

BLACKHORN

NO. 2 AUG/SEP 1985.

KING DIAMOND
BULLDOZER
ARTILLERY
BATHORY
VOÏVOD
SLAYER
SODOM



PRICE: D.KR. 20,-
US\$ 3,-
DM 5,-

Hi Thrasher!

Here we are again with Metal news from all over the world. Of course we're delayed once again, we hope you can forgive us. It's difficult to make a good Metal mag. Not only the writing, but the layout, printing etc. as well.

The winner of the Voivod competition in no. 1 was : Anton Reisenegger from Chile. Obviously he was the only one who knew that Scott Ian and Rosenfeld is the same person, for copy-right reasons!

Unfortunately we can't offer you a new competition, because we haven't received any material for competition use this time.

What we have received, is a lot of letters telling us to do some more record reviews so now we've expanded the record review pages. We have also received some letters, advising us not to put any more wimp (Hard and Heavy Rock bands) in the mag. Otherwise we would turn into wimpdom. But as you can see this issue features more wimp bands, but then again we have even more Hardcore Metal bands. This is not a provocation, we've decided that we will feature all bands we receive materials from. We have to do this, because we do not receive enough Hardcore Metal material. This is an invitation to all you DEATH/BLACK/THRASH/POWER/SPEED Metal bands out there. One last comment, we shall not become a wimp mag, which is a mag that likes all this fuckin' wimp music. Which we certainly don't, just read the Teeze review.

Hope to see material from DEATH/BLACK/THRASH/POWER SPEED Metal bands in our mail. Enjoy the mag, and use the addresses of the bands.

Black fuckin' Thrash wishes from

Esben & Henk

Henk Leviathan
Sejrs Allé 49
8240 Risskov
Denmark



Esben Slot Sørensen
Ternevej 4
8240 Risskov
Denmark

Playlist : Records

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. SLAYER | : HELL AWAITS |
| 2. EXODUS | : BONDED BY BLOOD |
| 3. ONSLAUGHT | : POWER FROM HELL |
| 4. DESTRUCTION | : INFERNAL OVERKILL |
| 5. KREATOR | : ENDLESS PAIN |
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| 8. CELTIC FROST | : EMPEROR'S RETURN |
| 9. EXCITER | : LONG LIVE THE LOUD |
| 10. METAL CHURCH | : METAL CHURCH |

Playlist : Demo/Live tapes

- | | |
|------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. VOIVOD | : MORGOTH INVASION (Live) |
| 2. ANGEL DUST | : DEMO |
| 3. VIOLENT FORCE | : DEAD CITY |
| 4. ARTILLERY | : FEAR OF TOMORROW (Advance) |
| 5. SLAUGHTER | : BLOODY KARNAGE |
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| 7. EXCALIBUR | : DEMO |
| 8. CHROMOSOME 5 | : DEMO |
| 9. AMEBIX | : ARISE (Advance) |
| 10. DEUCE | : DEMO |

Extra special thanx to : Elsner, Bjarne and Mark & John (Guillotine).

Special thanx to : King Diamond, E.T. Concerts, ROSA, Voivod(Fast Piggy, Quorthon, C-D, Kelle, Axel Thubeauville(Earthshaker), Blacktask(Warren Appleby), Sons of Satan(Boike), Onslaught(Gavin Van Vlack, USA), Siren(Doug Lee), Deuce(Tom Gattis), Vicious Barreka, Rigor Mortis(Thorsten Förster, W-G), Violent Force, Amebix, Mayhem(W-G), Kim Sixx, Renegade(Andreas Dumke), Poison(Peter Hermann, W-G), Ghost rider(Mario Pesenti), Joel Chambon("The Ripper's Day"), Regis White, Children Of Revolution Rec., Megaton Management, Jeff Gilbert(C.O.M.A. Rec.), Black Dragon Rec., Destruction(Tommy Sandmann) and of course Artillery & John Kluge.

Thanx to : Sodom(Angel Ripper), Carnivore(Keith Alexander), Krone Music, Katrine Ring(DR), Hans Kjør, Michael Voss, Phantom, Nicola D'Amelio, Jim Powell(Grinder) and Johnny Hart (Metal K.O.)

Front page : Slayer live in Copenhagen (Photo : Esben Slot Sørensen)

THRASHING METAL NEWS

Soon Possessed will release their first album, "Seven Churches" on Combat Records. Some titles will be, "Exorcist", "Holy Hell" and "Satan's Curse".



Possessed

French band Oxen Killer will also appear on the new Renaissance compilation album. They'll appear with "Sacrifice". If you're interested in checkin' out Oxen Killer, it's a Power Heavy Metal band. Their latest demo, a 5-tracker, is available for US \$ 5.00 at the following address, Oxen Killer, c/o Regis White, C.E.S. Aragon, Route De Corbas, 69200 Vénissieux, France.

Martyr's "For the Universe" album is receiving great reactions from all parts of the world. So now Martyr is working with their next album. They plans to enter the studio in June. They've scheduled a release in the late '85. In the summer they will be gigging constantly in Holland and do some touring with Avenger. Maybe Martyr will be Witchcross' supportband on their Euro-tour. (Holland, Belgium, Germany and Denmark). Martyr have got a new live video. It's available for DM 55,00. Martyr, Papyrusdreef 19, 3565 CP Utrecht, Holland.

