

ETERNAL BLACK EMBRACE

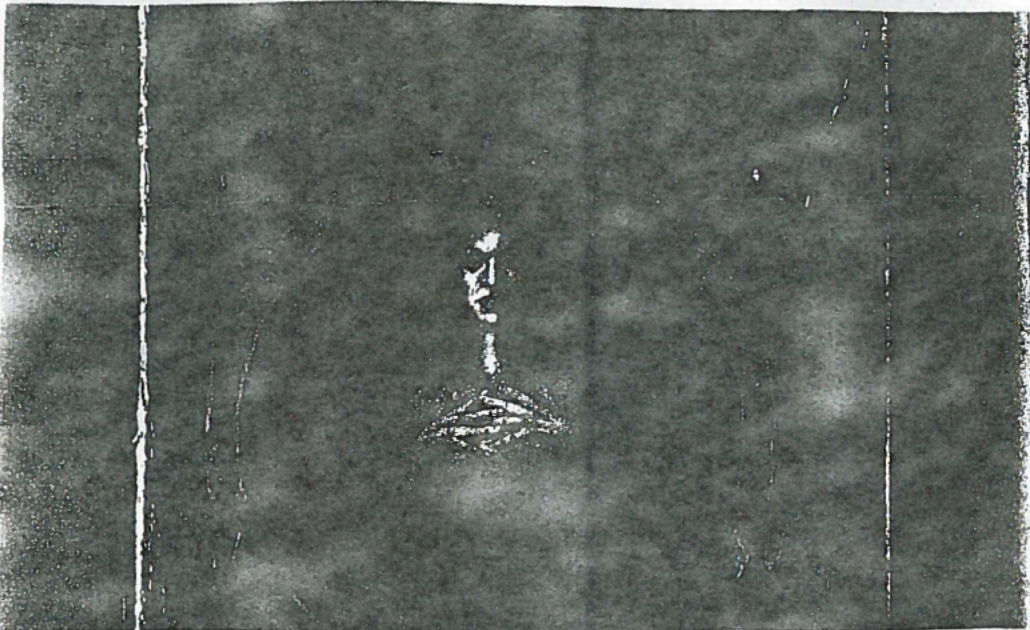


Welcome, i bid you welcome, to Issue 2 of ETERNAL BLACK EMBRACE Zine. Many of you will not of heard of it before, as Issue I was'nt really sent out to many people, for many reasons, in particular because it was slightly crap.

Many of you may be familiar with my other zine HIGH SPEED DEATH, which has just released Issue 8, and Issue 9 is on it's way.

Well, the reason i have resurrected ETERNAL BLACK EMBRACE is to use it as an outlet for my love of all things dark/doomy and atmospheric. This leaves the way open for a vast variety of styles, be it doom metal, black metal or whatever.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue, and if anyone out there has any idea's for future issues, then please get in touch.



ETERNAL BLACK EMBRACE c/o CATHAL RODGERS, 3 Cuba Ave,
Banagher, Co. Offaly. Ireland.

Some addresses i may have forgotten to include are:
IN THE WOODS..., PO Box 7093, 4628 Kr. Sand, Norway.
ADIPOCERE RECS, 152 rue des Acacias, 01700 MIRIBEL, France.
BAL-SAGOTH, 27 Main Road, Usher Wood, Wharnccliffe Side,
Sheffield S30 3DP. England.

SOLITUDE AETURNUS

Answers by John

WHAT IS THE BANDS CURRENT LINE-UP?

Same line-up for the last 5 years. Myself-guitar, Lyle Steadham-bass, Robert Lowe-vocals, Edgar Rivera-guitar, Wolf-drums.

WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO SINCE BEEN DROPPED BY ROADRUNNER? HAVE YOU SOLD MANY LPs AND HAVE YOU RECEIVED ANY MONEY?

We basically worked on new songs and searched for a new label for the past year or so. We've sold probably about 12-15 thousand copies of each album on Roadrunner but unfortunately have made no money whatsoever from those sales. There's really not much money to be made unless you sell a lot of records.

TELL US ABOUT THE DEMO. WHERE WAS IT RECORDED, HOW MUCH DID IT COST AND ARE YOU HAPPY WITH THE RESULTS?

We did a demo last August, just so we could shop it around to a few labels. We never meant to sell it or send it out to anyone, but so many people asked for it that we sent out a few copies to people. It was recorded at some guys house and i'm sorry but i don't have any more copies of it. All of the songs will be on the new LP though.

HOW DOES THE NEW STUFF DIFFER FROM THE OLDER STUFF?

All in all, the new songs are actually heavier than anything we've done before, but at the same time they are more diverse than anything we've done before. The new stuff has more experimental things for us and of course we have plenty of traditional Solitude Doom Sound. I can't wait to release this one. It's definitely my favourite album that we've done.

IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT YOU MAY BE WORKING WITH THE 'RISE ABOVE' LABEL. WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THAT?

We were negotiating with Rise Above, but because of distribution problems the deal fell through. We signed a deal with PAVEMENT RECORDS (CROWBAR) and i think Pavement will do good things for us.

WHAT BANDS ARE YOU LISTENING TO LATELY? ANY YOU CAN SEE GOING ON TO BIGGER THINGS?

I'm constantly listening to music. As far as metal goes, i've been listening to GODSEND, SIGH, BEHERIT, EXCITER, COUNT RAVEN, old KROKUS, CATHEDRAL, DIVINE EVE, ANSV, IMMORTAL and DECOMPOSED. I'M also into alot of psychedelic and ambient stuff like SADDAR BAZZAR, PORCUPINE TREE(Godz), SOVIET FRANCE, LUSTMORD, GIGSAW SEEN, OZRIC TENTACLES and SUN DIAL. PORCUPINE TREE and GODSEND will both move on to much bigger things.

WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN NOT INVOLVED WITH THE BAND? DO YOU WORK?

Yeah, i work a shitty job as a phone researcher. It really sucks, but i have to work these kinds of jobs to be in a band at all. I mostly listen to music in my free time or watch underground movies. Mostly music though.

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR THE FUTURE?

The album entitled 'Through The Darkest Hour' should be out late July/August and we plan to finally tour Europe after it's release. That's really what we want to do, tour, tour and then tour.

CLOSING COMMENTS?

Thanks for the interview with your mag. Everyone check out our new LP when it comes out. I promise pure heavyness. Write us for merchandise info.

PO BOX 121202 Arlington, Tx 76012. USA.

GODSEND has the following Merchandise available: Demo '92 US\$7, 'As The Shadows Fall'-CD US\$18, Cassette US\$11, 'Against All Gods' Compilation CD (features GODSEND) US\$16, T-Shirt (XL) US\$16, Long Sleeved Shirt (XL) US\$21. Also, as a special offer you can have both the DEMO '92 and the 'As The Shadows Fall' CD for just US\$22. Order from: GODSEND c/o Gunder Audio Drugsten, Postbox 451, Sentrum N-7001 TRONDHEIM, Norway.

HOBBY OF NIN

WHAT IS THE BANDS LINE-UP? WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY ABOUT THE RUMOURS THAT YOU HAD SPLIT UP?

Aaaaargh!! Well there's moi, Craig Philips. I'm the Voxist. Jamie Hethrington and Paul 'Wildman' Webb handle the Guitars, Tim Coffey on Bass and Wan is back in his rightful place on the Drum throne. The rumours that we'd split up, well, we stopped rehearsing and kicked out some members, and Zak left. There was only me and Paul left, and we were having difficulty getting a line-up back together, so people who knew us (mentioning no names Rich Militia of SOLSTICE and Daz Shooter) presumed we'd split. But we're back and stronger than ever.

WHAT STUFF DO YOU HAVE AVAILABLE AT THE MOMENT?

Just the demo, oh...and shirts for £7.50!! If you want the 7" you'll have to risk sending dosh to Avante Garde.

TELL US ABOUT YOU'RE PROPOSED LP/CD DEAL WITH AVANTE GARDE?

We're not doing it. We only got 5 & 7" from them, so we're not going to do it. I'm fucked off with labels...full stop. Loads have said they sigh us but it was only talking shit. The only label that has treated us ok was Peaceville.

YOU HAD A SONG ON THE 'DEAF METAL SAMPLER', HOW DID THAT COME ABOUT?

Well, Jonny is a good friend, we're always getting rat-arsed with him, so he put us in the studio for the track. Don't get the misapprehension it was on our music or anything. It's like everything in this business, it's who you know.

TELL US SOMETHING ABOUT YOUR NEW SONGS AND THE DIRECTION THEY ARE TAKING?

Well, songs like 'Vanossa' and 'Cascades' are more gothic and faster and are about sex. We've no intentions of getting doomier or anything like that. We'll just do what we want. Maybe i'll write some lyrics about drugs, i'm not sure. I'm a bit bored with the romantic 'oh where has my lost love gone' type trendy lyrics, even though i've written my fair share of them.

WHAT BANDS ARE YOU INTO AT THE MOMENT?

Hmm...NIN, Fields of the Nephilim, Tekton Motor Corp, Die Krupps, Sisters of Mercy, Dark Tranquility, Sadness, Red Hot Silly Buggers, Tori Amos.....

WHAT ARE YOUR LYRICS ABOUT AND WHERE DO YOU DRAW INSPIRATION FROM?

Hmm, SEX, coz i hardly get to use it. When i split with my girlfriend i was a bit of a sap and wrote those vet lyrics i was telling you about earlier.

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE CURRENT UNDERGROUND SCENE?

I think it's much better now that labels have stopped signing death metal. Everyone's stopped cloning each other in the hope of being the next DISMEMBER or sumnik. Still, there are alot of sackless buggers who think being original means copying MY DYING BRIDE.

WHAT'S THE LAST LP YOU BOUGHT? DO YOU HAVE TO HEAR A SONG BEFORE YOU BUY OR JUST IF IT GETS A GOOD REVIEW?

I bought the NINE INCH NAILS 'The Downward Spiral' CD and 'FIELDS OF THE NEPHILIM' "Elizium" LP. I bought NIN coz i just like 'em in general and i wanted the CD. I bought 'Fields' coz i had it on tape anyway, but it was in excellent condition second hand for £3, so y'cant go wrong. I normally buy CDs of bands i like in general, but if i send off for underground stuff, it's just if the flyer is cool and i have some dollars spare.

WHAT'S THE USUAL TURNOUT AT YOUR GIGS AND WHAT REACTIONS DO YOU GET?
Well, we played in Huddersfield last night with SOLSTICE, BLASPHEMER, MONSTICE, and SEERIS TEAR. SOLSTICE headlined. There was about 100 people there and we got the second best response after BLASPHEMER. We've got to be honest. There was only Steve from MONSTICE headbanging at first, but by the last two songs 'Swandive' and 'Last Dance' we got the whole crowd going. Someone even bought me a pint if i stripped off, Ha Ha.

