

Issue # 1
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EXTREMUM

Extreme Underground 'zine



OBITUARY

IMPALED NAZARENE

DEMENTOR

ZAVORASH

GRENOUER

AVERSE SEFIRA

PHANTASMAGORY

MENTAL DISSECTION

GARDEN OF SHADOWS

HEAVEN GREY

SWORDMASTER

CRACK UP

INTRODUCTION

HAIL!!! Finally I am ready with the 1st edition. It is the 1st 'zine ever edited in Transcarpathia. Why I decided to do it? It is too easy to answer it. In big magazines the fans can read more about different bullshit as metallica, marilyn manson, prodigy and other assholes. If one issue in these magazines will be dedicated to DEATH, THRASH or BLACK METAL, it will be good. But will be this interview truthful? I think NO!!! I decided to do it 'cause the total disinformation of carpathian fans about extreme music. The second reason is to raise our Ukrainian and C.I.S. bands who need and deserved to be known among the fans. You can read here about such monsters as OBITUARY, IMPALED NAZARENE, etc. And such underground bands like MENTAL DISSECTION, ZAVORASH, PHANTASMAGORY, GRENOUER, etc. I support the Death/Thrash/Black underground, the ones, who deserved to be supported. PRAISE THE TRIUMPH OF DEATH AND DARKNESS IN YOUR HEARTS AND SOULS!!!

Cornelius

CORNELIUS' THANX LIST:

Hail to all my friends... You know who you are; my parents, my brother Frank for his helping hand and good scanning of photos; Juraj "Immortal" Harin & I.S.P. (Sorry for delay), Trevor & OBITUARY, Andy & MENTAL DISSECTION, Mika and Jani from IMPALED NAZARENE, Wrath & Sanguine from AVERSE SEFIRA, Brian & GARDEN OF SHADOWS, Sergey Lialin & GRENOUER, René & DEMENTOR (I'm waiting for your new material!), Vorobyov Valeriy & PHANTASMAGORY, Zablogma & Zagrash from ZAVORASH, Whiplasher & SWORDMASTER, Tim & CRACK UP, Yury & APOSTATE, Vladislav Kalinin & HEAVEN GREY, Alex Marennicov & RENAISSANCE 'zine, Joe Headcrash & HELL FROST 'zine, Emese & FREEZING FLAMES 'zine, Proscriptor McGovern & ABSU, Lancelot for the cool discussions, Savvas-Jake & ACID DEATH, Shikarewski Eugeny & MENTAL DEMISE, Alex Kantemirov & TALES OF DARKNORD, Vic Naughty & RAMPAGE, Rejean Garon & HANKER, Stanislav Ivanoff & SUNCHARIOT, Peter Hasselbrack & THE INTENSE SOUNDS OF DEATH METAL webzine, Remi & SOUNDSCAPE MUSIC CANADA, Carlos Afonso & RENEGADE webzine, Evgeny Trefilov & ORA PRO NOBIS, Rasmus Ekman, Goden & ETERNAL FROST webzine, Hiromi & DEATH CERTIFICATE 'zine, Semyon Kiselyov & BREATHING OF DEATH Comp., Vladislav Shahin & MONOLITH Comp., Natassja & THORN' zine, Dmitry & ANGEL'S DECAY Distribution, REINFORCED and others whom I have forgot to mention (I'm sorry but if I shall mention everyone I hail it will take a half of 'zine).

CORNELIUS' HATE LIST:

My hatred goes to every bastards who'd slow down my work all this time. Especially my eternal despise and disgust goes to all ukrainian post offices and mail services (total awkward). For those crap bands who betrayed Death Metal (You know who are you, bastards!). Eternal war to the wimps who always telling about the end of Death Metal (You shall die in your own blood, vomit, urine and excrements in bestial excruciations!)

I would like to dedicate the material of this 'zine to the forces of THRASH and DEATH METAL!!!

Death Metal Renaissance To Be Continued...

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALEX MEGELA. WITHOUT HIM THIS ISSUE WOULDN'T BE EXIST. HAIL!!!

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I was surprised when I got answers on my questions from Trevor Peres of OBITUARY. It's cool! Such monster of Death Metal is well-known by everyone. There's no need to tell their biography here, just read the interview and enjoy it!



new OBITUARY album in 1998. Have you any new songs, songnames and in generally tell us in what way you composed your songs?

- Nothing as of yet...

In the beginning of 90's Florida (together with Sweden) was the one of the biggest Death Metal center of the world. And what about now? Can you name us some interesting new Death Metal bands from Florida?

- I think it is very useful, and I think in the future the internet will be more of a tool to help promote Death Metal or any kind of music, more than it does now.

- Not really... I am living in Atlanta, Georgia so I don't know what is going on with new bands in Florida right now.

You re-release your first two albums with bonus tracks. Name us these tracks from what recording are these tracks.

- I'm not really sure. Some of the songs are scratch takes prior to the final recordings. Our record label's idea...

Do you know something about Ukraine? (Your band is very popular here. Some of my friends listen your band from 1989)

- Not to much, but it is very cool that people there like us.

Your wishes for Ukrainian OBITUARY fans.

- Thanks for the support, hopefully we will play there one day, peace.



It seems to me that in your "Back From The Dead" album you'd returned to your roots. (I mean music, cover, etc.) How you can explain it?

- There really is nothing to explain... We feel we never left what Obituary was all about. (Musically, etc...) If you listen to every Obituary CD back to back you will hear what I mean. Every CD is very heavy in its own right.

The live album "Dead" is your sixth recording. Why you decided to do that album now and not earlier? Where the concert recorded on this album took place?

- Well, Obituary has always wanted to do a live record, but our label never asked us to do one until now. The album was recorded in Boston, Massachusetts.

When you had begun in later 80's under the name Executioner had you sometime imagine about such career that you have now?

- Hell no... Everything that has happened with Obituary has been a dream come true.

What is your opinion about WWW as the informational center? Nowadays we can get more information from Internet than from any magazine.

Allen West departed from Six Feet Under. Can you tell us more about it?

- Yep, Big Al quit, he did not like Chris Barnes telling him what to do. No one likes someone



to tell them what to do... FUCK THAT SHIT!!!
Shall we listen the

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Cornelius

Here come the grand masters of the nuclear devastation and extermination called **IMPALED NAZARENE**. This finnish guys are well-known by the black/death/thrash fans all over the world. Extreme aggressive music, shocking image, explicit unholy, brutal and sacrilegious lyrics... Many shit were spoken about that band by pagan ignorant kids (FUCK'EM UP!!!). I am sure the reason for that was jealousy and very low level of the music of these "true" bands. But

IMPALED NAZARENE

IMPALED NAZARENE blew these bastards off by their aggression and brutality... album "Rapture" proves it one more time.

Due to Cornelius I had a chance to make interview with frontman of the band namely **Mika Luttinen**, who also well-known by such projects as **DIABOLOS RISING** and **RAISM**. So let him speak and tell some interesting news about the band, which is protected by Satan since 1990...



I had read a very positive view of Cronos about your music. And what is your view about **VENOM**? Do you like their new release "Cast In Stone"?

- Venom rule of course and I think Cast In Stone is brilliant. (I completely agree with you - ED) I have met Cronos a couple of times and his great guy.

Reima Kellokoski, Jani Lehtosaari... Once they played in **BELIAL**. Is this band still exists? And if it exists, what music they play now? (Their last album I heard was "3" and I was completely disappointed with it).

- Belial has been dead years.

Is it possible for you to unite with Kimmo again or he completely lost for **IMPALED NAZARENE**?

- Why the fuck should he??? We are much better band without him. Reima blows him away.

You also took place in **DIABOLOS RISING** and **RAISM** with Magus from **NECROMANTIA** and as backing vocals on his **THOU ART LORD**'s album "Eosforos". Will you make some projects with him in the future?

- No, I have finished all these projects. Magus is a cool guy though.

Why you decided to call the music of "Latex Cult" - **NUCLEAR METAL**?

- Because we are like nuclear energy: Lethal and fucking deadly. Suits us perfectly.

The material on "Rapture" is more

brutal than on "Latex Cult" (It's my opinion) and your vocals on it is grandious. It seems to me you'd returned to the roots. What can you tell us about this?

- Some people have said that it reminds them our old stuff so that's nice. We just wanted to make fucking brutal cd and this we did. I think Rapture is mixture of old & new.

I'm crazy about your "Motörpenis" mini album and such songs as "Let's Fucking Die" it reminds me the old good 80's. What was the reason for you to make such great songs and will you make it in the future?

- We make the songs we like, what can I say??? If we can blast a good rock song then we will do it, these things just happen you know.

Your lyrics is very explicit. Bands that use such kind of lyrics have many

problems with different christian censor organisations like PMRC or other assholes. Do you have some problems with these assholes?

- We have never had any problems, thankfully. I guess we are too small band for these fuckers to pay attention to.

Why you decided to play **SODOM**'s "Burst Command 'Til War" song? How do you like the later material of **SODOM**?

- Nobody was doing Sodom tribute cd so we decided to cover my fave track from them. I still like Sodom but of course the old material is better.

Last impaled words on Finnish.....

- Hyvää Hanukkaa

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Gorthaur



First of all, what is the meaning of the name ZAVORASH? Tell us anything about the history of band's creation.

- Zavorash stands for Za Vorbashtar Raz Shapog, which means The Legion Of Revenge translated from the Black Speech. The three original members of Zavorash met in the spring of 1997. Though we started to "work" seriously first after the summer. Our first demo named "Za Vorbashtar Raz Shapog" was released winter solstice 1997. We used a drum-machine and a digital port for this recording. More recently we've recorded a song for the CD compilation "Voices Of Death, Part II", and a song for the compilation "Under The Banner Of Darkness" is being recorded as I am writing this, figuratively speaking. A second demo is on it's way as well. Necromorbus has very recently joined us as drummer, and we'll record all coming tracks in this studio. No more ports, and no drum-machines.

The title of your demo begin on the letter "Z". Your names also begin on the letter "Z". How you can explain it and on what language you entitled your demo?

- The demo is named as our band, Za Vorbashtar Raz Shapog (Zavorash), you already know what it means. The reason to the frequently used Z is quite simple: "Za" translated to English becomes "The", and is hence used alot in the language. We have never had any deeper meanings with the Z's, we just spell the Black Speech correctly.

Your opinion about Scandinavian Death/Black Metal underground.

- As with every scene, most of it is utterly bad and boring. I mean no offence to anyone in particular. There's loads of unoriginal bands out there, and I can understand that they like to play the music they like, though I do not listen to them myself, since it's all been done before. We all know this, and there ain't much to do about it. I don't give much of a shit about what happens in the scene, I just stick to music I prefer. Not many bands from Sweden is qualified for my stereo. When it comes to Zavorash, I don't know if we're original or not. I think

ZAVORASH the masters of Nordic destruction came forth... It's a pity but we can not tell much about their biography so read the interview answered by Zablogma... Let the frost bless you...

so, but people might disagree, who knows. We certainly don't have any role-models in our music, that's for sure.

You used drum machine on your demo. Will you find a drummer instead of drum machine?

- Necromorbus is a full-time member of Zavorash, question already answered.

As I saw you have contacts with NAGLEAF. What can you tell us about this?

- Jens Ryden from Naglfar has made our logo. It's not me, but Zagash who has some contact with this guy. There ain't much to say about it really.

Your association with:

a) **evil** - Evil (and Good) is a relative term, which only people with mental codes can ever deal with. I have no moral, and the notion of "good & evil" means nothing to me.

b) **church burnings** - Church burnings is something which I support completely.

c) **hatred** - In Odium Veritas. Hatred is unavoidable for enlightened human beings. Something which one shall not deny, or press down.

d) **christianity** - Religion, well. They're wrong, it's that simple. Christianity symbolizes the dubbel moral, fascism, fairy tales and complete lies of the world. So does every other religion, or culture for that matter.

e) **social darwinism** - Darwin's theories has been proven quite right. I do however not know exactly what social darwinism is, so I can't really comment on it.

f) **U.F.O.** - The universe is limitless, and so are the possibilities. We do not have them here on Earth though.

What is your lyrics about?

- Northern nature, and Nihilism. The first is both simple and unoriginal, the second might not be unoriginal, but it takes for to long to explain. Basically, we mock the world with great scorn, and reflect upon everything about humanity that we hate. Everything.

What can you tell us about nowadays Black Metal trend?

- I've got no real idea. Here in Sweden there has been alot of Satanic/Viking-Metal bands popping up. Satan is still a loved subject, even though I know most people don't believe in "him". Musically, and this is the interesting part, I've already stated some things about it all. Most bands sounds precisely like thousands of other bands in the scene. I guess the biggest Swedish Black-trend is the fast, yet melodic, nihilistic-viking-satanic kind of music. The music says little mostly, and the messages are ridiculous.

What will be your next material and when it will come?

- "Voices Of Death Part II" Comp-CD, end of June - 98 (one song)

- "Under The Banner Of Darkness" Comp-CD, August - 98 (one song)

- "In Odium Veritas" demo-tape, Autumn - 98 (four songs)

Your opinion about such godz of Black/Thrash Metal like VENOM, CELTIC FROST (HELLHAMMER), DESTRUCTION, SODOM, KREATOR, POSSESSED, MAYHEM etc.

- Mayhem is one of my favorite bands, I've got little or nothing to say about the other bands you mention. Have not heard much from them, and what I've heard has not impressed me all that much.

I respect these bands since they're are much of the foundation of today's scene, but I do not listen to them. My personal favorites are Immortal, Satyricon, Emperor etc. I guess it has to do with my age. This answer would have been different if anyone else from Zavorash answered it, since both Zagash and Zagakel are a couple of years older than me. I can assure you though, that they agree on what I am basically saying here.

Do you like the books of John Ronald Reuel Tolkien? Many Black Metal bands use this themes in names, image or lyrics (Summoning, Iseengard, Gorgoroth, Burzum, etc.).

- His books are great. We use his Black Speech. There is however nothing else what-so-ever relating us to anything he's done. We use his Speech because it is perfect for the music, the way it is spoken that is. Burzum (translated=darkness, shadow, moon), yeah, I know, but did our beloved Count ever use the Black Speech in his lyrics? Not as far as I've seen, correct me if I am wrong. (I don't tell that BURZUM use Black Speech in the lyrics. The question was not only about lyrics but about names, image OR lyrics. As I know, even SUMMONING don't use Black Speech. Their names for example "Dol Guldur" are from English language - Sindarim, Duron or Tengwar. I don't know other bands besides you who use the language of Mordor - ED)

What is your favourite historical period and in what period you would like to live?

- I'd like to survive a complete demise of the human race, and live alone without being disturbed by ingrates for the rest of my life. This wish is unreasonable, almost unreason, never-the-less, it would sure as hell be great. Other than this desire, I have no dreams of other ages, I live here now that is what I concentrate on. So should everyone.

You believe in life after death?

- I don't believe in anything. I know there's no life after death.

Do you like Viking bands? There is a big number of them in Sverige and Norge.

- Bands such as Kampfar are sometimes very good, though a little to soft for my taste in the long run. I've got nothing what-so-ever against the Viking trend as a whole, it's just this little fact that there are way to many bands in the scene. 1100 bands might be great, but before you find it you just give up and label the entire scene as crap. This is ignorance, I know, but I am only human. The Viking scene ain't crap though, there's alot of good bands in it, specially from Norway.

Do you know anything about Ukraine and Slavs in general?

- I know where in the world it is, and some other things, but I fail to draw the line of relevance between Ukraine and Zavorash.

Name us your five ultimate albums of all time.

- Battles In The North, Anthems To The Welkin At Dusk, Wolf's Lair Abyss, Hvil Lysst Tar Oss, Nemesis Divina. There are alot more to come, but as I am confined only to five names, I guess this will do.

Last roaring for the end, please...

- Hails and nails! Thanks for the comments on our work so far. Thanks for this interview, even though I must say some questions were rather meaningless in my opinion. Keep up the good work etc.

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— Cornelius / Gorthaur



Za Vorbashtar Raz Shapog

DEMENTOR is one of the most ambitious band from our neighbour - SLOVAKIA. It's stand in the same line with such Czechs and Slovaks as **KRABATHOR**, **PATHOLOGY STENCH**, **MASTER'S HAMMER**, etc. I want to say that the music of **DEMENTOR** is much better than the music of some US and western bands which more famous. It is good that in eastern Europe such great bands are rise. I have a talk with René (guitar/vocals) and he told some interesting facts about his band.

DEMENTOR plays this stuff from 1988. Describe us the main movements of the development since 1988.

DEMENTOR started its existence in 1988 like a three member band. I arrived in 1991. We recorded our first demo in 1992. Its name is "Zanik..." or "The extinction of christianity" in English language. Next demo arose in 1993 and it was entitled "Morbid infection". In that time we were becoming more known in Slovakia and in Czech republic because our scenes had strong relationship. In 1994 Slovakian label I.S.P. offered us deal for the recording of MC album. It was edited in the same year and this MC has name "The church dies". The whole edition (1000 pcs) was sold out and distributed in many European and another labels. In this time we had a lot of personal changes and problems with lineup. Our next recording was effected later than we wanted. In 1997 we recorded our material for our first CD "Kill the thought on Christ". It was edited under I.S.P. again. The whole edition (1200 pcs) is out and the second (500) is ready. We have written our new material and we are going to record it in July. The actual lineup of **DEMENTOR** is: René Blahušiak - guitar & vocals, Roman Calpas - guitar, Holloszman - drums and Miro Kucej - bass.

As we know all music and lyrics of **DEMENTOR** written by you and why the other members doesn't write it?

I wrote the whole material on CD "Kill the thought on Christ". At that time when we write those songs I was only guitarist and I musted to make it. At present **DEMENTOR** has got two guitarists but Roman has written just one song from his arrival by today. It will be used for our 2nd CD "The art of blasphemery". I don't forbid him to write it. Maybe he don't has enough of ideas.