LIVING DEATH have started working with their new album "Metal Revolution". I've heard some of the new tracks on a preproduction tape, and these promise great things about the new album. Lead singer Thorsten Bergmann now sings more powerfully not the "lady" voice he had on the "Vengeance of Hell" album. The guitar sound is more powerful than "VoH". Now we're talking about Living Death, I have a correction. In issue no. 1 I wrote that I hoped that Living Death got their sound equipment smashed at the gig with TORMENTOR. (See Tormentor article). It was a misprint. It should only have been their singer Thorsten Bergmann's sound equipment.

The 1st Celtic Frost album, "Morbid Tales" is now available as a picture disc on Noise Rec.

Australian band Renegade has recorded their first demo. It contains 4 tracks, "Black Ritual", "The Executioner", "Lucifer's Reign" and "Cold And Evil". They play a combination of Heavy Metal, Rock'n'Roll and Punk. The sound quality of the demo is great, but the production is weak. If you're interested in the demo, send US \$ 4.00, DM 12.00 to the contact address. International money orders should be made payable to Ron Cartledge. The demo will be sent to you via airmail. Renegade, P.O. Box 338, Northcote/Vic, 3070, Australia.

Hallows Eve release their debut album on Roadrunner Rec. Title will be "Tales of Terror".

Denmark has got a new Thrash Metal band called Samhain. They will release a 4-track (20 min.) demo called "Evil Courier" in Mid-August. Style: Bathory/Celtic Frost. Price: D.Kr. 40.00, DM 10.00 (Europe). US \$ 5.00 (Overseas). Contact, guess who!? The two maniac editors of BLACKTHORN.

German band VIOLENT FORCE has released their 2nd demo. Style : Motörhead/Slayer (mostly Slayer). They're maybe going to support KREATOR on their forthcoming Germany tour. This excellent 4-track demo can be ordered for US \$ 3 or DM 10,- at : Violent Force, c/o Steif Richter, HÜgelstr. 20, 5620 Velbert, West Germany.



Violent Force

The Canadian Hardcore Metal band Slaughter, has released a 13 track demo. Their style is very Hellhammer/Celtic Frost inspired. They even do a cover version of the Hellhammer track "Massacre". A very good cover version. Anyway Hellhammer isn't the hardest band to do a cover version of. We hope to bring you more info about this band in the next issue of BLACKTHORN.

Destruction has just been on a successful support tour with Slayer as headliner. What did you expect. And after the release of "Infernal Overkill" it must be time for a world wide Destruction tour. Before they hit your city, or a city nearby, you have to get hold of the Destruction T-shirt. It's available for US \$ 9.00 or DM 25.00, (CASH ONLY!!!) this includes postage. Destruction F.C., c/o Eugen Westerberg, Dorfstr. 51, 2732 Lengenbostel, West Germany.



Destruction

The editor of the Canadian Metal magazine Metal K.O., Johnny Hart, has informed us that Voivod have signed with Viper Records, a division of Attic Records. Viper is a new Heavy Metal label and should be worth watching out for. We'll wait and see!

Johnny Hart has also informed us about a new Canadian band called Sword. It should be a mix of Metallica and Black Sabbath. An album is available soon!

ARTILLERY have got offers from both Mausoleum and Neat. The point is laying on Neat.



Artillery

German band IRON ANGEL will soon release their first lp called "Hellish Crossfire" on Steamhammer Rec. (SPV). In issue no. 3 we hope to bring you a review. Maybe even an interview too.

Kim "Powerbaby" Sixx has just finished her architect-education. Congratulations!!!



Kim Sixx at their record debut.

Photo : Esben Slot Sorensen

Aarhus in February. Kim Sixx had their record debut and I went there to ask them some questions :

BT.: What are your texts all about? Your new logo shows a star turning down wards. Is there a kind of Satanism in your lyrics?

KS.: No, not at all. Our lyrics are mainly about love and adventure. Generally it's said that HM texts are male chauvinistic, but I don't see it like that. The men's lyrics are NOT male chauvinistic (and maybe this assertion even takes some of the writers by surprise, but I gotta disappoint 'em). I absolutely see the men's texts as a picture of their enormous love to the woman as a being. Just think of the classical scene, where the stone age man pulls the woman he loves by the hair after having laied her down. My texts are the same just with an opposite sign. They're about my love to the man as a being, even though this love once in a while can be rather bloody.

BT.: Talkin' about the lyrics, it's leading us to the music. You play rather regular HM if I may say so. Who inspired you?

KS.: We ourselves did and all the headbangers.

BT.: No, seriously. Fx. the track "Warrior" from your single reminds me of Saxon's "Power And the Glory" and another track such as "Let It Loose" is like Dio's "Holy Diver". Right?

KS.: All right! Of course we listen to other bands Mercyful Fate, Metallica etc. But we're not covering these bands, at least not on purpose.

BT.: Now that you have released a single, are you then thinking of releasing a LP?

KS.: Of course we would like to release a LP. We have contacted some record companies but we have not yet got any contract. I will here like to thank Ken Anthony. He has been a great help to us. He has also helped us getting on a tour in DK with Wasted and Maltese Falcon (read about the show elsewhere in this issue. ed.)

BT.: That was just what I was gonna ask you about. What about touring?

KS.: Yes, as I just said, we are giging with Wasted and Maltese Falcon. We were so lucky that Witch Cross (football club?? - Indeed not Heavy Metal. ed) were unable to come, so we got the chance instead.

BT.: Thank you, and good luck on your DK-tour!