WHAT'S THE COOLEST THING ANYONE EVER SAID ABOUT CHORUS OF RUIN?

I'm not sure, that they liked us i guess. Harold Dekkers said we were a 'sensation, DEAD CAN DANCE metal'. Spud from BEYOND DEATH mag called us 'limp wristed bollocks'. It's all very flattering, especially the one in BEYOND DEATH, considering all the snide and childish comments he makes about ANATHEMA and MY DYING BRIDE. So you don't like it...Who cares?

DO YOU RECEIIVE MUCH MAIL? WHICH COUNTRIES MOSTLY? AND DO YOU ENJOY DOING MAIL?

Actually, i get stacks from the Emerald Isle. I love doing it all. It's just a bit expensive. It's smart when people like you enough to let you

know.

IMMINENT PLANS FOR THE BAND?

Record a promo, do some gigs, get drunk and get laid.

CLOSING COMMENTS?

Thanks tons Cathal, i appreciate it tons, do you like the logo? I do.

CHORUS OF RUIN c/o Craig Philips,
25 Aireview Crescent, Baildon,
W. Yorks, BD17 7LS. UK.

Eye Of Mourning

P.O. Box 306

Palos Heights, IL 60463

U.S.A.

Answers by Scott

WHAT IS THE BANDS LINE-UP AND CAN YOU GIVE A BRIEF HISTORY?

The band currently consists of just 2 members. Mysolf on Guitar + Vocals and Brian Whited who plays bass. We started out about 2 years ago as a death metal band but slowly changed into the doom metal that we are today. We recorded our first and only demo so far in Feb. '93 (we had a full line-up then).

TELL US ABOUT YOUR DEMO?

The demo consists of 6 songs totally about 45 minutes of music. It is pure doom metal that is dark and chilling. The vocals are not growled...

WHERE DID YOU RECORD THE TAPE AND HOW MUCH DID IT COST?

We recorded at RPC Studios, an 8 track studio that my friend Curt Marolt owns. It cost us US \$ an hour (no exact figure, sorry).

WHAT DO YOUR LYRICS DEAL WITH? HOW DO YOU PUT A SONG TOGETHER?

Our lyrics deal with dark and gothic subjects, they are mostly fictitious based on actual events from my life (you could never tell by reading the lyrics). I am not sure how we put a song together...it just comes together, you know??

DO YOU PLAY MANY GIGS?

No, we don't play out because of our lack of members, we need a drummer and a second guitarist to play out.

DO YOU HAVE ANY PLANS FOR THE RELEASE OF SOME NEW MATERIAL?

Yes, we are recording new material now, it will not be released for a while though.

WHAT BANDS DO YOU LIKE AT THE MOMENT?

I like alot of bands. Too many to mention. My favourite band is BLACK SABBATH ('70-'78). I also listen to alot of other doom bands, as well as black and death metal, not to mention a few others.

APART FROM MUSIC, IS THERE ANY OTHER STUFF THAT INFLUENCES YOU?

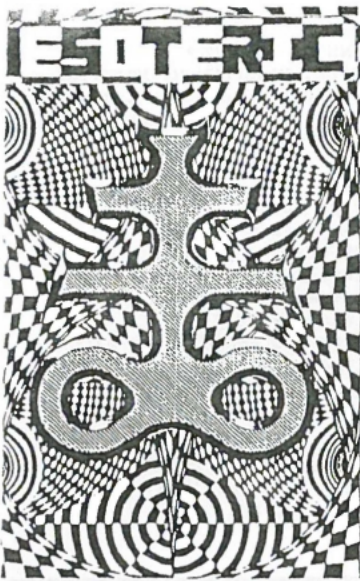
As a band, no. Personally, i enjoy the AD&D role playing game alot, it influences the way i think and has for a long time. Stuff from there gives me alot of inspiration.

FUTURE PLANS?

To become rich and famous.

Closing Comments?

Thanks for the interview Cathal and good luck with the zine.



Answers by Greg

WHAT IS THE BANDS LINE-UP? CAN YOU GIVE A BRIEF HISTORY?

The line-up is Gordon-lead guitar, effects, synths and samples, Bryan-bass, effects, Simon-lead guitar, effects, Stuart-guitar, effects, Greg-vocals, effects, Darren-drums. We formed in July '92 and underwent a couple of line-up changes involving drummers, but we have had a stable line-up since March '93. We recorded the demo in July '93 and released it in November '93.

TELL US ABOUT THE DEMO. IT'S FAIRLY LONG AT 78 MINS, WHERE DID YOU RECORD AND HOW MUCH DID IT COST?

We recorded the demo at Rich Ditch studios. It cost £500. It took us a while to get the money, but when we want something we always find a way of getting it, whatever the means, and we always wanted a professional recording. The reason for the length of the demo is that we had 8 songs that we wanted to record. We felt that they all had their own character and feel, so we didn't want to leave any of them out. A few people have said that 78 mins is too long for a release, but we think that this is a ridiculous thing to say, because why should the length have any significance on the quality of the music? If anything it gives the purchasers a greater value for money, besides which, it isn't necessary to listen to it all in one go.

WHERE DOES THE DRUG INFLUENCE COME INTO YOUR SOUND?

It comes into our sound in the form of our song structure, discordancies and in the effects we use. We do take drugs

and this is reflected in our music. We like to create music that sounds 'trippy' and evocative. We feel that our music and the way we write it and programme effects is vastly different from any band we've heard. We create tortured atmospheres and enhance them with effects to give the music a visual dimension. Anyone who's taken acid or other hallucinogenic drugs will realise that with the right use of effects, music can take on a greater level of intensity and does have more dimensions. People who are open minded should see this anyway.

HAVE YOU PLAYED MANY GIGS, WHAT REACTIONS HAVE YOU HAD? DO YOU PLAY STONED?

Thus far, we've only played 2 gigs. We have many more planned. We will be playing on June 28 at Edwards No 8 with DAL-SAGOTH, DARK HERESY, and either ANATHEMA, DECOMPOSED or BENEDICTION headlining. If this fails, then we'll be playing the same bill later in the summer with CRADIE OF FILTH headlining. We will be playing with ACRIMONY and ASHEN MORTALITY in June. The reactions we've had have been varied. Some people left, though quite a few people got into it and we sold a few demos at our last gig. Most of the crowd were shocked when we started playing, mainly due to the extremity and heaviness of our music. Our sound is so heavy now that the whole building shakes when we play. We don't play stoned or fucked as we like to be sharp and as professional as possible. We each have alot of effects that we use, which is fairly awkward. Some of the newer songs are more technical and complex in structure, so we have to be focused in order to reproduce the songs and effects exactly as they were written. We always get fucked afterwards though.

WHAT DO YOUR LYRICS DEAL WITH?

The lyrics deal with our philosophical stance and our emotions. I write about my past experiences. I write partly as a form of introspection and to release the malignant emotions, such as sorrow, hatred etc., that build up inside me. We then transpose the lyrics into the music most fitting to the emotional content of the lyrics. We are 'true' satanists. We believe in no god or devil, in neither heaven nor hell. Due to the vast amount of 'pretend' satanists trying to sell their music through imagery, 'true' Satanists have somehow lost out and been made to seem farcial, due to these pseudo idiots giving people the wrong impression of what satanism is about. People read the lyrics of idiots who don't know anything about true satanism and dismiss it as nonsense, without looking any further. Because of this, i can't really talk about the actualities of true satanism now because it would take too long, though i will say that satanism is about self-belief and indulgence. This is also apparent in our lyrics, as is our hate for pretentiousness and laws enforced by this authoritative society that dominates the country. As a result we are fairly misanthropic and have cut ourselves off from society. No one should have to adhere to anyone elses rules.

WHAT IS IT ABOUT YOUR MUSIC THAT MAKES IT 'ESOTERIC'?

The linguistic definition of ESOTERIC is philosophical, emotional, occultist, deep, heavy, secret, hidden etc. We feel our music and lyrics are all those things, which is why we chose the name ESOTERIC. Our music is somewhat shrouded and those who don't listen carefully to it will not hear all that is there. Those who do listen and are of vast experience in life will see at least a certain amount of truth in our music that is relative to their existence. We don't particularly care whether people like our music or not, we play for ourselves. If we were to write music in order to become popular and write it in a style we thought would be pleasing to a vast majority, we wouldn't consider it to be either our personal creation or music. It would just be a marketing product that would sell, we would never do that.

WHAT BANDS ARE YOU INFLUENCED BY AND WHAT UNDERGROUND STUFF DO YOU LIKE?

I wouldn't really say that we are influenced by other bands. We are more influenced by life, thoughts and emotions. We do like a vast array of bands and musical styles, but they aren't integrated into our music, at least not at a conscious level. At the heavy end of the spectrum, the underground bands we like are CRADLE OF FILTH, HAL-SAGOTH, THY SINISTER BLOOM, DECOMPOSED etc. The list of underground bands we like is fairly large, so the above few should serve as a mere example. There are a lot of good bands around at the moment.

ARE YOU ANY RELATION TO DAVE CHANDLER OF SAINT VITUS FAME?

No

WHERE DO YOU SEE YOUR NEW STUFF GOING?

Our new songs travel along with more intensity than the songs on the demo. We have progressed a lot. The new songs are more diverse, with a much greater use of effects. We feel that they are more evocative in an emotional sense, and basically capture the essence of magic. We will continue to write songs the way we want to and we will always continue to improve as musicians until we are bound only by the laws of physics which are themselves indeterminate. We will never limit ourselves, and the new songs will go wherever we want them to.

HAVE YOU HAD A GOOD REACTION TO THE DEMO? ABOUT HOW MANY HAVE YOU SOLD?

Yes we have had a good reaction, a lot of people have liked it and said it is original. We've had a few criticisms, though mainly off people who couldn't relate to it and didn't even try to understand the aims of the music. Even those who criticised it said they liked it on the whole. The main criticism was of it's extremity and of the intensely slow parts in some songs. We've sold about 60 demos, though there are about 150 in circulation. We've sent out a lot free to zines, labels etc.

WHEN CAN WE EXPECT SOME NEW STUFF FROM ESOTERIC?

We are due to record a full-length CD on AESTHETIC DEATH RECORDS between June 6th and 16th at Rich Ditch studios. The CD will be released in August sometime, and will contain 6 songs. It will be approximately 78 minutes long, and will be a very professional affair. It will definitely be value for money.

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR THE FUTURE?

Our plans are to gig quite a lot and give those who might like our music the opportunity of hearing it. I've already stated some upcoming gigs. Apart from that we're going to carry on doing what we want to do, and anyone who gets in our way or interferes with us will be removed. Life is too shit to let people fuck things up for you and make it worse. We don't fully trust anyone, and people who fuck with us will be treated mercilessly, as those who've done so in the past were. We don't interfere with anyone else and we get extremely pissed off when people interfere with us.