Your lyrics tell about antichristianity. Do you consider yourselves satanists or nihilists?

I consider me an atheist. I can't speak behalf another members but we don't like christian church. I'm not satanist or nihilist. We don't use satanism in our lyrics. Maybe we'll use some satanic symbols on the cover of our new CD to provoke christians. I think the man shouldn't believe in something fanatically like believe most of christians in their god. Although their belief preaches peace and love they are able to kill for their church.

On the new album you have a coverversion from Tublatanka. What was the reason for it?

We wanted to make a cover song of some rock band. We like cover songs which aren't exactly like the original and which are covered to the other style. Here I want to mention **VADER**'s "I feel you". We



wanted to make something similar. The original song "Prometheus" is quite other. It sounds like rock song. Although we didn't change any guitar riffs our version is pure death metal.

How many times a week you have rehearsals? Have any difficulties you live in different towns?

It is according with our drummer's work. He works in afternoons too. Generally we have rehearsals 3-4 times in the week. Three of **DEMENTOR** members live in the same town. Our drummer's town is 20 km

write English lyrics? How many languages do you know?

Well. The first demo was recorded in Slovak because we weren't able to sing in English. Later we let to translate the lyrics in English for the 2nd demo because Slovak isn't the right language for this kind of music. We didn't know English very long. We had a lot of problems with this thing because we always had to ask someone to translate us lyrics and interviews. But at present I have been learning English and if you understand it's good. English helps me and makes me a lot of things easier. I can answer interviews in this language. Beside English I can speak on German and a little on Russian.

What bands you prefer to listen nowadays and what bands had influenced **DEMENTOR**?

Nowadays I like listening of **MORBID ANGEL**. They are absolutely perfect. I also prefer the following bands: **DEICIDE**, **CANNIBAL CORPSE**, **SUFFOCATION**, **VADER**, **LUCIFERION**, **MALEVOLENT CREATION**, **IMMORTAL**, **EMPEROR**, **ROTTEN SOUND**, **INFERNAL TORMENT**, **UNNATURAL** etc. **DEMENTOR** is influenced with the most of these bands and also with some older bands like **VENOM**, **CELTIC FROST**, **DEATH**, **PESTILENCE**...

When you shall release your new album? And will it be

Death Metal 'cause it seems to me nowadays many bands changes their style from **Death Metal** to **Black**, **Doom** or **hardcore**. For example **MORGOTH**, **ATROCITY**, **GRAVE** etc.

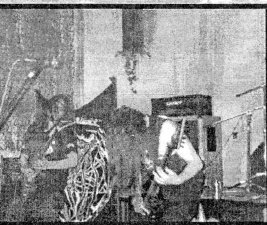
We had to record the new album in June 25th till 30th. But the sound engineer of **PRO ART** studio offered us changing of the date. We are going to record it in July 18th definitely. We have prepared nine songs of the fast death metal and you haven't be afraid of changing of our style. Our new stuff is faster and brutaler than our last release. I'm not interested in the mentioned bands in the present but their old albums are very good. For instance **GRAVE** "Soulless". (Yes, you're right. I'm very like their old stuffs too. - ED)

Last words? Any messages to the readers.

Thank you very much for this interview. Stay brutal!

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far from Puchov but travelling don't make him problem.

Have you any hobbies beside the music? Does the music the part of your life? Can you imagine the life without it?

We have hobby beside **DEMENTOR**. That is listening to the music. We don't have time to do something seriously. The each member of the band works and the work eats us most of day. When you arrive home you are tired. You must to find the power to make something other. I think music is the part of our life. It is very difficult to say if I can imagine the life without the music because I don't know how long **DEMENTOR** will be active but the music will be part of my life.

What is your opinion about modern technics and computers?

It's good for people. It's the improvement of the life. I'm sorry I don't understand computers but that thing is OK.

How many gigs you play? What is the reason for you to play?

We don't play a lot of concerts. It is 15-20 shows every year. We play mostly in Slovakia and Czech but we have played some gigs in Ukraine, Latvia, Russia and in Germany. We like playing concerts. It is very exciting when the people like our music. It's the best satisfaction for the years of playing of this music.

The lyrics of the first demo was in Slovakian. Have you any difficulties to

Cornelius

GRENOUER from Perm is an interesting band to know more about. It's really cool Death Metal act from Russia. From 1992 (the year when the band was formed) they had many problems with line-up. Nowadays **GRENOUER** consists of Sergey Lyalin-drums, Andrew "The Indian" Merzlyakov-vocals, Viatcheslav Koltchin-bass and Alexander Shatov-guitars. Their first album "Border Of Misty Times" was released by Metal Agen only in MC format. Our questions have been answered by all members of the band. Read this interview to get more wide information about this great band.

First of all, what is the meaning of the name **GRENOUER**?

Well, first of all it should mean our band. We find it splendid that there's no such word in any dictionary. So that no one can use it for the name of the band, zinc, etc. It's even possible to say that the name has no actual meaning, the same as Quorthon's "Valhalla" has no actual meaning. But there is some ground for such combination of letters - it originates from the famous book GRIMOIRE or GRAND GRIMOIRE. But GRIMOIRE is a "tasty morsel" and so we just changed some letters and believe it to be a good decision because now in the world there are not less than five bands bearing GRIMOIRE name and the only one **GRENOUER**.

As we read your biography the line-up of **GRENOUER** had changed many times. How do you think will be this line-up constant?

The endless change in the line-up is the damned thing about the band, and every time it happened it caused lots of nervousness. Right now we are tired of hope to keep the line-up stable or at least to go by the way of addition of people but not losing or changing them. But all the changes don't mean that the original **GRENOUER** spirit is lost. Somehow varied a bit.

What can you tell us about the anathema of patriarchy? I think nowadays anathema is a big bulshit (it is not medieval catholic times). As for the normal people don't give a fuck about this now.

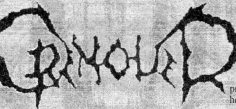
Oh, the anathema episode we just find funny. We know it is a big bulshit but not many people nowadays manage to get curse from the official head of a confession. We managed - ha, ha, ha! In fact, the whole affair shows how stupid and awkward it is and great priest.

You make many gigs. What is your image on this gigs?

Nothing very special. Spinning heads, swinging bodies, loud, fast, brutal. Appreciation of fans. Sometimes the vocal guy jumps like a madman, once he fell on drums, the other time he hit his head against bass finger-board and was finishing the gig bleeding. Occasionally we use special showman, his name is MAO, between songs he talks to audience that tells funny stories.

As I understand you have many problems with cops during the concerts. Why this assholes invade in your business?

It happened twice. The first time they came just because they heard something was going wrong in the concert hall. Their invasion was the last stroke that broke the patience of the fans. The second time came because of the whole country mourning the bus with schoolchildren got into accident and the president ordered to stop all entertainments. Fortunately the cops came too late and we were just about to finish. Cops in our country is pretty big problem, they are real saboteurs. Especially when it concerns rock-concerts. They don't have a slight



idea about the atmosphere that reigns there. We never invite them and hire special security but then may come without invitation and spoil everything. We glad that it has been already a long time since they invaded the last time.

On your flyer's photo we saw Mjolnir (Thor's hammer) on the neck of your vocalist. Does he like Scandinavian mythology?

Oh, we care about mythology of different nations and about Scandinavian definitely too. Mythology is mental pobolium. It can teach a man and humanity a lot. We don't mean to say we study it thoroughly like scientists but we read books, watch films, etc. Concerning Thor's hammer... when The Indian was in Denmark (as an exchange student he told to himself - I'm in Scandinavia now, what I really want is Thor's hammer. And finally in Vikingskibshallen, The Viking Ship Museum in Roskilde) he bought Mjolnir and he's very happy about it. Not just a souvenir but the souvenir from some sacred place.

Give to the readers description of the Perm's underground?

Not very promising. Not much people really want to make anything significant. There are some bands but none of them has a good demo tape. We hope that the situation will be increasing but in reality there are no prerequisites. Extreme music is already not so much popular as several years ago. Young fans confine themselves to NIRVANA, METALLICA or PRODIGY. And the old fans are growing older. Nevertheless we always try to support a new extreme band if it appears. But it is too early to mention the names of the bands 'cause as we mentioned they have nothing to show.

Have you any contacts with foreign bands? Have you ever played live in foreign countries?

Not very many. We correspond with some bands from Malaysia, Costa Rica, Czechia, Poland, Lithuania and of course - Ukraine and Belarus. We never played abroad and we dream to play in the other country. We'd love to.

Something about your lyric conception. One track of yours entitled "Ahriman's Heart". Is there any connection with Persian mythology?

There definitely is Persian mythology interests us as well as Scandinavian mythology, and we couldn't just pass the thrilling name and story and write the songs. What literature you prefer to read? Name us some of your favourite books.

Different. Very wide scale from ancient classics to modern literature. It's time to demarcate, mentioning favourite books. Sergei says - Strigalsky brothers "Lame Fate", Andrew - O. Wilde "The Picture of Dorian Gray", Alexander F. Nietzsche "Antichrist", Slava - L. Tolstoy "War And Peace".

What is your opinion about religion?

Religion is a huge

deception which aims to frighten and rob weak people. During centuries it has been the means of oligarchy. Which is more such hypocrisy perverted the original idea and made it absolutely unrecognisable. Also, religion serves a consolation for the weak who don't have an idea about afterlife. No one has. But should we, people, speculate and make ourselves more feeble, helpless? We shouldn't. We should live with our tears and indignities.

When we can expect your next recording and on what label?

This year, in July we go to Moscow to the same studio (ARIA-Records) to record drums & bass. Several months later we shall record the rest of instruments. We are unlabelled band and we don't



know anything about which label will issue the material and also maybe it is a bit early to speak about it.

Count us your favourite bands. Who are your influences?

Too many to mention all the favourites and influences. Just some of them - HYPOCRISY, UNLEASHED, CORPSE, DISMEMBER, SENTENCED, CARCASS, CRADLE OF FILTH, MORBID ANGEL, THERION, CANNIBAL CORPSE, BENEDICTION, DECIDE, ATROCITY, SODOM, TYPE O NEGATIVE, CATHEDRAL, BATHORY, IMMORTAL, FAITH NO MORE, DIE KRUPPS - many many more and also not metal stuff. Impossible to mention everything.

What associations appear when you hear these names? Cronos, Greg Becerra, Schmier, Tom Warrior and Euryonymous.

Blitz, Viva old masters Euryonymous - Rest In Peace.

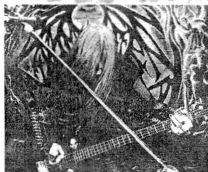
Your wishes...

Tons of them! For the interview. Wishing you good grinding luck to everything you are involved! Readers! Believe in underground and never lose your chance to pick new bands from it. We need you, your support. Viva guttural powerful evil harsh!



GRENOUER, Sergey Lyalin, P.O.Box 631, 614023 Perm-23, Russia

Cornelius / Gorthau



Hailing from Austin, Texas, the black metal band AVERSE SEFIRA was formed in late 1996 by its sole members, Sanguine Asmodel Nocturne (Sam Spoor) and Wrath Sathariel Diabolus (Jeff Tandy). Drums on their debut "Blasphomet Sin Abset" demo are performed on a drum machine, but the band has taken steps to keep its sound as natural as possible to avoid resembling an industrial act. The name, "Averse Sefira", is actually part of the mythos of the Cabala, which claims that a group of angels called the Sefiroth exist in heaven. While they are not expressly evil, the Averse Sefira emanate out of God's left hand; each one serving as an opposite counterpart to the Sefira at the right hand. The Averse Sefira for the Angel of Mercy is the Angel of Vengeance, for the Angel of Victory, there is an Angel of Defeat, and so on. The music itself is what many have come to expect from black metal genre as it is extreme, fast and brutal. The thematic elements, however, are different from other bands of this kind, since all of the lyrics tell an ongoing story. This material is the Averse Sefira's tale about the demon god Blasphomet and his unrequited love for Abset, an empress of Hell. Rather than delving into Viking or Vampire lore, the duo have assumed the roles of two Averse Sefira and created their own mythology to compliment the music. This tape was completely executed and produced by the band in a home studio, and it is currently receiving recurrent airplay on Austin's only FM metal show. Averse Sefira are in the process of preparing new material in anticipation of a full-length release in the winter. And now read the interview with Wrath Sathariel Diabolus and Sanguine Asmodel Nocturne. They tell some interesting aspects of the band.

Anything about the band for those who haven't heard about Averse Sefira before?

Wrath: Averse Sefira is the expression of divine anguish in the form of extreme Black Metal.

Sanguine: We are the forge of the new soul reshaping divinity.

You formed Averse Sefira together with Sanguine Asmodel Nocturne. What were the influences for that?

Wrath: Our band influences were Imperial, Satyricon, Deicide, Immolation, and most of the worthwhile Death and Black Metal that most people know.

Sanguine: We felt that our common vision should be honed and expressed through this type of art and let loose on the unsuspecting.

The demo songs have an excellent production, did you spend a lot of time to get such quality sound?

Wrath: Yes, though it was difficult because I produced this myself. Four tracks is not much to work with, but I think it came out the way we wanted it.

Where did you take that strange demo title from? Can you explain us its meaning?

Sanguine: The songs revolve around the story of the unrequited love of the demon lord Blasphomet for Abset, an empress of Hell. The title literally means, "Blasphomet without Abset".

What did you try to express through your music and lyrics?

Wrath: For this demo, we were simply trying to tell Blasphomet's story.

Sanguine: The new material we are working on takes inspiration from early esoteric and mystic texts that we use as a backdrop for tales of mythic irony.

Your band appeared in 1996 when Black Metal trend had begun. Have you played in any other band before 1996?

Wrath: Yes. From 1990, I was in a band for three years before called

Diabolus, and I also played in a band called Thornspawn for a short time before Averse Sefira was devised.

Sanguine: I have played before in a couple of other bands of no consequence, but this is the first band that I have had any control over.

Today many young kids telling shit about Venom, Celtic Frost, Hellhammer... This kids say that these bands were not Black Metal. What is your point of view on this?

Sanguine: Well, once there were no subgenres like Black Metal or Death Metal. All the bands were just METAL, but as we look back, we tend to categorize bands as speed or thrash, black or whatever. To call those bands Black Metal now works as well as anything else.

Wrath: Regardless of the terms, these bands were and still are an important part of extreme metal music.

You play without drummer, but you make gigs. Who play drums on live concerts?

Wrath: We use the drum machine live. We hope to have a drummer as soon as a truly good one comes along.

Sanguine: ...but in the meantime, we have secured the services of Proscriptor from Absu to perform drums on our full-length CD, "Homecoming's March".

What is Black Metal for you? (money, hobby, religion, ideology, etc.)

Sanguine: Black Metal is the blood that runs through my veins.

Wrath: It is truly a way of life for us. This music is an important part of how we define ourselves as people.

You are from USA. What is your opinion about American Church of Satan and La Vey's ideology and philosophy? Are you satanists?

Sanguine: In our own ways, we are Satanists, but ultimately, everybody defines that however they please. The Church of Satan is a good starting point for someone on this path, but each individual is the ultimate authority for what is right for him/

herself. We have no affiliation with them. Evil and good reside in man regardless of what religion they follow.

Your opinion about American Black Metal underground (Absu, Darkness Enshroud, etc.)

Wrath: Obviously, we think very highly of Absu, but there are many other worthy bands like Forest of Impaled, Krieg, Imprecation, Thornspawn, Lycanthropy. We think that the US Black Metal scene is diverse and very intense. It seems to grow by the day, and hopefully we shall become more accepted in the world Black Metal community.

What can you tell about the future for Averse Sefira. How will your next work be?

Sanguine: I do not think it is too egotistical to say that we will probably be signed very soon, due to the positive responses we have gotten so far. The music that we are writing now buries what we have done before.

Wrath: The new material is much more vicious and epic, with a much grander story to unfold.

Last words for the end.

Wrath: Be prepared for "Homecoming's March". It will not disappoint.

Sanguine: Support the underground. If you have any questionable beliefs, at least have the courage to stand by them.

Thanks for the interview!

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Cornelius

RENAISSANCE 'zine

is the well-known name in Ukrainian underground. I spoke with Alex, the editor of this 'zine. He told us many interesting about Crimea and its underground scene. I hope you'll enjoy this interview.

Tell us the history of your 'zine. How it's all had begun and why you decided to use the name "Renaissance" for your 'zine? Have this name any connection with the well-known historical period called "Renaissance"?

- Well as we know from the history "Renaissance" is the epoch of revival. This epoch in cultural and ideal development of some countries in Europe in 14-16 centuries was conditioned by the beginning of the rising of the bourgeois relations. From the historical side this term means the rebirth of the antique historical inheritance as well nowadays. Today when the young fans forget the sources of all the metallic movement we must to correct this question. Young metallists lose the interest in such styles of metal like Death, Thrash, Power. They are crazy about electric shit as "Prodigy" or total Black Metal. (??? - Ed) It is horrible for me to proclaim such names as POSSESSED, REPULSION, CORONER, PROTECTOR, HELHAMMER, INFERNAL MAJESTY "coz on our shitty (athus) takes place the spiritual degradation among the youth. So, using the "Renaissance" (zine" as the means of ignorance among the ignorant fans I want the youth may to choose the belief of true metal and interesting more in music and our scene. Maybe this is the refinement of my views but it is how I think.

How you make the interviews with the bands? Are you writing to such bands who are popular now or for such bands who are deserving to be known more?

- I haven't any assortment. I try to help all the underground, who needs in my help and deserve it. Of course I must to hear the band firstly and then to write about it in my 'zine. I don't care about the level 'coz for the reader they all are in the common circumstances. For more deeply contacts in the underground I release NWL "INTERIOR CRY".

