of year 'cause there are a lot of concerts now.
A:And how is the CD selling?
In Germany we sold like 10,000, it's not bad, it's not good.
A:About the CD, you probably don't know it because you wrote them, but do you know that your lyrics are pretty hard to understand?
I hope not, but yeah I know that maybe they are a bit difficult to understand sometimes. People can have there own interpretation of the lyrics. There is a lot of freedom there. But do you have an example for what you think is difficult?



A:Like for starters "the Subway Tree".
Ah, the Subway Tree, well that is a tree under the villages in the big cities like New York. In these villages live artists, outlaws and all the people that have a longing for darkness. Sometimes I think it would be good to live there. Down, deep down under the cities, and to find myself a lady,a love and to let grow a subway tree together. A subway tree is a tree for live to plant. It's not easy to understand 'cause it's dark and a tree needs the brightness. It's the fiction of my soul.
A:What is the song 'Hut' about?
It's a song about a hut were I lived in my childhood with my mother, she died not so long ago. When I go to this hut I can smell and see the feelings from the times when I lived there with her.
A:And this symbol with the bird eating the little people, has got something to do with it too...
Yes, that is the landlord with his magpie. The landlord wants to own mother's hut. He is greedy, the magpie is his slave and this magpie is very dangerous to this small people. They are both very greedy, it's a symbol for the fact that when somebody dies, the family wants to have the money. I thought about the greed of my family when somebody died.
A:Neptune Roars, what's it about?
About the reich were Neptune lives. He is mistreated by the industry and the fish have problems because of it too. But they defend themselves and Neptunes shows his prong. It strikes back at us because we have problems when we eat the poisened fish.
A:Is it about the cruelness of the world?
Yes, and I mix fantasy with reality.
A:Who is this Peter-guy from the Eternal Twins video? Is he from another band?
No, Peter is an old friend of us. He helped us in the early times with the lyrics. We wanted him as our singer, I was a drummer, but he didn't have enough time to be in a band. He studies physical things, so I became the singer.
A:Are you gonna do more songs with him?
No, probably not. We don't want it to be like that Eternal Twins-thing all the time. If we would do a dialogue with two singers the whole time it would get boring. It was just a one-time thing. The song isn't very typical for Depressive Age anyway, but it's okay, it was good to come on MTV with it.
A:Will you perform that song live on stage?
Yes, not all the gigs on this tour but if Peter has time we take him with us and we do it in the live-programme.
A:You should bring him with you when you come to Holland.
Yeah, he's got a real animal voice, he. (I didn't tell Jan this but I think this is the best video and song ever!!).
A:And is the new video 'Friends within' made by the same people?
The cutters are the same, yes. But it's a new videocrew.
A:What exactly was it that you put in your mouth in that video?
It was a real living slak (does he mean a snale?). It wasn't good for my health.
A:What did it taste like?
It was slimy, ekelhaft! I swallowed it...
A:Lyer!
I really did! I even got ill after it. I didn't wanna kill it but it was not possible to get it out of my mouth. So I ate it. Sorry. But it wasn't good for my health because it had eaten poisened grass. This place were we made the video there was a radio-active soon, so the grass was poisened. Five days later I had to go to the doctor because I had real pain in me. It was the poison what the slak had eaten. But it was a mistake to eat it, I'm not proud of it.
A: Does the mirror in the video have a special meaning?
Yes, it tells something about bad times in my mind. When my friend inside of me was not my friend. This song is saying that everybody should try to find his friend inside. It's the only way to be good to other people when you like yourself. I know when I was not my friend it was when I had some problems with alcohol-stuff and other things. But now that is over, I feel better and I hope that people that have this problem will try to get their friend inside back. This is what the mirror stands for.
A:But in other songs he is your friend, right? Like when he burns the ropes for your suicidal idea?
Oh yes, that is when my friend came back to me. He burns the ropes for my suicidal idea, so he burns my idea for suicide. So we dance around the fire and we are back together again. The message to all the weak souls is that maybe it will be a little salvation for their souls.
A:You mean to fight in yourself?
Yes.
A:And what about the book?
The book symbols the remembrances of childhood. Your first mistakes are in your childhood. My mistake was that I had no self-confidence. It was not so easy for me because I was a very small, weak boy, so I had problems with



the stronger ones. Now it's ok, now I'm really tall and not so weak.

A:Do you live from the money you make with Depressive Age?

Yes, but it's not so easy, we haven't got a lot of money but it's okay. The other ones work as barkeepers, but I don't go to work, I work only for music. I'm a bit lazy. But if I had some problems with money I would go to work.

A:And do you have any hobbies?

Yes, first hobby is music and I like sports too, like badminton and soccer. I also like to read books. Sports? So you are not really lazy? Only lazy to work? Yes.

A:What kind of music do you listen to?

I like metal stuff and Dead can Dance, a dark wave band with very mystic music, then Depeche Mode and old stuff, British heavy metal like Judas Priest and Saxon.

A:And with what band would you like to go on tour? Not with Depeche Mode I guess.

Not bad, but I think it's not possible. I'd like bands like Life of Agony, Ozzy Osbourne or Tiamat.

A:What do you think about satanism?

It's for the younger ones, about 16 till 19 years old. I don't like it.

A:Do you believe in something else?

Sometimes yes, sometimes no, I'm not sure. But I believe in love.

A:If you could be an animal, which animal would you like to be then?

I have to think about that one... I think I'd like to fly, so a bird. The dream to fly is good.

A:You said you used to play drums. Do you play other instruments too?

I also play a little bit guitar and keyboards. I have a lot of studio-stuff here in my flat, a record-machine and computerprogramms to make music.

A:But Depressive Age doesn't have computermusic, does it?

No, but maybe we use more keyboards the next time. Why not? We like keyboards. If we have some good sounds that fit D.A. it's good for us.

A:World in veins is a song about drugs, right? What do you think about drugs do you use it?

It's a song about the drugs-society in the big cities. I only take beer. I don't like to take other drugs. I'm not so strong, I don't want to loose my mind, so. But I don't wanna tell people that they shouldn't take drugs, everybody can do whatever he wants.I don't want to be killed by it,like I wrote in Port Graveyard.It's about my longing to die in the desert sand. Longing for a feeling that nobody is there to bury you. So that the wind in the desert buries you. I think it's nice to think about it, but it's just a fantasy. I can't really explain what my feelings were when I wrote those lyrics. I think I was a little bit sad. But now I am pro-life.

A:And what is it with this spermbank deal?

There was a time when I had no money and I went to the spermbank. So I know there are children of mine somewhere and I never have the chance to learn to know them and that's a shame. Sometimes it hurts.

A:But you get paid for that?

Yes, it was for the money only. I thought a long time about it. But I thought it's okay to do it. It's for people that can't have children so now they have one of mine.(lucky women)

A:You used to be in a band called Blackout. What's the difference with Depressive Age?

D.A. has three of the Blackout members. We were more a coverband. We did songs from Judas Priest, Metallica, Slayer etc. because those bands didn't come to east Berlin.

A:What do you think of German metal bands?

There are a lot of good bands but it's difficult to learn to know them, because America rules the world. German bands are usually the second choice, so.

A:You think America rules Europe too?

Yes, they do. And not only the music business but in everything.

A:But you went to America once?

Yes, but not with the band. They did tell me there that this is real German music we make and I was proud of it.

A:They meant that as a compliment?

Yes, it was a compliment. Because a lot of German bands try to make American music and that's not good. Because of that they are the second choice. We don't wanna be on that side because those are not our roots.

A:About the CD artwork. It's a person hanging on a rope on a question-mark. Do you mean with it something like 'Is suicide the solution?'

Yes, it's a question suicide or not? This album is for the weak souls. We wanna give people a little salvation and also with the song' Friends within' we wanna tell them to help themselves. Not to support them in their suicide feelings but to give them some salvation.

A:What do you think about suicide?

I think it's a bad solution.

A:You never considered it?

No, not really.

A:Not even when you were in jail?(He was caught while trying to escape from East-Berlin to the West part when the wall was still there. He was in prison for almost a year).

No.

A:How was it ?

It was shit, real shit. But it was a good experience to learn to know the souls of these people there. There were murderers and political criminals. A lot of different kind of souls. But it was hard in there.

A:What did you do all day?

I cut potatoes. I'm a good potato-cutter now(laughs).

A:Anything else?

Yes, there was this guitar and I was fighting with another guy for it. There was only one guitar so everybody wanted to play it. So I only had it a few hours a week.

A:Is the song Rusty Cells about that time?

No, it's about the promotion for the Western life-style. I think about all this progress and sometimes I wonder if it is a good thing. Sometimes it's good but sometimes progress is hurting our world.

A:About the song Mr.Pain, don't you feel pain anymore?

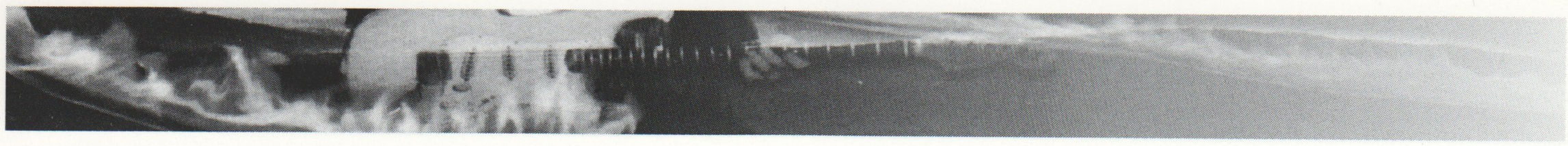
Sometimes I like to have a little bit pain in my life, so I can feel the good things better. I have a little bit longing for bad or sad things, but on the other hand I like the positive things in life. Sometimes I want to feel no pain and then I think about going to an ice-cold senery like the Scandinavian woods, naked without any clothes on and nothing can hurt me, not the wind, not the coldness of the winter, nothing and I go there and I think 'wow, that's nice'. It's a dream.

A:You are very open about your feelings.

It's a little bit soul-striptease, I know. I'm very open about everything. If you ask me something I try to tell you all what I think about it. Especially with my friends.

Well, I would like to know even more about him and his band, but one-and a half hour as we talked is already pretty long. Now I only hope that their record company is like he said 'probably not as greedy as the landlord and his magpie'.

A:What do you think about suicide?
I think it's a bad solution.



Immortal

by Alexander Enneking

Immortal definitely is one of the most well known black metal bands. The incredibly fast and intense aggressive albums this band makes, are still unique. After realeasing the great album "Pure Holocaust", Immortal recently released their third and even stronger one called "Battles In The North". I talked to guitarist Demonaz and asked him some questions about this album, the touring and some other stuff.

Avalanche: Why was it so quiet around Immortal before Battles In The North was released?
Demonaz: We have been very busy writing new material, the recordings and all kind of stuff. But the last months we started doing more interviews.
A: Are you satisfied with the result of Battles In The North?
Demonaz: Yes I am. It is the best album Immortal has ever made so far. The songs and the structure are more improved then before. There is also even more aggression in "Battles In the North" compared to our previous albums.
A: Who wrote the lyrics?
Demonaz: Abbath wrote one lyric for the new album and I wrote the other ones.
A: Where does the inspiration come from?
Demonaz: I developed the things that I wrote in the past. I like to write in the winter. The winter time gives a positive mood for writing new songs.
A: How important is Immortal to you?
Demonaz: Very important. The only work Abbath and I have is our band, nothing else. It's our life. We don't want to do anything else!
A: Do you like to be on tour?
Demonaz: Touring is sometimes good if the conditions are perfect, but when the conditions are bad, which regularly is the case, I obviously don't like to be on tour. I also don't like to play with so many bands. I don't have any preferations regarding any particular support band. Of course the public also variates from location to location. There were times that the audience is great. But sometimes you are standing in front of a bunch of boring people. That happened on the last day of our tour in Germany.
A: When will Immortal go on tour again and who will be the drummer?
Demonaz: We don't know exactly when, probably it won't take too long. We do have lots of opportunaties to go on tour, people want us in the U.S.A., Europe and Australia, but we have to rehearse all the new stuff first. We are already writing new material for the new album. Maybe we will go on tour this summer, we haven't decided yet. The drummer will be Hellhammer from Mayhem, but he probably won't be a permanent member of Immortal, he will help us out with the live shows.
A: How did you get involved in the black metal scene and have you played in other bands before Immortal.
Demonaz: Oh, it is a long time ago, I liked this kind of music ever since I was six or seventeen. I first started playing in a blackmetal band when I was twenty-five. The bands I played in where shitty bands. What we did was just practice boring tracks, nothing else. I started playing with Abbath, and we founded Immortal in the beginning of 1990.
A: What do you think of the black metal scene nowadays?
Demonaz: I think that there are a lot of young blackmetal bands who are trying to do what Mayhem, Darkthorne, Burzum and Immortal allready did. There are lots of bands who want to do the same things over and over again, my opinion is that bands should find their own identity, they are imitating to much from other bands.
A: Is there other music you like except black metal?
Demonaz: Yeah, there are some things I like. Strange things; music that gives you something, if it's catchy and has a real dark atmosphere.
A: Is there a favourite band?
Demonaz: No, I haven't got any favourite bands. I had some when I was younger. I like the older stuff. I really enjoy listening to albums from the early blackmetal years.
A: What is your opinion about satanism?
Demonaz: It is nothing for me really, satanism doesn't give me anything.
A: How do you feel about bands who consider themselves satanists?
Demonaz: They can do what ever they want, I don't care. A lot of people just speak about it and make propaganda for the band and say that they are satanists. If they want to do things,they should do it for themselves. It's boring to see people like Glen Benton acting childish through the media just to get attention!





Venom

by Richard Karsmakers

After brief periods of Kiss adorations, around the time when the seventies changed into the eighties, I went on to Saxon. From Saxon, who were getting increasingly wimpy, I took a leap that was not as big to me as it was to my father (and his tortured ears), because that was when I started digging Venom seriously. I have in the mean time - after 12 years or something - recovered from the ordeal. I have known weeks, even months, spent without listening to Venom at all, really, and I never even got cold turkey symptoms. But it's a fact that Venom is as much part of my history as it is part of a great many heavy metal fans as well as a lot of current-day bands that have been influenced by them in some way or other. I guess the ultimate proof of the latter is the fact that two different tribute albums have been released in the latter half of last year. What better to do other than to try to interview them now, what with Abaddon having been involved with the production of one of those tribute albums and rumours abounding about a Venom reunion?

What did you do prior to Venom, and what happened during the relatively silence that enveloped Venom a few years ago?