If anyone is interested in listening more to this first Danish HM band with a female singer, just contact :

KIM SIXX
Lone Kim Jensen
Park Allé 1(2 T.H.)
8000 Aarhus C
Denmark

Bulldozer

This Italian band has been very difficult to get information from. Maybe this is a link in their occult image? A fact is that they so far have released a single with two tracks, "Falling Angel" and "Another Beer (it's what I need)". And about now their album "The Day of Wrath" should be available. They compare themselves to Venom. However I would call this an overstatement. Motörhead will be more suitable.

For more info write to :

Bulldozer, c/o Adriano Bosone, C.P. 15104, 20150 Milano, Italy.

STOP PRESS : I've just got hold of their new album, and I'll be the first to deny what I've just said. Bulldozer is now so much like Venom that you nearly can't hear the difference. Bulldozer continues where Venom stopped with "Manitou".

Read more about Bulldozer in the next issue of BLACKTHORN.



On the picture you can see how the ancient Romans were building a house????!!!!

Sodom

Sodom was one of the first Hardcore Metal bands from Germany. After them lots of other great Hardcore Metal bands, like Destruction and Tormen-
tor appeared. Most of them hailed from the Ruhr district. Sodom was formed by guitarist Agressor and drummer Witchhunter. Soon joined Angel Ripper on bass and to handle the vocal in a very Cronos-like way. With this line-up they released their two famous demos, "Witching Metal" and "Victims of Death". Just before recording their mini-lp "In the Sign of Evil" Agressor left. He was replaced by Grave Violator. He left soon and was replaced by Destructor.



Quickly-Call the fuckin' Fire department!

Sodom had their guitarist problems, but they should have been solved by now. They also had a management problem. It has been difficult to get in contact with Sodom. This problem seems to be solved now. The future contact address will be the one of Angel Ripper. Right now Sodom is in a new studio in Berlin, where they're recording their new album, "Pretenders to the Throne". It includes the following tracks, "Nuctemeron", "Equinox", "Fall of Majesty Town", "Proselytism Real", "Pretenders to the Throne", "Witchhammer", "Deathlike Silence" and "Obsessed by Cruelty". After the recording of this lp they plan some gigs in Germany. And then they'll start working with their next album. I caught Angel Ripper for a chat.

B : Why have you chosen the Satanic image? Just jumped on the band wagon?

Angel : Sodom lyrics are not entirely Satanic lyrics. I write the songs. You can read them on the new Sodom lp. And I write about all occult things, esoteric, fantasy, necromancy and people as Mr. Crowley and magic gods etc.

B : How has the response on your demos and the mini-lp been?

Angel : Oh, that's been great. We've sold hundreds of demos and thousands of mini-lp's. Most of them were sold in the USA. Of course because of the great Hardcore scene, they have over there. And all the Hardcore Thrashers believe in Sodom. So we try to hit the USA next year.

B : You seem to have guitarist problems!?

Angel : Yes, we've always had guitarist problems. All had personal problems and left the band. The new guitarist, Destructor wants to play at the new album and I hope he'll stay with us in the future.

B : The three heaviest bands from Germany, Destruction, Tormen- (now KREATOR) and you hail from the Ruhr district. Why's that the heavy place in Germany?

Angel : Well, I don't know why the three heaviest come from the "Ruhrgebiet". I only know that Sodom is the heaviest and fastest band of the world.

B : Anything to add?

Angel : Send my greetings to all BLACKTHORN readers and all the Sodom fans in Denmark. Pure hell and Witching Metal.

Sodom, c/o Angel Ripper, Teichstr. 7, 4659 Gelsenkirchen, West Germany.

SLAYER

Resently Slayer did a gig in Copenhagen, but let's start with the beginning.

Artillery did the support. I was very anxious to see and hear Flemming, their new singer.

A week before the gig, I received their new demo "Fear of Tomorrow" from John, which assured me that Artillery hadn't fallen into wimpdom.

(The tape can be ordered at d.kr. 50.00/US \$ 5.00 at John Kluge, Charlotttegaardsvej 139, 2640 Hede-
husene, Denmark).

This 7 track demo shows the typical raw and powerful Artillery as you know them.

Maybe a bit Mercyful Fate inspired (hear the solo on "King, Thy Name is Slayer"), but else I would say Flemming fits perfectly into Artillery - In the studio! But when it comes to the live performance, you'll realize that they've mixed the vocal quite a lot in the studio.

However they did a brilliant live performance.

And don't forget that Flemming has had only 2 months to learn all their tracks!

Now to the headliners of this night : SLAYER. As Artillery so very right said it, (Kerry) "King, Thy Name is SLAYER"!!!

As the fool I am, I missed the press conference the day before, but according to Peter Markham (Metallic Beast) they should be some great guys. And how I believe this!



Tom Araya in Denmark.

Photo : Esben Slot Sørensen

Of course they started off with their excellent new titlesong "Hell Awaits", but I think it's stupid to tell which tracks they played and which they didn't, you properly don't care a shit which tracks, which order etc. and why should you?!!!!

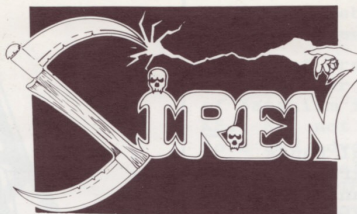
You know SLAYER, you know their tracks, and if you don't : Get the fuck out of here!

One thing wondering me : How can they play so fast, so wild, so strong, so powerful and at the same time thrash more than even the wildest thrashers among the audience?

Of course it's hard to thrash with all your cameras and photo gear, but what the fuck. SLAYER's in town and you simply can't stand still.