The best interview made by you and who is for you the good interview-partner? Were there any answers from the groups you dislike?

- Maybe I haven't made it. And it is bad to defy yourself. People shall price the reader's creation. Some like the issue, others dislike it. Of course there were some guys who don't want to tell all the truth, but only few.

How many copies of your 'zine is spreaded nowadays? What is your opinion about the position your 'zine standing in Ukrainian underground?

- There was the difficulties. When we made it we didn't think about such things. But man always find the answer even for the most difficult problem. The typographical services in my region cost so much and time is passing - the issues of 'zine becoming older from day to day. So we decided to use bad xerox and print

'zine in a few copies. Nowadays we sold more than 100 copies. Some ones we sent to the foreign countries, but the most important for me is my region. And what is your opinion about the position our 'zine standing in Ukrainian underground if there only few 'zines. (You are on the top - Ed) Of course, I wish the good luck to ENCOMIUM 'zine!!!

How long you set up the material for one issue? How many hands didn't answer your questions? If there was such ones, so who and why?

- Oh it takes me very much time. I understand that we are all the people with our problems and not some crazy ones. But I don't understand the reaction of many bands. From many bands I wait the information for half a year though the letter can reach 'em for 2-3 days. Almost all bands sooner or later answer me. I began to work on my issue #2, didn't reaching the answers only from FORGOTTEN SPIRIT (Sumy), APOSTATE (Lvov), though I would make the issues about these interesting bands in my zine. But I shall not release zine during 3 years!

How can you describe Crimea to those who weren't there? Do you like your city and what about the scene (bands, labels, distributors, etc.)?

- Crimea is a very wonderful region with warm climate. The nature is very beautiful here. Don't take offence Cornelius, but Crimea is so beautiful as Carpathians. This place enchanting millions of people, so there many people who take rest here every year. Our Black Sea enchanting and calling all the people. I don't like my city so much 'coz this is the whole where man withering under his problems. There are much criminal events (it takes the 2nd position in Ukraine) and total unemployment at it strike the people. I finished engineering-technical institution of higher education and working in music shop not because I like it but 'coz I cannot find the work due to my profession. All the work is wonderful nowadays. With criminals I haven't problems now. I can name such bands as VELIAR (Doom-dark metal), ПРОКЛЯТЫЙ ПЕЛОП (Necromantic thrash-wave), OSCULUM INFAME (Sado-black metal), ДУШАМА (Neuro-brutal techno thrash), БЕЗДНА (Angry from Sevastopolis), ГЕЛІО30Б53 (Grind/death from Sevastopolis), SPARROW MUTANT (Gore-grind from Yalta), DEVOID (Doom from Yalta), PASSAGE (Black metal from Chernomorsk). There are no labels here who want to have something with the scene but there are two rock-cafes in Sevastopolis and Simferopolis were bands play gigs.

I don't know any editions except yours. Are they still there? What can you tell about them?

- There are no any metal edition in Crimea except RENAISSANCE 'zine, though the well-known persons in US underground Sergey Danilchenko (Slurk) & Sergey Achmiz (Vran) had released their DEATH VOICE 'zine and INVASION 'zine. But last time they'd cheated a big number of people, simply robbed them and then disappeared. They were rip-offs!!! But I don't understand what were the main things for that people when they worked in underground. I don't care about them now, we cursed them, though they were the first.

What kind of literature do you prefer to read?

- I like SHISM 'zine, HARDWAY (from Sumy), old editions of LEGION mag (Minsk). From the foreign editions I like EQUILIBRIUM OF NOISE (Poland), STRASHINA THRASHKA (Poland), PIT (USA) that's about the musical editions. My favourite writers are Poe, Lovecraft, Din Cunz, Stephen King.

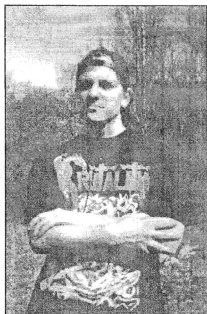
What do you like to do except your 'zine (your hobby)?

- As all the true fans I collect recordings of bands, I train in bodybuilding (Hi Danzig and Cronos!!!). And sometimes due to the free time make some drink with women and all what is about it. Although my work takes much time. I stole minutes of my sleep to read and to self-perfect in deal with books.

What bands you prefer to listen to and why?

- I like very different music. There are many bands in my collection from JOY DIVISION to MASTER'S HAMMER. It's all depends on my mood. It is main thing when I choose the object of my delight.

If I tell you such names: Marcel Schirmer, Mille Petrozza, Tom Angelripper, what associations



appears in your

- Cult!!!

I know that you use interesting stories in your "Culture Of Evil" and "The Face Of Death" volumes. What do you think about death, evil, satanism or sadomasochism?

- Earlier I'd interested in different movements that due to metal. I'd read many books but most of all I like the book called "MALLEUS MALEFICARUM". The essence of cultural evil is completely described here. Evil for me is something more than Satanism that turned in popular thing and the point of teen-agers' worship now. And what about more deep analysis of that things, there are right and wrong points. I wanted to make my 'zine more interesting by the help of that points, but the main thing in my 'zine is music, not ideology.

Well, I return to "Renaissance". When you shall release your new issue and with what bands you shall acquaint us? Shall you change the design of your 'zine?

- Maybe I shall do it in the beginning of summer that year. There will no changes in conceptual things, but contents shall fulfill by our underground. Even now I can name the bands that shall be in that issue: S.C.A.L.P. (RUS), GORGOROTH (NOR), ABIGOR (AUS), TEMPLE OF OBIVION (UKR), ДУШАМА (UKR), MISERY (UKR), PARADISE TOST (ENG), OBITUARY (USA), AUTUMN TEARS (USA), ANGELKILL (USA), MORTIS (SWE), MISCREANT (RUS), SPARROW MUTANT (UKR), ROTTING CHRIST (GRE), EVTHANAZIA (BLR), FROMMORTELL (BLR), VODOO (BLR), APRAXIA (BLR), KRABATHOR (CZE), ORCHESTRAL PIT'S CANNIBALS (RUS), CUMDEO (RUS), IMMOLATION (USA), MENTAL HOME (RUS), OSCULUM INFAME (UKR), DESTROY (UKR). And there will be more than one hundred reviews on new underground productions including: demo, 'zines, video, CD and of course "Culture Of Evil" and "The Faces Of Death".

What in your opinion I'd forget to ask you? Tell something shocking to the readers in the end.

- I hope Cornelius that people'll know more about me after your interview. And in the end I would like to thank ENCOMIUM 'zine for the wonderful conversation with RENAISSANCE 'zine and wish luck in cultivating of the metal underground and good albums for the wonderful band from Carpathians - CASTRUM!!! ...Something shocking for readers? O.K. I human, take a think! Are you needed in this world? And if you needed, so why?

RENAISSANCE 'zine
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Cornelius

GARDEN OF SHADOWS WAS FORMED IN THE BEGINNING OF 1995

WHEN THE REMAINING MEMBERS OF THE band FUNERAL OPERA BEGAN TO SEARCH FOR A SECOND GUITARIST. THEIR SEARCH ENDED IN JULY WHEN THEY CHOSE MARY, FORMER GUITARIST FOR BIOVORE, TO COMPLETE THEIR LINE-UP. THE band parted ways with drummer Kevin shortly after, and they went through several drummers before finally discovering Bret, former drummer for Maryland's SADISTIC TORMENT, in late 1996. THE band then changed their name to GARDEN OF SHADOWS and recorded their highly acclaimed debut demo entitled "HEART OF THE CORONA". THE GARDEN OF SHADOWS sound is heavy yet melodic with guitar harmonies, majestic keyboard melodies,

Garden of Shadows

pulverizing drums, brutal, growling death metal vocals and ethereal female vocals. THE music synthesizes elements of various metal styles and combines them to create music that tenaciously grips you and refuses to leave



First of all, describe to us the members of GARDEN OF SHADOWS one by one. (Age, job, interests, religion, etc.)

- To start with myself, I am 22 and I am currently a student at the University of Maryland studying Philosophy. The largest interest in my life is in music, and nothing else really compares to that for me. Playing and listening to music are my life! I have no religion as I am an atheist. Mary is 23 and she is also a student. Her interests essentially mirror mine, which is why we work so well together! She considers herself an agnostic as does the rest of the band. Bret is 24 and he works as an electrician. Music is a large part of his life, but he has a family now and he devotes most of his time to taking care of them. Chad is 22 and he works two jobs—one in retail sales and the other doing filing in an office. Scott is 21 and he works in the same office as Chad! Owen is 25 and he is a computer programmer.

Very interesting for my eye song "Apollonian Realm" but I hadn't seen your lyrics of it on inlay. Tell me about this song. Have this song any deal with ancient Greek mythology?

- This song does deal with ancient Greek mythology. We didn't print the lyrics for that song on the inlay because we didn't have room for them. (The lyrics will be printed on the inlay of the CD version of the demo.) This song is about the cult of Apollo and it deals with their manner of worship in the days of the ancient temple. We chose the topic because it interested us and we chose to impose no limits on the subject matter of our songs.

Your music is more closer to European Death/Doom Metal than to American. What can you tell about it?

- I agree with you. We write and play in the style that we love. I cannot deny that many bands that have influenced us hail from Europe and that being the case, one can see why our sound is more similar to those bands than to the more brutal "American" sound. Although I must tell you that this stereo type is changing. There are more atmospheric and melodic death and black metal bands here today than ever before. Forty Days Longing, Estuary of Calumity, Scalytorped, Scholomance, Agoloch, Epoch of Unlight, December Wolves and Thorns of the Carrion are just a few of these bands and I am certain there are more I have yet to hear. I personally see melodic/atmospheric death metal as an evolutionary step beyond purely brutal death metal and it just seems like America is slightly behind the times compared to Europe.

Give us more information about the contract with X-RAVED Records.

- The contract is just for one release. They will be releasing our demo on CD. The packaging will be far superior to the cassette version. In addition to this, the demo has been digitally mastered to sound clearer and it contains a new song of about 8 and a half minutes entitled "Shards of the Sphere". This MCD has a running time of over 39 minutes so I think it is a pretty good deal.

In what way your new material will be?

- It is in the same vein as our old material although I believe that it is more mature. Perhaps the level of complexity rises in some songs, but the basic mood remains the same. We have some new songs that are faster and heavier than those on the demo, but we also have some that are slower. What I can say is that all of our material is melodic death metal that keeps us interested from beginning to end. We won't be changing styles ever. I hate it when a band I love changes style completely—particularly death metal bands that cease to play death metal. This will not happen with us.

Your opinion about the greatest American Death Metal acts DEATH and MORBID ANGEL?

- I prefer Death over Morbid Angel because they are so much more melodic. As for Morbid Angel, I think they are great for what they do, but that isn't my favorite style any more.

As for me your music is very atmospheric and melodic. Do you prefer to listen such music?

- Definitely. I live to hear good atmospheric and melodic death. Some of my favorite bands are Sepic Flesh, Ophidian Land, Rotting Christ, Dark Tranquillity, Crypt of Kerberos, In Flames, Dissection, Fall of the Leafe, Homicide, Embrace of Fear, Deviser and many, many others.

What's your associations with:

a) A.S. LaVeY—I really don't have much to do with Satanism. I am simply an atheist and I have no need for any sort of religion in my life. From what I have heard, LaVeY seemed to be an intelligent person, but I really have no strong opinion of him.

b) U.F.O.—I don't believe any alien species have actually made contact with anyone on earth. I am not even certain that any life exists outside of earth. I suppose it is possible, but I think that if an alien race had made contact with people here on earth we would know about it.

c) K.K.K.—I am strongly opposed to any group that promotes prejudice. It is one thing to hate someone as an individual... it is quite another to someone just because that person belongs to a particular race or ethnicity. We are all part of the exact same species and we experience life in the same way. It is only personal experience that colors our perceptions of the world. A person who lives around racism may become a racist, but I do not think that is an intelligent position. All of us who love metal must stick together! Metal is a strong underground movement because enough people who are into the scene aren't prejudiced. If we were, none of us would ever send letters to foreign countries and there would be no worldwide movement. We should all unite in the name of METAL!

d) Black Metal—I think there are some black metal bands that are very talented and I enjoy their music. My personal tastes lean towards death metal vocals, but recently some black metal bands have been incorporating some deeper vocals and I love this because I think they really add to the power of the music. As for the ideology,

your mind. Recently, bassist OWEN has been added to the line-up. He will be featured on the upcoming MCD and on future recordings. GARDEN OF SHADOWS has played shows in Maryland, DC, Virginia, Pennsylvania and North Carolina, including opening up for DECEASED, SIX FEET UNDER, OBITUARY, SUFFOCATION and MY DYING BRIDE, and they are actively searching for gigs across the US. The band is fiercely determined to make a name for themselves in the underground as one of the foremost atmospheric death metal bands in the USA. Successfully, we had a chance to speak with guitarist BRIAN. He told us more about the activities of GARDEN OF SHADOWS. ENTER THE GARDEN OF SHADOWS!!!

I only really care about the quality of the music. If a band makes good music I will want to listen to them, but I don't really care about background ideology of a band.

e) POSSESSED'S "Seven Churches"—I don't have much of an opinion of this album. It never held a strong position in my life. I have only heard it a couple of times and it didn't really strike me as the kind of thing I love, but I can see how it could have inspired a lot of people when it came out.

f) Wotan—I like mythology and in this sense I find Nordic mythology interesting, but I don't see it as something to base my life on, more than Greek or Roman mythology. Of course I don't mean to belittle those who do believe in it, but I don't think the characters of these mythologies ever actually existed.

g) Atlantean civilization—I have to take the same position here as I did in the previous item. I find it fascinating as a mythology, but I do not know if it ever actually existed. I still love the images that the word "Atlantis" conjures up.

Do you believe in the end of the World?

- I believe the human race may become extinct at some point, but I also believe that it may not. I do not see myself as qualified to say what will happen. No one can see into the future and no one knows with absolute certainty what will happen. This is the only thing that I think is certain.

Your five ultimate albums of all time.

- It is almost impossible for me to pick just five favorite albums, but I will try:

1. Sepic Flesh "Mystic Places of Dæwn"
2. Crypt of Kerberos "World of Myths"
3. Homicide "In the Garden of the Uncertain Delights"
4. Rotting Christ "Non Serviam"
5. In Flames "Subterranean"

Do you know something about Hanz Gorbiger's theory "Four Moons" if you know what's your opinion about it?

- I wish I knew so I could say something interesting here, but I don't.

Last comments...

- Hello to you Cornelius for such a great interview. Thank you for the opportunity to appear in Encomium. To all of you reading: feed free to get in touch. Our MCD will be out in September on X-RAVED Records and we now have T-shirts available for \$10/\$12 world. Support metal!!!

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Cornelius/Gorthaur

Why you decided to sing on russian language?

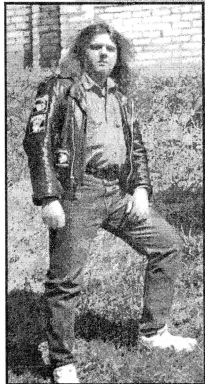
- I considered that for russian bands (extremal & etc. directions) better to make the russian lyrics for its creations. Fans in concert-actions are grasp better our songs, and with russian lyrics may be more exactly & understandably to pass our thoughts and any moods. Only russian language! (If only for Russia).

As I understood your lyrics is influenced by such bands like CARCASS, CANNIBAL CORPSE, PUNGENT STENCH etc. Do you like these bands?

- Yes, you enumerated my favourite bands. To this good bands I can to add DEATH, DEICIDE, ENTOMBED and DISMEMBER.

Have you now a constant line-up? Name us these members.

- I be regret, but MENTAL DISSECTION is not have a constant line-up now. As in earlier, line-up have two musicians - Andy-guitar and Lars-drums. In our city to find the good musicians for death/grind is very hard and problematic.



and Krasnodar have only one death-metal/grindcore band, its name is MENTAL DISSECTION. But we decide this problem in nearing time.

Have you played in any other bands before MENTAL DISSECTION?

- Yes, we have the working experiences in other bands - from hard to heavy to true-grindcore: I play in TERMINATOR, ASSAULT, VIVISECTOR, SARCOMA, OUTBURST etc. Lars play in MORG and other unknown bands, and MENTAL DISSECTION is the 1st serious band for him.

What is your associations on hearing the following terms:

a.) War - fucking dirty games of fucking corrupted politics and crazy maniacs. This is great-total shit!

b.) Satan - I'm the satanist and this term for me is more mystical questions and secrets of world's power. Satan rules this world: AVE SATANAS!

c.) Churchburnings - the actions of weak and crazy people, who don't understand that this action nothing can change, but it is necessary to struggle with other and more forces methods.

d.) Sadomasochism - this term is very attractive, but near by him we are not

Prepare to be slaughtered!!!
Here is butchers from Krasnodar called MENTAL DISSECTION. Their music for fans who likes pathological topics in Death Metal. Cool stuff!!! Read the interview with Andy (guitar). It's a pity but this interview isn't complete due to our post service.

approached...

e.) Fascism - is not supported.

f.) Ku-Klux-Klan - this is good for USA, but not for Russia. (I think that will be good for Russia soon - ED.)

g.) Democracy - in Russia? I fuck this democracy! Big-money is the best democracy.

You have many recordings. When we can expect your next album and in what orientation it will be?

- Our new album will be named "The Shadows Of Advanced Evil". It will be more speeded and brutal with russian lyrics about the society's

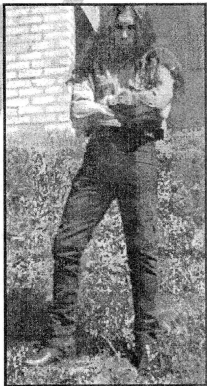
problems and reality of world's life - sex, murders, maniacs

etc. It will be out soon in the year of 1998. Spared your brain and ears! It will kill the all white in you!