Abaddon: The period prior to Venom is very easy because none of us had been in a band before. Venom was the first group we got together in and it kindof worked out pretty well how we hoped from the start. That was kindof good for us because we assumed that happened with every band; you got together, you rehearsed a few times and you get a deal. That's not how it happens, which we found out a few years later. It is really quite a difficult business to be in. But it was all a bit easy for us in the beginning. The period after when Venom were selling a lot of records was a case of my discovering other areas of the music business. I got involved with management and owning a studio and owning a record company. And the other members of the band were always more interested in things like body building and this kind of thing. And they all went off to do that kind of thing in that time. Mantas is a big guy now. He has his own kind of gymnasium and a lot of pupils. It takes up a lot of time. Cronos teaches a kind of aerobics. Whenever I speak to him about that, he argues that he has a room full of nearly naked women for almost every hour most nights of the week, and I can't really argue with that. It's something the band, apart from myself, was always interested in. They wanted to make a living away from music. My interest has always been with music. I manage a band called Skyclad, probably the most important band we have in the books at this moment. And we've just done the Killers album, which is Paul Di'Anno's band. And we're working with John Sloman at the moment; he used to be the singer with Gary Moore. We're kindof concentrating very hard on the record label at the moment. We've had an offer to play the Dynamo Open Air festival with the original line-up, with Cronos and Mantas, and we're having meetings every week now to see if we can do this. And Andre Verhuysen, who promotes the Dynamo festival, is coming over in about two weeks to kindof put everything straight. We originally talked about it kindof this time last year and we agreed that it wasn't gonna happen, and a few times since then, but it's a very very good chance now.

Where did the name Abaddon come from and what does it stand for?

Abaddon: When we put the band together we all agreed straightaway that we didn't want to use normal names, normal rock star names. We kinda wanted to create characters. The name Abaddon comes from the bible, it's the guardian to the gates of hell. We were all very much into the Satanic Bible at the time and it's one name that I found was a common link between the spirit worlds of the religions of Satanism and the Bible. And it seemed quite good to me at the time, a good character to build for that part in the band. "At War With Satan", our third album, has quite a large part that was written about that character, Abaddon.

Some people may know that in reality you're called Tony Bray. When was Tony born?

Abaddon: He was born in Newcastle, in the North of England, of 17th September 1960. It's a very industrial area of England and it was built on shipyards and coal mines and that kind of thing, at least in that time. It's a very hard area to grown up in, which is why the music we did was kinda more violent than other stuff in the early eighties. Heavy metal music was very safe, it was kinda Iron Maiden and Whitesnake and that kind of thing. Venom's music was very violent. I think it had to do with the kind of upbringing we've had. It was al rented houses and our fathers had to work for very many hours for very little pay so a lot of anger and frustration came into the characters and we managed to transform that into the music easily without having to "perform", if you know what I mean. That's why many people thought Venom was so bad and kindof crazy, because we weren't doing it as performers; it came natural to us.

What can we expect to hear from Venom in the near future?

Abaddon: The big thing is the Dynamo festival. We've been asked to play another four festivals around the world and one of those is at Red Rock in America. And a Japanese festival, and one in Argentina.

What about future recordings? Will they be in the industrial vein, like those sortof new tracks on "In the Name of Satan", the Venom tribute album?

Abaddon: The new tracks were kindof down to me. You know I have a recording studio down here and I was messing with some stuff for Venom. And I wrote eight or nine songs which were very industrial and I thought were very heavy. I didn't know particularly how people would listen to them and think of them of Venom or not. So when we did the tribute album it was a great chance to put a couple of songs on there to gauge people's reactions. This new material didn't necessarily have to go out as a new Venom album. Maybe as a solo album, or another name, or maybe I'll chuck it in the bin. It's all the Venom drum samples and loops from my kindof early days, kindof 15 years ago, built into new rhythms with new industrial guitars so it kindof has the darkness of early Venom but is more vicious. A lot of people have said it's possibly just jumping on the industrial bandwagon which is going round now. There is a distint possibility of an album with the original band, that depends on how well the live shows go, and depends on the record company wanting to get involved with us again. Because the thing with Venom is that from the very beginning we were on a company called Neat Records. There was no financial help from them. The band was touring big places and selling these out but there was no financial support to keep us out there and do it again. We did pretty good but we couldn't stay out there. I mean it didn't have to be huge, we didn't need millions and millions of pounds pumped into cocaine abuse and videos. But we were running 3 or 4 coaches and 5 trucks and it was obviously very expensive. We were putting everything that we got paid for the shows back into doing it. And in the end the band didn't get any money and we were still signing on the dole in England. What I got from it personally was that I was getting contacts. I didn't realise that at the time but when I was doing my own things I just had to call up and say, "Hi, I'm Tony Bray, I'm Abaddon from Venom," and people are prepared to talk to me and I could talk to the important people directorly instead of through someone else. So I did gain somet-



hing from it personally, but we never got any money out of it. The whole point was to give the crowd absolutely everything. We always said that if we could party really hard after the gig we hadn't given everything on stage. That's what we always tried to do.

When you look back at what Venom did in the early days, are you not in a way ashamed? After all, people have been known to label Venom as "immature".

Abaddon: For all the people who would say that we were immature or who would say that we weren't excellent musicians there were a lot of bands, like Paradise Lost and Sepultura, Pantera, Metallica, Slayer, there's Megadeth, and they'd say Venom was the most important band to come out of England since, I'd say, Judas Priest. One of the most influential heavy metal bands. We played 4 or 5 concerts in Brazil where Sepultura supported us, those were very big concerts, and it was kindof a breakthrough for the band. Metallica, before they were supporting us, were kindof playing in garages and stuff. The Americans need something to come over from Europe, to come to America, to make the American sit up, and then the Americans do it better, they do it bigger, they do it with more clout, more money. But they always looked at places like England, they looked at Germany, to Holland, sometimes to France, to look for something that's gonna be different. That's why I get so involved with Skyclad, because they're so different, so original, and I'm very proud of that. And they're not doing huge sales and they're not so important right now, maybe, but at least it's straight from the heart. But we'll be taking them to America and the Americans are going to be seeing this kind of thing and, you know, some people are going to ridicule it and some people are going to say, "no, no, this is really important". Venom was like that. And Slayer was laughed at for 3 or 4 years before they got a major deal. And now nobody would laugh at Slayer.

The name Abaddon comes from the bible, it's the guardian to the gates of hell.

Would you agree that Slayer, together with Venom, were the most important early thrash/speed/black metal bands?

Abaddon: I think we've got to include Metallica, and not so much Megadeth, and Anthrax, and also a band called Raven, who didn't get so much recognition perhaps. They played great speed metal, and went out with Anthrax and Anvil and they were playing great stuff. Then they signed to a big company in America and the company tried to change them and it didn't work out. They were from the same background as us, of a similar age and a similar upbringing, and people who would listen to Raven, who were excellent musicians and different from Venom, would see where the intensity and violence came from, that kind of industrial background. I think you have to have that. I mean, look at Sepultura. They wouldn't have been as angry if they hadn't been brought up in the police state they talk about so much in interviews and whatever. I mean, you come from the Bay Area, San Francisco, and your mummy and daddy are gonna buy you a car and a house, it's quite hard to get some violence out there and make it believable. The Americans draw from other places, I think.

Don't you think you might be betraying the old fans by swinging around the rudder of your musical direction like that?

Abaddon: To be fair, I don't think there's a lot of the old fans left. If we just re-made "Black Metal" again I think they'd think it's a cop-out. I think they'd want us to explore new intensities and all. Venom is thrash metal, is speed metal, is death metal, but none of these words had been used before. Nobody called a band a thrash band or a speed metal band. You see, we would do a speed song with satanic lyrics, or a song about perversion, nothing to do with satanism at all, with lyrics about how Mantas thought of his primary school teacher, when he used to see her in class. It was about there being no boundaries other than the intensity and, you know, being over the top. I can't see how a band that set out to explore musical parameters and redefine intensity, I can't see why...you know, we did disco stuff on albums, just to take the piss out of it, doing it to show how more intense it was then what was available in 1980 or whatever. This is only my angle on things, and there's three of us. When we get together the chemistry will appear again. I would present a harder edge but someone else would say, "no, Venom is more about black metal, we need to be more in the old vein". It's this kind of argument, the internal fighting, that kept Venom interesting. There's no chance of it happening, but if we'd all be the best of friends before the Dynamo festival this year, it would be a shit gig. But I know we'll be argueing, we'll be fighting like cat and dog, and it's gonna make a very interesting concert. That's why Venom was never very good at touring, because you can't go out and do one gig and say "well, that's it, fuck you, I'm going home", you know, you got a commitment for the next three months. And if you've got a safe kindof family unit that goes to the next concert and does it that's not interesting for us. We played our best concerts at times like that, there was always the one-off gig that was better than the rest because we fought.

I guess you could say you are in many ways a part of the music industry, what with your being in a band and managing and recording and everything. What do you hate about the music industry?

Abaddon: The worst part is pressure and hype. If everybody could just pick up a Guns'n'Roses album and like it, without having to realise there's 47 million quid being spent on the video. The industry belongs too much to the machine, and not to the bands.

What invention do you hope people will come up with soon?

Abaddon: It's not an invention as such, but I hope they come up with a cure for AIDS, because it's something which affects my industry possibly more than the others. It has happened within my lifespan and it's a plague on the earth which we don't seem to be able to get rid of. We kindof promote promiscuity more - we have men openly kissing on British TV before 9 o'clock- but we can't go and buy hard core porn in England yet, and we can't go to a prostitute, but we can see two men kissing and we regularly see people injecting drugs and this kind of thing. If at least we could get rid of the death aspect and it would go back to being itchy or scabby, you know, *treatable*. My young son is 14 now and I'm having to say things to him, and I'd hate it if he made some slip one night with a young girl and he'd die. It's not an invention, but a serum that would stop people dying from sexually transmittable diseases would be nice.

What's your ultimate ambition, the kind of thing you'd like to be remembered by?

Abaddon: Being fair. I'd love to think of people to look at me and say "what an asshole", "what a prick", "what a nice guy", whatever, but that everybody would at least think I was fair. People may not have agreed with what I thought, but at least I was fair.



Fates Warning

by Marijn Vermunt and Richard Karsmakers

When did I get into Fates Warning? I don't recall exactly. I do know that I'd been walking around literally for ages with the knowledge that they were very much like Queensryche (or at least supposedly so) and that I should dig them one day. At a certain instance, Metal Blade released the first four albums as two double CDs at single CD price, so I decided to grasp my chance and got them. They were really good CDs. A friend of mine had "Parallels" so I taped that off him, the day after which I decided I liked that tape so much that I actually got the CD, too. "Perfect Symmetry" was the only album that lacked in my collection, so I reckoned I might get that one as well. Ever since that time I've liked Fates Warning and grouped themtogether with bands like Rush, Queensryche and Dream Theater in the much appreciated "progressive rock" genre.

Originally this interview was supposed to be done by Marijn, but eventually he turned out not to be available on that particular late afternoon and as I was there to do Dream Theater anyway he made me take care of the honours. Massacre contact person Jaap Wagemaker was communicated with, who made a 15:30 appointment for me with main Fates Warning man Jim Mattheos. Jim was an hour and a half late, apparently after having found the way to Utrecht's best record shop, White Noise. But eventually he turned up and sat down to have a rather relaxing talk. I immediately started with the usual question...

Allright, when and where were you born?

Jim: On November 22nd 1962, in Springfield, Massachusetts.

What did you do before Fates Warning? I believe you were called Misfit for a while?

Jim: Only very briefly, for about 6 months or 4 months. Myself and Steve Zimmermann, our first drummer, had kindof a cover band together, we played Accept and early Scorpions, Angelwitch, Picture and Iron Maiden and stuff like that. We played together for a while and decided we wanted to do originals. Through various channels we hooked up with John (Arch, ED.) and Vic (Victor Arduini, guitar, ED.). I think I met Steve through an ad in the paper actually. I was starting to get into a band and he was looking for a cover band that was into the obscure things we were doing.

I guess you could say that you are the most important music writer in Fates Warning. I'd like to know who influences you most.

Jim: These days I don't really think I am consciously influenced by a lot of people. Sure, subconsciously I am influenced by a lot of people. When I think of infuences I think of people that originally made me want to write and become a guitar player. And then I go back to my really early influences, early seventies, like Genesis and even [Black] Sabbath and Rainbow and things like that. And you don't see those influences in our music now, at least I don't think you will.

Now let's get back in time to 1984, to your first album, "Night on Brocken". Why was the original artwork replaced?

Jim: Well, you've obviously seen the original artwork, which was really hideous. We were never really happen with it. I believe Metal Blade at the time thought it might boost sales if we did another cover for it. So they did a second cover which was almost as bad as the first one. The second one





was a witch burning at the stake, a kindof greyish blue cover. Then there came a third one, with the moon and the logos. We didn't have control over the second two. We just happened to see them in a record store one day, so we had no control over that.

Forward to 1988, was there a special idea behind the entire B side of "No Exit", the long song "The Ivory Gate of Dreams"?

Jim: Of course, yeah. This is hard for me to remember and it's difficult to catch a 22 minute song in a brief conversation. I think it had to do a lot with losing your idealism and your dreams as you get older, finding out that you're not going to be able to do all the things you wanted to do. I guess the current of disillusion runs through the whole song. Of course I was disillusioned with the music business, that's always a big theme. And just personal goals. I am sure everyone has personal goals when they're young. You're trying for those things and reaching for those goals and due to circumstances you don't always get what you want. It's just the process of growing up.

Some people say "Inside Out", your latest album, is very much or perhaps even too much like your previous effort, "Parallels". What's your reaction to that?

Jim: I think there's a grain of truth in that. A lot of times there's a drastic change from album to album. From "Awaken the Guardian" to "No Exit" there was a drastic change, and from "No Exit" to "Perfect Symmetry" there was a drastic change. I guess a lot of times it had to do with the writer, myself, being not really happy with the previous effort. Whereas "Parallels", for the first time, I can speak for myself, I was really happy with the album. Even two years later I can listen to the album and feel really pleased with it the whole way through. And due to that, when it became time to write the next album, I didn't feel a great need to go off in a different direction, I was very happy with the style of music I'd done on the last album. To be totally objective about it, I think it might be a bit too close to "Parallels", I think I can say that. It's not bad, though, because it's my favourite album to this point.

I understand you've released a compilation album. Please tell me why fans should or should not get it.