FINAL COMMENTS?

No final comments. We only express opinions when asked, unless we've been judged upon. We would like to thank Cathal for giving us this interview and thanks for your support. The demo is still available for £3 UK, US\$ Europe, US\$ Rest of World. ESOTERIC, 19 Fairmead Rise, Kings Norton, Birmingham, B38 8BS, England. All letters will be replied to.

Any bands who wish to be included in future issues of either ETERNAL BLACK EMBRACE or HIGH SPEED DEATH should get in touch. Address at intro page.

Answers by John

WHAT IS THE BANDS LINE-UP AND CAN YOU GIVE US A BRIEF HISTORY?

The line-up is: Markus Baumhauer-vocals, Jochen Fopp-guitar, Michael Siffermann-guitar, Ingo Haederle-drums, Rainer Hampell-bass. MIRROR OF DECEPTION started in Sept. '90 when me & Michael got together to play some heavy, moody music that is usually titled doom (nothing against this label).



Our drummer Ingo joined us in May '91 and then finally in June '92 Markus & Rainer.

We played our 1st gig in same year and recorded

Feb. '93, live in a 4-

This tape was at first for sale, but alot

Dec. of the our debut demo in hour session.

not meant of our it

friends liked it, so we decided to send around and the response was better than we ever dared to expect.

We were even able to play a gig with out faves COUNT RAVEN (cool-ED) through this tape. And in Jan. '94 we went into a studio and recorded our 2nd demo, which id now (end of April) finally out.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOU SOUND AND WHERE DO YOU GET INFLUENCES FROM?

Well, it's basically doom with a normal voice and if you're into bands such as CANDLEMASS, COUNT RAVEN, REVELATION, TROUBLE, old BLACK SABBATH you might like it. But we try to add a personal touch to it, i don't know if we succeed in doing this (you're getting there-ED). What we want to play is our view of doom or simply the music we like. About influences, besides doom stuff, we're also into progressive metal, gothic, folk, (but not bavarian folk music) and a little death/thrash/speed/. So i think we have also some touches from other sides...

TELL US ABOUT YOUR DEMO AND THE SONGS ON IT?

The 1st demo's totally sold out. Meanwhile, i'll talk about our 2nd strike. We recorded this time in a 16-track studio and the whole thing turned out pretty heavy. So we're quite satisfied with it. Some things could've been better, but anyway... It contains 4 songs and the running time is about 24 mins. 'Chapter X' is the latest

song we've written, it was finished the evening before we went into the studio, and alot of people told us this may be our best song yet. 'Word Unspoked' - the title track (ha ha) is a really straight song, but sometimes a riff needs time to develop it's feeling. 'Mysterious' is the shortest song we did so far (1 mins), so maybe we should try to get it into the billboard charts... 'Mirror of Deception' appeared already on the first tape and it's our heaviest song. It's also the 1st song Mo & Michael did. We thought we could more out of it, thats why we recorded it again and it was worth it. If you compare 'M. O. D' to 'Chapter X' you can pretty much hear the bands development.

WHAT DID YOU THINK OF THE REVIEW IN TERRORIZER? DID YOU GET MANY REPLIES FROM IT?

Well, first of all thanx to the mighty Russ Smith for the whole support he gave us so far..well, the review was really fair, maybe even abit over-rated, but it was great to appear in TERRORIZER, cool mag. We did'nt get many letters from it, maybe 2 or 3, but it was good anyway. I think it introduced our name to some people who'll maybe be more interested in checking us out after the review of our 2nd demo. We'll see...But at least it got you, Cathal interested in us - so it was worth it.

WHAT IS THE USUAL TURN OUT AT YOUR GIGS AND WHAT REACTIONS DO YOU GET?

It depends, sometimes the reactions are cool, sometimes the people are just standing around, but then we punish them. The more they dislike us, the slower we play. But it's always cool to play live, and if no one's interested then it's like a better paid rehearsal to us. But at least we mostly attract a few people.

HOW IS THE UNDERGROUND SCENE IN YOUR AREA?

It's getting better. The most 'famous' band from our area is TOXIC SHOCK-a boring thrash act, these guys really suck. They've already got 3 CDs out (far too much, that's why they think they're the kings). We've got BEYOND THE DARK here, who play progressive power metal, they're pretty cool as well as a band called CHAMOIX who label their weird music as jazz metal caberet and there's a new band coming up called BEHIND THE SCENERY who play something like OVERKILL with keyboards.

10 contains 4 songs and the running time is about 24 mins. 'Chapter X' is the latest song we've written, it was finished the evening before we went into the studio, and alot of people told us this may be our best song yet. 'Word Unspoked' - the title track (ha ha) is a really straight song, but sometimes a riff needs time to develop it's feeling. 'Mysterious' is the shortest song we did so far (1 mins), so maybe we should try to get it into the billboard charts... 'Mirror of Deception' appeared already on the first tape and it's our heaviest song. It's also the 1st song Mo & Michael did. We thought we could more out of it, thats why we recorded it again and it was worth it. If you compare 'M. O. D' to 'Chapter X' you can pretty much hear the bands development.

MIRROR OF DECEPTION...continued

But if we go a few kilometers farther to Stuttgart (near where we live) we have such bands as DAWN OF WINTER (our brothers in doom) and ATROCITY.

WHAT OTHER UNDERGROUND BANDS DO YOU LIKE?

I'm quite into ordering demos and stuff. My faves are SOLSTICE(UK), DECOIYAH (a Finnish band who play very atmospherical music), FIFTH DOMINION, MOURN, THE CIRCLE (from Holland, they're a mix of doom/death and symphonic rock), ETERNNE, FEAR MY SOLITUDE (a Swedish doom duo who released 7 (?) demos in 2 years). I'm always looking for interesting bands.

WHAT DIRECTION WILL YOUR NEW STUFF GO IN? ARE YOU MAKING ANY CHANGES TO YOUR STYLE?

We've started working on a new song and it sounds great. We've managed to find some good guitar harmony lines. I can't tell you what direction we'll follow, it'll stay doom, but how exactly it'll sound like...We won't change our style, but add some thing (for sure no funk/hip hop or hardcore) like maybe slide-guitars, to get more variation in the whole thing, and keep it interesting for ourselves. Anyway, i think we've ~~already~~ already found a way to play the music we want.

WHAT DO YOU WRITE YOUR LYRICS ABOUT?

To me the lyrics are very important, the ones i wrote ('Chapter X' & 'Words Unspoken' & 'Mysterious') are based on personal experiences and thoughts. 'Chapter X' is about another failed love-story, 'Words Unspoken' is about barriers in any kind of human relationship (family, friendship, love) and 'Mysterious' is a bit abstract, but it has also a very deep meaning inside. It's more like creating images with words than to talk in a concrete way. 'M.O.D' was written by our singer (in a hurry once), but we didn't print it coz the English isn't good in these and we were too busy to write some new ones. Basically it's about the situation with mother earth. The next song will again feature one of his lyrics.

WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS?

Well, we hope to sell millions of tapes and settle down in Majorca...just kidding. No, we try to find some distributions right now and later on we want to print some t-shirts, but that won't happen before September of something. We had plans to come over to England (and to Dublin of course) to play with SOLSTICE and FIFTH DOMINION, but we really can't afford it right now. That's a pity..maybe someday it'll happen.

WHAT WAS THE LAST LP YOU BOUGHT?

Do you mean LP or album in general (on CD?), (yes i mean album in general)-ED), I can't remember the last LP i bought, that was more than 2 years ago, but the most recent album on CD i bought was 'The Orchestral Tubular Bells' by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and composed by Mike Oldfield. I need some more time to get into it, but so far it seems great.

FINAL COMMENTS?

OK, thanx Cathal for this great interview, eternally appreciated. Also thanks to everyone who had the patience to read all this. If you feel we could be something for you, your letters are welcome. SUPPORT THE UNDERGROUND and DOOM OR BE DOOMED.

THY SINISTER BLOOM(IRE) - 'Rehearsal '91'

Oohh..this is really something to get excited about. This is easily the best Irish band i've heard (apart from TRICIFIX & PRIMORDIAL) not a comment i mean lightly. I'm completely serious. This Reh. is stunning. THY SINISTER BLOOMS music takes you on a voyage through a variety of atmospheres and emotions, ranging from tranquillity ('The Starborn Serenade Our Loss'), depression ('Precious Hearts Grandstone..') and total fucked in the head-ness ('Splendour Flights..'). This isn't just music to listen to, it's music that affects you and moves you. The lads are best described as atmospheric doom (Not doom/death, just pure doom) (I'd have to disagree as they do use some death metal vocals-ED), and i can tell you here that i honestly can't see everyone getting into this as it's so fucking heavy...(in the deepest meaning of the word). This is just Godly. THY SINISTER BLOOM, c/o Jeff, 3J Glentow Road, Whitehall, Dublin 9. Fire.

JAMIE

GOD FORSAKEN(FIN) - 'Dismal Gleams Of Desolation' LP (Adipocere)

This has been out a good while, and if you've not yet heard it then do so as soon as possible, as it's one of the best doom/death albums i've heard in a long time. In my view this may surpass much of the material oh even ANATHEMA's 'Serenades' LP. Yes, the doom here is excellent. The band even have some groovy up tempo stuff mixed in and never become too overbearing like some doom acts. 'Loveless' has to be a doom classic. See interview for address.

BERNGARD(NOR) - 'Vinterskugge' CD (Peaceville)

From the hilarious warbling of 'vinterskooooogeeccchhh' that starts us off, this LP gets stranger and stranger. From late 80s biker music (complete with truly crap DEEP PURPLE style vocals) on 'Storm of Evil' to the intense death of 'THE FOG'. I love this LP, and it confirms that Fenriz of DARKTHRONE (for it is he) is clearly a complete fruitcake. Actually, some of the stuff is very similar to DARKTHRONE circa 'Soulside..', but the rest is similar to a cross between BLACK SABBATH & IRON BUTTERFLY...altogether now everyone...Heeencevveee Metuul. This is going to be a major disappointment to all those little kids who were expecting 'Under a Funeral Moon', but the dark atmosphere this conjours up is great. Actually if you like BATHORY on 'Hammerheart', or SIGH, this is for you. But be Warned.

JAMIE

MIRROR OF DECEPTION(GER) - 'Words Unspoken' Demo

From Germany, MIRROR OF DECEPTION play traditional doom metal. This demo contains some really great parts. CHAPTER X is the newest song, and probably the best, with the now patent doom riffs, these guys do it well, and the acoustic parts at the end is really cool. The vocals take a bit of time to get into, but they are quite cool too and suit the music well. This is well worth your attention. Jochen Fopp, Kirchstr. 37/I, 73000 Uhingen, Germany.