CONTACT:

MENTAL DISSECTION
c/o Andy
Gerson 571.103
350004 Krasnodar
Russia

Cornelius



PHANTASMAGORY

Welcome to world of mistery, hallucinations and mysticism. Here reigns PHANTASMAGORY, band from Ukraine. Read and make a journey to the world of phantasmagorical mystical spheres.

As we see from your biography you started to play from 1991. As I know it was more difficult to play such music in these times than now. Have you any difficulties with your rehearsals and gigs in 1991?

The band didn't have any problems with rehearsals and gigs because the band has its own rehearsal base. There were certainly difficulties then because all the new things are hard to be developed. The concerts were held but more seldom than now.

What things motivates your music?

Our music comes from our inward emotions and fantasy. We try to put into the music something abstract and unordinary.

What is your lyrical conception? Tell us more about it. Explain us the meaning of your very original cover.

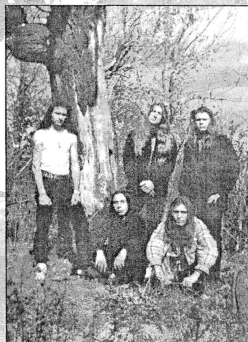
It would take a lot of time and room to expound all the conception. But we can try to do that shortly. Person's hard life makes him to be abstracted from the real world. He gets interested in other worlds. He manages to penetrate the supreme intellect. After that he goes crazy because of surplus of information coming from above. In his desperation he loses his eyes. In the end it all comes out to be a vision (phantasmagoria). The meaning of the cover is concealed in the darkness of that album.

After the death of your guitarist and ideologist V. Kizilov there was a period of depression for you and your band even stoped its existence. What were the reasons that resurrected your band?

During so called stop of

existence (which in reality we didn't survive) Vorobyov and Pogrebnoy were looking for adequate musicians.

Do you have something with occultism and satanism? (I saw



inverted cross on your vocalist on inlay)

Yes we do, but we leave this question without commentaries.

What's your opinion about the second coming of Heavy Metal and Thrash Metal of 80's? (Bands that were disappeared for long time make their new releases and also new bands playing the music of 80's appeared. For example: INFERNŌ; GEHENNAH, HAMMERFALL, GUILLOTINE, etc.)

We take this positively because they bring nostalgia for former times. And nobody can predict what can happen even in a month. And any band has right to exist.

With what bands you make gigs and what is the atmosphere on your gigs?

We don't have our personal gigs but play together with local bands. For example IGNIS NOCTURNUM, etc. Atmosphere on the gigs can't be bad because there are lots of heavy music fans in our region.

Do you believe in other civilisations dwelling in the unlimited cosmic seas of Universe? And how do you think had these civilisations, if they exist, ever visited the Earth?

Yes, we believe. They used to come to change gold for chocolates.

When we can expect your new material and in what way it will be? (Nowadays many bands like to change their music. Make it less heavy more melodic, change the vocal style. For example: AMORPHIS, MOONSPELL, THEATRE OF TRAGEDY, etc.)

We are planning to release a new album in the fall of this year. Concerning the style we can say it has been changed about the heaviness let the listeners voice their opinion.

Tell us your final phantasmagorical words.....

MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN.

PHANTASMAGORY
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Donetsk Region
Ukraine

Cornelius

HEAVEN GREY is a talented band playing Doom Metal from Latvia. The band HEAVEN GREY was formed in 1993 in Riga after the break-up of 2 bands — SCAFFOLD and DISGORGED. Vyacheslav & Vladislav played in death metal band SCAFFOLD but the guitarist Janis and Ervins were the members of death/grindcore band DISGORGED. At that time the band GRINDMASTER DEAD (now SKY-FORGER) left the bassist Andris - he took the responsibility to use his voice. So those 5 guys was like crazy to practise and after a while a short gig-programme was written. At that time the style of the band was death/grindcore with doom elements. Due to manager Ansis the band played some big gigs and festivals. In the beginning of 1994 the alcoholic problems with Andris were overflowing so Ansis (the manager) was happy to take his place. Ansis asked an acquaintance of him - Ernests - to join in by playing some classical instruments: Ernests was happy to play cello just after finishing the music school. In May of 1994 the new line-up sat in the studio "Metal Attack" and recorded the demo tape "Under The Grey Clouds" (4 songs using female vocals). After the recording they played a lot of gigs all over the country. Step by step the style of HEAVEN GREY changed to doom metal. Later in 1994 the song "Broken Mirror" was recorded exactly for the radio show. Then in the beginning of 1995 Janis was fired and Sigvards from the thrash band MYSTERY joined the outfit. Starting from this point the productivity of the band arose. All the year round HEAVEN GREY was practising a lot and preparing for the full-length-album recording. In the beginning of 1996 the band recorded their 1st album "Memory River" at the "Phoenix Studio" Riga. There are 9 songs in doom metal style with the elements of death metal, it's also consists one song on Latvian language. It was turned out by "Mapl Music" in a big edition as an MC and was distributed all over Latvia as well as abroad. Some long sleeve shirts was made, too. Through the years of 1996-1997 the band toured Latvia and gave some gigs in foreign countries, as well as they were getting ready to make a new stuff. In January of 1998 the band sat in the studio "Phoenix" and did the new material "Northwind". Read this interesting interview which was answered by Vladislav (bass guitar).



So let's begin. Your lyrics, cover and name are unusual and interesting. Tell us more about the musical and lyrical conception of the band?

- Lyrics about relations between people, life in surrounding world and solving different problems that deal with it. Inner disturbances, a bit of depression, love. A parallel between man and surrounding world shown in our lyrics. On cover of "Memory River" album the sense of lyrics can be seen. So in general it is Doom Metal.

- On inlay of your cassette "Memory River" we had seen a very interesting symbol, that is closer to swastika and the cross of Sventovith. What this symbol means? Do you respect pagan traditions of ancient Baltic tribes? (As I know they were pagans longer than other European folks and were baptized in XI-XIII centuries)

- The symbol drawn on our cover really looks like a swastika. But it has nothing with it. Really it is an ancient Latvian national ornament. It can be seen on national dresses. Frankly speaking our traditions is very interesting, but it's a pity I know nearly a half of it all. Of course, if I have a chance to know something new about it, I'm interesting in it with great pleasure.

I was surprised by your song "Upe" which is on Latvian language. Sorry I don't know Latvian tell me something about this song. Will you sing on Latvian more in the future?

- The meaning of the song "Upe" (river) is the comparison of human life with the flowing of river.

All the happenings, troubles, sin, life, defeats and victories. There are two songs on Latvian language on our new album "Northwind", namely "Zemes elpa" (The Breath Of The Earth) and "Cels" (Way). We made a clip to the first song which shown on Latvian TV.

From Baltic underground I know only HEAVEN GREY, POCOLUS and NABASH. Give us the more wide observing of your underground.

- Latvian scene is surely big. The main number of bands base in Riga. And in general in Latvia nearly 25 bands including the beginners. But the leaders of the Latvian scene in their styles are three bands: it is our band HEAVEN GREY, SKY-FORGER (Pagan Black), NEGLECTED FIELDS (Techno Death) but there are many perspectives as INVASION, BARBAROSSA, HERESIARH, MISERIA, MAZE OF CAKOTORMENT S...

In Lithuania even more bands than in Latvia, such as OUTSIDER (Death), ANOMALY (Death), GARLAND, MIRESSIN, GHOSTORM (Death), RUINATION (Doom). Estonian bands are lesser in number than ours: RATTLER (Death), CARNIFEX (Death), DAWN OF GEHENNA (Black-Doom), VIGILIA MORTUUM, THARAPHITA (Black).

Our countries made exchanging of bands for the gigs, that is big concerts and gathering nearly about 600-1000 and more fans. Big festivals "OPEN AIR" with good equipment and light are also took place in Latvia. Such concerts are rather more than 2000-3000 fans. Our band planned three such concerts on summer.

What music we shall hear on your new album "Northwind", will it as on "Memory River"

something different?

- Album "Northwind" is more melodic than "Memory River". The vocal is more opened (77-ED) and the vocal parts are more beautiful. Also we'd used violoncello and keyboards. So between these two albums there are common things and also many differences beginning from inlay (new inlay much more unusual and better than the first) and ending with quality of recording.

Something about your sign with SHEER Records.

- Firstly we decided to sign a deal with WILD RAGS Records (USA) but by the advice of our friends (who had something with WILD RAGS; they tell us that they are deceivers) we decided to end any relations with WILD RAGS. Then we found SHEER Records from Czech and they agreed to release our first album "Memory River" and new album "Northwind" in CD format. Now we are invade the release of it all. SHEER Records release many Doom/Death band, but the big number of these bands are from central Europe.

Now, we give you the following points, share with us your associations: christianity; Baptism of Baltic pagans by catholic church; Livonian order; Dark empire call USSR; J.R.R. Tolkien's books; A.S. LaVey.

- All the points of these questions I answer in one. All religion is not for me, be it christianity, islam, buddhism, paganism or satanism. This is completely nothing for me. It's a very shameful from modern man to worship different mythological goheades and idols. The main thing for me is material human interests and knowledge.

What music you prefer to listen? And what can you tell about such bands like VENOM, CELTIC FROST (HELLHAMMER), SODOM, POSSESSED, KREATOR, DESTRUCTION, SLAYER and CANDLEMASS.

- I listen to music of different styles from Heavy Metal to Grindcore. But I prefer Doom Metal bands more. In every styles I have favourites like MANOWAR, IRON MAIDEN, MEGADETH, KREATOR, CARCASS, EDGE OF SANITY, ANATHEMA, THEATRE OF TRAGEDY, PYOGENESIS, LAKE OF TEARS, CEMETARY.



EMPEROR, ENSLAVED, IMMORTAL, BLOOD, TERRORIZER etc. I very like all bands you counted. I have great respect for them. The only band I don't like very much is CANDLEMASS. I don't like vocalist with such voice. (I don't understand what's wrong with his voice. As for me it's great. -ED)

Some wishes for ENCOMIUM 'zine readers on Latvian language...

- NOVELAM, HUMS ANDERGAUNDA UZ PLAKUMU, KUSTIET LAIMIGI UN BAGATI, KLAUSIETIES SMAGO MUZIKU UN VISU LABU!!! LAPA

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Cornelius / Gorthaur

The following is the official biography released by Sodom's current label, G.U.N. Records. Although it is otherwise very complete and informative, there is a glaring error in it. Test your Sodom knowledge! Be the life of the party!

SODOM were founded by ANGELRIPPER (bass/voc), WITCHHUNTER (drums) and AGGRESSOR (git/voc) in early 1980. From the very start the trio, heavily influenced by bands like Venom and Motorhead, dedicated themselves to the toughest variety of heavy metal. SODOM's first two demos "Witching Metal" (1983) and "Victims of Death" (1984) caused a sensation in the scene, and after successful gigs in Frankfurt with Venom and Destruction / Iron Angel they signed their first recording contract with Steamhammer in 1984. Guitarist AGGRESSOR left the band even before the studio sessions and was soon replaced by GRAVE VIOLATOR, with whom SODOM recorded their debut EP "In The Sign of Evil". He in turn was later to be succeeded by DESTRUCTOR.

After their first major success in 1985 - SODOM played in front of 1000 fans in Belgium - they enthusiastically set about recording their first album "Obsessed By Cruelty". Having completed the recording, DESTRUCTOR also departed. The EP "Expulse Of Sodom" followed in 1987. It was axeman FRANK BLACKFIRE's debut with SODOM, and he helped the band on their way to brilliance and professionalism. The EP, which also contained the classic "Sodom's And Lust", earned SODOM positive reactions even from formerly critical voices. That same year their second album "Persecution Mania" came out. The press enthused about a "perfect thrash album", and SODOM were well on their way to an international breakthrough. In 1988 they embarked on their first European tour with US thrashers WHIPLASH. SODOM's first live album, entitled "Mortal Way Of Live", consisted of live recordings from the shows in Dortmund and Düsseldorf. The sales figures surpassed all expectations: the concept of the record and the amazingly driving sound did not only impress old fans but gained the group numerous new supporters. In January of 1989 SODOM celebrated their biggest live success of the Eighties with close to 10,000 fans in Katowice, Poland, and in March they set out a record which was to mark an interim highlight of their career. Their masterpiece "Agent Orange" came on the market in June 1989 and achieved what no other thrash album worldwide had accomplished: it entered the German Media Control album charts! "Agent Orange" also marked the beginning of a collaboration with producer Harris Johns which continues to this day. Johns had made a name for himself with productions for Helloween, Voivod and Kreator.

"Agent Orange" reached No. 36 of the album charts, and the single "Ausgebombt", which was released on time for the European tour, immediately achieved indisputable cult status. An unknown Brazilian metal act by the name of SEPULTURA, whose unstoppable rise to stardom was only beginning, supported SODOM on their consequent tour. In the meantime, Frank Blackfire had moved on to team up with KREATOR. During the tour progressive metal act MEKONG DELTA's stringsman lent a hand.

For their 1990 album release "Better Off Dead" they enlisted the support of guitarist Michael Hoffman (ex-Assassin), but he didn't last long either: during their Japanese tour that year Hoffman sacrificed his career in favour of a Brazilian beauty, and the position was once again vacant. In autumn '91 Andy Brings appeared on the scene. He delivered his debut with the album "Tapping The Vein" (1992) which presented a return to the mega-tough SODOM sound of the early days with songs like "Body Parts" and the german language dirty "Wachstum". Like "Better Off Dead", the album was produced by Harris Johns. They later toured with Berlin act DEPRESSIVE AGE.

In the same year SODOM's longtime drummer Witchhunter left and was replaced by ATOMIC STEIF (formerly Living Death), who first appeared on the EP "Aber bitte mit Sahne". 1993 saw the release of the sixth SODOM offering "Get What You Deserve" with the extremely popular number "Die stumme Urse!", yet another highlight of German musical heritage, and said Urse! has become an undemanding and easy to handle escort during SODOM's tours. SODOM's tenth anniversary was celebrated in style with a sold-out gig at Essen's Zeche Carl, featuring every former SODOM member as well as many musician friends all together on stage.

The following year "Marooned Live", another live album, was released. SODOM's 7th studio cut "Masquerade In Blood" (1995) was produced at the RA.S.H studios in Gelsenkirchen under the direction of Ulf Pössel. In the meantime the band had suffered yet another change of guitarists (the 7th to date!) Andy Brings had been replaced by Dirk -STRAHL- Strahlmeier. In 1996 ANGELRIPPER launched his first solo project. His album "Ein schöner Tag" was the SODOM frontman's first cooperation with G.U.N. Records. With the support of various guest musicians the self-confessed fan of top fermented German dark beer interpreted twelve of the most popular German drinking songs and two original compositions on the same subject in the familiar hard-as-nails SODOM sound.

And then the long last move to a new label was finalized. "Til Death Do Us Unite", SODOM's first album to be released by G.U.N. was recorded at the RA.S.H studios in October and November 1996. And once again there's been a change in the line-up: the tried and tested threesome has remained the same, the new members surrounding SODOM-mastermind Tom Angelripper are Bobby on drums and guitarist Bernerpuhn (both of Crow's and Randalica fame).

For the first time in six years "Agent Orange" producer Harris Johns was at the controls again. More than its predecessors, the material on the new album brings the style of their 1989 triumph to mind; as Tom explains: "It was important to me that the result did not sound too modern, so I went back to the classic Eighties thrash. To me "Til Death Do Us Unite" is a typical, slightly punky SODOM album."

The subjects on the songs, however, are somewhat more varied on the new CD: they reach from personal ails for "very hairy women" ("Gisela") - without a doubt one of the highlights of this CD to an angry, aggressive condemnation of US American police practice ("Fuck The Police"). Besides SODOM provide a pretty nasty, mean alternative to the popular Bangles version of Paul Simon's "Hazy Shade Of Winter". With their new album SODOM corroborate once again just way they are so successful, both on a national as well as on an international level. "Til Death Do Us Unite" should encounter pretty much the same reactions from every SODOM album so far: you either love it or hate it - but it won't leave you unaffected!

SODOM are scheduled to present their new material live for the first time in summer 1997 at the Summer Metal Meetings. "Til Death Do Us Unite" - for all die-hard fans and fans-to-be alike.

Taken from the site "Mortal Web Of Life: Sodom Homepage": www.amicosys.com/sodom/



The following is the official biography of **HYPOCRISY** released by Nuclear Blast America / Relapse Records.

Sweden's death metal blasphemists **Hypocrisy** trace their origins back to 1990, when guitarist Peter Tägtgren became particularly inspired by Florida's explosive death metal scene during a visit to this area. Before returning to his native Swedish homeland, Peter promised **Malevolent Creation's** Phil Fasciana that a contract and a brutal death metal band would accompany him on his next trip to the United States. Once back in Sweden, Peter concentrated all of his energy into writing material to fulfill his promise. Due to a lack of adequate musicians, Peter recorded all of the songs himself. However, the vocals were not to his liking and the chance of a one man death metal band performing live was, of course, slim. With one successful phone call, Måse Broberg (ex-**Votary**) was added to the **Hypocrisy** line up with bass player Mikael Hedlund. A second demo was recorded and a contract with **Nuclear Blast** followed shortly after. **Hypocrisy** were still in need of a guitarist and a drummer, Peter asked two friends who had been playing with **Epitaph** in the U.S., Lars Szöke (drums) and Jonas Österberg (guitar), to join. Both agreed and **Hypocrisy** played their first live gig on June 6th, 1992.