Jim: I hope they'll get it. There are some things on there that the ardent Fates Warning fans would like to hear. There's a remix done by Jimbo Barton of "When I Say Goodbye". It's a really interesting remix actually, it takes a really different direction from what's on the album. There's an unreleased song from "Inside out" which is actually kindof an early version of "Shelter Me". Em...what else is on there? There's a version of "At Fate's Hands" on there called "At Fate's Fingers" which was a re-recording of that song for the "Guitar for the Practising Musician" compilation album (Volume 2, ED.). It's instrumental,and there's a few extra guitar solos and a few bits that we left off when we originally recorded it, that got mixed back in.

Some time ago there was this story going around about your wanting to do a solo project with former Fates Warning singer John Arch. Is that in the fridge and, if not, what is the current status?

Jim: It was never really a solid plan, it was just more or less, you know, I talked to John often and I'd like to work with him and I am sure he'd like to do something if our schedules could ever meet. There's no solid plans for it but every time when we talk to each other we say, "yeah, we have to do something." But there's a small period of time, I think between "Perfect Symmetry" and "Parallels", when we've written a few songs together. I don't remember what happened, we never got anywhere with it. I have the demo somewhere though. Maybe the future. I'd like to do something with him. Like I said, we talk often and we're still really good friends.

Could you name something good and something bad about being in Fates Warning.

Jim: There's a lot of good things, actually, like just being here. I love travelling, I love to go around the world. It's fun for me. Writing and recording music is something I love to do. I think I could do that with any other band, but this bands allows me a lot of freedom and I can more or less do what ever I want. I have a lot of free reign to express myself, and in another band I might not have that, so that's a good outlet for me.
I don't know if there's anything specifically bad about being in this band. There are many bad things about just being hooked up with the music



industry in general, whether you're in Fates Warning or any other band. There's still a lot of politics and you can't do everything creatively in the music business because there are restraints and constraints on you all the time.

If you had to pick a guitar player to trade places with, who would it be?

Jim: I am not sure if I'd want to trade places with anybody. There are certainly a few guitar players that are, you know, like gods to me. Michael Schenker would be one of them, but based on his personal situation I don't know if I'd want to trade places with him. I certainly wouldn't mind having his talent. He's definitely up there, and when I grew up he definitely was the person who I emulated most, I learned all the solos and everything else.

Now for the almost obligatory total cliché question: What is your favourite drink, and what's your favourite food?

Jim: My favourite drink would be wine. Food? Tough call. Tough call. I'd have to say probably Indian food. I like Indian food a lot.

Which book, read recently, made most of an impression on you?

Jim: I read a lot. Most recently I read a book called "The Moral Animal" by Robert Wright, which is very interesting, about evolutionary psychology. Very interesting. And on the fiction side, I read a lot of fiction, too, I'd say Jack Kerouac. I've been reading a lot of him recently.

And what about films?

Jim: I am not a big film guy. People are always amazed at the movies I've not seen. I haven't seen movies in probably something like 10 years.

Which person or persons would you really like to meet one day?

Jim: There's quite a few actually. It's one of those questions where it's difficult to pinpoint one. Maybe Joaquin Rodrigo, he's a big influence. He's a Spanish composer. Maybe Roger Waters. I'd like to meet him, I'm sure, yeah. I loved the Pink Floyd cover that Dream Theater did at yesterday's performance. And Steve Hogarth.

What is to you *the* music release of 1994?

Jim: I have to say, hands down, Sarah McLoughlin, "Tumbling towards Ecstasy".

What song would you like to be played, in many years from now, on your funeral?



Jim: (Laughs) That's a bit maudlin, isn't it? Em...I can't think of anything too clever for that. I'd say "Concerto di Arague" by Rodrigo.

What was the worst moment in your life so far?

Jim: Certainly there's plenty of them. Everybody has his bad moments. Em...one that pertains to the band would probably opening to Pantera in Chicago, a few years back. We were boo-ed and thrown off the stage. That was a very embarrassing moment. It was an experiment on our part which failed very badly. We simply weren't compatible.

That's it for this interview, unless you want to say something about the fact that Fates Warning has a bit of a bad name as to touring and cancelling, a chance to redeem yourself.

Jim: I would say 99% of them were not our fault. The only show that we've actually personally cancelled was the Dynamo Open Air show last year. Everything else, there are shady promoters out there who say we're coming but who've never talked to us. I won't apologise because it wasn't our fault except for the Dynamo festival which I do and have many times apologised for to the press and record company people. If people think we're concert cancellers, well, screw them.

In walks vocalist Ray Alder, so I get the chance to ask him a few questions, too. The first of these being, of course, where and when he was born.

Ray: I was born on August 20th 1967, in Hondo, Texas.

What do you think of Geoff Tate, the singer that you're quite often compared with?

Ray: Good singer. Good voice. Style. I don't see at all why we are compared often. All I see is that we scream high notes every now and again. I think he's a great singer, but he's not my idol, nor was he ever.

Who is your idol then?

Ray: Sarah McLoughlin.

Do you like singing his stuff - the older Fates Warning tunes?

Ray: Yeah, I enjoy it. It's very high, but I enjoy it. I like the old music as well, it's like doing covers for me.

Mystic Force

by Marijn Vermunt

A reason for me to write article's about music is, to know and learn about different kinds of music and bands as I possibly can. Every time it surprises me that recordcompanies supply the world with good music from new bands t which nobody ever heard from. I know, that many companies release new material just for the money, but I often get the feeling that some work with the intention just to bring out good music. But how can you see the difference between commercial ideas and artistic ideas? Here's an example....Rising Sun productions is known for stuff like Vicious Rumors, Riot, Jag Panzer and some others. These bands sell good, so they're commercial hits. Nowadays, hardcore and blackmetal are the best selling music styles, so why bring out the new album of unknown progressive power metalact Mystic Force? This kind of music isn't popular in the US, only a few act's have made it with this kind of music (Dream Theater,Fates Warning and some others) and Europe often listens to heavy stuff. So I think a good introduction is in place. Mystic Force (USA) have finished they're second cd "A Step Beyond" which was recorded in the well known Kajem Studio's with the help from Joe Alexander (Metal Church,Prong, Crimson Glory). I talked to Keith Menser (bass) and first thing he told me (before I was able to ask my first question) that there was a line-up change; Bobby Hicks (vocals) left, or better was kicked out of the band, because of his lack of dedication. "He didn't take part of the writing proces and some shows were cancelled because of this man. Right now we're looking for a new vocalist". Some very interesting names came up such as there were the names of John Arch former member of Fates Warning and former Crimson Glory singer Midnight. Even Michael Kiske (Helloween) came up. Nothing was confirmed yet but still...Keith told me so many things, I realized that this interview had to be a long one. "The new album is written in the same style. We refuse to change our style. The new album will be called Man versus Machine".
At this point I got the chance to ask my first question. I sort of stopped my enthousiastic pal Keith and asked my first direct question.

Avalance: Don't you think that it will be a problem that people won't recognize, the new singer because the last album was recorded with Bobby?
Keith: We did three albums with Bobby, the demo, The Eternal Quest and A Step Beyond. Nobody is irreplaceable, there are millions of great voices. We are trying to find the right guy for our music. Actually, Bobby doesn'tsing anymore. Right now he's driving a truck. I think people will be satisfied with our decision to change the singer. I don't think it will be a problem.
A: What's your favorite style of music at the moment?
Keith: (laughs) Metal. I keep it wide open because I like trashmetal, progressive metal and music from the past such as Yes. I'm an open minded musician. I respect many styles of music.
A: I ask you this question because Avalanche gives much attention to the heavy styles in metal, such as Deathmetal. Is there something you like to say to these heavy metalfans? Why must Mystic Force appear in a heavymetal magazine?
Keith: Well, you don't eat the same food every night. If you like heavy metal you should give trashmetal a chance and you should give progressive metal



a chance. In a way it's all the same; It's heavy music! I'm not a big Death metal fan but there are some elements that I like. For instance, I like the new "Death" album a lot. The reason I bought this album was because in previous interviews people asked me what my opinion was about this album. It's more trashmetal than Deathmetal. It's very technical stuff. King Diamond also plays on it. You must respect all kinds of music, I think.

A: What do you think of labelling bands, putting them in categories?

Keith: I guess in a way they have to do this. In the metal industries there are so many different styles now. When you say that you play heavy metal it leaves you wide open which style of metal you're playing. The labels have to clearify what type of music you looking at.

A: What's your personal favorite song from the album?

Keith: Two songs; "Inner Child" and "Far Away".

A: Do you like to do interviews?

Keith: Yes, I really enjoy doing them. I make friends everytime.

After this question we came to the point where we talked about beer and discussing music for about 10 minutes. I won't bore you with these subjects. My next question was if he had any hobbies...

Keith: Yeah, I do computer graphics in the daytime. We haven't got a record-deal in America, it's very hard to get a deal with the kind of music we do, so I started my own label. Right now I bring out the "Eternal Quest" with different art-work plus I'm working on national distribution for the albums right now. Besides that, I have a side project called Treason. I'll release a sixteen track compilation cd with different progressive metalbands, power-metal and trashmetal bands across the USA. I included my side project Treason on it too.

A: If you could interview someone, who would that person be?

Keith: Hmmm. I think I take O.J.Simpson because he is very popular at the moment. (Laughs)

A: Tell us the latest rumors about that case!

Keith: (Laughs). It's on the news every day, probably for the next two years, I think. When O.J. is innocent, than his son did it, but that's my conclusion!

We (again!) came to a stage where we left the interview and talked about so many different things that I thought it was better to skip it from this article. In a way we ended the interview right here.

I honestly never had so much fun doing an interview (I did a few!). Keith was really very enthousiastic. Looking back at this interview, I have to admit that it was a bit too chaotic. I had some problems to make this interview readable, but I think it came out very well. I hope you have enjoyed this article as much as I did the interview. I stop this interview with Keith's final words..."I would like to thank you and the magazine for the opportunity to do this interview and I want to thank the European fans who have been behind us from day one. Without the fans we probably wouldn't have a record right now. Once we get to Europe we're looking forward to smoke and drink some beers with everybody!"

A: If you could interview someone, who would that person be? Keith: Hmmm. I think I take O.J.Simpson because he is very popular at the moment. (Laughs)

French news !!!!

French scene report
"Frenchy but thrashy"

When we make our journey through the land that has a history of revolution and Napoleon, the asshole, trying to concer the world (and showed Europe he should be feared!). We found out that the hardrock scene got more roots than just music. The land that showes a big city, bigger than the province of Utrecht, all Avalanche correspondents mostly live in. With the tower from which Grace Jones jumped off for a 007 feature called " A View to a Kill". With all this background information I will try to give you an impression of what metalheads produce in France.

After the first metal wave of the eighties, thrash began to emerge in France with the arrival of Agressor, Loudblast and Massacra in '86/'88. Not all the bands in France got a record deal, nevertheless Agressor got signed for their first effort called " Never ending Destiny ". Their second album at Black Mark, was much better. It carries the name " Towards Beyond ". This album is a mixture of technical thrash including some catchy melodies.

Loudblast who also got a record deal, are more famous but they are too much of an average deathmetal band. They did not offer anyt-hing original, or even personal. They made three albums and one mcd. Massacra, also called the pioneers of radical death/trash, got signed and recorded songs which were inspired by Kreator.

They switched label and created their fourth album which is less fast but more power/thrash oriented.

Mercyless is a veteran in the extreme rock-scene in France.

They offer you an ultra conventional deathmetal sound.

Their first album " Abject Offerings ", was technically not bad but brought nothing new. Their second album " Collord Funerals " was released by a new label. This album has been discribed as " less interesting ".

Crusher started by the name Frayeur, after a while the music changed from hardcore into deathgrind. Obviously they were influ-enced by Napalm Death. They released a full length album and a MCD. The MCD was a mixture of two different styles. To be honest, this suits them better. This band has it's own identity.

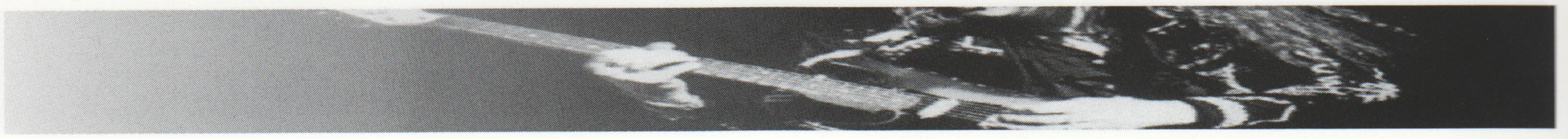
Trepohem pal is a French formation that started out in '88/89. They create an intense dissonant wall of noise with so called industrial overtones. This formation recorded three albums; Sane, Aggration and Exess & Overdrive.

The final band I will write about is Madhouse.

Madhouse is basically a band who were influenced by Anthrax. Their first album is called " Razzle Dazzle ". Later they became a superb crossover band when they released " Get the point ". This work might be labeled as a masterpiece of fusion/thrashcore.

In our next issue you will read about the new coming underground scene.

Andor Bik



Hate Squad

by Daan Bakker

Hate Squad is a young band from Germany, that amazed a lot of people with their very strong and original debut album "Theater of Hate." I spoke on the phone with Burkhard Schmitt(vocals) about his band: A great promise for the future.

A: How would you like to describe the music Hate Squad makes?
Burkhard: I think in Hate Squad there are many different musicstyles, our guitar player and our drummer, who write most of the music, listen to things like Sick Of It All, mostly hardcore and hiphop stuff though I listen more to death thrash stuff. It's hard to label our music, we put some of each style in it.

A: Nevertheless Hate Squad does have a very original style. Do you think you'll change this style in the future?
Burkhard: The music on our next album will be pretty much in the same style as this album, but I'm trying to sing a little bit more, not just the death metal vocals. At the moment I can't do better than what I'm doing right now, but if I learn how to control my voice better, the vocals will go in a different direction.

A: It all went pretty fast for Hate Squad. Did you expect to have this much success when you started with the band?
Burkhard: No, when we started Hate Squad, we didn't want to do shows, or record CD's and stuff. We just wanted to do something with our spare time, so we started a band. We didn't expect anything from it, but after we recorded our first demo tape, we got a lot of great responses and people seemed to like it a lot. We just couldn't believe that, because we were only a band for three months.

A: Why didn't you play on that tour with Atrocity and Crematory?
Burkhard: There are many reasons why we didn't came to Holland. First, we have no jobs and no holidays and second, Atrocity and Crematory had ordered a bus for themselves. We had no bus and we had no money to rent a bus, so we had no chance to go to Holland. It would have been too expensive. But in April/May we play one show in Amsterdam, at the Full of Hate festival. I think we can reach more people with this show.