MAYHEM(NOR) - 'De Mystiris Dom Sathanus' CD (DSP)

7 years since 'Deathcrush', and only now does this get released, after the death of Euronymous, was it worth the wait? Well, yes & no. The music here is fucking fantastic, 'The Freezing Moon' has never sounded better, and opener 'Funeral Fog' is still a classic. Evil, violent, i could'nt ask for more songwise. But there are 2 major let downs. First, the production is very polished, and it's a bit too clean to fully compliment the songs. Secondly, the vocals are nothing short of total shit. I know Dead was going to be hard to replace, but the guy (from Hungarian TORTMENTOR) is total crap, sorta like an even worse version of the guy from MASTERS HAMMER, big disappointment there. But apart from these 2 points, i can say this is a lot better than the likes of EMPEROR, ENSLAVED, MASTERS BOLLOCKS...sorry HAMMER etc. Not for trendies (but they'll be first to buy it).

JAMIE

BURZUM(NOR) - 'Advance Tracks'

Here are 2 tracks from the latest 'Hvis Lyset Tar Oss' CD on MISANTHROPY RECORDS. First track, 'Det Som En Gang Var' opens with some cool keyboards. These keys are very prominent throughout, which gives a cool atmosphere. When the song starts proper, the first thing you notice is how much like BATHORY it sounds...very similar indeed. The second track i have 'Tomhet' is just totally keyboards, and is more like a movie soundtrack. Not a track you'd listen to too often, but still has a cool atmosphere. I was really surprised how good this was, and i'm sure you will be too..let the music do the talking.

SIGH(JAP) - 'Promo '93'

Now this is really excellent. It came as a welcome relief as i'd been listening to various things to review which i was'nt wild about, which only served to emphasise how wonderful this is. 2 adv. tracks from the forthcoming 'Scorn Defeat', and it will kill judging by these songs. SIGH play wonderful, very very eerie type doomy/black stuff. Sorta like what HELLHAMMER might sound like if they were around today. Mirais vocals may not be favourite for me, but his evil, warrior-esque growls fit the music perfectly. As does the use of keyboards. Sigh, along with maybe CRADLE OF FILTH are the only band i've heard that really use keys properly. 'A Victory of Dakani' is my favourite of the 2 here, chilling stuff. Very eerie, macabre, original & generally fucking excellent music..SIGH will conquer the black underground. Look out for 'Scorn Defeat'.

JAMIE

GODSEND

WHAT IS THE BANS CURRENT LIKE-UP? AFTER YOU RECORDED YOUR FIRST DEMO WITH DAN, YOU GOT A DRUMMER AND VOCALIST. HOW COME YOU'RE USING DAN AGAIN?

GODSEND is still a one man band at the moment. After the demo was recorded i managed to find a drummer and

vocalist. We rehearsed together for a couple of months, but then we decided to part company. That's why i'm using Dan Swano and Benny Larsson on the album recording.

TELL US ABOUT THE DEAL YOU HAVE WITH HOLY RECORDS?

HOLY RECORDS offered me a deal after the heard a promotape of the album recording. They were very enthusiastic, and i decided to sign a deal with them. The deal is for 2 albums, so i have one more to do for Holy Records. I'm quite satisfied with the deal. I don't get any money, but i get a percentage of the CDs, Cassettes and T-shirts that are produced.

WHERE DID YOU RECORD YOUR 'AS THE SHADOWS FALL' LP. TELL US ABOUT THE SONGS ON IT?

The album was recorded in Sweden, in a studio called UNISOUND, which is owned by Dan Swano. I recorded my demo in the same studio, except we used a 16-track recorder for the album. The album contains 9 songs, 8 of them are from the last recording session, 'Silence of Time' is from the demo recording. HOLY RECORDS wanted to put that song on CD to get a longer playing time. Most of the new songs are songs that have't been recorded before, except 'Slaydream' which appeared on the demo. The songs are very different from each other. I guess it's because the songs have been written in a period of 13 months, and my music taste has changed during the songwriting process.

DO YOU HATE TO GET A FULL LINE-UP OR WILL YOU ALWAYS USE SESSION PEOPLE?

My goal has been to get a complete line-up for GODSEND, but sofar i have't been able to find anyone. So it seems like GODSEND will become a studio band. I don't mind that, but i can't play live, and that's a negative thing, because playing live is fun. I have't totally given up, so we'll see what happens. I'll probably use Dan & Benny on the next recording too.

WHAT BANDS DO YOU REALLY LIKE AND DO THEY INFLUENCE YOU IN YOUR WRITING?

I like bands like: LED ZEPPLIN, DUST, JIMI HENDRIX, BLACK SABBATH and SAINT VITUS to name a few. Some of these bands influence me, but i try not to rip them off. I want to create something original, however it's impossible to be totally original.

WHERE DO YOU GET YOUR LYRICAL INFLUENCE, WHAT STUFF DO YOU WRITE ABOUT AND ARE THE LYRICS IMPORTANT?

When it comes to lyrics, i'm influenced by things i see around me, things from real life. Mostly some depressive and sad happenings. So most of the lyrics i write are about human feelings and emotions, sorrow, pain and erotic frustrations. I feel the lyrics are important. I don't see the point in writing lyrics that don't mean anything to me. The lyrics have to fit the music, and in GODSEND the music and lyrics are one.

WHAT WOULD BE YOUR FAVOURITE ALBUM COVER? WHY?

This is a very difficult question, i have never thought about this. I have lots of CDs & LPs, so it's difficult to say which cover is the best. But i can say i really liked the cover of the last PARADISE LOST album. I liked it because it was artistic and it was a photograph. I like covers like that. I'm getting tired of the painted covers that most death metal bands use. A real photo is best, especially if the photo is good.

DO YOU HAVE ANY NEWER SONGS WRITTEN? DESCRIBE THEM COMPARED TO THE OLDER ONES.

Yes, i have some new songs written. None of them are totally finished yet. The new stuff will be different from the CD, it will be less doom i think. So, some doom fans will be disappointed when they hear the next album. I'm getting tired of playing 'average' doom, i want to create something new. I have been greatly influenced by bands from the 70s, and i would say there are some Blues influences in the music as well. You'll hear when the next album is released.

DO YOU READ MUCH? WHAT STUFF DO YOU LIKE?

Yes, i read alot of books normally. But now i'm studying so i don't have much time to read. I like authors like Lovecraft, Stephen King, Clive Barker, Edgar Allen Poe, and also old Norwegian writers like Henrik Ibsen, Alexander Kielland & Jonas Lie.

IS THERE ANYONE YOU'D LIKE TO MENTION OR SAY HELLO TO?

I'd like to say hello to everyone i know in Ireland, you know who you are. I'd also like to thank everyone who bought the demo, thanks for your support.

CLOSING COMMENTS?

Thanks for the interview, i hope the readers liked it. If people are interested in writing, please remember to enclose an I.R.C or UD I. Then i can guarante an answer.



Answers by BYRON

TELL ME HOW THE BAND BECAME THE ENTITY IT IS TODAY AND OF IT'S MEMBERS?

BAL-SAGOTH was unleashed forth from the mist shrouded veils of legendary not seven moons past, anointed by spells of pagan witchcraft. We are BYRON-Vocals, Johnathan-Drums, Jason-Bass, Vincent-Keyboards and Christoph-Guitars.

WHAT STUFF GIVES THE BAND INSPIRATION? WHAT STUFF DO YOU LISTEN TO?

We listen to a great deal of classical music, such as Chopin & Wagner..It is still the most powerful and inspiring of all...and other times we listen to many bands, from EMPEROR & MY DYING BRIDE, to CLANNAD & ENYA.

TELL ME OF YOUR DEAL WITH 'CACOPHONOUS RECORDS'. WHEN CAN WE EXPECT THE LP?

We record the LP in Academy Studios in July/August, which will then have an autumn release. We hail to CACOPHONOUS as a true label, Nihil believes in the dark power of the music and in what we strive for, thus a powerful alliance is forged in steel and blood.

WHAT SONGS WILL APPEAR ON THE LP. TELL US A LITTLE ABOUT EACH ONE.

The LP will feature about 10 tracks, most of which are written. All will evoke different moods and be heavily steeped in dark atmosphere, incorporating many complex & ethereal keyboard parts to enhance the symphonic & orchestral feel which we aspire to create. The lyrics deal with such things as Dark Society & ancient gods, strange sagas & weird tales to be told by flickering candle flame on the darkest of winter nights, pagan tales and dark fantasy stories, the ethereal vistas of dreams, nightmares and ancient, eon-veild powers.

TELL ME OF THE RISING OF THE 'TRIUMVIRATE'. WHAT ARE IT'S AIMS?

THE TRIUMVIRATE i fear, is dead...and yet strong alliances, with similar aims (promoting underground bands, gigging etc) are being forged with such as BLASPHEMER, ESOTERIC & THEODICY. ALL HAIL THE UNDERGROUND...

DO THE BAND LIKE ROBERT E. HOWARD? WHICH ARE YOUR FAVOURITE STORIES OF HIS?

Aye, ROBERT E. HOWARD is amongst my favourite authors. We take our name from his inspiring workd. My favourite tales of his include 'Worms of the Earth' (mine too-ED), 'Kings of the Night', 'Tigers of the Sea', 'The Frost Giants Daughter', 'The Shadow King' & of course 'The Gods of Bal-Sagoth'. I also hail the weird tales of H.P. Lovecraft, particularly his 'Cthulhu Mythos' stories.

DO YOU FEEL THAT THE DESTRUCTION OF ORGANIZED RELIGION AND A RETURN TO PAGAN WAYS WILL HELP REVIVE THE SPIRITS OF ANCIENT TIMES?

Organized religion, in any form is fundamentally wrong, i am a pagan, hailing to the ancient gods who held sway in northern europe many thousands of years ago, before the inception of the vile, flaccid monotheistic faiths (such as Christianity). Religion should be for the individual, faith brings spiritual enlightenment, faith in the old Gods.. Religions such as Christianity, Judaism, Islam etc etc..are so festering and corrupt that it sickens me..these are the flaccid, thrall-faiths which must be cast down and forgotten...exposed for the abysmal lies they truly are..Hail to the Ancient Gods...Forsoke The Flaccid Christ.

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

Indeed, following the release of the LP, vast tours will be embarked upon, battle campaigns of epic proportions, to be sure.

WHAT ARE YOUR VIEWS ON THOSE THAT SAY PAGANISM AND SATANISM ARE LINKED?

PAGANISM & SATANISM are not linked, they never were and they never will be. Paganism predates christianity by countless ages, and because satanism is an aspect of the fictional christian mythos, then it also predates satanism and can never be linked to it. A great deal of popular satan concept in the western world is a result of the bastard christians attempting to corrupt pagan deities and force people to think of them as evil devil figures...this is how pathetic the christian psyche really is. Satanism will always be an aspect of the middle eastern Judaeo/Christian faiths, and will never have any links to Paganism, Heathenism, Witchcraft etc. Anyone who says different shall taste the cold edge of Pagan steel...AYE..