Hypocrisy's first LP/CD release in October 1992, *Penetralia*, recorded at Peter's own studio, challenged the standards set by **Sunlight** productions to that date: viscous, grinding guitars, thundering percussion, and vocals straight from hell. In June of 1993, **Relapse Records** released the band's *Pleasures of Molestation* as an **Underground Series** CD. **Nuclear Blast** followed shortly after with the *Osculum Obscenum* full length in September of the same year. To temporarily satisfy the voracious appetites of their fans, **Hypocrisy** released the *Inferior Devoties* EP on **Nuclear Blast** in June 1994. This release signalled a new chapter for the band, with the line-up trimmed to Lars, Mikael and Peter, who took

over the permanent vocal duties as well. **Hypocrisy** assaulted audiences across Europe with labelmates **Brutality**, earning themselves the reputation as the Swedish masters of musical massacre. Their full power, however, was yet to be witnessed. Thus *The Fourth Dimension* was created, a definite turn towards uncharted territories for the three-piece. This album introduced haunting atmospheric passages, dark, flowing melodies and rock influenced guitar prowess to the ever-present sonic blast that has become **Hypocrisy's** trademark. This album opened up a myriad of possibilities for **Hypocrisy's** future development, and Peter would be damned if he'd let the typically narrow death metal mindset of stagnation hold him back from realizing this band's remarkable potential...

Hypocrisy return to terrorize the worldwide underground legions with *Abducted*, their most diverse and accomplished work to date. Featuring 80's thrash metal influences, Scandinavia's ever-evolving death machine explore the worlds of ritual magic, conspiratorial murder and U.F.O. abduction within *Abducted's* multi-faceted corridors. Again recorded in Peter's own **Abyss Studios**, *Abducted* features the brutal clarity and forward-thinking vision that has become a **Hypocrisy** trademark. From torrential speed-laden stormers like "Abducted" and "Killing Art" to the brilliant caress of "Slipping Away" and "Drained", this new journey represents another remarkable chapter in the continuing **Hypocrisy** saga. For the die-hard **Hypocrisy** hound, **Relapse Records** have issued a limited edition 7" release, featuring "Carved Up" from *Abducted*, as well as "Beginning of the End", a track unavailable anywhere else.

Their last work "Final Chapter" isn't the last album of **Hypocrisy**. But by the words of Peter Tägtgren **Hypocrisy** shall exist. Wait for the new material.

Hypocrisy are:

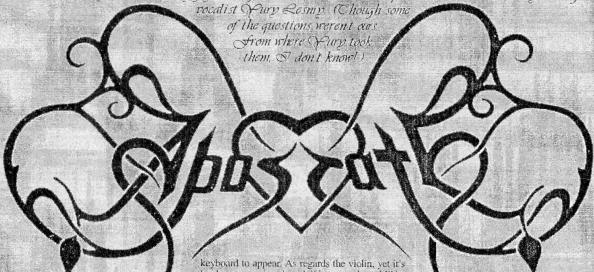
Peter Tägtgren - Vocals, guitars & keyboards

Mikael Hedlund - Bass

Lars Szöke - Drums



Here is APOSTATE, one of the most well-known Doom acts from Ukraine. Playing from 1993 they became one of the best Doom bands in Ukrainian underground. Their last work was "A Song Of The Dead Lake" in 1997 (re-recorded "Consign To Oblivion" demo 1995) which was released on IZMIRA Productions. From that time they had done many gigs, one of them in our town. Our questions were answered by ideologist and vocalist Vary Lesnyy. (Though some of the questions weren't, as from where Vary took them, I don't know!)



Hello! Share some fresh news with me!

- We are alright! The new manager does good promotion all over the world. In the days there's gonna be some work at studio on the new photos, for we've also got the new guitarist at the band. Alexandr ought to have left for Germany to his brother and we fully understand him. The work over the new album is continuing and day by day we're nearer to its logical finish. It's briefly all the news.

I heard in January you had to give a number over Germany accompanying SEPTIC FLESH, NIGHTFALL, BETHLEHEM and someone else. What's heard on this front?

- Ha! Many even think that we've done this tour, but indeed not everything is that easy. A lot of serious people was engaged and it seemed that everything was in our hands, but we were not straightly connected with the organizers. Our mediator at the last moment quarrelled badly with us. There was enough of reasons for that therefore the tour has been delayed for an indefinite term.

Narrate about the album being prepared.

The third year we are working up a new program and I hope this material to justify such permanent waitings. The main part of the work has already been done, but much is still to do. Nevertheless the recording session is appointed to the end of the summer - the beginning of the autumn of the present year. Already got much-promising propositions for its realization here in Ukraine as well as abroad. Material radically differs from our debut. And even so much that I foresee the blarneys from the critics' cause of commercial approach to the music, although it's not so. The thing is that many of listeners want to see us in '95 year style. It doesn't coincide with our wants and up-to-date views upon music. Heavy sound and hard riffs is what characteristic for APOSTATE. But clear voice and keyboard back-ground is what we've acquired for the time of such a long pause. However we remain APOSTATE and soon you'll persuade yourself! It tells that.

But I know now you're working as live and you say keyboards will be present on the new album. Do you deal with it yourself or hide info about session musicians' service as it was in '95 with a violin? Make it clear. And by the way, don't you plan to continue experiments with fiddlistick instruments?

- There was a time when two candidates were balloting on post of keyboardist, but they didn't stand the test. Choice is not big, so we stay a quintet. It doesn't prevent to create music with composing

keyboard to appear. As regards the violin, yet it's hard to prognosticize, though it in some places it'll be obvious that it shan't be well without it for general atmosphere, we won't miss the opportunity of using also it instrument.

"A Song Of The Dead Lake" was out under the sign of IZMIRA Productions. Do conditions proposed by this label suit you well and are you gonna co-operate with it further?

- IZMIRA is a young firm having only two released out. We had several propositions of re-edition of "Consign To Oblivion", but before signing a deal with someone we wondered how it would be better for us. All agreed IZMIRA was the best variant. The mainest cause approved its being situated in the native city and possibility to control over the situation any time. We got 100% guarantee that we won't be fooled. We aren't disappointed for working with them, but always can soar from under their wing in case we're proposed more suitable conditions. We won't be forced and its one of the priorities of such co-laboration with IZMIRA prods. Time shall tell.

And how do you estimate "A Song Of The Dead Lake" from the point of '98 year?

- Since the moment of the record of this stuff have already passed about 2 years. For this term we've grown as musicians, got higher as a band. By taking such time you start to look upon much quite differently. Therefore now we see a plenty of holes on our debut. Notwithstanding that in '95 year when this album was available as a demo called "Consign To Oblivion", it seemingly was the first doom album in Ukraine. Then we made much noise with this material and still are getting flattering addressings for it!

I logo with a caged inside heart, emblem as a wreath of roses... All these tracks on your cassette get bribed with its peculiarity. From inside well worked-out conception is observed. It is a must to suppose a painter co-laborates with you.

- It's indeed so. We co-laborate with the painter who is the professional in his business. He is one of us, and with his works he is able to underline the moods of our music, for he's well-acquainted with our songs. He surely knows what we need and gives us what we expect from him. What's been seen by us is only minimum of art-works kindly given us, and further on we hope to engage them all.

What is your attitude to live performances? Is it possible to see you playing frequently and where you were treated best?

- Many cases are known when seemingly well-promoted groups, who several times a year release albums out of the underground market don't justify trust on stage. I mean someone overshoots, but no names. You know who you are! Luckily we can't

be referred to them! Our opinion about concert activity is no less serious than let's say the work at studio.

As for Ukrainian measures we are frequently-performing band. The best gig was played 12.10.97 in the city of Zaporozhie. Such perfect equipment we've never used playing. Organizers created all the necessary conditions for us to feel there the better we ever can. Great! Worth to mark good accomplishment of this task in Vinnytsia, Zhytomyr, L'viv, Zaporozhie. Warmly recall performances in Kharkov, Lutsk.

Whom do you contact with of foreign bands?

- Doubtfully I'll recall 'em all now. And the mentioning will take much place. I'll name only the most weightful of them: VADER, CRYPTIC TALES, KRABATHOR, RATTLER, NIGHT IN GALES, INHUMATE, MALEDICTIONS, ANGEL CORPSE... Because of the lack of spare time this communicating isn't always full-value as it's desired. On this very reason we send greetings to all knowing us in this sinful world. Hold on and don't get lost!

Which music do you prefer to listen to?

- Most of all I dislike this question. To reply it would take a better half of this interview. This time I'll act the other way. I'll say that our likes spread for all the spectra of existing music. All one may want from jazz to pop! Labels are the critics' business. For us music is decided to bad and good only. Hope it's quite complicated.

Following the traditions, a couple of words for the last.

- Thanks for the shown-up interest to our creative-work and also good questions. Wish long years of existing to your magazine. Stay on heights! Till next meetings! Yours, APOSTATE.

"A Song Of The Dead Lake" - first professional full color cover MC with photo and lyrics available for: \$2 (Ukraine), \$2.5 (C.I.S.), \$4 (World). For information send 1 IRC!

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THE WINTERDEMONS RISE FROM THE DARKGATE OF BLASHYRK

With what bands the nordic Black Metal scene associates at first? With such bands like MAYHEM, DARK THRONE, SATYRICON, BURZUM and of course with IMMORTAL. IMMORTAL one of the oldest BLACK metal acts from Norway. Nowadays it is the cult band among the Black Metal ones. But it's a pity that many our Black Metalists know nothing about the history of this great band (it is goes and to the other norwegian bands). Reading the shitty magazines where different pop metal shit is dominate they never can find the history of such bands. If there written about Norwegian Black Metal, it is written in negative form, with many bullshits and criminal sensation. Here is the biography of IMMORTAL, not very wide, but from this biography you can know more about the band in positive way.

Demonbrothers Abbatth Doom Occulta (bass, vocals) and Demonaz Doom Occulta (lead guitar) found the band IMMORTAL in the first days of the Storming Year 1990. A little later they added a second guitarist and the first drummer Armagedda. After a short period the second guitarist was kicked out by the demonbrothers. First came the band's unofficial demo "Unholy Forces Of Evil" which was never released without any special reason. Just a few dark friends got copies. The band's next release was the IMMORTAL "7 inch called "Cold Winds Of Funeral Dust" which was recorded in Grieghallen studios with demonbrothers & Armagedda. It was brought to life by LISTENABLE Records, now sub-division of OSMOSE PRODUCTIONS. It was only pressed in a limited edition of 1000 copies. The band had an offer to sign with OSMOSE PRODUCTIONS for two albums and did it! The first "Diabolical Fullmoon Mysticism" was also recorded with Armagedda on drums in Grieghallen Studios. The band made a cult status in the scene... Right after the release of the first album Armagedda was kicked out. Demonbrothers Abbatth & Demonaz found a new drummer that lasted for half a year but also got kicked... Abbatth and Demonaz decided to enter the studios just the two of 'em since Abbatth could handle the drums extremely well!!! "Pure Holocaust" was made... The fastest album from IMMORTAL so far... An incredible sound of raging chaos... "HOLOCAUST/DEMONMETAL". In the Underground the album became a classic. After the recording of it, IMMORTAL found Erik and thought that finally they had found a permanent drummer. He was also pictured on the front cover of "Pure Holocaust" even if he didn't play... (A kind of strategy at that time) Anyway... IMMORTAL went on the "Fuck Christ Tour" together with BLASTHEMY which had dates in Germany, France, Belgium, Holland, Denmark... For IMMORTAL the tour was successful and where offered to tour again pretty fast. The second tour was "Sons Of Northern Darkness" with MARDUK as support. Also this tour got a lot of attention with very strong live bands!!! After the second tour Erik was kicked out due to the Demons' new raging playing styles and more extreme songwriting. IMMORTAL signed a new deal for two more albums with OSMOSE PRODUCTIONS. IMMORTAL entered the Grieghallen Studios for the third album "Battles In The North" as a twoheaded demon again. The new album is without doubt the strongest so far... Faster than ever and more frostbitten than before - 10 racks of "BATTLEDEMONMETAL". After the release of "Battles In The North" IMMORTAL made many gigs in different European cities with session drums by Hellhammer from MAYHEM. These gigs were the great support for their new album. IMMORTAL proved once more that they are the strong live band... The next step of IMMORTAL was the creation of video film called "Masters Of Nebulah Frost" which was good received by the fans. It's a pity but clip "Blashyrk" trapped on MTV... But anyway, it was not the big trouble for IMMORTAL.



In 1996 Demonbrothers found the new drummer Horgh who played on drums almost 15 years! And in 1997 their new album "Blizzard Beasts" was brought to life... It was as well extreme album, not so fast as "Battles..." but more hard and technical... Even some MORBID ANGEL like riffs sounded there. Then misery came to IMMORTAL - began the troubles with DEMONAZ, who suffered from the chronic disease of the hand. This was ended very bad - the medicians forbided Demonaz to play on guitars. It is interesting, but they said that this disease is the cause of the very fast playing guitar! Many of fans thought that it was the end of IMMORTAL. But IMMORTAL is not such band that ending too fast! Though Demonaz can't play guitars he stayed in IMMORTAL as the manager. On the "No Mercy" festival IMMORTAL was in following line up: Abbatth on vocals and guitars, Ares (AETURNUS, GÖRGÖRÖTH) on bass and Horgh on drums. This festival were IMMORTAL played together with MARDUK, CANNIBAL CORPSE, ANGELCORPSE, GOD DETHRONED was the proof of the fact that IMMORTAL is still exist! Demonbrothers began to write their new material. All new music written by Abbatth, lyrics - Abbatth and Demonaz. So wait for the new IMMORTAL work. I'm sure that it will be great.

Lyricaly the band stands beyond anything else... Tales from the mighty ravendark Blashyrk and the Demonrealms to spread coldness and frustrations.

IMMORTAL is a heathenhearted band from the frostbitten kingdoms of the "Elder Ravens Order", a band that was meant to circle above.



DISCOGRAPHY:

- Unholy Forces Of Evil demo 90 (unofficial)
- Cold Winds Of Funeral Dust 7 inch 1991 (Listenable)
- Diabolical Fullmoon Mysticism CD 1992 (Osmose)
- 1. The Cult Of The Wintermoon
- 2. Unholy Forces Of Evil
- 3. Corpse Winterstorms
- 4. Cold Winds Of Funeral Dust
- 5. Blacker Than Darkness
- 6. A Perfect Vision Of The Rising Northland

- Pure Holocaust CD 1993 (Osmose)
- 1. Unholy Storms In The North Abyss
- 2. A Sign For The Horse Herds To Ride
- 3. The Sun No Longer Rises
- 4. Frosten By Icewinds
- 5. Storming Through Red Clouds And Holocaustwinds
- 6. Eternal Years On The Path To The Ghouly Gates
- 7. As The Eternity Opens
- 8. Pure Holocaust

- Battles In The North CD 1995 (Osmose)
- 1. Battles In The North
- 2. Grim And Frostbitten Kingdoms
- 3. Descent Into Eminent Silence
- 4. Throated By Blackwrens
- 5. Moonrise Fields Of Sorrow
- 6. Cursed Realms Of The

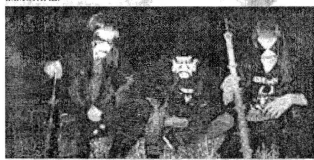
- Winterstorms
- 7. At The Stormy Gate Of Mist
- 8. Throated The Halls Of Eternity
- 9. Ceding Absence In Time Before Time
- 10. Blashyrk (Majesty Ravendark)
- Blizzard Beasts CD 1997 (Osmose)
- 1. Blizzard Beasts
- 2. Nebulah Ravens Winter
- 3. Sun The Sink Below
- 4. Battlefield
- 5. Mountains Of Mirth
- 6. Noctambules
- 7. Winter Of Ages
- 8. Frostdemonstorm

VIDEO:

- Masters Of Nebulah Frost 1996 (Osmose)
- 1. Blashyrk (Majesty Ravendark)
- 2. Grim And Frostbitten Kingdoms

LIVE:

- Live London



ABIGOR
Supreme Immortal Art CD '98
(Napalm)

This one is much better than "Opus IV", but it is typical album for ABIGOR. Quite melodic (some SUMMONING like synth parts are there!), fast and aggressive... But for me the music of ABIGOR dull in general. I'm not in such music. Good album but not for me. But I'm sure, for ABIGOR's fans it is great! As for me, I prefer SUMMONING...
Gorthaur

THE ABYSS
Summon The Beast CD '97
(Nuclear Blast)



The 2nd album of Swedish blasphemers. More brutal and aggressive than the first one. The grinding sound of drums can crash your head and guitars can destroy all that had left. It is Swedish Black Metal in the best traditions. There's no atmospheric stuff - only pure darkness and evil. Together with MARDUK and DARK FUNERAL THE ABYSS are the leaders of Swedish Black Metal scene. It's a pity, but it may be their last release. All the members of THE ABYSS are from the band HYPOCRISY and maybe now THE ABYSS stops its existence, due to the leader of both HYPOCRISY and THE ABYSS Peter Taetgren who started to play industrial project PAIN. But anyway, I shall wait for the new release of THE ABYSS. Such bands must live!
Gorthaur

ACID DEATH
Pieces Of Mankind CD '97
(Metal Mad Music)

ACID DEATH is a great band, with four talents Savvas-Jake Betinis on bass and vocals, Dennis Kostopoulos & Themis Catsimhas on lead guitars and Costas Tsombanos on drums, coming from Greece. First of all, they musically on an experimental way, something between Death/Thrash and Jazz. Through this 10-song album you can take a journey to a new dimension, to the dimension of technical and mysterious solutions. All musicians do a big job on this album. Their music simply original without nowadays clichés in these styles. Every time when I listening to this

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material I feel the energy coming from their instruments. This band is full of ideas so keep your eyes on ACID DEATH in the future and for those who are interested in this brilliant masterpiece the chance is yours to order it from: ACID DEATH, P.O. Box 31902, GR-10035, Athens, Greece or METAL-MAD MUSIC, P.O. Box 297, GR-19300, Aspropyrgos, Attikis, Greece.
E-mail: jakeacid@netor.gr
Cornelius