A: Which other bands will be there?
Burkhard: ehm...I think Gorefest, Unleashed, Grave, and Death headlining.

A: Is any a particular band you'd love to do a tour with in the future?
Burkhard: If I'm speaking for my own, there are five bands I wish to play with sometime, Machine Head, Fear Factory, Sepultura, Slayer and Napalm Death. It would be really great for us if we could play with them, so we can reach the people we want. We're not a typical death metal band.

A: Those are your idols?
Burkhard: Yes, most of them. My favourite band is Exodus and I also love the old Bay Area thrash bands. I think the best new one from this area is Machine Head.

A: There's a lot of prejudece towards German bands, how do you deal with that?
Burkhard: Most of the German bands are definately not fascists, people from other countries often remember only what happened fifty years ago, and because of that they have something against all Germans. I have the experience that when I talked to people about this subject, it isn't very hard to make them realize that their opinion about it is wrong, They're just so used to this prejudice, that they are pretty blind to see that that's not reality.

A: What do you think of the German metal scene in general?
Burkhard: In Germany there are many bands, but most of them are not ready to match with the foreign bands. In other countries like the USA or England the music comes first. For most of the bands in Germany, work and girlfriend first, the music and the band later. Hate Squad works ten hours a day and we have done nothing else in life for the past two years. Only when you work very hard you can get successfull. It's easier for English or American bands to be successfull I guess.

A: What does the word "Hate Squad" mean to you?
Burkhard: The name Hate Squad doesn't mean that we are the most hateful people in the world, it's not like Brooklyn style or something like that. It refers to the whole shit that's going on in the world, war, rascism, prejudece, for all these kind of things. Hate does not have to be a bad thing. If you have a difficult life and don't have this hate in you to fight for your life, you'll crack up.

A: What do you expect from the future of Hate Squad?
Burkhard: In the near future, I think we'll play many shows and in the summer we'll go to the studio, to record the second album. In July/August I think. And than play as many gigs as we possibly can and I hope that we and the people who like our music have a good time. I'd like to play more in foreign countries, because we want to meet a lot of new people. I think we're a young band and the future's open for us.

A: Have you already been working on the second album?
Burkhard: Yes, we've written five new songs and we're working on a few more. I think it will be better than the first album, because everyday we're learning more. About our instruments, the music and I want to learn how to handle my voice better.





Sinister

by Jesse Vermunt

This band hardly needs any introduction, this is the most extreme deathmetal band of Holland, they already exist a lot of years and are finished recording their new album as soon as this Magazine is ready. With a new manager and a reorganized record label, Sinister is ready to go on tour and let everybody know that Holland still has a band that does not want to change the way they play and live, the only problem they have is, they are looking for a new bass-player....

Mike; Our guitar player (Andre red) left the band because we had a lot of quarrels about the way we were playing and when it was cold, he'd say it was warm, all kinds of stuff like that (he got pretty old too!) it was time for him to leave, so the bassist took over the guitar parts and now we are looking for a new bass-player!

A; He left after you went to the U.S.A., true?

Mike; Yes, but we had a teriffic time there, we had expected a good tour because we were touring with Cannibal Corpse but we never expected it to turn out that good, it hit us like a hurricane, we sold all the T-shirts and Cd's we brought along, this never happens when you're not headlining the tour.

A; You went to the Nuclear Blast office with your new manager Frank, why?

Mike; Nuclear Blast was reorganizing, a few things happened in the past we were not that satisfied about so it was time to find out what people were put on what position.

A;You once said that Sinister didn't start to play this music because it was so popular those days but because you were behind the whole idea of making deathmetal, is this still your opinion?

Mike: Yes, a lot of bands change their style, their way of making music but when we started it was new, it was extreme but we kept on playing and still do. A lot of bands are playing Hardcore now for the selling rates, some of them don't even want to play that way! As soon as our selling rates go down we know that we've made a mistake, a mistake in music that our fans pick up and they stop buying the records, but that doesn't keep us from going on, no way, it makes us even more dedicated to get rid of the mistakes. As long as people love Deathmetal we will provide them with it!

A;What are your thoughts about the countries still under the flag of communism....

Mike; You can see that it's getting more and more commercial over there. They are totally into deathmetal but more and more different music is getting through to them, the only problem they have is they have no money, not for themselves, not for bands, as a band you will go home broke, as soon as there will be money.

A;Ever thought about quitting the band and joining another?

Mike; No way! No other band, of course sometimes you think;,, shit, those assholes" but that's all part of playing in a band, it's ups and downs! Where I do think about is life after the band, when I will join society (yuk!). Everybody needs money so you have to make a choice, but right now my choice is the band, no money, just music!

A; So it's a big part of your life...

Mike; Yes, it's the biggest part of my life. You will get to the turning point you will make a decision, I'de like to stay in the music business.

A; Dynamo Open Air?

Mike; We're trying to get a lot of festivals, support our new album. When you are on a big tour, you need another big band, clubs to play in and as soon as the album hits the charts, we'll go for it.

A; You are responsible for the lyrics, do you write them out of frustration?

Mike; I write especially lyrics about the dark, no lyrics that kick society's ass, we play extreme music and the lyrics I write support that music. Sure we have political ideas. I read and see a lot, but as soon as I think about the music I know that the lyrics must come from my " dark side ".

A; You can hear some differences between the two albums you've made, Cross The Styx sounds faster, rawer and sometimes you can't hear everything as bright as we'd like them to hear, do you agree?

Mike; On Diabolical we tried to play as brutal as possible but also keep a good sound, a clear voice, a lot of people say that Diabolical is musically seen better than Cross the Styx, and they meant the guitar parts but that's not true because there are less notes in seconds, so it seems more technical to them but when we talk about technical stuff, Cross the Styx is the best album. The new album will be better than Cross the Styx and Diabolical, Diabolical sold real good, Hate will do better!

A; That's the title of the new album?

Mike; Yes, Hate. There will be eight songs on it, but now more minutes than on Diabolical, we have a song that lasts over seven minutes, we improved. When you listen to Diabolical you can pick any song of this album and you would know what the rest sounds like, this won't be on Hate anymore! A lot of different songs, more advanced.

A; What music dissappears into the thrash can?

Mike; All Reggae albums!

A; It seems that in Holland it's very hard to get to the top, what's the reason for this fact?

Mike; Not only in Holland, a lot of bands think that when the've recorded their first album, the've made it but when there's a lot of criticism they quit, but it's extra hard in Holland, you really have to be good to make it as a Dutch band, you need Magazines, gigs to become well known. Dutch bands seem to stop easily when it's not going fast enough but people seem to understand that there are a lot of good Dutch bands and they will become popular, believe me there will be changes!

A;Satisfied?

Mike; More than... We are going in the right direction, we have our ups and downs, but we need time, like any other band does, probably we will be touring with Deicide and Morbid Angel so there are plans.

A; Kids?

Mike; Please, do me a favor! The band is the most important thing right now, I can't be a good father right now, I have no time and no money to put into the kid(s).

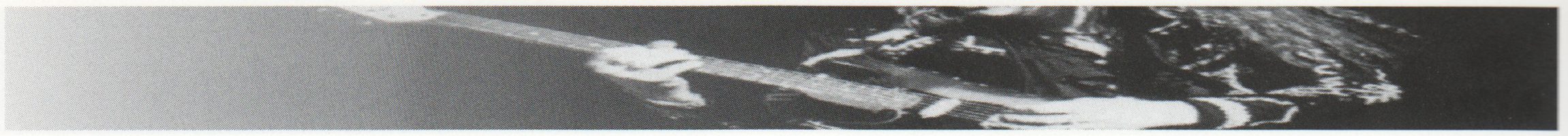
A; What bands have inspired you through the years?

Mike; I think that the Deathmetal bands in common inspired me all these years, bands like Slayer, Possesed, Venom and Sinister itself, I listen a lot to our albums...

A; This is not common Mike...

Mike; I know, but I love to listen to my own albums, why not? Everybody thinks like I've made an album, great, why listen to it? I love it, I love the things we are doing, I'm 100% behind my music, behind our music.

The new album will be better than Cross the Styx and Diabolical



Schubert

by Gabrielle Weerman



CHAMELEONS FROM AUSTRIA

A: Do you think people have to be open-minded to like Schubert? I mean because you have so many different music-styles in there?
Yeah, it's the most important thing I think. It's very difficult to listen to our record because there are so many styles on it. But we like to be a funny band, you know, and there is nothing to take very serious. And there are so many different styles 'cause we're five guys coming out of five different kinds of music, everyone has got a different background.
A: But do you have all those styles to whipe the floor with all these bands that are trying to built an image with a certain kind of style?
No, that's not important for us. It's just that our style is having no style. The most important thing is that people have fun with it. It has got to be funny. Like when I did that 'Locomotive Death'-one. I did that only because it`s funny for me to sing like a death-metaller, on the other hand there is'I hate Ken'.
A: I know you're not very fond of Ken (song 'I hate Ken') but how do you feel about his girlfriend Barbie?
I've seen a lot of commercials and I started to hate them. I thought I had to do something about it. It was very hard to write about it because it's difficult to write something that doesn't really exist. " What does this guy do? " He's only smiling, sitting at the pool and doing nothing. I started thinking about his Barbie and then I knew that he's got nothing but a smiling face and nothing more.
A:...and a pink shirt
..and a pink shirt. It makes little girls wish that it's only good to be a ritch girl or it's only good to have a Ferrari or a big apartment and that is not the real world.
A: So it's kind of serious too?
I write things with one eye closed. It's a little bit serious and a little bit funny.
A: Now about 'Locomotive Death'(he immediately starts talking very enthusiastic without letting me ask my question).
Yeah, that's a parody on death-metal. Sometimes I smile about it. I was thinking about something ridiculous to write about. I turned it into "Locomotive Death". It's about death being locomotive.
A: So you're not considering a career in death-metal?
No, I do like some of them, like Amorphis and Cannibal Corpse, cause it's funny music to listen to.
A: I don't know if you are planning to bring out a single. But if you are, how do you choose a song with so many styles?
They told us to make a single out of "Reflections of the Past", the first song of the album. We said 'ok, we're gonna do it' But wouldn't you choose another one? Well, there is another one on it which would be great."Cheek to Cheek" a cover version we did from an old Irvin Boling-song, but I don't think we get the rights.
A: You're famous in Austria and doing okay in Germany. Don't you think that the name Schubert is blocking the way to success?
Maybe it is, but the name Schubert is really a good name for a band playing this kind of music. I think it's a good name for us. It is a problem to bring our music to the people. But it's got nothing to do with the name, it's only that we're not known. If they read the interviews and they listen to the album, they will notice that Schubert is a funny band.
A: But the name is important too.
Well, our guitarplayer formed the band and his name is Schubert so I can't do anything about it.
A: Faith no more is coming over to Europe in a little while, don't you think that Schubert would really fit as their support-band?
Yeah, that's exactly what I think. It would be the best band for us to support. The problem is that they are signed to a different recordcompany. It would



be perfect because they are funny too. The Red Hot Chili Peppers would also be a great band for us. The only problem could be that they are more rap-orientated.

A: In what way is this album different from the other albums?
Toilet songs is just another milestone in the way of the band. There were parodies on the other albums as well, but again this one is better.

A: What's the song with the Trainstripper all about? (Naked in the train).
(Lem needs to think for a pretty long time) He's tired because he just came back from Innsbruck after a ten our drive. (Then finally) The trainstripper! Well, that was something that happened to Klaus when he was on a train from Austria to Germany. He told me that story after which he asked me to write a song about that.

A:What happened?
Well, it was a prejudice against longhaired-people.

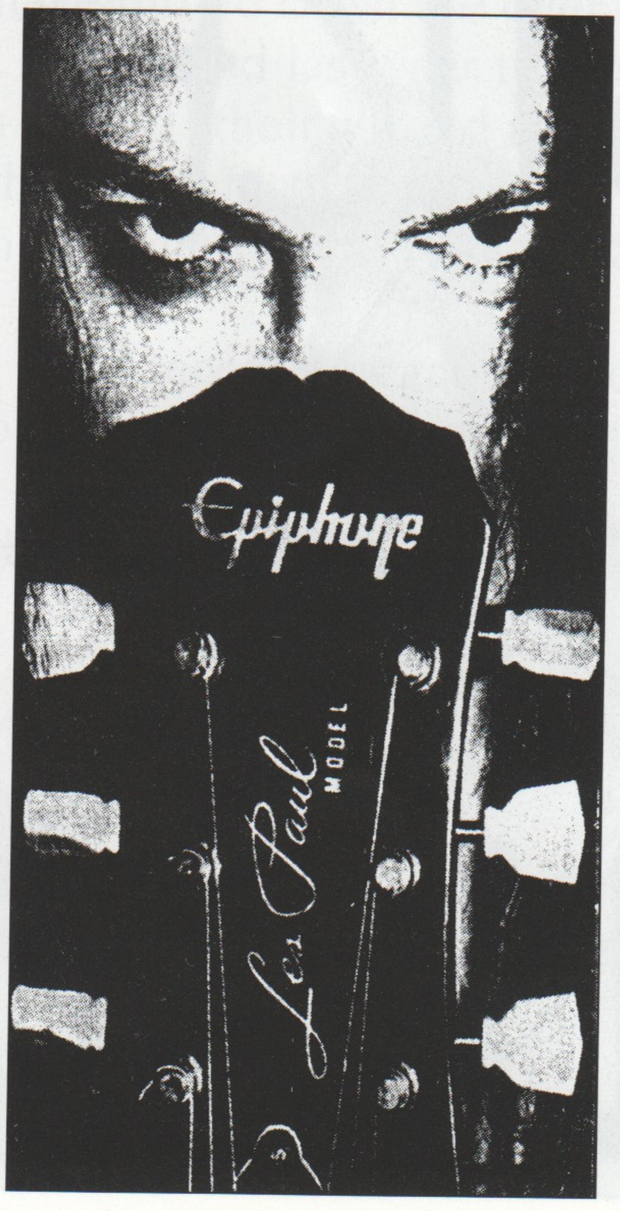
A: A very different question now. If you could be an animal, which animal would you like to be?
(answers immediately) An eagle of course, I'd like to fly. That would be great, fly over the countries, the sea, see what's happening and if it's getting boring fly away, never to return.

A: I have some words that I would like you to respond to, okay? Scientific Animal Tests.
One of the serious songs from the album. Klaus is very in that theme. He told me to write a song about it. I did a lot of research I read a lot of stories and facts about this subject. Finally I wrote the lyrics.