They gave us more than we've ever expected.

And they certainly proved they're the heaviest/fastest/wildest and thrashest Metal band in the whole universe!!!!!!



Maybe you read issue no. 1 of Blackthorn, and (then you maybe) recall a review of a German band called Iron Horse. In this review I stated that we wouldn't review non-Hardcore Metal bands in the future, even if they sent materials. Maybe I'll disappoint you now, but I hope you can handle it. I've decided to give Siren a review because they financed their single by themselves. I think metal bands doing that need all kinds of support. Maybe other metal bands will do the same and hopefully some Death/Thrash/Black/Speed/Power bands too. We'll support them as much as possible. They deserve it because they take a chance and give us fuckin' great music, hopefully. But let's get to the point.

Siren was formed in 1981 and is based in Brandon, USA. The line-up consists of four members, guitarist Rob Phillips, bassist Edward Amyx, drummer Ed Aborn and vocalist Doug "Dead" Lee.

The first 2 years they gived a lot. They mostly did cover versions of Priest, Maiden, Accept and a couple of other bands in that style, + they created a few originals. It wasn't before '84 they decided to concentrate on originals. This has to do with Rob's experience. He would wait until he felt that he had developed his sound and style before writing by himself. It seems like he has reached that point, 'cause in a Kick+Ass review this could be read: "Sounding like no band in particular". I agree to that, but could add that their style is very much like the Swedish Heavy Metal style. But of course they are influenced by someone. Rob has names like Rhodes, Schenker and Hoffman on his list. Doug "Dead" Lee mentions vocalists like Rob Halford and Udo Dirkschneider. Edward says Sheehan and Harris.

In the summer '84 they released their first single "Metro-Mercenary", on which I build my opinions of the band.



Where's the shoeshine boy?

In January 1985 they released a four track demo entitled "Iron Coffins" which should be much heavier than the single. I hope to give this a review in issue no. 3. But if you like the type of music the Swedish Metal bands like Overdrive, Europe, 220 Volt etc. produce or the British Black Dog, you'll be wise if you order some material with Siren now.

The prices are : Single US \$ 2.00
Demo US \$ 4.00
T-shirts US \$ 5.00
Sizes are : S, M, L and XL.

The address is : Siren Music Publishing
2111 Ramblewood Ln
Brandon
Fl. 33511
USA

SONS OF SATAN

This is again one of these demos with a bad sound quality, well, not as bad as Poison's (G), but still. The demo is entitled "Live In The Cellar", so you're warned. Now a little band history.

In '82 Peter Baumbach (drums) and Boike Rehbein (guitar) formed Sons of Satan with the purpose, that they should be the hardest and fastest of all times. The beginning was slow. They first found Peter Eistermeister (bass) and Uli Häfner (vocals) after they had tested about 30 people. This line-up lasted to the end of '84. Then P. Eistermeister and U. Häfner had to leave the band. In '85 Peter Schneiderhan (bass and vocals) joined them. With this line-up they recorded their "Live In The Cellar" demo.

The demo I've received contains 5 tracks, "Faster Than Ever", "Buy a Democracy", "Day Without a Chance", "Unemployed" and "Santa Claus". The demo you can buy contains one extra track, "Fuck 'em All", which should be the fastest track ever done.

With the 5 tracks I've got, I should be able to give a fair description. As said before the sound quality is bad. On the other hand the music quality is a lot better. Their style is Speed Metal with melody. I guess they would sound like the "old" Znöwhite, if they used their studio and equipment. Maybe they'll be a great new Speed Metal band in Sons of Satan, and they're rare, if they rehearse a little more than now and rewrite their tracks. There are some small blemishes. Still it's not a demo I'll recommend

because of the bad sound quality. Anyway their 6-track demo is available for US \$ 5.00 (incl. P&P), at the address below. Now I think it's time for an interview.

B : Why have you chosen a cliché name like Sons of Satan?

Boike : As we have been called ABBA for a few years, we were looking for another name with two A's. No actually we wanted a name which could express our power and energy. So we had three names, Poison, V2S, (a harder sort of steel, which our drums are made of) and the name Sons of Satan. And back in '82 the Black Metal wave didn't exist, so we chose Sons of Satan. Which for us signifies, total fast and hard metal maniacs.

B : What's your image?

Boike : We just want to have fun in making our music. It has to get beyard feeling and power. We're not into Satanism or any other kind of religion. As Motörhead so perfectly sing, "It's just a blind relief". We hate violence too. Last year we had a total amount of 5.000 rivits and we wore leather only. But we dropped this image, it was too violent. We don't play because we want succes, we don't fuck up people, we just make our fuckin' noise.

B : Are the lyrics important for you?

Boike : Yes, they are. Most of them are political, others talk about sex, Metal and fun. For example we have songs about politicians taking cribs, about being unemployed, poser bands

and about being made horny.

B : Why did you kick out P. Eistermeister and U. Häfner?

Boike : Uli is a Satanist. The only thing he enjoys is violence and other people suffering. Peter drinks 6 liters of beer every day and doesn't have enough energy to continue playing his bars.

B : Which are your favorite bands?

Boike : Peter S. likes Motörhead, Peter B. likes Slayer, Metallica and Exodus.

Mine are Metallica, Hawaii, Motörhead and old Vardis. I especially like their albums played on 45 r.p.m. Ha, ha.

B : What do you expect of '85?

Boike : To continue living and going crazy. To play some more gigs. We're still waiting for the total Metal band, we're not satisfied!