APOSTATE
A Song Of The Dead Lake MC '97
(Izmira Productions)

Well, Cornelius gave me all the recording of doom metal bands to make review. I am not in doom stuff as well as he, but for me to write such review is quite easier than him. This material invoked nothing in me. Many doom fans enjoy it, but I found this music is quite boring. As for me HEAVEN GREY is much better. This album is the last where growling was used. Well, it is typical for doom bands... For doom fans it is great, but not for me. Available for: \$2 Ukraine, \$2.5 C.S., \$4 World. Write to: APOSTATE, P.O. Box 10538, 290049 Lvov, Ukraine or Izmira Productions, P.O. Box 465, 29004 Lvov, Ukraine.
E-mail: S9605039@polynet.lviv.ua
Gorthaur

BLIND GUARDIAN
Nightfall in Middle-Earth CD '98
(Virgin)

Ok, I understand that this band have nothing with Death or Black metal. But I like their music and decided to write this review here. It is not a secret that this band is like a godfather for such ones as IN FLAMES, DARK TRANQUILLITY and even DISSECTION who were influenced by BLIND GUARDIAN (if you shall listen to these bands comparing them with BLIND GUARDIAN you'll understand this). And this band was one of the first (or even the first) metal act who used the themes of J.R.R. Tolkien in lyrics (nowadays this is many bands, even me). Ok, now about the music. It is almost 70 minutes of melodic Speed Metal, quite technical and much professional. KING DIAMOND's influences are sound in some songs for example "Nightfall", "Time Stands Still (At The Iron Hill)" etc. Vocal style is also have some influences of KD. The music became not so fast but more technical, hard and more fulfilled. As for lyrics - total "Silmarillion". Just look on the song names: "War Of Wrath", "Lammoth", "The Curse Of Fear", "Battle Of Sudden Flame", "Noldor (Dead

Winter Reigns) etc. Very interesting album cover - the hall of Angband. Melkor sitting on his throne beholding the elfish dance... Orcs and other dark creatures surround him... So for all the fans of such music - check it up, you will win!
Gorthaur

BREATHING OF DEATH
Compilation Vol.1 MC '98
(Tombstone Productions)

MENTAL DEMISE, BLAST, CASTRUM, ATROPHY, PHANTASMAGORY, INWARD PATH, INTOXICANT, TEMPTATION, MAD SANITY, FUNERAL OF SOUL, "VIA" - DOLOROSA, APOSTATE, SCORBIT, BENIGHTED SKY, LOT DOLOUR, BEKA XMAP, STEEPING FLOWERS are present on this compilation. Again there a lot of doom bands (almost all B side) are there. The greatest for me the following: CASTRUM, MENTAL DEMISE and PHANTASMAGORY. Not bad INTOXICANT and TEMPTATION. But in general it is again not for me. Check it, maybe you'll find there your favourites. Available from: Tombstone Productions, c/o Semyon Kiselyov, P.O. Box 35, Lischansk, Lugansk region, Ukraine.
Gorthaur

CRADLE OF FILTH
Cruelly And The Beast CD '98
(Music For Nations)

The new release of these british



vampires is not very different from their last CD "Dusk And Her Embrace". The same structures of songs, the same vocal style, the same gothic atmosphere of keyboards... But the music became more soft and not so fast as on "Dusk...". More elements of heavy metal appeared... The lyrics again about children of the night and CRADLE OF FILTH (after many other bands) decided to tell the story of Elizabeth Bathory, but more longer and complete. So who liked CRADLE OF FILTH before, shall accept their new album, who didn't like it - shall deny this album like other CRADLE OF FILTH's works.
Gorthaur

DARK FUNERAL
Vobiscum Satanas CD '98
(No Fashion)

This album means nothing for me. It sounds like MARDUK, THE ABYSS, MÖRK GRYNING, DISSECTION (early), NECROPHOBIC... (as for sure I can name here almost all swedish black and semi-black metal bands). There less originality in this music. Typical raw album of swedish death/black metal (really I can't name it Black Metal). As for me, nowadays almost all the new swedish death/black bands are united with one aim - to rip DISSECTION and MARDUK off. Almost about all the new swedish bands they can say - this is the 10th copy of DISSECTION or this is 5th copy of MARDUK etc. "Vobiscum Satanas" is the classical example of it. Of course, it is unholy, fast, extreme and brutal album with satanic lyrics (quite primitive, I think) but WHERE IS ORIGINALITY??? I am tired from this swedish clone bands. If such things will be in the future, I'll simply forget the swedish black metal. The really good swedish black metal were BATHORY's first three albums, though "Bathory" and "The Return..." (more "Bathory") were no more but ripped off early VENOM...
Gorthaur

DEMENTOR
Kill The Thought On Christ CD '97
(Immortal Souls Productions)

At present, DEMENTOR is the



totally leading Death Metal band in Slovakia. After their killer debut album "The Church Dies" (1994), they got out of my horizon. Fortunately not long ago, I've received their second masterpiece "Kill The Thought On Christ"... Let's go into details: DEMENTOR is a trio featuring Rene on guitar and vocals, Roman on guitar and Pike on drums. The album contains eight ass-kicking Death/Grind tracks and one cover: TUBLATANKA's "Prometheus". All this coming with professional sound in thirty-nine minutes. The songs have a special and raw atmosphere that sometimes reminds me to the old-school Thrash bands. By the way, three songs are taken from the debut album but here Pike, the new drummer, plays the

drum parts a little bit differently, which is pleasant for me. Both guitar players play fantastic riffs and the solos, done by Rene, are simply amazing to my ears. Songs like "Pate Of Emptiness", "Suppuration Of My Soul" and the album's title track are my favourites. I recommend this Slovakian band to everyone who is into brutal Death Metal. I'm sure most of you will enjoy these nine songs. These guys are rule!! Write to them at: DEMENTOR, c/o René Blahusiak, Vajanského 154, 020 01 Púchov, Slovakia - EUROPE.

E-mail: extremum@ruinternet.sk
The CD is available for 15 USD (EURO) / 16 USD (World) from: Juraj Harin, Brezova 9, 03491, Ruzomberok, Slovakia - EUROPE
Cornelius

DIABOLI Towards Damnation CD '98

I occasionally had listened that album and I was satisfied!! It took me away to the years 1992-93 when northern Black Metal only began to rise... It reminds me MAYHEM, DARK THRONE, early IMMORTAL and even BATHORY! In my view, this is northern Black Metal and not this commercial keyboardish shit that rise now... Of course, DIABOLI is the new band as well, but they understand the meaning of Black Metal in music and lyrics. It is darkness, hatred and unholy. And it is good that such bands are still exist! Support!!

Gorthaur

Die APOKALYPTISCHEN REITER Soft & Stronger CD '97 (As Metalli Records)

What we have, 13 songs in about 40 minutes. All songs have different atmosphere. This four guys mixed everything from folk to grindcore. Well, if you like the mixture of various styles that's it. You can find there like hymns as the "Metal Will Never Die" song which is very influenced by MANOWAR and there are songs like "Iron Fist" where used the flutes with abig dose of harmonies through songs of classical orientation as "Human End". This is a very interesting experience from a band whom I've never heard before.

Cornelius

EMPEROR Anthems To The Walkin' At Dusk CD '97 (Candlelight)

This is the second full-length album of norwegian Black Metal cult band EMPEROR. They had returned in 1997 faster than ever. It is norwegian Black Metal as it means - fast, melodic and evil... Good use of keyboards that create the sinister atmosphere of the EMPEROR's music. OK, there are

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some interesting moments not traditional for EMPEROR's stuff - use of clear vocals in some songs and introduction song that sounds like the medieval hymn. The bad thing on this album is the guitar sound that creates too much noise and some interesting riffs and keyboard parts are drowning in it. The parts of vocalist sounds very silent and drowning in the guitar noise too. Anyway, this is one of the best norwegian album ever created too much different from the typical primitive Black Metal posers. Make a journey to Darkness together with EMPEROR.

Gorthaur

ETHODIUS Ethodus CD '98 (Self-released)

ETHODIUS is an ambient band from Detroit. There are 7 songs of medieval and esoteric art. Well composed themes but nothing more. They use the keys and effects very well. Sometimes present vocals but for short time. I think their music is very mediative one which I don't prefer to listen to. It's not dark and not interesting for me. I don't like ambient bands. Sorry! For fans of ambient this CD available for \$12 from: Ethodus, 1846, Dorchester, Berkeley, CA 94702, USA.

E-mail: ethodus@gatecom.com
Web Page: www.gatecom.com/~ethodus
Cornelius

FATAL EPITAPH Misanthropy MC '98 (Izmiria Productions)

FATAL EPITAPH flunctate between Death and Doom Metal. This 5 song album is the second edition by Izmiria Productions. The bandmembers are Igor-bask, Vic-guitars, Tarick-vocal and Vlad-drums. Their music is not too original although they've some good moments. The best song for me is "Mercyleless" which consists of additional vocal parts of Yuri from APOSTATE. I'm not surprised by this album maybe the next will do it. You can order this 26 minutes album for \$2 Ukraine, \$2.5 C.I.S., \$4 World. Write to: Izmiria Productions, P.O. Box 465, 290014 Lvov, Ukraine.

Cornelius

GORGOROTH Destroyer CD '98 (Nuclear Blast)

Another Black Metal band that joined Nuclear Blast... Ok, it is very brutal album, much more faster than "Under The Sign Of Hell" and more professional... The sound of drums can be called perfect. Guitar sound

became more clear... Vocal style is typical (it seems to me there is no much differ between majority of vocalists in norwegian Black Metal). As for me, the best GORGOROTH's vocalist was Hat on album "Pentagram" - really not "raw" vocalist. It is my own opinion, but I think GORGOROTH try to leave underground following DIMMU BORGIR, ANCIENT, EMPEROR etc. More glory, more money... One of the positive side of this album (in my opinion) is the absence of keyboards which maybe all the bands like to add now. I don't like much keyboards (except SUMMONING) so this side of GORGOROTH's music I enjoy... So in general this album is for the ones who are crazy about norwegian Black Metal, maybe sooner it will be the cult for them. But as for me, I prefer "Pentagram" album more than other GORGOROTH's works.

Gorthaur

GRENOUER Border Of Misty Times MC '96 (Metal Agen)

It is the first album of this very promising Death Metal band, 8 tracks of brutal and brainwashing devastation in about 40 minutes. Their sound similar to the American bands such as MONSTROSITY, BRUTALITY, etc. Very interesting for me were the following songs "Ahriman's Heart", "A Memorable Pancy" and "When Madness Rules". Lyrically they are on the right way. Some more words? Just check it and you'll understand everything. Great album! It can be yours for \$1.5 Russia, \$3 C.I.S., \$3 World. Write to: Sergey Lyalin, P.O. Box 631, 614023 Perm, Russia. (Read the interview for more details).

Cornelius

HANKER The Dead Ringer CD '97 (Self-released)

Another band that support the restoration of 80's styles came from Canada. Their music is a mix of old Power Metal (Not modern Power Metal, but such music that was called Power Metal in 80s), Speed Metal and Heavy Metal. Sometimes it reminds me BLIND GUARDIAN, HELLOWEEN, METAL CHURCH... There are also some songs with KING DIAMOND influences. This material about 10 songs is a deep nostalgia to the old good times. My favourite songs are "The Clown" and "United We Stand, Divided We Fall". The ones who are deep in Power and Speed Metal MUST check this masterpiece up, it's a high quality professional music. This goes to their previous MC "In Our

World" (which more harder I think). To order this you can write to the following address: HANKER, 22 Assomption C.P. 178, Beauséjour, Québec, CANADA, GOA IEO. E-mail: realmusic@videotron.ca
Homepage: http://pages.infinet.net/begin/hanker/
Cornelius

HEAVEN GREY Mystery River MC '96 (Mapi Music)

Interesting release of Latvian doom/death band. Though I am not fond of Doom Metal stuff, this one was interesting for me. Yes, this 6 guys from Latvia (Ansis - vocals, Vjacheslav - guitar, Siga - guitar/keyboards, Vladislav - bass, Ervin - drums, Ernest - cello) created depressive slow music but not boring stuff that many doom bands preach now. It is not the copy of Paradise Lost, Cemetery or My Dying Bride. Their music is quite original though closer to the last ones I counted. Very interesting moment is the song "Up" - the lyrics of it written on latvian language. I said that I'm not in Doom stuff, but I think for the doom fans it will be perfect! Get ready! (Read the interview for more details). You can order this album for \$4 (World) by the following addresses:
HEAVEN GREY, c/o Vladislav Kalinin, Miera 89 - 3, Riga, LV 1013, Latvia.
Fax: (371) 7380292 (for HEAVEN GREY)
Phone: (371) 7370909 (Vladislav).
E-mail: heavengrey@usa.net
Web Site: www.geocities.com/Broadway/9711/
Gorthaur

HORRIBLE FASCINATION Vol.1 Cold Taste Of Death CD '97 (Immortal Souls Productions)

This compilation CD shows that the Slovakian Metal Scene is stronger than ever. Eight experienced bands (six Slovak and two Czech), sixteen tracks in sixty-four minutes, each of them with two songs. The CD includes infos about the bands, hand and tracklists and of course addresses. INSEPTULUS (Slo) starts the CD with their mid-paced Death Metal. Both songs are taken from their brilliant cassette-EP "Considerations" and it sounds quite original. ACOASMA (Slo) follows with their technical Death Metal. Solos are amazing and the structure of songs reminds me to the classic ones like DEATH. VIRTUAL VOID (Cz) is the next band and the booklet says that they're the followers of the bands such as BATHORY, HELLHAMMER and VENOM. I think that the previous sentence prop

up their style and the music too. CARRION (Slo) is the next one whom both songs bring tears into your eyes with their incredible melodies and attractive keyboard tunes (especially on the first track "Return To Innocence"). After the beautiful part, let's see the heaviest. SUFFOCATE (Slo) plays extreme Death/Grind tunes with deeply growling vocals. These guys really know how to play Brutal Death Metal. IMPERIAL POETICIDE is the second band from Czech Republic, which plays their fast Death Metal on high quality. MENTALITY (Slo) is something strange for me. Psycho/Death/Grind with a big dose of keyboards, which kicks some ass as well. The last band is DEMENTOR, the oldest Death Metal act in Slovakia. This band is doing something original! I've never heard such an interesting compilation CD before!!! KILLER!!! Write to: Juraj Harin, Brezova 9, 03401, Ruzomberok, Slovakia - EUROPE.

Cornelius

IMPALED NAZARENE
Rapture CD '98
(Osmose)

It is the Return of the Nuclear Gods!!!! After the year of silence they stroke again with all their power. It is really like the explosion of nuclear warheads. Fast, brutal, aggressive, more louder than even "Latex Cult" and "Ugra Karma"... It comes closer to "Tol Compt Norz Norz Norz", to more professional... The vocals of Mika is great!!!! I'd never heard such before! I even have no words to describe it. Just check it and you shall understand everything. Great attention on "Goatvomit And Gasmasks" and "The Return Of The Nuclear Gods". IMPALED NAZARENE rules!!!!

Gorhaur

KEEP OF KALESSIN
Through Times Of War CD '97
(Avantgarde Music)

For the sake of the bands like this the scene will be boring. Typical riffs, I've heard this type of riffs very long time ago. Nothing interesting. This band stands in the shadows of DISSECTION. So I don't want to degrade this band just want to say bands like this must disappear or must find their own original way to play this type of music on high quality.

Cornelius

KING DIAMOND
Voodoo CD '98
(Metal Blade)

The King had returned. The new material is more brutal than the previous one. In general it is the typical King Diamond. But as for me

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the album is sounds quite soulless. (As on their last recordings)



Literally it is a horrible story again that tells about fearful cult of voodoo. OK, this album shall not disappoint KD fans. But as for me I like the early materials more...

Gorhaur

MENTAL DISSECTION
ИСПОЛЗОВАННЫЕ ЖЕНСКИЕ
ВНУТРЕННОСТИ MC '95
(Nord Productions)

The self-released album of Russian death metal band. 33 minutes of brutal death metal with lyrics in Russian that tells about the pathological abominations, serial killers and other cool things. Musically it reminds me CANNIBAL CORPSE (but more melodic and not such boring), PUNGENT STENCH, CARCASS... But in general, their music is very original and interesting. Really the good job had done. If you fan of brutal pathological Death Metal you must to check MENTAL DISSECTION up! Brutal stuff!!!! It can be yours for \$1.5 Russia, \$2 C.I.S., \$3 Europe, \$5 World. Send your orders to: c/o Andrew W. Lanin, Gertsen str.103, 350004 Krasnodar, Russia.

Gorhaur

MENTAL DISSECTION
ЭПИДЕМИЯ ГРЯЗНОЙ ЛЮБВИ
MC '97 (1)
ДУХОВНОЕ РАЗЛОЖЕНИЕ
MC '97 (2)
(Nord Productions)

Yeah, here is the new stuff of MENTAL DISSECTION. Two albums in a year not had result. The first album contains 10 songs of melodic death/grind with a small dose of thrashy riffs. The sound is not the best I prefer to be for such music but their songs are killing well. Fast drums, melodic solos, deep growls... The lyrics again on Russian and of course it's filled with blood and pathologies of society. At the end of this album I found two covers versions: CANNIBAL CORPSE's "Hammer/Smashed Face" (you know this song is killer!) and NAPALM DEATH's "HIT The Truth Be Known". Well, the second album is more melodic with middle speed Death Metal material. Explicit lyrics

is here as well and the guys covered two megasongs again. One of them KREATOR's "Terror Of The Lie" (Yeah, you read it right. It's a mixture of songs "Terror Zone" and "People Of The Lie") and the second is "Zero the Hero" from BLACK SABBATH, but here with totally new lyrics on Russian about these liver beer, ha-ha-ha... I like their sense of humour it reminds me a bit to PUNGENT STENCH's style but, you care! Two albums in 90 min. tape can be yours for \$2.5 Russia, \$3 C.I.S., \$4 Europe, \$6 World. Send your money to: c/o Andrew W. Lanin, Gertsen str.103, 350004 Krasnodar, Russia.