A: Groupies.
Well, eh..how should I say.. (hesitates). Well, you can't read this in Austria I think. Sometimes girls come backstage but we are very carefull about that.

A: Avalanche Magazine.
I didn't know it, but a friend did. He told me it's a great magazine and that it is very famous in the Netherlands.

A:If our readers are kind of curious about the album, but aren't immediately planning to buy it, which song would you tell them to listen too?
Yeah, that's a problem. When you're a death-metal fan than you should listen to "Locomotive Death". If people ask me; "you've got a new album out, what kind of music is it?" I answer them that it is not a special "kind" of music. Listen to it and make your own opinion.' When your readers are open-minded they also can listen to retarded songs like Naked in the train. Making this interview to an end I can't help asking him about his name. Is it really Lem? Then the truth comes out...he used to be a Motorhead fan. 'Everybody called me Lemmy because I was a big Motorhead-fan when I was 15 years old. I didn't wanna be the second Lemmy, so I shortened it to Lem. People call me that ever since.'
Well I think this confession is a nice way to end this article,it's a shame that not the whole interview can't be printed, because we talked for an hour about almost everything. Lem is a great and crazy guy, who likes to be unique. Look out for their video "Reflections of the past".



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METALLICA

News

Avalanche Magazine / European Metallica Fanclub

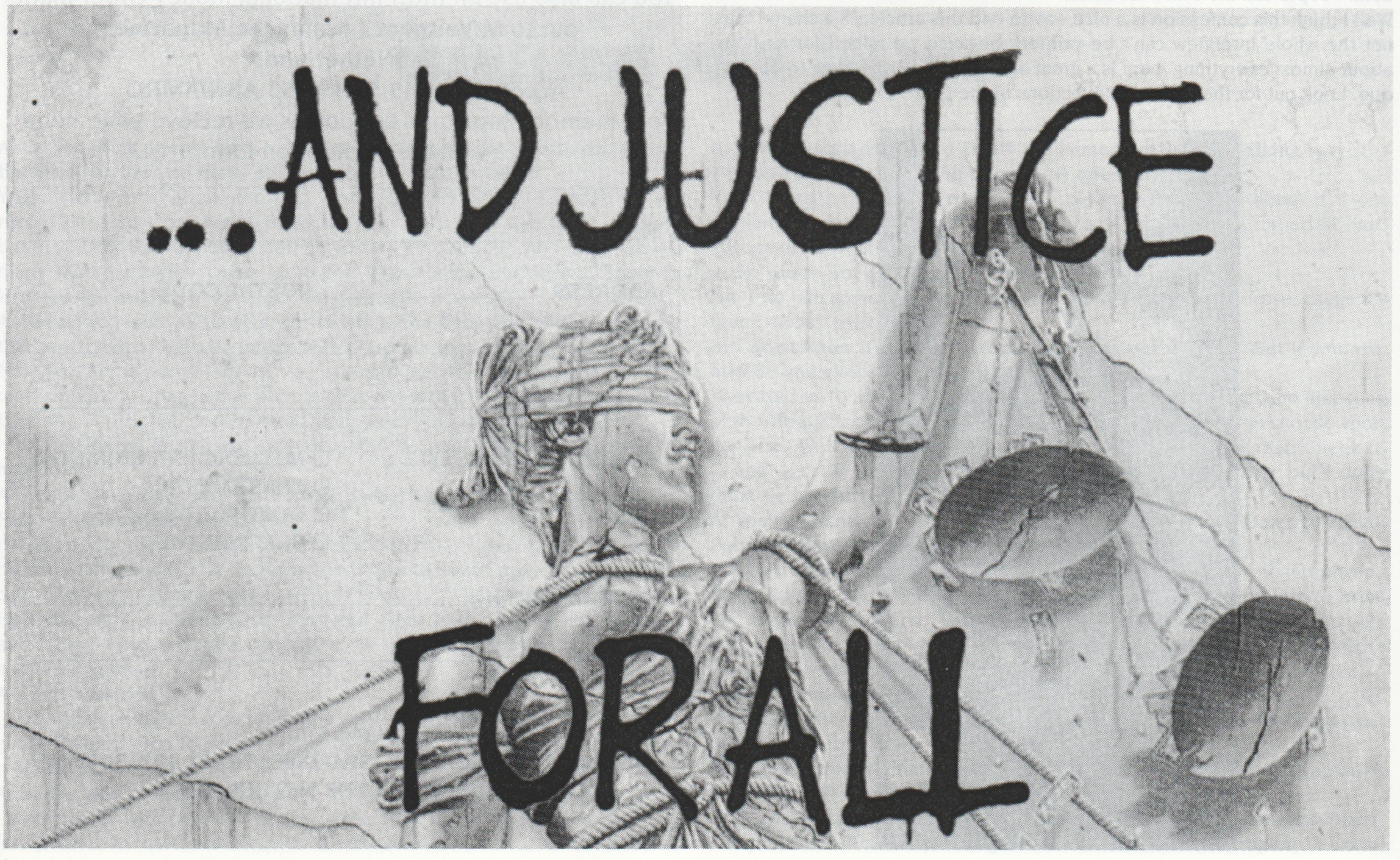
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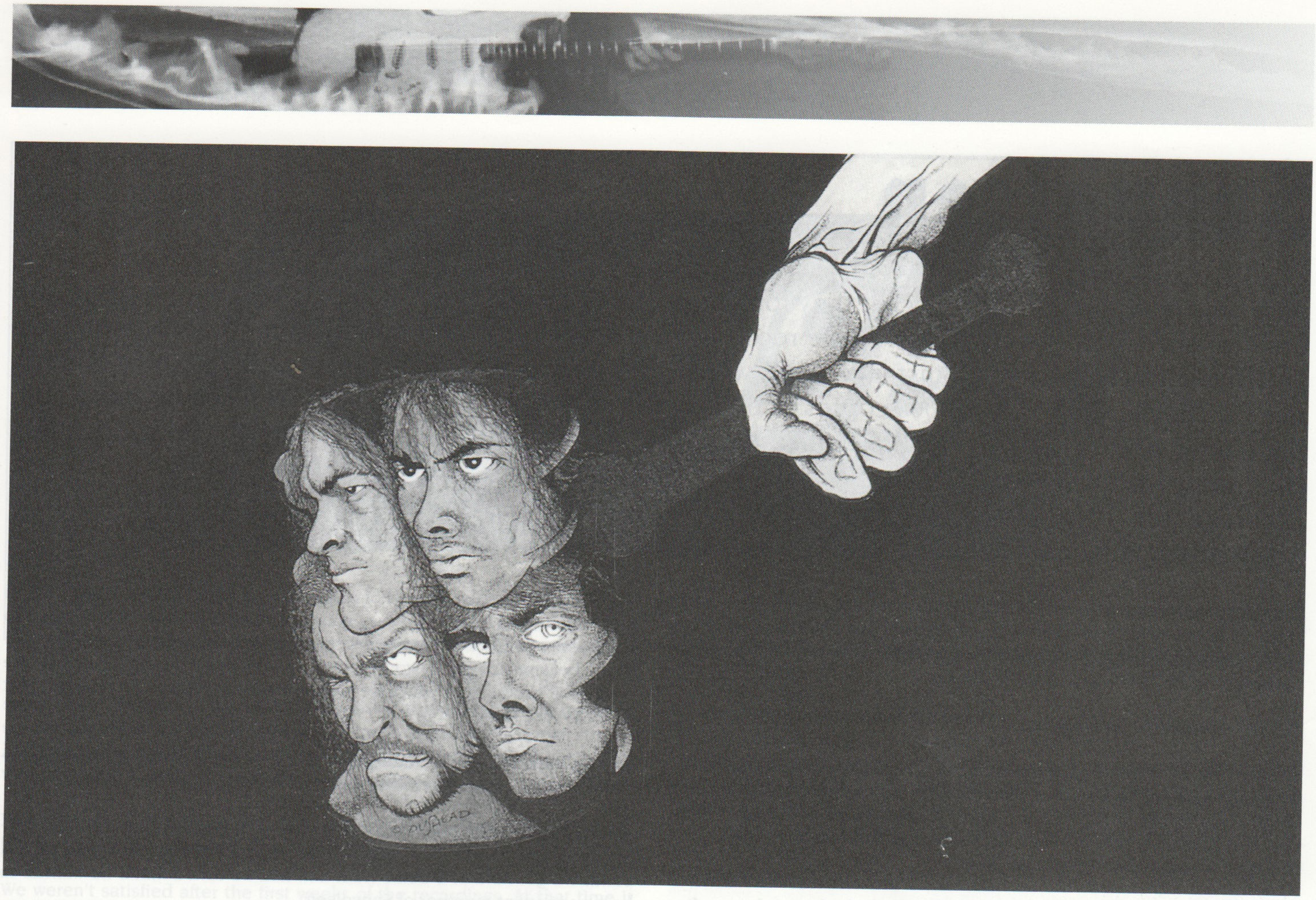
We informed you in our previous issue about the lawsuit which Metallica where into. Fortuanately this lawsuit came to an end altough it took some time. An unpleasant period for both the recordcompany Elektra and Metallica but finally there was a deal satisfying for both parties.
Still, we had some questions left....

READ THE BANDS REACTION;

ELEKTRA CLAIMED A 100 MILLION DOLLAR COMPENSATION?

Yes, very funny, it became a fight between our lawyers before you know where you are. Just before Christmas I flew to New York for a few days to negotiate with Q-Prime and Elektra about all the problems and solve them.
Everybody is at this moment satisfied about the common future and we shall go on with making records for Elektra.





WHAT ABOUT A NEW ALBUM?

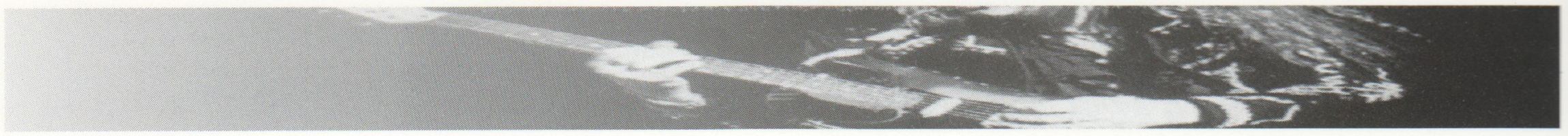
We started in the beginning of february with the recordings together with Bob Rock and we expect the release before the end of 1995.

MORE INFORMATION.....

Metallica have turned down the offer to headline this year's Donington Monsters Of Rock festival. The band, who spend last year touring America on their "Shit Hits The Sheds" tour, last appeared at Donington in 1991 (their second appearance), below headliners AC/DC and had been tipped to headline this year's festival. However, word from the Metallica camp is that they will be too busy working on the follow-up to 1991's "Black" album.

The whole band recently began recording at the Record Plant Studios in Sausalito and when all the information is correct, with producer Bob Rock as knob-twiddeling role person.

There will be a new tour after the release of the new album somewhere at the end of this year.



Sanvoisen

by Marijn Vermunt

With only one demo in their pocket they took their chance, they recieved good critics with a demo and one day there was the offer from Noise records. Like a hurricane they entered the melodic metalscene all over this world like for instance Japan where they entered the album charts from nothing to number 19. They already sold 10.000 copies of their debut-album and all goes very well for the band.
Big names like Tommy Newton and Luke Herzog (Scorpions) helped the band with the production. Definetely worth while asking Angel Schonbrunn (guitar) how the band got this far.
I've read the biography and it says that the bandname "Sanvoisen" has something to do with Amsterdam. What exactly?

A few years ago we went on a short trip to Holland (Amsterdam). We saw the house of a doctor with the name Dr. Sanvoisen. We liked that name so much, that we decided to use it for the band. It's a nice name, especially because in every language it sounds the same.

Tell me more about Sanvoisen...

We have the same line-up for almost a year now. Before that we had different singers and there were many line-up changes plus we played all kinds of musicstyles. In the band we have Vagelis Maranis (vocals),Horst-Christian (Gamo) Andree on bass, Ulf S.Gokeler on drums, Hendrik Boetcher on guitar and myself also on guitar.

Your musical career goes very quickly. You only had one demo after which the band immidiately signed a contract at Noise records. How did you get this deal so fast?

Before 1991 we searched for a good singer, that took almost two years. We made one demo in 1988, also called Sanvoisen, plus some others. All with different kind of music. When we found Vagelis we made better music, just one musical direction instead of changing everytime. We recorded a demo with Vagelis and it recieved very good critics in the media. We decided to send some demo's to producers, recordcompanies etc, due to that we finally became some very good connections. A Noise manager came to one of our live shows, after which we signed a deal at Noise. I've to admit that we were very lucky.

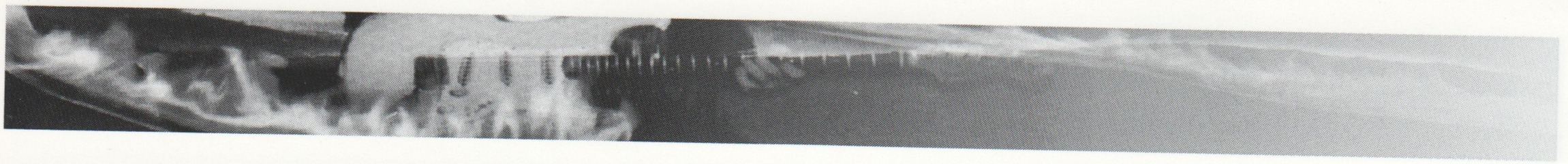
Vagelis Maranis, you're leadsinger has a very good voice. I did understand that he comes from Greece?

Yes, during his army period he was stationed in Germany and he had a girlfriend overhere. After this army time he stayed in Germany to find a good band. We got hold of a demo from him and we asked him if he wanted to be a permanent member of Sanvoisen.

Often german bands have problems with the english language. You don't seem to have that problem?

In the beginning we had to talk english because Vagelis didn't speak the german language. We're trying to speak just english. Right now Vagelis can





SANVOISEN

speak some german but we think it's important that everybody in the band speaks english. His accent is good but not perfect yet. Most german singers have that language problem and when you listen carefully you'll notice that we sometimes have some problems too.

You worked with two well known names; Luke Herzog and Tommy Newton. How did you get in touch with them?

We weren't satisfied after the first weeks of the recordings. At that time it sounded horrible. Noise often uses Tommy Newton for the recordings of their bands, they called him and asked if he had the time to do the mix of the album and he said yes. We drove to Hannover and he mixed the whole album in two weeks. This album sounds OK but our next album will be even better. Were not satisfied with the drums but this all was a money problem.