Hopefully we can make an lp.

B : One last word?

Boike : Yes. To all you who read this. Keep banding your head off, don't let any motherfucker grind you down. Start thinking about your problems and try to solve them, instead of beating up innocent people. And don't listen to posers! Sons of Satan, c/o Boike Rehbein, Am Kräherwald 153, 7000 Stuttgart 1, West Germany.

Rigor Mortis

This is NOT the Danish band Rigor Mortis, but a German band with the same name. The German Rigor Mortis is certainly a lot better, than the Danish wimps. Rigor Mortis was formed 18 months ago by Martin Gersmeier (bass) and Thorsten Förster (guitar). Andreas Hochhaus (vocals) and Nico Weidenhaupt (drums) joined a couple of months later. Peter Hanke, (guitar) who had played with Thörsten before, fulfilled the line up 6 months ago. The purpose with the band was to try to combine Heavy, Speed and Black Metal, which they do brilliantly. First gig took place in March '85 and according to the band it was a success. After this gig they received lots of "fan-mail". In April '85 they recorded their first demo. It was recorded in a 16 tracks studio near Duisburg. It's a 4 track demo (20 min) with following tracks, "Metalstorm", "Metal Hardware", "Dark Power" and "666". These 4 tracks should show the spectrum of Rigor Mortis. Next demo is planned to be recorded in November '85. On this demo they'll move towards some more Thrashing material. This tendency is shown on a session-tape which was recorded last week. They decided not to release it because of the bad quality. This is certainly great to hear. The market is overwhelmed with bad quality demo recordings. I'm especially referring to the German bands. Most of these demos do more harm than good for the band. A good advice is to invest a sum in studio recording time. A proper studio costs not more than 80 dollars (DM 250) a day. Back to the R.M. demo. I said before they combine the Heavy/Speed and Black Metal styles. If I should mention some bands, they seem to be inspired of, it would be Running Wild, Iron Maiden and Savage Grace. I hope that is description enough. It's not one of those demos I highly recommend, but it's very professional. The demo, picture plus a short bio can be obtained by sending DM 10.00 (cheap if you compare to other demo prices, remember it's a professional recording. ed.) to the address below.

Rigor Mortis, c/o Thorsten Förster, Borgmannshof 8, 4650 Gelsenkirchen, West Germany.

OVERKILL

I'm sure you all know the German Metal band Overkill. Also their 3-track demo. Therefore I won't comment that, just state that Overkill is a rather regular HM band. I asked their singer Dieter a few questions.

B : I've seen you on a sampler, right? How's your chances for getting a contract?

Dieter : You're right. We've been appearing on that HM sampler you've seen with two tracks our '83 line up. In early '84 we got a second guitar, but soon we had to replace one of our guitarists who left the band.

B : Where's your influences coming from? Am I wrong when I'm saying that the track "The Iron Sword" is a bit Manowar inspired?

Dieter : Difficult question. Our main influence now comes from all good Metal bands from Van Halen up to W.A.S.P. (call that shit good once again, and I'll.....ed.) We have not done "The Iron Sword" with the intention to do a song in the "Manowar style". We've simply wanted to do a "Sword on Sorcery" - song. That's it!

B : Do you have any meaning with your lyrics, or is it just stories?

Dieter : Meanings? Some of our songs have a meaning, but many songs have only words to sing. We have no intention to have a message in our songs. I'll say : "If you want to have a message, it's better you buy yourself a good book".

B : What's your future plans?

Dieter : In the next month we're going to record a new demo tape with a couple of new songs. With this demo we'll try to get a fair contract with a well working record company. Further we'll do some concerts, perhaps a Germany-tour this summer.

B : A last word?

Dieter : I thank you and all your interested readers for your support. You all give us the power to continue. If you're interested in more info on Overkill write : Ch. Erben, Schiefersee 31, 7057 Winnenden 3, West Germany.

GHOSTRIDER

Another new Italian band. They were formed in the summer '84. The line up in the band is Cl8d (guitar), Ingo Veleno (vocals), Peter Volcano (bass) and Märk Peso (drums). With this line up they recorded their first demo, entitled "Mayhemic Destruction". It's a four track demo containing these tracks, "The Exorcist", "Curse of Valle Christi", "Victim of Necromancy" and "Doomed to Serve the Devil". These titles do indeed promise great things about the music. Other promising parts are their slogan "Powerthrash 'till Total Death" and a special thank to all Black Metal Thrashers. There is one major non-promising part, they hail from Italy. Italy has produced lots of Metal bands, nearly all of them are bad. They're amateurs, have bad gear and bad production of their demos etc. And I'm sorry to say it, Ghost-rider is just another typical Italian band. Of course they'll get a decent review. I've received a demo from them. First track "The Exorcist" starts very occult, and the production sounds great. As soon as the music begins, you get disappointed. The bass is to fuckin' loud and sounds like an egg slicer. The guitar sounds like a Rock'n' Roll guitar. The drummer and the singer do a great work. Märk doesn't just play straight ahead. He makes some break outs now and then. Ingo has a raw voice, but sometimes he sings a little punky. Cl8d and Peter could do Märk and Ingo a big favour, if they bought some new gear. Cl8d should also stop using all that one string playing. I would recommend them to buy some new gear and begin to work with new tracks. They want to do the right thing. Maybe they'll be great one day. Who knows? In the summer '85 they'll record their second demo. They plan some live shows in all Italy. If you want more info about Ghost-rider, then write to : Nick Ingrassia, Via Somalia 41/11, Santa Margherita, (GE), Italy.