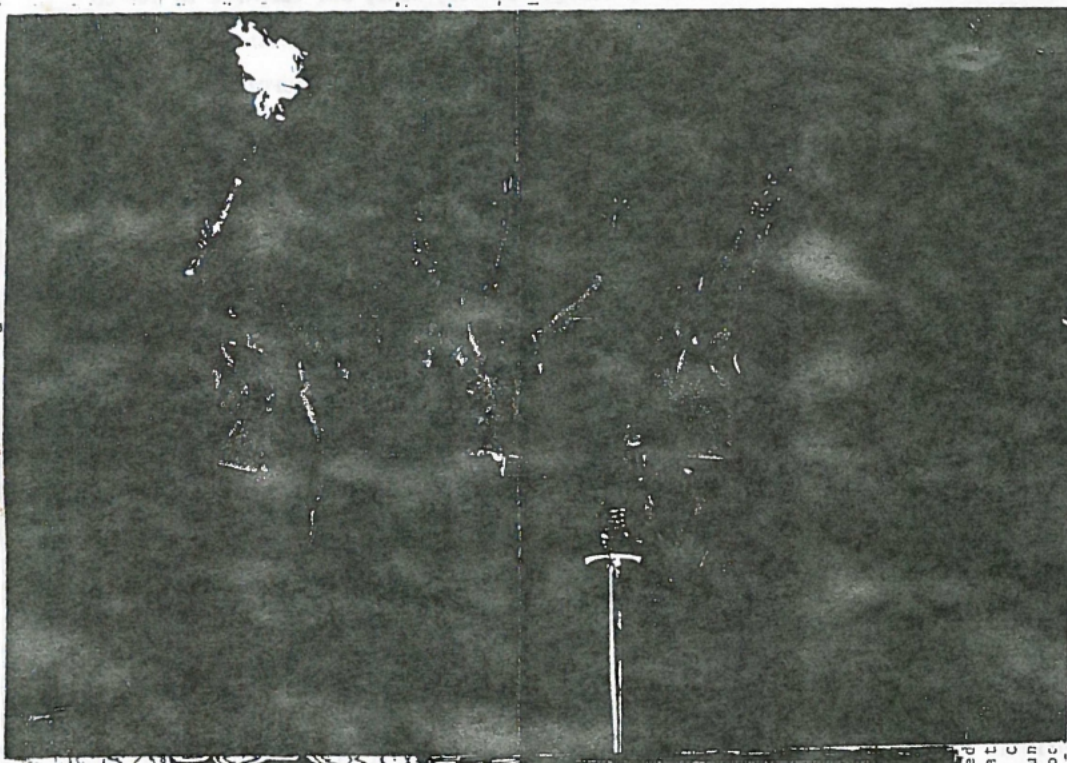
IF THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST WAS AT HAND, WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

I would stand and laugh at the pathetic, pitiful, deluded fools who believed it. HOW DO YOU FEEL YOU HAVE PROGRESSED FROM WHEN YOU FIRST STARTED THE BAND, AND HOW DO YOU SEE YOURSELVES PROGRESSING IN THE FUTURE?

The orchestral, epic feel in our music is always growing in power, and will continue to increase, as we aspire to encompass a vast spectrum of evocative & inspiring music. True Pagan battle anthems, to be sure. We seek paths to symphonic orchestration, expanding the boundaries of black/death metal (yet still retaining true to classic roots of black/death) and creating new dirges of haunting brutality. We shall continue down the frosty, moon-shrouded path.

MAKE THY FINAL HAIR..

Hail to all who rejoice in the rapturous gleam of the winter moon, and who raise their horns to the ancient gods, as I do... and hail to thee Cathal, for this thundering interview....JAJNA OK BLODNA..



UNORTHODOX(US) * 'Balance of Power' CD (Hellhound)

This is the second release from this American 3-piece. They play some straightforward heavy metal, with a few doomy bits. On the first few listens I wasn't too impressed as there seemed to be no cool songs, and the riffs weren't great. But after a few attempts, I noticed a few gems hidden here. Things don't really start to happen until the 3rd song 'Peacemaker' which is slow and full of feeling, next song 'Well Aware' is heavier with some cool riffs and the 'Lost in Tomorrow' is another slow and really cool song. Things go downhill a bit until song no. 8 'Standstill' which is another heavy song with some cool riffs. It has to be said that there is quite a bit of 'filler' stuff here, with maybe only 5 out of the 12 being really cool, 'The Gate' is also worth a mention. Worth hearing before you splash out, but it does improve with age.

ENCHANTMENT

I.R.C)
UMPED S.A.E
Thornton
IND.

WHAT IS THE BANDS LINE-UP AND CAN YOU GIVE A BRIEF HISTORY?

Marc-guitars, Paul-vox, Chris-drums, Steve-guitars, Mark-Bass. Formed late '91 and recorded a demo in Jan. '93. Had some label interest, signed to CENTURY MEDIA. We recorded our debut CD in Feb. '94 at Academy Studios.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR DEMO 'A TEAR FOR YOUNG ELOQUENCE'. WHAT REACTIONS HAVE YOU HAD? Personally, i feel the material on 'A Tear..' is very weak, and compared to our CD you'll know why. The reactions have been good, especially as CENTURY MEDIA believed we had potential and we were signed to what i believe is the best label for the music we play.

HAS THE DEMO SOLD WELL AND WHEN CAN WE EXPECT TO HEAR SOME NEW STUFF?

We sold around the 150 mark and as for new stuff, check out our CD 'Dance The Marble Naked', available now.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR NEWER SONGS, HOW DO THEY COMPARE TO THE DEMO?

Well, when we wrote the demo material we were kind of just a set of lads who loved listening to music and decided it would be good to get together and let ideas floating in our heads out and onto our instruments, but after the demo, we all felt a bit stronger as a unit. We became more experienced as musicians. We adapted a new style i that we all felt suited our abilities and let many more influences into our lives. We wanted to play more than just music, we wanted to make emotions. What i mean is when people listen to each track and read the lyrics, we want them to absorb the music. If you really love music you'll know what i'm talking about.

WHAT DO YOUR LYRICS DEAL WITH AND WHERE DO THE IDEAS COME FROM?

Paul, the vocalist deals with the lyrics and titles. He tries to involve alot of things eg. beauty, love, hate, anger, sadness etc. Things that we have in our lives each day, but he does it in more a dream kind of tense so most people feel what he's saying. His influences are people emotions.

HAVE YOU DONE MANY GIGS? WHAT HAVE THE REACTIONS BEEN LIKE?

We have done gigs, but not too many. Whenever we do, it seems we're destined to have the shittest sound ever possible. We have played with CANCER, ANATHEMA, CEREBRAL FLX? BOLT THROWER, MONOLITH(R.I.P.), ABSOLUTION. The reactions were ok, probably not that good due to our loss sound.

WHAT STUFF FIRST INFLUENCED YOU TO FORM A BAND AND WHAT DO YOU LISTEN TO NOW?

I don't really know, i suppose when i was really young seeing bands in mags, playing in front of screaming girls. I think everyone dreams about something like that. I think music in general influenced me a great deal. As for music i listen to now: DEAD CAN DANCE, MY DYING BRIDE, NIN, PINK FLOYD, alot of original stuff.

HOW DO YOU STRIVE TO STAND OUT ABOVE OTHER BANDS?

We don't really. All we're interested in is making good quality music that people will enjoy listening to. I'll still get a buzz from writing and keeping good feeling music in the underground. The only way we'll stick out is if people really like us and help us by buying our CD. That would be nice.

IS THERE ANY SONG YOU WISH YOU'D WRITTEN?

Anything on PINK FLOYDs 'Dark Side Of The Moon'. Simply because it's a classic piece of musicianship and now they're rich men.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE T-SHIRT THAT YOU OWN?

I have 2. One is beige and used to be a jumper that i cut the sleeves off and it's the most comfiest t-shirt ever. The other is a yellow PITCHSHIFTER t-shirt. I got it at a gig they did before they were signed. It cost me £5 and it's really rare. I've only seen one other and that belongs to Paul.

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD FOR ENCHANTMENT?

Only time will tell. Hopefully we'll play some shows in Europe and i hope the CD sells well. But for now we are just concentrating on writing new material.

IS THERE ANY PERSON YOU WOULD'NT MIND BEING ENCHANTED BY?

Winona Ryder. I am enchanted by her already. She's so innocent, with sharp deep brown eyes. She is beauty itself, along with my girlfriend.

DO YOU READ MUCH? WHAT SORT OF STUFF?

I wish i had more time to read, but unfortunately i don't. I'M soon going to SPAIN on a holiday so i will read alot there. I only like non-fiction books.

WHERE WILL YOU BE WHEN THE LIGHTS GO OFF?

IN bed, any other answer would be morbid and i don't like to be depressive. It helps no one.

FINAL COMMENTS?

Thanks to everyone who supports us in what we do, especially CENTURY MEDIA for letting us express ourselves to the world. And thanks to you for a great interview. Cheers Marc....Are there any lepricans who like doom music music Ha..Ha..(yes there are, but they don't like smart bastards-ED).

MISANTHROPY RECORDS

P.O. BOX 3641, LONDON E15 3HP, ENGLAND

Answers by Diamanda

FIRSTLY, TELL HOW THE LABEL GOT STARTED AND HOW YOU CAME TO RELEASE THE BURZUM CD?
Well, MISANTHROPY Records started off in the Autumn of '93. At around that time i promoted an Italian label in the UK, and that was also the time i found out that the new BURZUM album, which was supposed to be released on another UK label, would probably never come out at all. A lot of labels feared boycotts and difficulties because of the murder of Euronymous, and many label simply found Grishnackh's views too Uncongenial. I found this very stupid and rather unbelievable, so i tried to get BURZUM a deal with the Italian label, but they were not really interested. So finally i came to the conclusion to form my own label as there definitely was a need for it. I was corresponding with both Grishnackh and his mother for a while, and in the end i made him an offer, he agreed and the contracts were signed. Some other labels were interested, but i think a lot of them were American. Obviously i made a fair offer with good conditions.

HOW HAS IT BEEN RECEIVED? HAVE YOU HAD MUCH FEEDBACK THUS FAR?

The response has been nothing but amazing, the CD is selling very well and BURZUM finally gets press regarding the music too. The reviews have been great 99%, and a lot of non-black metal people seem to like the album too. Of course there were some people who found it 'unethical' of me to release BURZUM, but there were only very few of them.

WHAT SORT OF DISTRIBUTION DO YOU HAVE FOR THE LABEL?