In the band-introduction you said "Gamo" instead of Horst-Christian Andree. What does Gamo mean?

It's a nick-name (laughs) It's difficult to explain in a way it means something like "cool".

Is it hard to obtain gigs in Germany because there are so many bands?

Yeah, it's really hard. We are hoping for a club-tour in Germany and the rest of Europe, but gigs are hard to arrange. We are working with a Dutch booking-office but there are no shows confirmed yet. We hoped that we could do a tour with Annihalator and Savatage but Annihalator used another opening act and Savatage doesn't come to Europe this year. Anyway we are working on it.

Do you have a job besides the band?

Yes, we all give musiclessons in musicshops or private. We hope to get some money from the recordsellings. Right now we sold 10.000 copies of the album. We were really surprised that we sold that many in such a little time. In the Japanese album charts we are newcomers on place 19 right now.

A Japanese tour?

No, unfortuanately not. Maybe after the second album.

What did you do before you started Sanvoisen?

I played in different bands around the country. I made some demo's but nothing more than that. Sanvoisen is the first interesting metalband for me.

I think the best song from the album is "Time Is Not". Tell me something about that song.

We wrote the song together. Vangelis wrote the lyrics. He meant with this song that "Time was, Time is, Time is not", that there is time but there also is no time. In the end there's no time for anybody. Nothing last forever, time also changes everything.

Can you tell me some future plans...

We will record the second album in autumn this year. It will be released in january 1996. Plus we hopefully can do a tour someday...

The European Fates Warning?.....I think we can expect a lot from this bandin the near future. We'll keep you updated.

We saw the house of a doctor with the name Dr. Sanvoisen.

REVIEWS

KAOSLORD - CATCH THE FEAR (CD)
LAST SCREAM RECORDS

The first song gives you an impression of real industrial hardcore. When you put this well-produced CD in the machine you start to believe your speakers are not up to this! You might think, the sound is tearing them apart, But when you are lucky they will survive. The rest sounds like thrash music in a most extreme way, very close to industrial. If listen to the repeated short riffs passing by in high speed you can only hope your condition is up to this, when they play live in front of you for about one hour. Kaoslord's debut CD shows no concessions; not one ballad or slower song has been added. Judging by their first work's aggression and violence, Kaoslord sound like they are from Brooklyn, New York - but they're from pizza country Italy. One last note: Too bad it only lasts for 23'25", but not everyone has problems with this.
AB

FATAL OPERA - FATAL OPERA (CD)
MASSACRE RECORDS

This is the debut from Fatal Opera. This band from Florida claims to make complex power thrash metal. In my opinion the production is not too good. The style does not compare with what they claim it to be. The riff shows a clear Jimi Hendrix influence, but also death metal and other heavy metal roots. One thing I have to admit: Some solos are very clean and show good work; this goes for the bass, drums and the guitar. The vocals change from Geoff Tate (Queensryche) to Heathen (as far as people remember Heathen's vocalist). If you say "power/thrash metal", I say "maybe one or two songs". If you say "Jimi Hendrix" I'd say "the rest, but not as good."
AB

CENOTAPH - RIDING OUR BLACK OCEANS (CD)
CYBER MUSIC

Looking at the cover of this CD, I already thought that I was going to like this band, and I was right. If I'd have to catagorize it, it would probably be in the same catagory as 'At the Gates'. It's agressive death/thrash, but very atmospheric and with a very good sense of melody. The intense, wistful screamvocals are definately an asset on the album, as well as the beautiful, dark lyrics, dealing with mankinds inner fears. I think Cenotaph is a band that grows, so I've got high expectations for the future. But for now...buy the album and enjoy riding their black oceans...
DB

BELIAL - "3" (CD)
WITCHHUNT RECORDS

Nothing like the old black-metal Belial. While listening to this album, I was (and still am) really wondering if this band is on MTV all the time. Anyway, when I listened to this album, the first thing I thought of, was "Soundgarden". I kept on listening and heard some punk-influences too (the ones that are kind of popular nowadays). I like the album and again I don't know if they are on MTV, but if they are not, they (if they get discovered) make a big chance for it. This album has got a style that's grunge/punk and thrashy-like. The only thing that really bothers me is the last song. Every time that the last song was played, I stopped it after one or two minutes (it's six minutes long) because I thought it was boring and reminded me of Nirvana. It's a tedious instrumental song. Sometimes they have their own style mixed in it. They even sing some parts in an other language (what is it? Finnish?). I wish more bands had their own identity. One of the songs I like best is 'I want you to die' but they are all nice to listen to. This is one of the better albums I heard recently.
GW

KATAKLYSM - SORCERY (CD)
NUCLEAR BLAST

Canada isn't quite well known for their death metal scene, but with their debut album "Sorcery" Kataklysm makes you realize that you don't have to be from Sweden to make this kind of brutal, original, intense, f@#king heavy music. The guitars, bass, drums and vocals each have this extremely heavy sound, together responsible for the Kataklysm sound. That doesn't mean that it turns into a noisy chaos, just listen to "World of Treason" and you'll understand that this band can do more than just blasting people off their seats. Sorcery is an album with fascinating lyrics and together with the music it become a mythological concept (read more about that in the interview elsewhere in this issue). We're definately gonna hear more from them in the future.
DB

CONCRETENESS - P.S.I.C.O.S.E. (DEMO)

This Brazilian band was formed in 1992. They started with the intention to make pure electronic music, but later on they added the guitar, the bass and the drums to their music. The result is that thedemo has got a special kind of heavy trash/hardcore sound which I have never heard before. The special sound is mainly thanks to the influence of the keyboards. Most of the lyrics are written in English but there are also some in Portuguese. I like this first demo of Concreteness a lot and I'm looking forward to hear more work from this band. Order this tape at: Sound Riot Productions,PO BOX 251, Campo Grande,MS 79002-970 Brasil.
AE

SFD (PROMO TAPE)

This promo tape from SFD contains powerful and agressive trash metal. There are four tracks on this tape, they are called Price to Pay, Say It, The Fixer and Never Be. The tracks are all very good and especially the last two I think are great. SFD want's to release a full length album at the beginning of 1995, and I really hope they will succeed. I haven't heard a lot of Australian trash metal bands, but if they all make music as good as SFD does, then I would like to hear lots more from the Australian trash metal scene.
AE

GORGOROTH - PENTAGRAM (CD)
EMBASSY PRODUCTIONS/DISPLEASED RECORDS

When I heard this black metal album for the first time, I absolutely knew that this is one of my favourite bands and bought it immediately. The album is only a small thirty minutes long, but the music is great. You will feel the pure satanic evil come from this first album of Gorgoroth and goes through your entire body and dark mind, when you hear the mega fast played guitar riffs and the vocals which are as shrill as hell. This Norwegian black metal band has made a masterpiece of music and evil. Gorgoroth Rules!.
AE

SERPENT RISE - ANASTENARIDES (DEMO)

There isn't much I know about this band except, that Serpent Rise makes excellent doom metal which is really dark. The structure of the four tracks (Mistress Of My Paradise, Gardens Of Illusion, Misericordium and Betrayer Of God) is good, and the vocalist (Agnaldo) has got an perfect, shrill kind of grunt. I am not a real doom metal fan but I think that there is nothing wrong with the music this band makes.
AE

CHAOSLORD - MIRROR OF FUTURE (DEMO)
NIGHTFALL PRODUCTIONS

Mirror of future is the second demo of the Finnish band Chaoslord. The band makes an intense Trash/heavy metal with some softer parts. The demo contains six tracks, one from their first demo "The Awakening" and three are from a later released rehearsel tape with two new songs. Nightfall Productions is the label from the former bass player of Chaoslord who is still helping the band as a manager. If you like changerable trash metal you should check this out.
AE

DEMONIAC - PREPARE FOR WAR (CD)
OSMOSE PRODUCTIONS/EVIL OMEN

This band from New Zealand doesn't want to be put in the black/death heap, the way they describe their music is "pure hate the world evil dark hellmetal". And there isn't anything wrong with this description because the cd is full with this incredebly concentrated aspects of hate, evil and darkness. This fact is no wonder if you know that Demoniac is united by one ideal which is; to make music that would shatter the soul of anyone who would listen to their music, and write in man kinds pain and suffering. Besides all the evil and other stuff, the quality of the music is also better than great. Another positive thing about this album is, has almost an hour playing time spreaded out over thirteen tracks. Well there isn't much to write about it anymore, except that this incredible band really rules! HAIL SATAN.
AE

NAKED WHIPPER - PAINSTREAKS (CD)
MMI

Our very own evil-looking devil in goat-shape enters the satanic church. This black/white CD-cover tells a lot. For who likes real heavy black-metal, 50 minutes of satanic grunting. The CD has a total of twentytwo songs. Actually eleven, but all



songs are on it twice: live-recordings of every song are added for the fans. Some song-titles: Pagan Pussy Gore Intruder, Whore of Damnation, Anal Queen, Nunrider, Hyperincest. Songs about satanic blood rituals, pain, sodomistic rites, SM-torture etc. Need I say more? Again for people who are into real heavy, fast (especially the drums/snare) death/black metal. (I myself prefer the studio-recordings to the live-ones).
GW

IMMORTAL - BATTLES IN THE NORTH (CD)
OSMOSE PRODUCTIONS

When you listen to this album, there's no doubth about, that this is Immortal. Battles In The North is even faster than the two earlier released albums Diabolical Fullmoon Mysticism and Pure Holocaust but the tracks are not only incredibly fast, some are also very technical and complicated. One of the other ingredients of this cd is of course the demonvoice of Abbath which is as mighty and aggressive as always. For the recording of Battles In The North the demon-brothers Abbath and Demonaz have entered the studio just the two of them. Demonaz handled the guitar and Abbath took care of the bass, drums and vocals. Well there isn't any thing for me to complain about, so I only can say that Immortal has done an excellent job. The band has surpassed it's previous work.
AE

JACKAL - A SAVE LOOK IN MIRRORS (CD)
RISING SUN

No, this is not the "Chainsaw" Jackyl, but Jackal from Denmark. Maybe if this album would have been released ten years ago I would have said that it's nothing extremely special, but 'A safe look in mirrors' has just left the studios and because of that I need to say thumbs up to those guys. They definately stick to their roots 'melodic heavy metal'. Although, I wonder if this album is going anywhere because of that same reason. The music somewhat reminds me of stuff like Metal Church, but a bit softer once in a while. Singer Brian Rich has got a powerful voice that is made for this kind of music. Sometimes he even sounds like Bruce Dickinson. I' ve played the song "Nothing to loose" a lot of times already. The other songs are pretty ok too. Specially made for people that feel like hearing an old-fashioned (in a positive way) metal album. Just check this thing out, you might like it.
GW

MORGANA LEFAY - SANCTIFIED (CD)
BLACK MARK

Power Metal is the keyword here. Swedish five-piece metalband Morgana Lefay released their third album. They are very popular in their home country and they are trying to break through in the rest of the world. With "Sanctified" they will I`m sure of that. Lots of melodic parts mixed with pure trash metal makes this album a very interesting release for the real powermetal fan. I like this new wave of trashmetal and I hope that more of these acts will get deals and make good albums, like Morgana Lefay does. If this is the future...I`ll better wear shades
FS

HYBERNOID - THE LAST DAY BEGINS? (CD)
DISPLEASED RECORDS

Finally, the new album of the British metal band Hybernoid. After two singles ("World Of Ruin" and "Dust In The Wind"), the full length album. I was familiar with the songs "Akeldama" and "Skin" because they also appeared on the sampler "Antichrist Superstar". That sampler made me "hunger" for the album, it's better than I ever hoped! With their mixture of doom/industrial and gothic, they assured themselves a special place in today's metal scene. The album was recorded at the Academy studios (England) where My Dying Bride and Anathema also recorded their albums.
Watch out for an interview.
MV

DOCTOR BUTCHER - DOCTOR BUTCHER (CD)
GUN/BMG

I guess there's hardly anyone who hasn't heared of metalact Savatage. When your familiar with this band you know Jon Oliva, founder and former leadsinger of Savatage. Than you would also know that Jon Oliva left Savatage. In order to expand his creativity,he founded Doctor Butcher. What you don't know but what I tell you is that Doctor Butcher released their debut album with original songs on it. What else? Well, original is the good word for this album but I have my doubts that Jon's leaving Savatage, has anything to do with his creativity because I think this album is a continuation of where he left Savatage.Am I right? You tell me.Buy this great album and tell me, I'm wrong.
MV

MYSTIC FORCE - A STEP BEYOND (CD)
RISING SUN

One thing I noticed this year is the return of the progressive music. Looking at some very interesting releases (Form, Depressive Age), it seams that this kind of metal is on it's way back. Mystic Force released their debut in may 1993 and was entitled "The Eternal Quest". Now they are back with an energetic album "A Step Beyond". Some songs are more complex than others, some in the Vicious Rumors vein, others are more technical (Watchtower). Mystic Force got help from a well known person; Joe Alexander (Metal Church) who produced this album.This is the music which I can understand, I hope others too! Read the interview with Keith somewhere in this issue.
MV

CEMETARY OF SCREAM - MELANCHOLY (DEMO)

This six piece doom/death formation from Poland made one hell of a demo tape before this one. Big things starting to happen for these guys, now they've signed a deal with Wild Rags records (USA) because Melancholy will be released on cd in March this year. They bring you sixty minutes of pure melancholic and typical doom/death, which can't be listned to, when having a depressive mood. A song I want you to listen too is "Gods Of Steel". With a female voice combined with fantastic keyboardparts it is the best song from this tape.A band such as Amorphis can learn from this band. Symphonic metal up your ass! Info: Cemetery Of Scream, Reymonta 40/8,40038 Katowice Poland.
MV

AFFLICTED - DAWN OF GLORY (CD)
MASSACRE RECORDS

Once this band played deathmetal in a most original way but due to some (for me unknown) reasons, they threw their ideas along the garbage and decided to make power/speed metal in, of course, a (not) surprisingly, unoriginal hardrock package without having any doubts. I almost cried when I heard them sing some Yeah Yeah's, bringing the old Motley Crue back to life. The big questionmark comes to my mind everytime I hear Afflicted's new album. Musically it's not so bad at all; problem is that they lost their brutal sound. I really don't mind that they left the deathmetal but I mind a band who lies to theirselves. Cry for me Afflicted!
MV