In the last issue we promised you an interview with Vicious Barreka. First you'll get a review of the new Vicious Barreka material, because they've released an 8-song-cassette-album.

It's called "Outrage, Insanity and Profanity". This 8-song-cassette-album really disappoints me, compared with the "Heavenly Metal" demo. The first shock was the singer. He sings exactly like fuckin' Alice Cooper. Another bad thing is the production. You hear distinctly that they've got only one guitarist and that's not great when J.J. has to play his solos. The music dies because the bass and the drums are not strong enough to handle that. The guitar is the supporting part in Vicious Barreka, so they need two guitarists when playing solos. This is a must!

The music material on this cassette is bad compared with the great tracks on "Heavenly Metal". This has to be explained: On "Heavenly Metal" the tracks were in Trouble or Exciter mould, but now they are something in between. Well, at least some of them. Not all tracks are "bad", (I still compare with "Heavenly Metal"). There are a couple of great tracks, which would have been fuckin' great with a better production, in the "old" Vicious Barreka way. "Messiah" is in VB/Exciter style and "The Best There's Ever Been" is in the VB/Trouble vein. Oh, I nearly forgot "The Sentence". It's also a great track in the VB/Trouble way.

Two tracks are so so ("Strike You Down" and "I Want it All"). Three "bad" tracks are "The Starz Are Out", "Rock'n'Roll Over" and "Last American Hero", still comparing to the "Heavenly Metal" demo. For those of you who haven't anything of the VB material, I recommend to buy both the cassette album and the demo. Play the cassette album 3 or 4 times first. Then you can play "Heavenly Metal". You'll love both of them then. You who already have the demo, know what to do. And now the interview with Jo Jo Monroe, the guitarist.

BT.: How has the response on HM been?

J.J.: A debut and staying number one for 3 months says it all. Most of the people who don't like it are usually not into Motörhead, Slayer, Venom etc. I mean what do you expect then. Obviously you don't like them you won't like us. But it truly has been great.

BT.: Why do you do a cassette album and not a new demo, I mean a cassette album is fuckin' expensive and record companies needs only a demo?

J.J.: This is being done for the people. The people who keep writing do you have any other demos? The band has so much original material we sometimes have to stop ourselves from writing which isn't good but we can't get too far ahead of ourselves. We've got 8 new songs we're going to put 'em all on, not 2-3. The word demo don't mean shit anymore everyone has one. You know 2 originals recorded on their sisters little tape box and put out. We wanna lift ourselves above that level. Don't get me wrong. That's cool because those bands are trying and that's kickin' ass. As for record companies well the more and better material helps your presentation too. The better things are done the better offers we will receive.

BT.: How much work do you all put into VB?

J.J.: I work very close with business and writing music, Gary Lee is a playing freak when he's not writing new songs he's building up his playing speed. Scott's just beginning to set very comfortable in the band. He does alot of work with the road crew in terms of instructions etc.

BT.: Are all the lyrics important for you and what do you write about?

J.J.: Lyrics, I love lyrics. When I pick out a song I like it usually because of lyrics. A lot of what I write about is anger, disgust which turns into motivation. You know theres a lot of people who don't deserve to be where they are and that pisses me off because I work

harder in one night than they ever will. People who don't believe in what I say pisses me off because plenty of them are finding out now that we're making it, because of great people like you, they can kiss my ass. I and the band have been lauged at, told we suck and what not. And now, Ha! Come talk to me when you're number one, talk to me when you're in all the magazines! You know they never will be and that inspires me alot. Finally religion, but in most cases like Sabbath, Dio, Twisted Sister etc. What I write about is complete opposite of what people think. So whatever...

BT.: How did Bob become your manager?

J.J.: Bob and I have been friends for a couple of years. So with us it was like I've got a magazine and know some people and I've got a band and wanna kick some ass. NUFF SAID, NO CONTRACTS NO MONEY INVOLVED just the satisfaction of furt-hering Heavy Metal!

BT.: Future plans?

J.J.: To continue to kick some more ass, live in N.Y., N.J. and PA. Hopefully to hit more of Northeastern United States. Getting an album and playing all over America, Europe, Australia, Japan. Man you know that's all a long way off but little by little we're gonna get there..... Then lookout!

BT.: Anything to add?

J.J.: Shit yeah! Tell everyone to keep banging to all the great Metal. And man we're gonna come to see everyone one day. We're gonna keep busting our balls till we've played everywhere and then we'll go back and do it again. I aint gonna let anyone down. Man I love fuckin' Metal 24 hours a day. If I let them down I let myself down and I'm not gonna do that. One other thing: When we get our masterplan in full going, we're gonna have, not only the guys into Power Metal, but the girls down front thrashing too! I think it's a shame they miss out on it!

Henk and Esben: You guys are great and always remember: SPEED KILLS!