We have major and underground distribution all over the world. Plastic Head-UK, Modern Invasion-Australia, Osmose & Adipocere-France, Nosferatu-Italy, to name a few. We have some problems in Germany as no big distributor would touch BURZUM over there, but it's not really a problem because we've got good underground sources and mailorder to spread the plague.

WHAT BANDS ARE YOU INTO YOURSELF?

All different kinds of stuff. To name favourites BURZUM, IMPEROR, ENSLAVED, CRADLE OF FILTH, DISSECTION, SATYRICON, IMMORTAL, MY DYING BRIDE, DIAMANDA GALAN, IN THE WOODS...? TYPE O NEGATIVE, LIFE OF AGONY, DECEASED...the list really is endless. It's important that the music is original and to a certain extent emotional, no matter what genre.

WILL YOU BE RELEASING MATERIAL IN THE FUTURE? ARE YOU LOOKING FOR BANDS? WHAT STYLES?

We will be releasing a limited edition LP of BURZUM 'Hvis Lyset Tar Oss' by the end of June, with gatefold sleeve and a marbled vinyl. In Autumn we will re-release the first 3 BURZUM releases 'Debut/Aske' on one CD and 'Det Som Engang Var' on CD/LP. Besides, we are negotiating with 'IN THE WOODS...', a great band from Norway, for their debut, and the 5th BURZUM album entitled 'Filosofen' will be released in '95. I'm always looking out for other bands, but unfortunately there's not too much talent around these days. A band has to be supreme and special to sign to MISANTHROPY, the style does not matter. Atmospheric, dark sounds are an advantage though.

WOULD YOU AGREE THAT WITH ALL THE PUBLICITY OVER NORWAY RIGHT NOW, THAT THIS CD WOULD NEARLY SELL ITSELF (WITHOUT TOO MUCH PROMOTION)?

It's not as simple as that. Of course all this publicity has helped a lot to spread the BURZUM name. But you still have to promote the release to make it known, and it's difficult because a lot of people do have the wrong idea about this release. If it was all just promotion and crap music, it would stop selling. The fact that the music is supreme does make it a lot easier, because the reviews are great etc, not only the sensational press.

SPEAKING OF PROMOTION, WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING FOR THIS RELEASE?

A lot. Advertising, thousand of flyers, sending out promo mugs + zines and all the usual bullshit.

ANY CLOSING COMMENTS?

Thanks for the interview and good luck with your zine. 'Hvis Lyset Tar Oss' is available for £10/US 20 on CD, the LP will cost £9/US 15. Anyone who wants to get onto our mailing list for news on BURZUM and upcoming releases should send SASP/IRC. Mail and Kill.

Solstice

Answers by Rich

WHAT IS THE BANDS LINE-UP AND HOW DID YOU GET TOGETHER?

OK, the bands line-up at the moment is Simon Matravers-vocals, Lee Netherwood-bass, Lennart Roomer-drums, John Piras-Guitar and myself, Rich Walker on guitar too. The original line-up came together in a drunken stupor at a SAINT VITUS show back in '90. Although, this line-up was brought together, i believe by the forces of destiny in the quest for ARCADE EPIC DOOM. We believe that we work well as a unit and not a single ego, so this is a really great band who are also friends as well as musicians. CAN YOU GIVE ME INFORMATION ON YOUR DEMO?

I believe i can, but since you never stated which one, i'll let you know about them all. 'Lamentations' demo Winter '91, 3 songs, £1.50 + S.A.E. A classic slab of true epic doom and well worth every penny. 'MCMXCII' demo Summer '92, 6 songs, £2.50 post paid, stupidly heavy with over 40 minutes of doom metal misery. Promo '93, demo spring '93, 4 songs, a landmark in the bands history as it features a 'name' producer. Only £2.50 postpaid. Well, there you go, hope that's ok for you. What a salesman.

HOW DID YOU GET GENE HUGLAN TO PRODUCE YOUR TAPE. WHERE DID YOU RECORD, HOW MUCH DID IT COST AND ARE YOU HAPPY WITH THE RESULT?

We knew Gene Hoglan (Mail..), as his girlfriend at the time lives in Bradford, so we met him through her. I'd heard some of the bands he'd produced and was suitibly impressed enough to ask him if he'd produce our "X"/demo, to which he agreed to (me being such a smooth talker). We recorded it at the infamous In-a-city recording emporium, where we'd recorded our previous efforts and although they came out ok, we felt they still lacked something. Anyway, working with Gene was fucking awesome as he's just so fucking cool and he taught us alot about studio work. The end result was quite expensive (£400) when you consider we were only in for 2 days. And to be honest, at the time i thought it was really cool, but in retrospect looking back on it i feel the guitar mix is too low and not heavy enough.

HAVE YOU DONE MANY GIGS? WHAT REACTIONS HAVE YOU HAD?

Yeah, we've done a few shows, about 18 so far. Most of them we could have played better, or had a P.A mix that did'nt sound like an industrial cement mixer. But on the whole, all of them, except 2 we've had people down the front dooming out to the heaviest vibes known to motrals. We have 6 lined up next month and in August we will be doing a 2 week tour of the UK with Swedish doom legend COUNT RAVE which will be immense to say the least (Yeah-ED). I can't wait for that. After that, more UK shows and hopefully the end of the year will see us invading foriegn shores on the crusade for doom.

WHAT BANDS ARE YOU LISTENING TO AT THE MOMENT?

Well, right now, apart from my obvious favourites such as BLACK SABBATH, SAINT VITUS, CANDLEMASS, COUNT RAVEN, SOLITUDE RETURNUS, IRAN MAN, WARCRY, REVELATION, INTERNAL VOID? THE OBSESSED, LOST BREED, UNORTHODOX, TROUBLE, PENTAGRAM, FORCE, DREAM DEATH, WITCHFINDER GENERAL, SNOWBLIND etc etc..i'm listening to quite a diverse selection of music. Everything i can get my hands on which sounds good to these ears and has passion, emotion, and integrity. My current, non-doom listening selection includes THE 3RD AND THE MORAL, MAYHEM, EMPEROR, EINHERJER, LIFE OF AGONY, ROTTING CHRIST, CROWBAR, DISCHARGE, MANOWAR and TIMOTHY GRIFFITHS PSYCHEDELIC SUNRISE.

WHAT DO YOUR LYRICS DEAL WITH? WHO WRITES THEM AND ARE THERE ANY LIMITATIONS?

Our lyrics deal with everything, anything and nothing. We don't claim to be the greatest lyricists in the world, but everything we write comes straight from the heart. It's the hardest thing in the world for both myself and simon to sit down and write the lyrics 'production line'. It takes a certain mood or inspiration we feel, and so in the end, to complete just one song may take from 3 days to 3 months. The music is pretty much the same. There's a certain state that we have to be in to write the

embryonic riffs to a song for myself, the best riffs come in the early hours while the rest of the world sleeps, for John, it's when he's stoned and mellowed out. In theory, the only limitations we have is that of our imaginations, but the reality is very different, i mean, we couldnt exactly write a death metal song or a power metal song, but i find doom metal to be a most unrestricting genre and it gives you plenty of scope to develop your own sound.

ANY NEWS ON YOUR PROPOSED WORKINGS WITH CACOPHONOUS RECORDS?

Yeah, we are no longer involved with CACOPHONOUS, we have now signed to the infamous CANDLELIGHT label for our debut LP which is called 'Lamentations' and we're going to Sweden to record it next month with a guy by the name of Thomas Alien who produced

the COUNT RAVEN LPs. It's going to be an incredible experience for us. The album will feature 4 old songs and 5 new ones and if fortune smiles upon us, do really well and keep me in larger for years to come, watch out for it as it's sure to be an epic aural document of doom. **FUTURE PLANS?**

FUTURE PLANS?

Well apart from the aforementioned album, we're working on the ideas for our first video to promote it ('The Man Who Lost The Sun'), once again a first for us. No doubt it's going to be good fun shooting it, and even more of a laugh if MTV play it and we see our ugly mugs on TV. Also we're discussing the possibility of a limited 7" release on Germanys 'Tales of Sadness' records which would be cool, but that's not finalised as yet so who knows? My own future plans, aside from the band include getting drunk as a stick tonight, going to the moon, invading America and turning them all into newts by the power of my evil magic(..) and getting Glen Benton and Debbie Harry to admit to being my parents. I guess that's it for the time being. Maybe i'll think of something else tomorrow...

CLOSING COMMENTS?

Thank for your time my friend (no proble-ED), a huge cry of CRUSADE goes out to our Doom brothers and sisters worldwide and an almighty hail to all who support the underground...if anyone wishes to write then feel free to do so, please enclose an SAE/IRC as we're poor and can't afford to answer otherwise. Cheers, prepare yourselves for the gathering of heroes.....**RICH**.....
Rich Walker, 105 Garden St., Haverstrove, Dewsbury, W. Yorks. WF13 3AN. UK.

SOLSTICE(UK) - 'Promo '93'

This has been out over a year, and the band will soon be releasing their debut album on CANDLELIGHT. The band play traditional doom, and if their album is as good as this promises, then it should see the band being hailed alongside such doom godz as SAINT VITUS, COUNT RAVEN and SOLITUD AETERNUS, such is the greatness of the music that SOLSTICE play. Such tracks as 'Nowhere Journey' and 'Neither Time Nor Tide' just absorb themselves within your brain. Check out the LP when it's out. **CRUSADE.**

SEVENCHURCH(UK) - 'Bleak Insight' CD (Noise)

Doom or be Doomed... I've read alot of complaints about this release, from it being too long and boring, to it not being melodic enough. Well, i think this album rules. Over 70 minutes of doom, with no apparent influences. The songs are long, but to me, you wouldnt notice, all are so well put together. They're almost like a movie soundtrack, giving feeling and atmosphere to each different moment. Probably one for the true doom fans out there.

BAL-SAGOTH(UK) - 'Promo'

Some rough mixes of tracks from the forthcoming album on CACOPHONOUS. BAL-SAGOTH mix their brand of black/death, with some truly excellent keyboards, giving a really orchestral moments. The album should slay alot of the trendy bands at the moment, as BAL-SAGOTH turn their backs on the trends and make their own music, not afraid to be different. The album should be out by the end of the summer, and is a must for fans of extremely original black/death metal.

ESOTERIC(UK) - 'Esoteric Emotions - The Death Of Ignorance' Demo

This band play slow, heavy death/doom metal. Out of any band i've ever heard, this contains one of the most 'evil' atmospheres i've yet to witness. Over 78 minutes of doomy darkness, the band use many effects and samples to add to their music a really dark feeling. I can't listen to this too often, as it is far too heavy. Not just in a musical sense, but also in an emotional sense. It really gives me knots in my stomach, which i don't like. If you want music that will scare you, the try this.... but don't say you have'nt been warned.

IN THE WOODS...

WHAT IS THE BANDS LINE-UP AND CAN YOU GIVE A BRIEF HISTORY?