NEVERMORE - NEVERMORE (CD)
CENTURY MEDIA

Warrel Dane, known for his singing in Sanctuary, founded a new band and began where he ended with Sanctuary. With him he took Jim Sheppard from his old band and made a very good debut-album. It took Warrel several years to make this album (more about that in the interview somewhere in this issue) and finally it ended up in a deal with Century Media and a untitled new debut album. They are allready working on a new album with some older songs which he wrote after the splitt-up. There are no limits on this album. Good songs, especially "The Hurting Words" and (again) powerfull singing from this great musician. Neil Kernon (Queensryche,Flotsam & Jetsam) helped with the production of this album. It ended up in a terrific album which has for filled my expectations.
MV

DISMEMBER - CASKET GARDEN (MCD)
NUCLEAR BLAST

I've known Dismember from really uncompromising deathmetal stuff, which I hated to listen to. I'm not a big fan of this music, so it won't happen too often that you see me writing about it. But, this new album of Dismember makes me very optimistic about this music-style. Catchy deathmetal with a slice of trash wrapped up in a original package. In a while Dismember will release their full length album "Massive Killing Capacity" somewhere in may this year. These three songs are very good and will make you very hungry for their next album. You can read more about this band in this issue.
MV

SERENITY - THEN CAME SILENCE (CD)
HOLY RECORDS

They reminded me a bit of the British metalband Solstice which I saw playing in Holland with Anathema. These bands both have a leadsinger with an ordinary metal throat instead of a grunt. Serenity have signed a deal with French doomlabel Holy on which besides their debut, their next album also will be released. This is a good album with great and beautifull artwork, but there's nothing new on it. Everything was allready done by other artists. Halfway the songs it sometimes is a bit boring but nevertheless I think they did a good job. The band started out in 1993 as a three piece band. Some years later they played their first gig with "heroes" My Dying Bride and possibly they will do a tour to promote this album.
MV



THERION - THE BEAUTY IN BLACK (MCD)
NUCLEAR BLAST

In order to bring something new, you need to use or a strange unusual instrument or you put opera tunes into your music. Therion will release a full-length album and I'm allready curious for that one, after listning to this mini-album. Heavy songs combined with an opera voice make this an interesting new album. Therion are a three piece Swedish metalband who obvious are big fans of Paradise Lost. When you're a big fan of Paradise Lost's gothic music than I strongly advise you to buy this mini-album. Or better; wait for their full-length album!
MV

DUSK - DUSK (CD)
CYBER MUSIC

This band started out in 1993 as a deathmetal band. They wanted to do something different from all the "bad" new deathmetal releases, so they combined pure deathmetal with doommetal from bands such as Cathedral and My Dying Bride. Slow and heavy music combined with deathmetal in a satanic package. Musically it's a very good album and I personally like the keyboard parts a lot. Cyber music got hold of their demo, after which a contract was signed. Dusk are from the US and all four members have a will of their own, which led to a good, brutal and heavy debut-album. I'm not sure if you can buy this album outside Europe, so here's the address to order a copy; Cyber Music, P.O.Box 2, 7050 AA Varsseveld, The Netherlands.
MV

CELESTIAL SEASON - SOLAR LOVERS (CD)
DISPLEASED RECORDS

Although it seems that more and more bands have seven or more members, it always shows that these bands know how to create music, different and difficult music. Celestial Season returns to the Middle Ages with Solar Lovers, their second album after the first, Forever Scarlet Passion.This album shows me what music is all about, the feeling I get when I listen to this album, takes me away to the Middle Ages mentioned before.You get the feeling you're wandering around in old castles guided by songs like "Will you wait for the Sun" and A tune from the "Majestic Queen's Garden". Totally unexpected, a song appears we all know, Vienna from Ultravox. This is by far the best interpetation of that song, a whispering voice supported by the violin and downtuned guitars. Allready you can say this is one of the best albums released in 1995, introducing their own Streat - Side Doom. If you ask me how they could have made the movie In the Name of the Rose immortal? They should have used the music of Celestial Season!.
JV

IR8 - COLOSSUS/NOTHING/BLACK ON BLACK.(TAPE)
IRATE MUSIC

On a cold, wet day in January, I opened my mailbox and took out a small package, looked inside and took out a tape, a tape from IR8, a side project from Jason Newsted, Metallica's famous bass player, together with Devin Townsend and Tom Hunting, going back to Jasons early roots, Heavy shit! These songs kick ass, especially Black on Black, with Jason playing the bass and singing like he's never sung before, raw and rough! Jason has no plans quitting Metallica, he just wants people to enjoy music, it's just for fun, If you want to get your hands on this, write to IR8, P.O. box 170, Alamo Plaze 193, Alamo, CA 94507, U.S.A.
JV

CEMETARY - BLACK VANITY (CD)
BLACK MARK

This is the third album of Cemetary, after An Evil Shade Of Gray and Godless Beauty, again showing that Cemetary hasn't found the right direction yet, although this seems to be the way they are going, mainly because of Master mind Mathias Lodmalm, songwriter and responsible for the lyrics. With a new line-up, Cemetary seems to be going back to the early 70s, old rock together with melancholic melodies, forming what's called Gothic Metal these days. It's hard to say something about the quality of these musicians because their music is not that hard to play, it's only hard to create! Containing songs like Scarecrow and Sweet Tragedy which filled with special effects and melodic parts. Cemetary hasn't lost it's quality, it has improved it, this album is ready to live on stage, especially when the opening song is a song like Bitter Seed, Teriffic!
JV

AMORPHIS - BLACK WINTER DAY (MCD)
RELAPSE/NUCLEAR BLAST

This mini album of Amorphis was recorded during the recordings of "Tales from the thousand Lakes", to let the fans know that Amorphis has to many good songs, they can fill lots of albums. Opening with the song Black Winter Day, taken from Tales... and the instrumental Folk of the North, you know they are going to do it again, and they do! With Moon and Sun, they continue their catchy and melodic riffs but what really hit me was North's Son part two, the last song of the album. Fantastic riffs with the support of piano and keyboard, they make it impossible for us to predict what will be happening when they will release their new album late this year, till now, I don't want to know, I want to enjoy, join me!
JV

JAG PANZER - DISSIDENT ALLIANCE (CD)
RISING SUN

Instead of doing a remake of the album Ample Destruction, one of the best Power Metal albums through out the 80s,Jag Panzer decided to wait and create something different, a different kind of Power Metal, more psychotic, more intense, more touchy! After beeing gone through a lot of line-up changes, trying to find the musicians they needed to continue, a new agressive vocalist, they wanted to react to the past by bringing you music that's full of anger, raging against the dying of the light. With Eve of Penance they create a sound that could be seen as a mix between Rage against the Machine and Morgana Lefay, though less agressive because there is space for melodic songs like Forsaken Child. I'm glad they're back, if they've ever been gone. If you want to know why Queensryche has become so big you must listen to Spirit Suicide, then you know!.
JV

TIME MACHINE - PROJECT TIME SCANNING (CD)
LUCRETIA RECORDS / ROBESPIERRE RECORDS

Very technical, too technical sometimes, very well performed though, together with a golden voice like Geoff Tate (Queensryche), they've created something as musicians, that's always nice to listen to although you have to pay attention all the time because of the continueing riff changes. With a lot of computer tracks and synthesizer they are able to compete with Dream Theater, and maybe outgrown them if they continue with the songs Holy Man and Past and Future. They've created abstract atmospheres too complicated sometimes, not forcing themselves to look the same as bands like mentioned above.
JV

PRETTY MAIDS - SCREAM (CD)
MASSACRE RECORDS

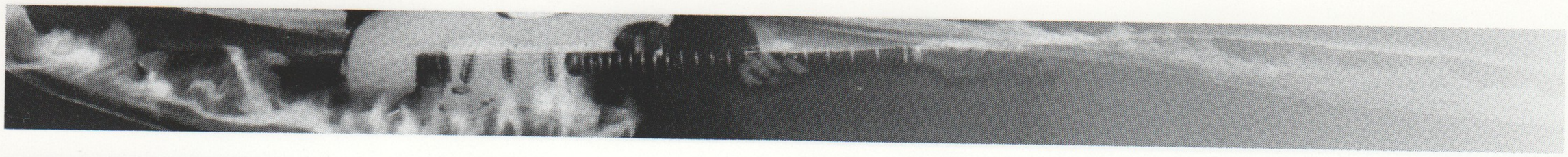
Everybody knows that bands do not like to be compared with other bands, all bands think they are genuine. Well Pretty Maids has everything, rock and speed (Van Halen), power and melodies (Marillion, Jag Panzer), playing that what they like to play, like you can hear on Rise, Scream and No Messiah. They have created a good sound (Flemming Rasmussen, Metallica), and demand you to pick up the beat, and force you to memorize phrases to sing along like on Scream. Pretty Maids grew up with old Classic Rock (Deep Purple), now trying to become Timeless. Just like the old bands have become, keep making songs like this and like Walk Away (!) and the road is not too long.
JV

TAD MOROSE - TAD MOROSE (MCD)
BLACK MARK

This album needs to be introduced as an album ready to become big in the world of Power Metal, although this Cd Single only gives us an idea of what they can sound like, their full - length album Sender of Thoughts showes more power than the three songs on this Cd Single. Formed in 1991, their music was picked up by the president of Black Mark, and signed them. hey are called a mixture between Metallica and Dream Theater by our collegue of Rock Hard well, I have to dissapoint him, Dream Theater might be the right comparison, Metallica sure is not!Nevertheless well performed music, supported by a tremendous voice, they've surprised me with their abillities but certainly not convinced me, hope to hear more, soon!.
JV

MISCREANT - DREAMING ICE (CD)
WRONG AGAIN RECORDS

The Swedish band from Vasteras recorded their album in Studio Underground, the place where Lars Linden works!Technical thrash/deathmetal, with Doom and Gothic influences, completing it with a horrofying sound of dark voices and melodic keyboard parts.The music is very agressive although the vocals (female)sometimes create a peacefull atmosphere, like in the song "Ashes". With songs like "Forever not to be" and "Horizon of Dreams. They've recorded an album that will show a lot of people that you don't have to join all the Doom/Gothic bands to play melodic music. The poetry (lyrics) could be taken right out of a Poembook from a famous writer. Exciting and inspiring to read!
JV



SPUDMONSTERS - NO GUARANTUEES (CD)
MASSACRE RECORDS

Their debut "Stop the Madness" went extremely well and the band showed up in readers charts and playlists. The limited edition digipack was sold out very soon, their tours with Pro-pain and Life of agony were very succesfull, so.. what could go wrong with these five guys from Cleveland, Ohio? Well judging their second album; No Guarantuees...nothing! There back, even faster than their first album. No slow songs on this one just fast agressive "in your face" hardcore songs. I hope they won't nag about how hard life is in Cleveland and that they grew up with a machine gun next to their bed, like Machine head or Biohazard did. We allready know that the States are dangerous and that we're better off in Europe (I guess that those bands have never been to Rotterdam at night?) Fourteen class "A" songs that will surely make you jump, I`m looking forward to their shows in Holland..Check`em out!
FS

MARDUK - F@#K ME JESUS (MCD)
OSMOSE PRODUCTIONS

Because of the tremendous demand for their only demo; F@#k me Jesus, Marduk and Osmose decided hat they should release this demo on cd After a really sick and blasphemous intro (which reminded me of the movie; "Henry..A portrait of a serial killer") Departure from the mortals kicks off, followed by their other classics: The black,Within the abyss and Shut up and suffer. Ever since their first tour with Immortal (Sons Of Northern Darkness 1994) Marduk impressed me, They are not a typical Black metal act, which just blasts for three minutes and calls it a song, they add melody to their music, that`s why I think that when the Black metal revival is over, only bands as Marduk will survive.
FS (In the year of the Dark Lord 1995)

MASTERS HAMMER - RITUAL (CD)
OSMOSE PRODUCTIONS.

For all the fans of this project; Osmose re-released this album on cd It allready sold 25.000 Copies in the Czech republik alone, but at that time they had no distribution over there, and the fans couldn`t buy it. It`s a pity that they don`t tour or play live anymore, because now Masters Hammer is a one man project of Frantisek Storm, the other member; Vlastimil Voral build his own studio for his own next projects. I won`t bother you with a review of this album because the fans allready know this Orchestral masterpiece.
FS

MORTIFICATION - BLOOD WORLD (CD)
NUCLEAR BLAST

"Blood World" already is the sixth album these metallized Christians from Australia made on their sacred mission to save souls. With this album they're turning away a litle from the death/thrash you'll find on their previous releases, they took a bit more thrashy direction. The grunt has basically been replaced by thrashy, agressive (Christian agression?!!) screams. I must say that I liked the vocals better on their other albums, but the songs are still quite strong and original, this song called "Monks of the High Lord" I even concider it as an extremely good song. The lyrics are, as ever, white as snow. Whether you like it or not depends on your religion. My advice: If you're a Christian, and you like thrash, buy it. If you're a Christian and you don't like thrash, read the lyrics. If you aren't a Christian and you like thrash, listen to it don't pay attention to the lyrics. After all, it's the music that counts.
DB

NECROSIS - ACTA SANCTORUM (CD)
BLACK MARK

This band has been active in the U.S underground scene for quite a while, releasing a few demo's that got very good responses. They had some problems finding an interested record company, untill on one fine day 'Black Mark' offered them a record deal. After nine years they took their time to record "Acta Sanctorum" and the result is a honest, raw death\grind\doom album, that will satisfy many fans of this music style. Songs like "Martyrium", "Acta Sanctorum" and "Psalm of Sorrow" prove that Necrosis is a band with different faces, as you can also see in the CD-booklet. Intense, heavy death, but also atmospheric instrumental changes. Definitely interesting for doomed souls, as well as grinding headbangers.
DB

TROM - BALMOR (MCD)
DISPLEASED RECORDS

Trom is a swiss band and describes it's music as psychedelic gothic. The band realeased Balmor by themselves which has an playing time from roughly twenty-five minutes and contains five tracks. All five numbers are very different, the most aggressive and powerful track is the second one called Chemical Sky. Trom used the following three languages on this mcd; English, French and on the first number you will hear a vocal which sounds like Latin or something like that. If you like a bit strange and variated gothic music you should listen to this cd for a while. Order at: Displeased records, Veeringstraat 6, 1502 NL Zaandam, The Netherlands.
AE

SENTENCED - AMOK (CD)
CENTURY MEDIA

From time to time Century Media releases albums which are so f@#king great such as there were Enchantment's "Dance The Marble Naked" and Tiamat's latest album "Wildhoney". Now they have released the new Sentenced.(Also watch out for the new album of Nevermore with former leadsinger from Sanctuary, Warrel Dane!). This Finnish metalband have allready released two albums, namely; "Shadows Of The Past" and "North From Here" and now they've returned with "Amok". They managed to make an album, very energetic and full of melody. Metal with a high-quality grunt and wonderfull guitar-riffs. No, I can't find a bad thing. Sentenced did a short tour in Europe with Tiamat.Look for the interview I did with Taneli somewhere in this issue.
MV

BATHORY - REQUIEM (CD)
BLACK MARK

Finally, Bathory (Quorthon and Buddy) are back! It's been a while ago since we heard from them, altough Quorthon stayed in the picture because of his first (and probably last) solo-project called "Album". After a few years of resting, they decided to pick up their instruments again and that's how "Requiem" was born. With songs like "Suffocate", the fast songs "Blood" and "Soil" and of course the title track "Requiem", Quorthon seems to have gone back to the early 80's, the time that they were young and restless and made unforgettable albums, like: "The Return" and "Bathory". This album is something you must have, especially when you're into Black-Bathory-metal, listen and you will buy the next one, coming soon, too.
JV

W.C NOISE - REALITY ASYLUM (CD)
M.T.M. RECORDS.