Blacktask

Blacktask was formed back in October '83, by Warren Appleby (vocals, at that time also lead guitarist), Jim Trub (drums), Gus Santiago (bass) and a unnamed rhythm guitarist. In January '84 Steve Kristiansen (guitar) joins. Then Warren turns his attention towards vocals and the band become a five piece. In June '84 the unnamed guitarist got fired for being a total poser. He tried to change the band into a imitation of Rott and Mostly Crap. The band decides to remain as a four piece, with Steve handling all the guitar work. In September '84 Blacktask releases their first demo. It's a four track demo. Blacktask didn't send this demo to me, instead they send me their four track E.P. This was released in May '85 for Dammation Rec. Track list is "Sex and Destruction", "Kill Your Enemies", "Firestorm" and "Smash Your Face". It's the first I've heard with Blacktask and I think it's great. Their style can best be described as Thrash/Power Metal. First track S.A.D. is a little punky, I'm referring to the way Warren sings the chorus, but what the hell it's a great album anyway. I'll surely recommend it to you, especially if you like a real distort guitar. This great E.P. and their demo has given Blacktask lots of airplay. One station worth to mention is "The Witching Hour" (Monte Conner). In April '85 they were no. 11, ahead of bands like Destruction, Celtic, Death, Sodom, Dark Angel etc., with their demo. Well, I think it's time to tell you how you can obtain a copy of the Blacktask E.P. If you live in the US, the price is US \$ 6.00. If you live in Europe the price is a whole lot different, those fuckin' postrates! Then it's US \$ 10.00. Yeah, that's expensive, so maybe we Europeans have to wait and pray for world wide release. Maybe you should order their demo, it's cheaper. US \$ 5.00 in USA and 7.00 in Europe. I haven't heard the demo, I hope to review this in the next issue of BLACKTHORN, so I can give you a hint concerning an investment in this demo.

Here comes the address if you're interested.

Blacktask, c/o Warren Appleby, 504 Kendrick St., Philadelphia, PA 19111, USA.
All checks and moneyorders shall be made payable to Warren Appleby.

Mercyful Fate

King Diamond

As you all properly know, King Diamond has left Mercyful Fate and made his own band KING DIAMOND. BLACKTHORN brings, as one of the first, an exclusive K.D. interview about KING DIAMOND and what went wrong in Mercyful.



Who broke the oath?

-Whom did you form the new band with?
I've heard something about a Swede, right?
-Yes, there's a Swedish guitarist called Floyd, maybe he's coming here in a while.
-How's the style gonna be?
-The music won't change very much. It'll be the same as Mercyful.
-New or old Mercyful?
-It'll be a mix of both old and new. There's a difference between "Melissa" and "The Oath".
-There's also a difference from the first ("A Corpse Without Soul").
-Oh yes, but I don't think it's that style we'll be doing. What was happening on the first album, was that we didn't get time enough to finish it, as we wanted it to be. It's very short on sing seconds, second guitar's and so on. It was simply licktysplit, with no time for guitar solo's or anything. Some of the singing just had to be first take, there was no time to change it. Very bad terms. So all these great ideas you had prepared: Screams here, solos there and ecco - no no, there wasn't just time for it. It was very thin. You can also hear it on the sound, it's very thin. Actually the sound has become better and better. The guitar sound here on our coming lp has to be right in top. I think it never was. It could have been rough - simply more raw. It has always seemed like it was a bit too mute.
-It has indeed not been the most outstanding.
-No, it's more the music in general, which is the special thing. On this point we've been so

lucky, that we've made a style, which no other is doing. I damned haven't heard a single band in the whole world who's playing in the same way as we're doing. And I think this has been a benefit to us, that it has been special.

-What now about Mercyful?

-Mercyful isn't gonna exist any longer!

-What about the others, do they continue?

-Hank has started something. He has found another singer, drummer and bassist.

-What then about Kim Ruzz?

-I don't know what he has in mind. But a fact is that this is going to continue in the same band. You know, there were some person's who disagreed with each other about the music style on the next record.

-There were some rumours about Hank and Denner leaving Mercyful in August ('84)!

-It was sheer rumours, simply just shit. It has also been said that I left Mercyful. It was in a Dutch mag, just before our US-tour. Meanwhile we were on a great tour over there, Metal Hammer brought the news, that they had left the band and joined Artillery. There you are - I thought to myself - over here we're touring on full speed. Yes, yes - sheer rumours.

This is the first time, something has really happened. There were disagreements, or I won't say disagreements. There were different opinions both according to how the show should be, and then the music style on the next album. Some wanted to mix a whole lot of music styles, which some of us indeed not could accept. We were drifting more and more apart. This is going to continue in the Mercyful style, that's clear. No doubt about that. There's only one difference: The show will be much bigger.

-What about the songs you had ready for the new Mercyful album. Will they be dropped? Or is there copyright on them?

-It was some of the songs I wrote. So the rights is reserved for me. I think I had 4-5 songs ready for the new lp with texts and all the shit. Prepared sing seconds, guitar harmonies and everything. Hank had his material too, and Denner had a few tracks, which were more or less finished. Then there were - You know, I don't like Hank's style - what he had made just didn't fit the Mercyful style. So I could indeed not accept it. Later it showed up that the others couldn't accept it either, and agreed that the next album should be stinking raw.

-Hank wrote the music to "Melissa", didn't he?

-Yes, Hank wrote all the music to "Melissa". I wrote 2 songs to "The Oath" alone and 1 with Denner and Hank the rest.

-How do you write the songs. Together, or do you each sit at home?

-I've made alot at home. At last Denner and I have worked together. We've played together and worked out tracks, with sing seconds, you know, which gives the right atmosphere and with special accords at the guitar. It was all prepared. We had worked together with some of his ideas

and some of mine. Right now we have 7 tracks, which I've written and 3 we've made together. -You once talked about a heavy opera. How about that?