The base-beings of IN THE WOODS have been around for quite some time now. With a change in musical style all the time, we try to expose our symphonies the way we feel them at the present time. This way, all changes are part of our existence as long as we keep going. 2 demos have been released so far, 'Arch' March '93 and 'Isle of Men' Nov. '93. The last one has, till now sold approx, 700 copies worldwide. As our aim for total personal satisfaction is fairly high it'll take us some years before we grow tired of the latest mentioned symphonies...it is available for US\$. Maybe an answer outside the range concerning the question, but who in hell cares? TELL US ABOUT THE NEW DEMO, HOW DOES IT COMPARE TO THE OLD ONE? It has far better sound, since the first one only recorded on a 4-track, and it's of course in a more symphonic vein...42 minutes of music really worth the price it needs.. ..postage ruins.

WHAT ARE YOUR LYRICS ABOUT? WHERE DO THE IDEAS COME FROM?

As i do them all, i can tell you that they develop from my inside. Influenced by everything from my proud past to the depths of nature. There are really no limits, and if i would like to include a poem for my grandmother, who would be able to stop me? EXPLAIN THE BANDS PROCESS OF SONGWRITING, DO YOU HAVE ANY LIMITS?

As stated, no limits at all. There is no standard process concerning an IN THE WOODS.. symphony.

I BELIEVE THAT ORGANIZED RELIGION IS TO BLAME FOR ALOT OF THE WORLDS PROBLEMS AND A RETURN TO PAGAN WAYS AND IDEAS IS THE ONLY WAY WE CAN SAVE OURSELVES. WOULD YOU AGREE? A return to the basic parts of the heathen ideology would make people realise that religion is for weak-'Individuals'. Take as example our northern mythology. It's gods must not be watched upon as forces 'which tell us what to do', but do indeed see them as indications on the way our lives should be lead. Seen from my viewpoint, i think the proud men of the past made up these gods and made them something they wanted to be themselves. Utterly. Paganism can as well grow into organized forms, but we cannot tolerate this. Of course we shall unite our unique forces, but a basic ideology needs to be stated. If this doesn't happen, it can easily become a problem as great as the ones we have with organized religion today.

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THOSE WHO SAY THAT PAGANISM & SATANISM ARE LINKED?

Both sides deals with anti-christian subjects in modern times, but as we all should be aware, satanism has 'stolen' most of it's ideas from paganism.. Satanism has amplified the ideas of man as supreme being. Something which also is an important aspect in paganism, but then again, paganism does'nt amplify at all nearly. Probably because of the fact that heathens see it as natural, and not really nessecary to stress..

TELL US ABOUT YOUR DEAL WITH OBSCURE PLASMA. WHEN CAN WE EXPECT THE LP AND WHAT ARE YOUR NEW SONGS SOUNDING LIKE?

About OBSCURE PLASMA, something happened, but i don't surely want to talk about it. A possible deal is discussed with another great label though. If everything goes in the right direction, we'll be able to spread our heathendom all across the surface of the earth...Cannot describe the new symphonies, but await them though. More symphonic really. A full-lenght can be expected during the end of '94 or the beginning of '95.

WHAT BANDS ARE YOU INTO AT THE MOMENT?

Most bands in the progressive vein of older rock-basics.

HAVE YOU PLAYED LIVE? HOW DO YOU FEEL YOUR STUFF HAS/WILL COME ACCROSS LIVE?

Because of inner-faced problems, the situation has not allowed us to be 'alive' so far. It'll come though. Yes, we do hope to go some gigs to 'support' this full-lenght, but i actually have no idea what the visionary aspect will be like. It will probably depend on the mood those particular days.

DO YOU THINK THAT THE MEMORY OF THE OLD WAYS MEANS NOTHING TO MOST PEOPLE THESE DAYS AND IF THEY DID THE WORLD WOULD BE A BETTER PLACE?

More and more people are starting to realise what lies behind us, but a really bad ~~the~~ thing is that some of these youngsters achieve the 'information' from even younger kids with corpse-paint?.. Could you believe it? To turn this world into a better place where we can face harmony of the older times cannot be done from one day to another. It's a really long process. Anyway, times change, and more and more people are crawling back to a more realistic level, and not being influenced by the hypocrit religions that tears on our shoulders like a heavy stone..

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR THE FUTURE?

To gain even more personal satisfaction..

FIRAL HAIRIS?

Thanks Cathal for the interview. Greatest of luck with whatever the future might

bring you. A fanzine will be available from our address from June or so. Await 1000 years...of lost pride and dignity', the epitaph for religious weakness. Let the wise rule the strong...END.

VICTIMS OF CREATION

Answers by Dino

WHAT IS THE BANDS LINE-UP AND CAN YOU GIVE A BRIEF HISTORY?

Though it's from the summer of '92 since we've been together, we're still a newborn band. Since then we couldnt jam permanently coz we don't have a rehearsal room. The line-up is: Ronald 'Rex' Gooch-bass & vocals, Jeffrey Galen-guitar, Marvin Zammit-guitar and Dino Mifsud Lepre-drums. Recently we recruited ORIBUS VITAE drummer as session keyboardist. We were first known as DESECRATOR playing death metal, then changed the name to TENEITA and now we're VICTIMS OF CREATION, which is the name of a song we scrapped off with some others.

WHAT BANDS INFLUENCE YOUR STYLE OF DOOM?

We listen to various bands in metal, but the main band influences are DEATH, BLACK SABBATH and CATHEDRAL. My personal influences are, the above 3 and: POLICE, RUSH, LED ZEPPLIN, DEER PURPLE, GORGUTS, MEGADETH, DISHARMONIC ORCHESTRA, FAITH NO MORE, IRON MARDEN, HELLOWEEN, ATHEIST, CYNIC, SLEEP and the drummers from BOB MARLEY, ERIC CLAPTON and JIMI HENDRIX.

WHEN CAN WE EXPECT TO HEAR SOME MATERIAL FROM VICTIMS OF CREATION?

Write to me and ask coz soon we'll record our first song 'Garden of Destinies'.

WHAT IS THE SCENE LIKE IN MALTA? ANY COOL BANDS YOU CAN MENTION?

The scene is pretty growing and all the bands are very cool. Technically, the scene is perhaps one of the best. FOUSAGEN is a very good, melancholic doom band which i really like, NOIM REJECTION is the peak of originality you can find in a band (also very technical). SEQUELA is a one man industrial band and OBLIQUE VISIONS play godly melodic and atmospheric doom/death. All these bands i have mentioned are composed of cool people and other bands that have cool people are LITHOMANCY(atmospheric death/grind), ORIBUS VITAE (progressive doom) and SCEPTOCRYPT (grind).

DO MANY FOREIGN BANDS PLAY NEAR YOU?

No, i guess never a good band has played in our country, only pure foreign shit on stage such as 2 UNLIMITED, CAITELA and other ass wying bands.

WHAT DO YOUR LYRICS DEAL WITH?

Well, i'm the one who writes lyrics for the band and my lyrics are mostly about my personal experiences (misfortunes). They are romantic, pessimistic, sad and sentimental. They deal with the questions i ask myself every day about this tragedy which is my life and my being, which i mostly hate. They are also about the love i have for others and the hate i have for myself.

CLOSING COMMENTS?

I want to thank Cathal and HIGH SPEED DEATH zine for the interview. Good luck with your work. I hope i didn't write the answers too much long but i enjoyed the interview. Don't hesitate to write to me and support us when our demo comes out. A big hi to all who i may know and especially to my friend Kieran of LUCIFYRE and GRAVE-YARD BIRTH, from Ireland. Write to me for the zine or VICTIMS OF CREATION at: DOOMSTONE c/o Dino Mifsud Lepre, Lepre Flts. /1, Karmu Abela Str., Hamrun HMR 05. Malta



Answers by Hannu

TELL US A LITTLE OF THE BANDS PSAT AND OF THE CURRENT LINE-UP?

We started in '90 and were called PUTRID. We released a demo 'Exhumation' in April (91 and 7" 'God Forsaken' later that year. In '92 we changed our name to GOD FORSAKEN. Our 1st album 'Dismal Gleams of Desolation' came out in late '92 through ADIPOCERE REC in France. Since then we have'nt really done anything except a promo tapw which was a failure, our worst product. The drummer (Juha Pohjo) left us in Jan. '94 and we had to take a session drummer to help us out on our European tour with ANATHEMA and PYO² GENESIS. Since then we found a new drummer. The line-up is: Hannu Kujanen-Guitars, Mika Hankaniemi-Vocals, Jani Viskari-Drums, Juha Koykka-Bass.

YOUR LP HAS BEEN OUT A WHILE NOW, TELL US ABOUT THE SONGS ON IT AND ABOUT YOUR DEAL WITH ADIPOCERE?

Well, the songs are mostly doomlike and heavy. We like the album very much, the sound on it is very good, but when you listen to it now it is just too monotonous. Our deal with ADIPOCERE was for one album and we are now working with a new deal with them to get our 2nd album ('The Tide Has Turned') to see it's daylight by the end of this year.

HAVE YOU PLAYED MANY GIGS TO SUPPORT THE LP? HOW HAVE THEY GONE?

We did like 5 shows here in Finland to promote it. It has been like 1 1/2 years since the album came out. We have done about 35 gigs in 3 years. That's not much. The best audience we have got was at Chemnitz (Germany)...they even wanted to hear more...

YOUR LYRICS SEEM TO HAVE A VERY GLOOMY EDGE TO THEM, WHO WRITES THEM AND WHERE DO THE IDEAS COME FROM?

I write all the lyrics and what i do is just get this idea of something when i am in the mood, i take a pen and paper and let the frustration flow. I usually try to write about real life but sometimes i might do some really superunknown stuff..... The second album will be about suicide only.

WHAT BANDS FIRST INFLUENCED YOU TO START A BAND? WHAT STUFF ARE YOU INTO TODAY?

bands like NAPALM DEATH, CARCASS, DEATH.....today i am into BLACK SABBATH, MY DYING BRIDE, SOUNDGARDEN, SAINT VITUS etc.

DO YOU HAVE ANY NEW SONGS WRITTEN? HOW DO THEY COMPARE TO THE LP?

Yes, the new songs are more melodic and better written, there is not too much changes compared to the LP. The promo tape we did had 4 heavy metal songs with clear vocals we are now back with doom and death vocals. Anyone interested in hearing our new songs should send a blank tape and US I.

DO YOU PLAN TO RELEASE ANY NEW MATERIAL SOON?

Our next official release will be a full lenght album, planned to be out in the end of the year.

WHAT IS THE FINNISH SCENE LIKE AT THE MOMENT?

I don't follow it too much, there is a few great bands like XYSMA & DISGRACE & AMORPHIS...bands like CONGESTION. The black metal bands are getting popular too.