Cornelius

MERCYFUL FATE
Dead Again CD '98
(Metal Blade)

The cult is back again with a strong album. It is unfortunate that Michael Denner is no longer part of the band. The band turned back to the old days. All songs have an old mood but with sound of 90's. I really like the "Don't Break The Oath" album and "Dead Again" seems to me the continuation of that masterpiece. Buy or Die!!!

Cornelius

MONOLITH
Compilation Vol.1 MC '98

This compilation of Ukrainian underground consists of such bands: VIA DOLOROSA, STRAFATION, FUNERAL OF SOUL, ATROPHY, SLEEPING FLOWERS, ASTROFAES, TEMPLE OF OBLIVION, ANAESTHESIA, MAD SANITY, PAINFUL CASTRUM, GRAAL, APOSTATE, REJECTEE PARTY, BLAST, FORGOTTEN SPIRIT. It's a pity for me but there a lot of doom and semi doom bands on this compilation. CASTRUM (hail Cornelius!) and ASTROFAES are the best in my view. I can't say that this compilation is bad, but not for me. But I advise you to check it up maybe you'll find some good groups for you! Available from: c/o Vladislav Shahn, P.O. Box 27, 324074 Krivoy Rog, Ukraine.

Gorhaur

MORBID ANGEL
Formulas Fatal To The Flesh CD '98
(Earache)

MORBID ANGEL are back!!! They are back in their best form! The new album of the Angels prove it. 14 tracks in classical MORBID ANGEL's style. It reminds me their "Blessed Are The Sick" album. The intros on that album are great, for example "Ascend Through The Spheres", "Bill Ur Sage", "Hymn To A Gas Giant" (my favourite intro)...

The vocal of Steve Tucker is close to David's growling but more lower. Very interesting track "Invocation Of The Continual One" that was written



in 1984(!). The vocal parts on this track by Trey Azagthoth. As for lyrics on this album it based on Sumerian mythology and Necronomicon which they study more than 15 years. Those, who don't believe that Death Metal had died must to check this album, and for the assholes that say about the end of Death Metal's time this album will be the proof that they are wrong. Killer product!

Gorhaur

PATHOLOGY STENCH
Gluttony CD '97
(Immortal Souls Productions)



This is the debut album from Slovakian band PATHOLOGY STENCH. Eleven songs of incredible crushing Death Metal with actual thought put into every song. This is forty-one minutes of brutal music with deeply growling vocals, megafast double bass and superb guitar solos. I wouldn't say that this is pure originality but I don't even care. This four piece band is doing everything professionally and the drummer does a great job. My fave songs are "My Painful Paradise" and "No Interest". So if you are into bands such as BROKEN HOPE and MONSTROSITY, then don't hesitate to buy it! That's for you!

Contact: PATHOLOGY STENCH, c/o Baro Barancik, Tulska 16, 974 01, Banska Bystrica, Slovakia - EUROPE.

E-mail: chromcik@bb.sanet.sk
The CD is available for 16 USD (Europe) / 17 USD (World) from: Juraj Harin, Brezova 9, 03401, Ruzomberok, Slovakia - EUROPE.

Cornelius

RAMPAGE

**Misogyny, Thy Name Is Women
MC '98**
(Unsung Heroes Records)

RAMPAGE is a horrible mix of all styles I've ever heard. They mixed everything from dirty rock'n'roll to grindcore. The band features the following brains: V. Naughty - guitar/vocals, Paul Bearer - drums, backing vocals, Earwig Ringworm - guitar and Tom Coffinmasher - bass. Yes, it's an elite band. The guys doing something new with this mixing of Death/Black/Doom/Grind/etc. styles but I still prefer if the band use maximum two styles for its music. There are a lot of cool thrashy riffs and brutal voices. But I had surprised on hearing the conversion of MAYHEM's "Deathcrush" (???) which sounds very similar to the original one. They're really good musicians. Unfortunately I don't like this confusion in styles. If you think it is your dream band, hurry up to get this 5-song EP. From: Unsung Heroes Records, 109 Misty Ridge Trail, Stockbridge, GA 30281, USA.

E-mail: lordvic@ mindspring.com
Web Site: www.geocities.com/
SunsetStrip/Alley/1409/index.htm
Cornelius

**ROTTING CHRIST
A Dead Poem CD '97**
(Century Media)

Disappointment.... This magnificent band change their original music to the trendy Doom like ANATHEMA, PARADISE LOST etc. OK, it is melodic, professional album. But not under the name of ROTTING CHRIST!! I can't tell about that music, it is not my style. It is not for Black Metal fans at all. For me it is not good and not bad. Let the doom fans price it.
Gorthaur

**SATYRICON
Megiddo MCD '97**
(Moonfog)

What is the crap??? Is it SATYRICON??? I thought that it is the fuckin' PRODIGY when I had listened to the first song of that mini-album - the silly remix of the track "The Dawn Of The New Age". And this funny synthesized conversion of MOTORHEAD's "Orgasmatron"? Where is the medieval spirit of SATYRICON? Where their grim melodies and nocturnal voices? I think the guys from SATYRICON must to think more before their next release and do not deceive the fans with such dirty jokes. This album is the desecration of the old SATYRICON... And it is not only my opinion.
Gorthaur

ALBUM REVIEWS

**SIGH
Hail Horror Hail CD '97**
(Cacophonous)

Mirai and Co did something but nothing. Why someone still call this music Black Metal??? It is atmospheric Doom/Death with elements of Tiamat, heavy metal, Pink Floyd (!!!). Though vocals on this album is still brutal, guitars are completely suck. A big use of keyboards that sometimes sounds like pop (!!!) music. No, this album is not for me, let the doom fans price it. This music is for sure for them.
Gorthaur

**TALES OF DARKNORD
Endless Sunfall MC '97**
(Legion Productions)

TALES OF DARKNORD is one of the most powerful bands hailing from Russia. I've never heard such an amazing Death Metal material before. These guys really know how to kick some ass off. The album is full of killer riffs, grinding drum parts and awesome vocals. Though the vocals sometimes reminds me to the typical Glen Benton style. The material consists of 7 studio tracks and 5 live tracks in circa 60 minutes. The level of musicians is quite high, though the album features guest musicians as well. Anton (bass/vocals) use more colorful tones to his growling but Alex (guitars/bass vox) helps him in some times. Brutal, fast, aggressive and total destructive material. It will crush every parts of your body, so don't waste your time to buy this megakiller material for \$5 with full-coloured cover, lyrics, photos, etc. from: Alex Kantemirov, Chelyabinskaya str.14, 460120 Volgograd, Russia.
E-mail: the_ben@chat.ru
Cornelius



**TALES OF DARKNORD
The Last MC '98**
(R.I.P. Productions)

It's the new material by this brute. Their line-up is the following on this album: Alex Kantemirov - guitars/black vox, Anton Shirl - bass/vocals and John Kuznetsov - drums. Their material still crushing but the pace a bit less than ever. What a sound! The bass sounds like a roar of cannon, and the rest of instruments give the canon-

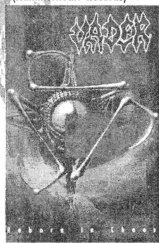
balls to this brutal massacre. This 10-song album features three conversions: ACHERON's "Overturning Prayer-Book", SIX FEET UNDER's "Lycanthropy" (Three times faster than the original version), KILLER! and UNPURED's "Surrounded By Darkness". This material shows how a Death Metal album can be. Cool stuff! You can order this album for \$5 with b/w cover, lyrics, photo, etc. from:

Alex Kantemirov, Chelyabinskaya str.14, 460120 Volgograd, Russia or R.I.P. Productions, Vladimir Korozenko, P.O.Box 72, Smolensk - 04, 214004, Russia.
E-mail: the_ben@chat.ru
Cornelius

**TOM ANGELRIPPER
Ein Tröpfchen Voller Glück CD '98**
(G.U.N. Records)

Finally, the long awaited second album of SODOM's frontman Tom Angelripper was released. Here we have 17 songs full of alcoholic madness. This album is more Sodomish, due to the appearance of 2/3 of SODOM. The guitar sound became more hard and the music in general became more faster. My favourites are: Komacub, Ballermann 666, Medley I and II. Just check this masterpiece up. It's worth to be praised!!! TOM RULES!!!
Cornelius

**VADER
Reborn in Chaos CD '98**
(Hammerheart Records)



This is an album with first two materials, demo Necrolust (tracks 1-4) and the first official EP Morbid Reich (tracks 5-10), of Poland's death metal act number one VADER. These demos gave them the deal to Earache Records. For those who have heard the first album "The Ultimate Incantation" this material will be not unknown. Though the atmosphere here is another and a bit

thrashy with raw sounding of instruments. I like this album very much. I think it will be looks out great in my collection.
Cornelius

**VAGINALMASSAKER
Pervers CD '98**
(Goldere Records)

Huh, This band really massacre everything but their music is not too overbearing for me. So what! The five germans plays very good Death Metal themes. These 11 songs on german language. I'm not into german but the titles like "Fuck Off & Die" means this guys full of hatred. The sound is closer to the American bands. Nothing more...
Cornelius

**VENOM
Cast In Stone CD '97**
(SPV)



Kings are alive!!! After the "Calm Before The Storm" that was released ten years earlier Cronos returned to the band and VENOM in their classic line-up released their new album on two CDs. It is the brutal mixture of the old and new. Every song is different, some reminds "Prime Evil" album, others - more earlier times. In song called "Flight Of The Hydra" even death metal elements are present. But the music is new, it is not the complete repeat of their old albums. Guitar sound became more hard, vocals of Cronos - more wild and low. What about lyrics? Just look on its names: "Evil One", "Raised In Hell", "All Devil's Eve", "Kings Of Evil", etc. and all become clear. It is about the first CD. The second CD is a compilation of the old songs more from maxi singles and EPs such as "Burstin' Out", "Lady Lust", "Acid Queen", "Warhead", etc. that became classics of Black Metal. This re-recorded songs sounds more powerful and brutal than in 80s... It is something like "how VENOM's old songs can sound more than 10-15 years later". Great album! And the greatest thing is that VENOM didn't start to copy their earlier cult material to be popular again (like many old bands that alive now), they created the new different material but hadn't lost their style (like many bands)... They are still X.E.N.O.fucking M.!!! Kings of Pure Fucking Mayhem!!!
Gorthaur

AVERSE SEFIRA **Blasphemet Sin Abset** **demo '97**

Interesting Death/Black Metal from USA. It is not the new copy of norwegians or Dissection, these guys created something different from the usual Black or Death Metal bands that appear now. Their music influenced first of all by the US bands such as Morbid Angel or Immolation and you can feel it in their music (for example "Rift Between Two Words"), but as well the elements of modern Black Metal are also take place in it (for example vocal style). There was no drummer on this recording but drum-machine doesn't sound like shitty electronic drums (for example Samael's "Passage"). Its sound is very closer to the normal drums. So, in general it is good and brutal material. Check it! (read AVERSE SEFIRA interview for more info).

Contact: Averse Sefira, P.O.Box 8166, Austin, Tx. 78713-8166, USA.
E-mail: undertaker@mail.utexas.edu
Web Site: www.necronom.com/darkening/aversesefira
Gorthaur

CRIMEAN UNDERGROUND **Split - demo MC '97**

I was surprised by this tape which contains one song from PATHOLOGY the "Sausage Wares From Gastric Intestinal Limbs" (what a long name for a song) and one from ПРОКЛЯТЫЙ ПРОРОК's "В Саду Смерти" (that means "In The Garden Of Death"). PATHOLOGY plays some kind of technical Death Metal with influences of Thrash bands of 80s. It's sounds great... Aggressive vocals, raw guitar sound and bloody corpses... On the other side we have ПРОКЛЯТЫЙ ПРОРОК their song sounds like something atmospheric kind of Heavy Metal covered by some thrash elements. They use some background instruments, keyboards and violin, for incense sound. This split demo available from: Alex Marennicov, Lomonosov str.1, korp.2 kv.13, 333000 Simferopol, Crimea, Ukraine.
Cornelius

GARDEN OF SHADOWS **Heart Of The Corona** **demo '97**

GARDEN OF SHADOWS is a Death Metal band coming from USA. Although their demo sounds like an European material they do something new 'cause the atmospheric things is not typical for US bands. The material (4 tracks +

intro) have an incredibly good sound and memorable songs. My favourite song is "Company In Solitude" which is full of energetic riffs and grinding drumparts. This material at the same time brutal and melodic. There are some emotional things in their music too. And the keyboards is not too loud as nowadays many atmospheric bands like to use. Deep vocals, raw guitars, crushing drums the characteristic lines of GARDEN OF SHADOWS. All in all "Heart of the Corona" is a great demo with quality music. Worth of interest! (Read the interview for more info).

GARDEN OF SHADOWS:
c/o Brian, 14712 Botany Way,
Gaitersburg, MD 20878, USA.
E-mail: Bmissant@aol.com
Cornelius

MENTAL DEMISE **Psycho-Penetration** **demo '98**

The band is combined by the forces of five musicians: Tom Grind-drums, Fester-guitar/backing vocals, Old-vocals, Toukan-bass and Zepher-guitar. They're on the brutal way of Death Metal and these 9 songs + intro/outro is the proof of their brutality. Everything perfect here, color cover with photo and the sound is professional. Memorable riffs, pulsating double-bass and all this with bloodthirsty vocals. The material sounds in the vein of CANNIBAL CORPSE. Although MENTAL DEMISE do something new on this circa 30 minutes material. To get this tape, send \$2 Ukraine, \$3 C.I.S., \$5 World to: Shikarewsky Eugene, P.O.Box 34, 349900 Lisichansk, Lugansk region, Ukraine
Cornelius

MENTALITY **The Inexperienced** **Butcher Demo '96 +** **Promo-Tape '97**

Those materials from Slovakian MENTALITY is a pleasant surprise for me! The music is in the vein of Canadian KATAKLYSM, but MENTALITY uses keyboards for a more brutal sound. Each member did a damn good job. Although the promo songs are more industrial influenced than on "The Inexperienced...". This band is full of energy and interesting ideas. Quite original!!!
Contact: Jan Honec, F. Stefunko 14, 03601 - Martin, Slovakia - EUROPE
Cornelius

demOs & zInes

PHANTASMAGORY **Phantasmagoria** **demo '97**

Another great material from ukrainian band PHANTASMAGORY. It's a 7-song demo with professional sounds. Their music is very experimental. They following the way of the PESTILENCE's "Spheres" album. Technically they're on the top of well-composed songs, breaking drumparts, mediative solos and all this supported by crazy keyboards. Though their music is quite confused I can recommend this 35 minutes masterpiece for the maniacs of bands like PESTILENCE, CYNIC or ATHEIST. Don't waste your time, just buy it for \$2 Ukraine, \$3 C.I.S., \$5 World (see the interview for more details).

Contact: PHANTASMAGORY,
c/o Vorobyov Valeri, Fabritsiusa str.24/2, 339017 Makeevka-17, Donetsk Region, Ukraine.
Cornelius

ZAVORASH **Za Vorbashtar Raz** **Shapog** **demo '97**

Another Black Metal act from Sweden. I was surprised, but this demo is NOT a copy of MARDUK numbers... (though some intonations are present here) (it sounds like pure northern Black Metal (with some Death Metal parts) in vein of IMMORTAL, EMPEROR (bring such keyboardish), MAYHEM etc.). I was satisfied with this demo. There's no that commercial sweetness by which many Black Metal (they call themselves Black Metal!) bands are possessed now. It is brutal, fast, evil and original... Check it!!! (For more info read the interview).