Let me see.... what good comes from Portugal? ehmmm well not much I`m afraid. But! here`s W.C. Noise .. In their own country they are pretty popular and I`m almost sure that they will get a strong fanbase in the rest of Europe, Power metal with Hardcore influences all brought together with a certain groove in it, maybe some typical Portugese temprament. They already supported Carcass and Ratos de Porao in their home country, but they want more....much more, so check them out. If all goes well, they will support Extreme Noise Terror on their Dutch dates, it`s a break they surely need. This 9 song cd impressed me, especially if you know that the average age of the members is twenty, you know that they can do much more on their next one. So keep this name in your head, and order this album at M.T.M. Apatardo 30.072 P- 1321 Lisboa,Portugal.
FS

NIGHTFALL - EONS AURA (MCD)
HOLY RECORDS

Greek metal Gods Nightfall have, while the world awaits breathlessly their next full-length studio effort, released a warm-up EP by the name of "Eons Aura". Almost 20 minutes of mystical metal in the typical Nightfall vein that won't disappoint one of their dedicated followers. "Eons Aura" kicks right off with the amazing "Eroding", both musically and lyrically impressive, and the band relentlessly pursue that quality until the dying chords of the fourth and last song, "Thor". Eroticism and spiritual experiences are the main sources for Nightfall, setters of the Greek metal trend and proud carriers of that flame. This is an EP no progressive Atmospheric & Epic War Metal fan should be without. Excellent, intricate, majestic, moody...Nightfall!
RK

VARIOUS ARTISTS - METAL MILITIA, A TRIBUTE TO METALLICA (CD)
BLACK SUN RECORDS

In the previous issue there was quite an avalanche of "tribute albums", and this time there's another album in this category worth mentioning. This time Metallica is the 'victim', and it has to be said that it's quite an excellent tribute album indeed. A host of more or lesser known Swedish bands (among which Dark Tranquility and Afflicted) play a variety of Metallica classics such as "Motorbreath", "Fight Fire with Fire", "Fade to Black", "The Thing That Should Not Be", "Eye of the Beholder" and even "My Friend of Misery". Musically everything is exactly like one would have hoped rough and



aggressive versions of the originals with only thevocals really making a change occasionally. "For Whom the Bell Tolls", for example, would have been better off with less 'modern' vocals. "Fight Fire with Fire" is very interesting because it is played at *at least* twice the regular speed, but otherwise the versions are much the same to the way Metallica didit, just much rougher and in-the-face. Together with "Nativity in Black" and "Smoke on the Water", the Black Sabbath and Deep Purple tribute albums respectively, these are the ones you should most be thinking of getting.
AV

VIPER - LIVE MANIACS IN JAPAN (CD)
MASSACRE RECORDS

Mix some Helloween and a lot of punk rock (for example Ramones) and you might end up with something that sounds vaguely like Brazil's Viper. Not as well-known as their fellow countrymen Sepultura, the Japanese seem to like them just the same, judging from this recording. The tracks were recorded live in Tokyo, Japan, in June 1993. Most of the album has that nice up-tempo punk rock speed, together with more melodious guitar stuff that makes a very listenable kind of music. But on the other hand, to be a major band they still have to make that step from average to great that is hard for many bands. In other words: Although it's not bad, it doesn't have that little extra originality, excellence or whatever that sets a good band apart from an average one. The CD also features two cover versions, one called "We will rock you" and the other "I wanna be sedated", the original versions of which are from two very famous bands that I don't have to mention. In the CD booklet are black and white photographs that show the usual live and back stage scenes. Nice if the price is somewhere in de mid-price range.
JvS

ICED EARTH - BURNT OFFERINGS (CD)
CENTURY MEDIA RECORDS

I never would have guest that this band would come up with a new album. It took them three years to make "Burnt Offerings", a long time for a band that isn't that popular. In this music-business , you must have a "big" name to pull something like that, without losing any fans. The new album almost goes on where "Night Of The Stormrider" ended. There are two differences; a new leadsinger in the shape of Matthew Barlow and you could say that the music is more complex than the Stormrider album. Technical, guitar orientated speedmetal altough I have to say that it doesn't bring anything new to this style of music, nevertheless a result that sometimes gives you the creeps. Some songs are perfectly build up without forgetting the melody for which Iced Earth stands. Listen to the sixteen-minute track "Dante's Inferno" and hear what I mean. It was worth while waiting all those years.
MV

HEAD LIKE A HOLE - FLIK Y'SELF OFF Y'SELF (CD)
NOISE RECORDS

In order to expand my musical horizon, I sometimes listen to music which normally doesn't end up in my cd-player. I'd hear so many positive about Head Like A Hole, that it made me very curious and I decided to make a review of this new album. The first song scared the hell out of me and for the first time I wanted to refuse to review a cd. After all I realized it wasn't a mistake doing this hardcore album. I don't think there are too many bands who keep the press and politicians as busy as Head Like A Hole does. These guys are top of the bill in their home country New Zealand. This punk/hardcore orientated metalact has the unusal habit to perform in a state of nature. Obviously they don't give shit about their image! (Must be fun seeing their banging...you know!) Anyway besides this, the fourteen-track album is very interesting and worth while listening to.
MV

NIGHTINGALE - THE BREATHING SHADOW (CD)
BLACK MARK

Personally, this is the album for those who experience metal as music. Music that can do things to you. Dan Swano, well known from his work with Edge Of Sanity, created this masterpiece that already can be called "unique". Apart from his deathmetal voice and way of living, he now uses his "clean" voice, which could be compared with Eddie Vedder (Pearl Jam) altough the music isn't the same (maybe the song "Alone"?). "The Breathing Shadow" takes you away "Higher Than The Sky", "To Return To Dreamland". If you are a metalfan and you want to share Dan Swano's creativity than you should buy it. Enjoy!
JV

HELSTAR - MULTIPLES IN BLACK (CD)
MASSACRE RECORDS

Just when I was thinking back to the good old days with bands like Savage Grace, Sanctuary, Agent Steel and Flotsam & Jetsam and the like, Massacre records comes up with the new Helstar album. My reaction? Well, read my mind:....
First song on the album; No Second Chance..."Oh no, my enthousiasm decreases"...
Second song; Will It Catch Again..."I feel better! I'm back on my feet again!"...
Third song; Lost To Be Found..."Same level, same feeling"...
Fourth song; When We Only Bleed..."Great song", nervous....
Fifth song; Reality..."Ballad, great but a bit short"...
Sixth song; A Good Day To Die...Enthousiastic, "Brings back the old Flotsam & Jetsam, fantastic song"...
Seventh song; Beyond The Realms Of Death...Surprised...Judas Priest.."God this band is great"...
Next one; Save Time..."I think I'm dreaming!"...
Nineth song; Black Silouette Skies...Shit, only one song left...
Last but not least; Last Serenade...Beautifull, short playing time though.
Just 35 minutes. Nevertheless, satisfying.
MV

SANVOISEN - EXOTIC WAYS (CD)
NOISE RECORDS

They stand for melodic powerfull metal. Newcomer Sanvoisen has reached a good feeling in their debut-album which reminds me of Fates Warning and Vicious Rumors. An interesting and promissing debut from this five piece band, very interesting for people who like bands mentioned above. It's for the first time that a German band hasn't got any problems with the english language (they have a leadsinger who's born in Greece!) I hope they will do something special on their new album, something not as "save" like they did with this one. Great song from the album; "Time Is Not", but there's lots more to hear. I expect a good future for this band, especially when you hear that they sold more than 10.000 copies already. Buy it, you'll be assured of good music.
MV

KRUG - KRUG (CD)
FROM THE CRYPT RECORDS

We're absolutely not spoiled with Canadian metal. Unfortuanately there are only a few metalact's who had a breaktrough with in the leadingposition Annihalator. From The Crypt records is a new label, one of the most important band on this new label is Krug. Their biography tells me that their music is hard to define. I think the best comparison can be made by saying that this band makes a mixture of all kinds of music. I won't dare to compare this band with others but I can say that everyone can find something for himself. Do you have no special preforation than buy this album. I don't think you can find this album in your local recordstore so here's the address to order your copy. From The Crypt records, PO box 23 3480 Lawrence Ave.E. Scarborough, Ontario, Canada.
MV

MINDFUNK - PEOPLE WHO FELL FROM THE SKY (CD)
MUSIC FOR NATIONS/ROUGH TRADE

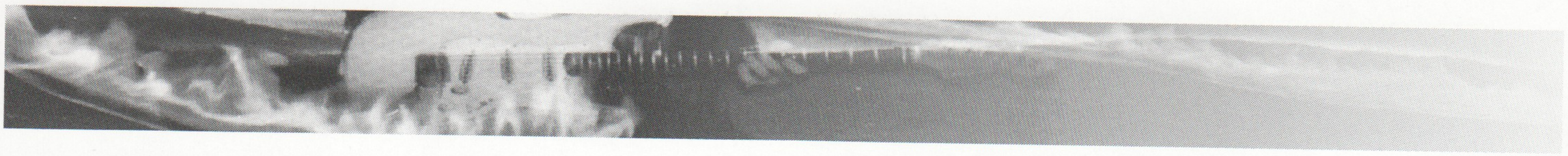
I was very much surprised when I heard this album for the first time. I knew this band from their "Seattlerock" like Nirvana and the like. Altough you still can hear some influences from this style, I have to admit that this album is a new journey into a wider style of rockmusic. " There are two halves, two opposites, to every whole and we've always concentrated on one of those halves" according to Pat Dubar, leadsinger of Mindfunk. A really vague analyse from a man who knows the band. But that's precisely what's interesting about this band. They bring you dark, uncom-promising rock/metal with many psychodelic elements (Led Zeppelin) troughout the whole album. This album was recorded in downtown Chigago in the middle of gangfights and murder (that's why the studio is named "Warzone") Feel Mindfunks dark music and take your time when listening to this album.
MV

MALEFICIUM - THIS ILLUSION OF HUMANITY (CD)
CYBER MUSIC

Signed by Cyber only four months ago; Maleficium officially presented their album in April this year. Six young musicians who play very depressive music. No negative music, absolutely not but you need some time to think after you heard their last song Memorare. The vocalist sings as low that you almost won't believe it. Angelique Overbeek (Christal Chain) takes you away with here voice and she reliefs you from your depressive feelings. Slow songs with a melodic touch are followed by fast and intense parts like "Uncovered Intensions" and "Hydrogen". Holland brings you metalact's who know what they're doing although I don't know if the world is up to these bands.
JV

SEELENWINTER - SEELENWINTER (CD)
MASSACRE RECORDS

After a bad experience with German label Inline Music (who hasn't), Seelenwinter sig-



ned a deal at Massacre (at that time the band was named Damien Breed, but with the Massacre deal they changed it into Seelenwinter) in 1994 on which they recorded their debut album "Seelenwinter" during that same year. The band makes very original music which you won't hear to often. Heavy metal combined with doom and power influences which translated very well. Excentric music must be played by excentric members which definetely is the keyword here. This copy of the album has songtexts which are translated into German, you're knowledge of the German language must be good to understand what they mean. Besides this notice the songtitles; "Gods Went Quietly", "Black Is No Color", Where Death And Life Are Still Friends"!? Melancholic music-lines and lyrics written by an artistic dreamer. Prepare yourself for a beautifull variety of music performed by newcomer Seelenwinter. They came quietly in a world where life and death are no friends...
MV

ANATHEMA - PENTACOST III (MCD)
PEACEVILLE/M.F.N./ROUGH TRADE

I was really looking forward to this new album especially after I saw Anathema live last year, where they played some songs from this album. Some bad things happened to the band during 1994 and on top of that there was the painfull news that Darren (vocals) left Anathema during the recordings of the new full-length album "Rise Pantheon Dreams". Pentacost III will be the last album with Darren handling the vocals. Vincent (guitar) took over the vocals for their new album due to be released after this summer. You can read more Anathema news in our coming issue. Back to this album. There's nothing much to say, in one word this album is fabulous. Great songs, especially "We The Gods" and "Mine Is Yours To Drown In" (Ours Is the New Tribe) which are pure Anathema killers. I'm really looking forward to the new album altough I'm wondering if Darrens voice and contribution can be replaced!??
MV

ETHERIAL WINDS - FIND THE WAY...TOGETHER (CD)
CYBER MUSIC

This album is the second album after "Saved", their debut. With four members left, it seems this Dutch band has become more mature, more beware of the possibilities of making music. Some might think that the albumtitle "Find The Way...Together" could been seen as too mature but they seem to know what they are doing. Seven songs, containing speed, rhythm, tempo and perfect vocals combined with melodic parts troughout the whole album. A nice ending of the album is the song "Tragedy". Etherial Wind grows, they did a perfect job, it's a step into the right direction and this all is a good sign for the future. Four deathmetal freaks made it where other bands fall apart. Shine on, Etherial Winds is ready!
JV

LACRIMOSA - INFERNO (CD)
NUCLEAR BLAST

At first I thought this was a very low budget cd, later on I changed my mind. This German duo released a good cd but I think with a little more artistic ideas they could have made a nicer artwork for this album. They really did a worse job but of course that's my opinion. Anyway the artwork didn't effect my opinion about the music they produce. Intense gothic metal mixed with doommetal elements. Lacrimosa used to be a solo-project but that's past history. Tilo Wolff got the help from Ann Nurmi (Two Whiches) and she is a permanent member now. Some songs have English lyrics others like the 14 minute song "Der Kelch Des Lebens" have German Lyrics. Forget the horrible cover, buy this cd just for the music.
MV



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