WHAT DO YOU HAVE PLANNED FOR THE NEXT FEW MONTHS?

To write more new songs, to get our butts on a few gigs. Wehave always taken things quite slow and worked day by day.

ARE THE BAND AS MISERABLE AS THE MUSIC SUGGESTS? WHAT THINGS IN THE WORLD REALLY MAKE YOU SAD?

No..we are just as happy as anyone else..we just feel good playing music that is different and emotional. I get sad when i see innocent people dying in silly wars, i get sad when the news reporter tells that the earths pollution will be bigger next year..i get sad when i don't get laid. I guess i am just too pessimistic of every-thing. A right dude for writing doom metal?

FINAL COMMENTS?

Yes, thanks alot for good questions and god bless you all.

Hannu Kujanen, Sorvarinraitti 1B7, 01400 Ylistaro. Finland.



GOD FORSAKEN

L - R

Hannu

Juha K.

Mika

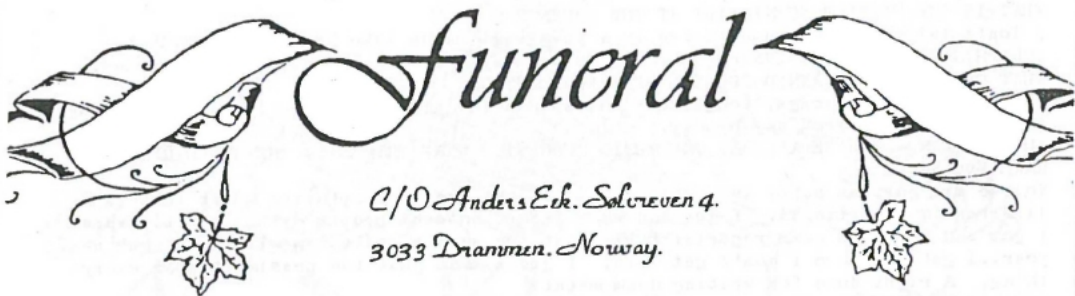
Juha P (ex Member)



ETERNE

The second demo from ETERNE is now available, containing three tracks of original music which combines elements from both goth and doom to produce something unique and individual. Mags get in touch but please send a blank tape to hear our stuff. Also, band trades are extremely welcome. Send £2.50/\$5 to:

Dave, 27 Elizabeth Street, Pentre, Rhondda, Mid-Glam, S. Wales. UK.



Funeral

C/O Anders Eek, Solbreven 4.
3033 Drammen, Norway.

Answers by Anders

WHAT IS THE BANDS LINE-UP AND GIVE US A LITTLE HISTORY LESSON.

The bands line-up is Einar Fredriksen-bass/vocals, Thomas Angell-rhythm guitar, Christian Loos-lead guitar, Torill Suyen-vocals, Anders Eek-drums. We (thats Angell and me) started out in '91 and shifted names as often as the several line-up changes. In '93 we recorded our debut demo 'Tristesse' which gave us a deal with Wild Rags Recs. Then we kicked out our bassist and recruited a talented guitar playing friend of ours (Christian) and Einar took care of the bass. Late '93 we recruited our latest female member Torill and in April '94 we recorded 5 new songs.

TELL US A LITTLE ABOUT THE DEMO YOU HAVE AVAILABLE?

'Tristesse' is unfortunately sold out, but is still available through Wild Rags. It is going to be released as a mini-CD on Wild Rags late May/early June. I can mention that we have developed quite radically since the 'Tristesse' recording, partly due to our female singer Torill. Our new stuff is even heavier and generally more melodic and sadder, it has a more funeral feel.

WHAT BANDS ARE YOU INTO AT THE MOMENT? DO THEY INFLUENCE YOU MUCH?

To be honest, i'm not particularly into much bands of today. I listen mainly to old music like CANDLEMASS, BLACK SABBATH, MELVINS, besides some black metal. My main inspiration though comes from classical music with composers like Grieg & Mahler. YOUR SONGS ARE PRETTY LONG. IS IT HARD TO KEEP THEM INTERESTING OR THEY JUST END UP THAT LONG AS YOU WRITE THEM?

Of course there are people who dislike our long songs, but generally speaking i feel we have the variation that's needed to keep them interesting (i hope). But yes, i have problems writing songs shorter than 10 minutes, so you may say they just end up being that long.

TELL US WHEN WE CAN HEAR SOME NEW STUFF FROM FUNERAL. TELL US ABOUT YOUR NEW SONGS?

Well, that'll depend on what happens with our new promo/demo. The aim is to get a deal with a bigger record company, and among others HOLY RECORDS in France has shown an interest. But if nothing 'bigger' happens, our next recording will probably end up as a CD for Wild Rags. As mentioned above the new songs have a more 'funeral', and i also think they have a more composition like arrangement due to my classical influence. We have kettle-drums on some, we have classical guitar and organs as intro/outros. The new songs also have less of Einars vocals. Torill sings about 70% of all vocals, and i have quit singing.

WHO WRITES YOUR LYRICS AND WHERE DOES THE INSPIRATION COME FROM?

This time both Einar and Thomas have written a song each, but i write most of it. Inspiration comes from Norwegian poetry like Borli, Wergeland etc, which i am a great fan of.

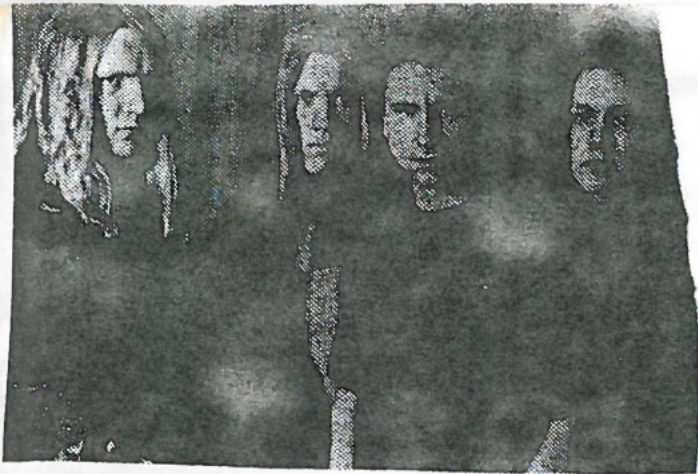
WHAT ARE YOUR TOP 10 SONGS OF ALL TIME?

Wow, what a question. Well lets see. Eh, hm..hm.. 1. Black Sabbath-Black Sabbath, 2. 'Dying (Together As One)-FUNERAL(hm), 3. 'Samaritan'-CANDLEMASS, 4. 'Norwegian Wood'-THE BEATLES, 5. 'Circle of the Tyrants'-CELTIC FROST, 6. 'Blood Fire Death'-BATHORY, 7. 'Raining Blood'-SLAYER, 8. 'GOD of Thunder'-KISS, 9. 'The Thing That Should Not Be'-METALLICA 10. 'Symptoms of the Universe'-BLACK SABBATH.

DO YOU WRITE/RECEIVE MUCH MAIL? FROM WHAT PLACES?

Yes, i get mail almost every day





Most of the letters come from USA, Britain, France. But we receive letters from both south Korea and Japan as well. And i think it's great. So, to the fans, keep it up.

WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN NOT INVOLVED WITH THE BAND?

I play in another band with some of my friends, and i'm going to record a demo with them. Besides drinking alot i work at a school, and i play violin in my spare time that's left.

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD FOR FUNERAL?

Who knows besides the ALMIGHTY (how would Ricky Warwick know??-ED). Hopefully a great record deal with a great record company and earn great amounts of money (ch..).
FINAL BLESSTINES?

Thank alot for the 'Intic' Cathal and may your spirit rest (not too soon i hope-ED).
Friends and fans...stay in touch.

ANDERS.

WHORES OF BABYLON(UK) - 'Promo'

The WHORES have been getting alot of praise from all quarters recently, and their debut album will be out soon on CANDLELIGHT. This promo contains 3 tracks which follow on from their 'Eternal' demo. First track 'Carnal Desires' is the band on top form. To me, the band have taken elements of SISTERS OF MERCY, FAITH NO MORE and NIN and moulded out their own style. More dance than metal, this is still worth checking out if you like any of the above bands. I'm sure this band will go big places.

CROWBAR(US) - 'Crowbar' CD (Pavement)

Despite the drawback of having anything at all to do with PANTERA (and endless comparisons to them) CROWBAR have come out with an excellent second album. I read one review which said 'CROWBAR have songs just as powerful as anything on the new PANTERA release'. What a load of bollocks, CROWBAR blow the shit out of PANTERA and their pretentious crap. Mixing doomy elements with some hardcore moments, CROWBAR never fail to deliver. If you like PANTERA, don't touch CROWBAR. If you want real music, here's your band.

VORTEX OF INSANITY(US) - 'Vortex of Insanity' CD (Hellhound)

These guys play crossover. Yes, remember bands like D.R.I.??? Well VORTEX OF INSANITY are not a million miles away from that stuff. At times they thrash it up in a vein similar to early EXODUS and there they punk it up like D.R.I. Having said that, the band also have alot of their own style, which is hard to pinpoint, but it's still heavy as fuck. Some parts even come across like WARRIOR SOUL, so you can imagine the mixed batch on offer.

Anthropomancy

Debut Demo now available. Four Studio tracks, forty minutes, of Death Metal with somber overtones. Includes double sided cover with lyrics. Yours for £2.50 (\$5 overseas) (or send a blank tape & S.A.E.).

ANTHROPOMANCY(UK) - 'Demo'

Four tracks on offer, and each has an identity and atmosphere of it's own. Starting with the 'Journey Song', which is very much in the BATHORY vein, it begins with an excellent acoustic piece and really emotive vocals before bursting into a heavy, black metal type riff. The next song 'Gutted' is in a more death metal vein, slow and heavy. 'Body Infestation' is again death metal, but a little faster and the last song 'Mourners Lament' is ultra slow doom, maybe in the vein of early CATHEDRAL. It is for doom fans only as it is sloooooow. The vocals do let this down a bit, which is strange as they are faultless elsewhere. Maybe it's the attempt to warble a la Lee Dorian on earlier CATHEDRAL stuff. Overall, this is a most excellent demo, get it from: Andy, 38 Newstead View, Fitzwilliam, Pontefract, W. Yorks. WF9 5DP. UK

COUNT RAVEN(SWE) - 'High on Infinity' CD (Hellhound)

The Swedish masters of doom return with their 3rd album, and as usual it's a killer. Again the Ozzy-esqu vocals are there, and the usual monster doom riffs and excellent songs. There is not one point that i can complain about on this, as it contains all you can ever hope for. If you've not heard COUNT RAVEN yet, then do so right now, if you have, then this will not dissappoint. Catch them on tour in August.

THE ANCIENT FLAME WILL BURN FOREVER...

BURZNA

"His Lyset Tar Oss"

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