Contact: ZAVORASH, Jonas Hessmark, Jaktvagen 39, 194 66 Upplands Väsby, Sweden.
E-mail: zavorash@deathdoor.com or barakan@hotmail.com
Web Site: www.angelfire.com/az/zavorash
Gorthaur

FREEZING FLAMES **'ZINE** **Issue #2**

FREEZING FLAMES 'zine came from our neighbours - HUNGARY. The editors of it are well-known Emese (ex-STIFF AND COLD 'zine) and Zsófi. The lay-out is excellent. It's featuring the following interviews: A CANOROUS QUINTET, THE BLOOD DIVINE, DARKNESS IS MY

PRIDE, BAK DE SYV FJELL, ALGAION, AMON AMARTH, DARKSIDE, APOTHEOSIS, ARCHAOS, AUTUMN TEARS, MIND'S AS MINE, CREMATORY, CROMLECH, DARK CLOUDS, PENITENT, DET HEDENS FOLK, NUCLEAR DEATH, GRAND BELIAL'S KEY, DISMAL EUPHONY, LAKE OF TEARS, INFERNAL, FALKENBACH, THE MARBLE ICON and WELTEN BRAND. The most of interviews is uninteresting for me, due to the fact it's very Doomy 'zine. But such as AMON AMARTH, CROMLECH and GRAND BELIAL'S KEY are OK. You can order it for \$5. Write to: c/o Zsófi Pfaffgräf, Kintizi Lip.1/b. H/11, H-7400 Kaposvár, HUNGARY or c/o Emese Tátrai, Korányi F. u.46. 1/5, H-4400 Nyíregyháza, HUNGARY.
Cornelius

HELL FROST 'ZINE **Issue #5**

HELL FROST 'zine is edited by one of my friends, namely Joe Headerash. It's not a very high quality edited but the interviews of this issue are great for reading. There are much interesting information about such great bands as MORBID ANGEL, HYPOCRISY, NECROPHOBIC, ABSU, SADUS etc. This work is not so doomy as FREEZING FLAMES 'zine for example. I really appreciate his 'zine, Joe did a good job. It can be yours for \$3. Contact: HELL FROST 'zine, Joe Headerash, 9933 W. Argonne Dr., Milwaukee WI 53222, USA.
Voice mail: 414.256.1776
E-mail: headerash@excpe.com
Cornelius

LAMENTATION **Issue #9**

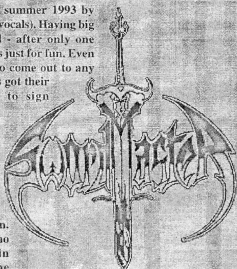
LAMENTATION 'zine together with FREEZING FLAMES 'zine are the leaders of the Hungarian underground editions. It's a very informative one with tons of great reviews on demos/CDs/zines. It is not so high quality as FREEZING FLAMES but more interesting. You can read the next interviews inside: RAVENDANCE, DEMENTOR, MALEVOLENT CREATION, SARTINAS, FORSTH, BLIZZARD, MALEDICTION, POWERDRIVE, DORNEN REICH, INTROITUS and RESURRECTURIS. Available for \$3 from: c/o Bechtel J. Ervin, 7187 Majos, VII. u.22, HUNGARY.
Cornelius

SWORDMASTER was formed in summer 1993 by Nightmare (guitars) and Whiplasher (vocals). Having big troubles with the line-up, the band - after only one rehearsal - recorded a couple of tracks just for fun. Even though the songs weren't supposed to come out to any labels, they did. Several record labels got their hands on the tape and wanted to sign

SWORDMASTER. The band finally became complete with Inferno on drums and the infamous Thunderbolt on bass. SWORDMASTER then signed to Fullmoon Productions (Florida, USA) and recorded their well-known MCD "Wraths of Time", in spring '95, which has been completely sold out, again and again. The lineup was changed when Inferno left SWORDMASTER to join DISSECTION. For a short time SWORDMASTER rehearsed with Ole Öhman (Ex- DISSECTION) on drums, but things didn't work out, not until the bringer of chaotic battery, Nicky Terror (SACRAMENTUM, DEATHWITCH) joined the crew. In February 1996 the band recorded two tracks for compilation albums, the tracks were "Claws of Death" and "Metallic Devastation", which were produced and engineered by Andy La Rocque of KING DIAMOND. These tracks led the band to sign for Osmose Productions, France. In December 1996 the band recorded their first jawbreaking full-length album "Postmortem Tales" in Los Angeles Recording, Gothenburg, produced and engineered by Andy La Rocque. In April 1997 the band went into the studio to record a MCD - "Death Rider 2000". Summer 1997 the band appeared on the "With A Dragons Blaze Festival Open Air" in Belgium. SWORDMASTER have got a new guitarist Ricky Corpse. The man who joined the crew as session guitarist on the European tour is now a full member. And now read the interview with Whiplasher.

O.K. let's go with a simple question. What was the reason for you for departure from Fullmoon Productions to Osmose Productions?

Simply 'cause Osmose had more to offer. A bigger label has bigger potential, and with Osmose we could definitely reach out



to a bigger audience, and has...

The vinyl version of your "Deathrider 2000" has two bonus tracks. What these songs are and where they're taken from?

First of all, we changed the title of the MCD to DEATHRAIDER. Well, one is a remix of "Black Ace" from the "Postmortem Tales" album, and it's simply called "The Black Ace". Then it's a song called "Whiskey Driver", which is a pure rock n' roll guttripping shitsteaming alcoholfornicated normal tune. I deeply recommend you guys out there to try to get your hands on the gatefold vinyl, 'cause it's strictly limited to 1000 copies. And as usual - what is a CD comparing to a LP? Describe us your lyric conception? It seems to me is not typical for bands now?

It's about the ways of pure death and metallic hate. I write about the bone in a life of darkness. I really can't see what's so fascinating about writing lyrics about places called "KUGILY;" and deep forests where some fucking troll is jerking off. But, of course, this obviously has its sweet charm to someones too. It was cool when Dark Throne started to build the core of those northern, mystic, lyrical themes, but nowadays I just think it's worn out. 'Cause many bands just write a lot of cool names in a row and in the end it doesn't mean shit. Fuck it. If you wanna play hard rock you got to rock hard.

In most editions your music described as Thrash Metal of 80s. And as for your music is Death Metal with thrash elements. And how can you explain us your style?

Well, as usual advocate the genre is up to the listener, but I've always said that SWORDMASTER plays Death Metal. We've always used a lot of thrash influences, so you are totally right when it comes to describing our music as death metal with thrash influences. Our upcoming full-length album on Osmose (1999) is going to be much, much tougher.

Nowadays appears a big number of bands playing thrash metal of old days. For example: INFERNÖ, GEHENNAH, GUILLOTINE, DEELED, etc. What do you think about these bands?

Well, I really haven't heard more than one song from INFERNÖ, which was cool. I live in the same city as GEHENNAH, so we get around some times, but I haven't heard their latest two albums actually. I don't know why but it's just the way it is.



Anyway, I haven't heard nothing from the rest of the bands, but Spider from GUILLOTINE is a damn cool guy though.

Any favourite reads or movies that might have inspired you somewhat?

Yeah, but no particular movie or book. Just ideas that can pop up within two sentences in a book, or one comment in a movie.

Do you play live often? What kind of bands do you prefer to play with?

We haven't played live since the WORLD DOMINATION TOUR, so it's been a while now. But those bands where fucking cool. (DARK, TRANQUILLITY, ENSLAVED, BEWITCHED, DELLAMORTE, DEMONIAK)

What was the influence of SWORDMASTER? Can you name some bands before SWORDMASTER in which you played?

Yeah, before SWORDMASTER it was only demolevel, when we didn't even send stuff to labels or so, just because we didn't want to. Then we played the more brutal, slow death metal and the band names were like... MALICIOUS INFERNAL, FINAL TWILIGHT and so on...

What's your opinion about nowadays Swedish Death/Black scene? It seems to me they sound very similar one to another.

It is partly true, 'cause you have what is known as the "Gothenburg Sound", which is a pretty melodic and not as tough/slow soundpicture as the death metal rooted in Stockholm. But I think SWORDMASTER has managed to not fall into any of those two labels.

What is your view on life after death?

NOT.
Swing your sword for an end.
Good luck with your 'zine, and hold your swords and penises high!

SWORDMASTER
c/o Bergh
Gösvägen 1
663 40 Hammarö
Sweden

E-mail: whiplasher@hotmail.com
Web Site: www.geocities.com/MotorCity/Track/1806

— Cornelius



CRACK UP

If you're searching for a new definition of death metal you'll definitely bump into CRACK UP!!! CRACK UP was formed in January 1992 and released their first album "Blood is Life" in May 1996. Their second album "From the Ground" (1997) comes like a hurricane over the metalscene, which was their debut for NUCLEAR BLAST Records. I asked Tim Schnetgöke (vocals, bass) about the news and upcoming album of CRACK UP.

Make a trip into the dimensions of melodic aggression together with CRACK UP!!!

Everyone in the band displays a high level of musicianship. How long you playing together, and how long have the individual members been musicians?

- Frank (drums) and me started playing music in the late 80's and both of us started without knowing much about the instruments! We started rehearsing with a guitarist in January 1992, but he also was kind of new to his instrument, ha! We were really beginners and started from zero!

You made tons of gigs so far and still making too. What kind of atmosphere is there when you do and what bands do you prefer to play with?

- We still do every kind of gig, so there are some before 800 people and some before 20! Of course we prefer the bigger ones, but I also like this underground gigs because they sometimes have a special atmosphere - it's more like the old punk days sometimes, haha! Concerning the bands: we make no big difference and we like to play with all kind of bands, the most important thing should be that we come along each other quite well... One of our unfilled dreams is to tour with ENTOMBED!

Do any of the members in CRACK UP participate in any other bands or have any side projects?

- Torben has his own band called CRESTFALLEN and they recently recorded their 1st CD. I didn't listen to it yet, but I'm curious! The other members in CRACK UP don't have any side projects at this moment, but from time to time we are jamming with other musicians and I also want to start some project very soon.

Your current label is NUCLEAR BLAST Records. Do you satisfied with them and what was so shitty in WE BITE Records?

- Yes of course we are satisfied with NUCLEAR BLAST, it's a really big label and they have the power to push us far! Everything depends on the reviews and reactions of course, but when a band seems to be promising they have many ways to push it! We also had a good relationship to WE BITE, but their problem was a lack of money, so they couldn't bring us that far. We wanted to go on tour but they said: sorry guys, we don't have the money!!! WE BITE really tried their best but it

was also hard for them to promote a metal band, as they are home in the hardcore/punk scene!!!

What are the members' interests outside of the band?

- I think the only thing we're really interested in is the music! Of course there are also some minor interests like girls, parties, drugs, relaxing, hahaha!

The recording sessions for the 3rd album had begun. What can you tell us about the new material?

- Oh, it's a killer!!!!!! It took us 3 weeks to record and mix the 14 songs. The CD has just been finished and we really dig it! It's a 100% development but still 100% CRACK UP! Not so many metal riffs anymore, but very intense music, it's also the hardest production we ever had! The songs differ from each other very much - it's the best thing we ever did, definitely!!!

What bands do the members of CRACK UP listening to? Are you all fans of Death Metal?

- Oh no, we're listening to a lot of different music! I mean, personally I don't see many good death metal releases these days and I prefer the older stuff from bands like OBITUARY, BOLT THROWER, PARADISE LOST, etc. Nowadays I like to listen to ROCKET FROM THE CRYPT, TURBONEGRO, NIRVANA and many more... I have no limits!

Your last 2 records were produced by Andy Classen. Why you decided to work with him again? How do you see him as producer and as musician? Have you any news about Andy's band HOLY MOSES?

- Andy is like a brother to us and also does a great job! We knew that we can make it better than with "From the Ground", so we decided to record with him again! It's always big fun to work with him, no matter how stressful a situation can become... Concerning HOLY MOSES, they are dead!!! Andy did a new band called RICHTHOFEN but he also left that band and will do something completely new in the future... He also thinks about featuring CRACK UP members for this new band!!!! Who knows...?!!!!

What can you tell us about the re-release of the "Forsaken Dreams" demo? Will it be

included any special recordings for? I mean live tracks or maybe CD-Rom tracks.

- Last year some smaller labels asked me if we would be interested in a re-release and finally we agreed. As it seems right now the french label AGONY Records will release the demo as digipak CD in spring 99, it will have a completely new layout and cover - it really looks great! There won't be any bonus tracks, just the 5 songs from the demo... Well now as you mentioned it, maybe a CD-Rom track????

What is your lyrics about? Are they important for you?

- The lyrics have no special meaning for us and we're definitely no political band... In the beginning of the band I also wrote some of this gothic lyrics but I got bored! Nowadays I'm just using the words that fit the music and have a cool sound... Some of the lines are very personal, but everyone should build his/her own opinion...

What is your point of view on nowadays growing retro-movements in some old styles? Do you agree with it?

- It depends on the style I guess... I still like this old school death metal and I welcome every band that releases a great album!!! I'm not a person who cares about styles and names... I just care for the music itself, it can be great or shitty... no matter what style it is!!! People should concentrate on the music, not caring about the style or name...

OK, I think that's all for now. Last grows for the end, please...

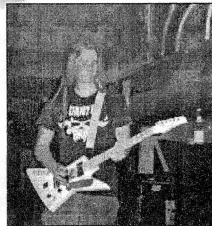
- Sorry for some shorter answers Cornelius, but I'm on my way to the "Wacken-Open-Air" (one of the biggest metal festivals in Germany) where we'll play with CRACK UP! I really enjoyed the interview and your questions, all readers are invited to write to the bandaddress, every letter will be answered!!! The first letter with the header "Encomium 'zine'" will get a free t-shirt in return!!! Be aware of the new album "Heads Will Roll"!!!! Don't forget to check out our homepage at: <http://members.aol.com/crrackup/index.htm>! Stay cracked!!!!

- Cornelius



CRACK UP
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46 569 Hünne
Germany

Fax: (+49)-2858-6574
E-mail: crrackup@aol.com



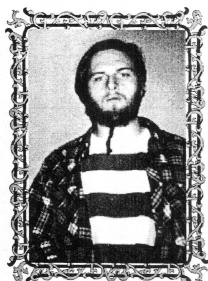
DESTRUCTIVE' PRAYERS:



Cornelius



Gorthaur



Ifigel

1. DESTRUCTION "Internal Overkill"
2. SODOM "Persecution Mania"
3. KREATOR "Pleasure To Kill"
4. DISMEMBER "Like An Everflowing Stream"
5. HYPOCRISY "Penitence"
6. DISSECTION "Storm Of The Light's Bane"
7. AT THE GATES "Slaughter Of The Soul"
8. CARNAGE "Dark Raptures"
9. DARK TRANQUILITY "Skydancer"
10. KATARYLSM "Temple Of Knowledge"
11. DEATH "Scream Bloody Gore"
12. MURBID ANGEL "Formulas Fatal To The Flesh"
13. CRADLE OF FILTH "The Principle Of Evil Made Flesh"
14. DEICIDE "Legion"
15. EXTORTION "Left Hand Path"
16. NAGFAR "Vitra"
17. SWORDMASTER "Wraths Of Time"
18. PESTILENCE "Malleus Maleficarum"
19. VAUER "De Profundis"
20. DEMENTOR "The Church Dies"

1. VENOM "Black Metal", "At War With Satan"
2. HELHAMMER "Apocalyptic Raids"
3. CELTIC FROST "Morbid Tales / Emperor's Return"
4. POSSESSED "Seven Churches"
5. IMPALED NAZARENE "Ugra-Karma", "Motorpans"
6. SUMMONING "Minas Morgul", "Dol Guldur"
7. KREATOR "Endless Pain"
8. SODOM "In The Sign Of Evil"
9. NECROMANTIA "Crucifixion The Fiery Path"
10. DESTRUCTION "Sentence Of Death / Internal Overkill"
11. MAYHEM "Do Mysteris Dom Sathanas"
12. MURBID ANGEL "Blessed Are The Sick"
13. FUNERAL MATION "After The Battle"
14. MURBID "December Moon"
15. HELWITCH "Syngial Miscreancy"
16. DARK THRONE "Penzerfaust"
17. GORGOROTH "Pentagram"
18. IMMORTAL "Diabolical Fullmoon Mysticism"
19. MAWOWAR "Hail To England", "The Triumph Of Steel"
20. BLIND GUARDIAN "Nightfall In Middle-Earth"

1. BURZUM "Det Son Engang Var", "Hvis Lyset Tar Oss"
2. BURZUM "Burzum/Aske", "Daudi Baldrs", "Filosofem"
3. SATYRICON "Dark Medieval Times", "The Shadowthrone"
4. WONGRIVEN "Fjelltrøen"
5. SUMMONING "Dol Guldur", "Minas Morgul"
6. ISENGARD "Vinterskogen", "Hestnørke"
7. ENSLAVED "Eid", "Frost", "Vikinglige Vædd"
8. GORGOROTH "Pentagram", "Under The Sign Of Hell"
9. IMMORTAL "Pure Holocaust"
10. BATHORY "The Return", "Under The Sign Of The Black Mark"
11. EMPEROR "Emperor", "In The Nightside Eclipse"
12. DARK THRONE "Penzerfaust", "Total Death"
13. CELTIC FROST "Morbid Tales / Emperor's Return"
14. ABSU "The Sun Of Iphareth"
15. PAZUZU "Awaken The Dragon"
16. MORTUIS "Crypt Of The Wizard", "Eadt Til A Henske"
17. WELTEN BRAND "Das Weichfink"
18. ROTTING CHRIST "Dead Peas", "Triumph Of The Lost Loves"
19. REICHER "Once Upon The Cross", "Serpents Of The Light"
20. CANNIBAL CORPSE "The Bleeding", "Tomb Of The Mutilated"

MUSCULAR' PRAYERS:

Proscriptor McGovern
(ABSU)

Jani Lehtosaari
(IMPALED NAZARENE)

Stanislav Ivanoff
(SUNCHARIOT)

SOFT MACHINE (UK) - "Third" 1970
 STYL (USA) - "The Grand Illusion" 1977
 KING CRIMSON (UK) - "Lark's Tongues In Aspic" 1973
 NASTY SAVAGE (USA) - "Wasty Savage" 1905
 DARKNESS (GER) - "Death Squad" 1987

"Rapture"
 "Tel Corrupt Morz Morz"
 "Laten Cold"
 "Ugra-Karma"
 "Suomi Finland Perkele"

PENITENT - "The Beauty Of Pain"
 KATATONIA - "Dance Of Deceitful Souls"
 SODOM AETERNA - "The Inexperienced Spiral Traveller"
 ENGELSSTAB - "Malleus Maleficarum"
 ENDRUM - "Morgenrote"

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"Endless Sunfall"



TALES OF DARKNORD
"The Lost"



AGATHOCLES
"Destroy To Create"

Doom/Death

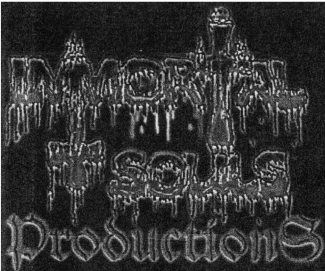
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Death/Black

Grindcore

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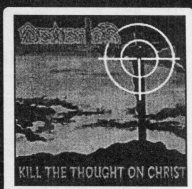


PATHOLOGY STENCH

"Gluttony"

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DEMENTOR

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Second album of great Death Metal band from Slovakia "Nine extremely brutal songs, eight heavy ways to kill Jesus Christ and one cover song. Mastership of this band will smash your cranium"

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