-What's happening now on this record, I can tell you a bit of now. It's going to be a trilogy: 3 songs which textual is completely connected, musically as well, via some choir and so on, instead of breaks which connect the songs. Actually it's one track. It'll be named "Fatal Portrait". It's of 16 min. 10 sec. It consists 3 undertitles called : "The Candle", "The Jonah" and "The Portrait". They're chained together, but you can when you play them live, play them in any order you wish. In fact it's a giant thriller with references from the second act to the first, the third to the first, the second to the third..... super super complicated. If you're reading the texts right, you'll find many connections. There's made a whole lot of entirety on this record, because there's a certain very occult theme appearing several times. An example is in the end of the last song on the record. I think it'll be entitled "The Lake", this theme appears and there's another place on side 2 where it appears only in shape of vocals. There's a big choir building up on this theme. It's something called "Voices From The Past" where you think you've got rid of the 3 songs, which will be on side 1, then there's a track independent of the 3. On side 2 come 2 songs and suddenly the theme comes again - "Oh fuck, I thought I've got rid of that" - Then there are two more songs and when the last song dies so, I can't tell how it's gonna sound, but there'll be a lot of voices aaaahhh, you know! Then it fades away, and the old theme comes again aaahh ooooohhh, you know what I mean, don't you?!, with some crazy screams and laughter.



From the very last MF concert.

Photo : Esben Slot Sørensen

But I don't know about the opera you mentioned. It's something planned for the next lp. Call it an opera or what you like. It'll be one unbroken history. The music doesn't necessarily need to be connected. It'll be a big project. I got most of the title, I just need the name of a nice girl, whose life will be described. It'll be entitled "The Case of.... Merriam". What she's called then I'm not sure of yet, because there shall be a reference from this record too. There'll appear a person who'll appear on the next lp too. It'll be written in a special way - like a diary. The undertitles will be dated back in time. The first date is when this little girl is born. It's the day Lavey established the church in USA in 1966. Maybe the next song will be "The Birth" or something like that. It's supposed to be her mother, who has written a diary over her life, and of course some great things gonna happen. This is all ideas of the next album. You see, the plans are ok. It's not just like : "Now we're goddamn gonna make a new band". It's planned to the smallest detail. -This means that you've planned this several months ago?

-It was planned a month before we played our last concert here in Copenhagen. We didn't tell it to anyone. There was no need to spoil the last concert. It was simply just the last Merciful concert. People was told the day after. -By the way : Endings with mysterious sentences. What do you say at the end of "Melissa"? -Oh, what is said there? What the fuck is it now? Oh it's "I think Melissa is still with us". It was also the meaning with "The Oath" that we won't print the intro. Then people could sit and think : "What exactly is he saying there"? It's supposed to be a person walking in a cemetery with a chapel. Suddenly as he passes the chapel it begins to rain and thunder and he thinks : What the fucks happens here? Then he sees light from the chapel, walks up the stairs and looks into the chapel. In there is standing only one person in a long black coat. The organ begins to play by itself. It was the thought I had in mind when I wrote it. That's why you hear the voice very sonorous in the background. It's heard from the one outside, you can hear the rain very clearly. -What about video? This must be an obvious scene for a video! -Sure, this will absolutely be under discussion. It's perfect to make videos on. There shall be no blood and all that crap, but shock and horror you know that's the thing! -Haven't you used blood before? Wasn't it something with pig blood? -It was goddamn human blood! But it goes very long back. -This about the burning cross, have you dropped that, or was it just here in Copenhagen? -It wasn't allowed to have open fire in there. It's absolutely not dropped, it'll appear in the new show, that's clear. The bombs we burned were also brand illegal. Some guy checked how big they were. The person, who made our bombs, produced a minibomb and gave a demonstration. "Puff" it said - ah, no they couldn't be dangerous. We burned some real big ones off on the stage. Ha ha! -What about the show, will it be the same? -It'll be considerably bigger, that's for sure! We have already a model of it. It's gonna be real big! We have to build 2 sets. A giant for USA and a smaller one for Europa. The halls are simply bigger in USA. -What about tours? Have you planned some? -Some festivals are being fixed this summer. The plan is to start in USA. It depends on when the album will be released. We go in the studio this June. If released in September, we'll start in USA in October. If released in October we'll start in Europe, and go to USA in February, when they've got through their fuckin' winter. -Have you all agreed about the name KING DIAMOND? -Yes indeed. We're not gonna use the name Merciful Fate any longer. This is another band, though it's the same music style. Without being stuckedup : The name KING DIAMOND has been written twice as many times as Merciful in the mags. And if there were a picture of Merciful, then it was my mask/face etc. It has been the same all the way through. -You have always said you were tired of being the main figure. You've tried to get the others further on. -Yes, on the stage etc. Make something special out of yourself, goddamn it! Take a band as Ozzy Osbourne for example. Of course he's the main figure, right?! But what about the drummer, what about the guitarist Jake E. Lee they are stars themselves. They have separate interviews in the mags etc. Just go for it! The more people appearing with interviews in the mags, the more the band will come in the mags and the it sells. Instead of only one person. -It's funny. It was like Merciful was escalated to that it was only King Diamond. Nobody was interested in the other members. -It's also a question of how you tell a story. When we played at the Heavy Sound Festival in Belgium, all from the band made interviews.

Then this funny thing happened. (It doesn't matter who it was.) One from the band made an interview with Aardschok who's very hooked on Mercyful : two small columns. Then I made one to the French Enfer : 2 1/2 pages! Isn't that strange? Having just made "The Oath" there was enough to talk about. The person we're talking about said something like, "We have just recorded a new album. It's heavy and we have made guitar sound on it....." While I said "A new technique is used, new guitar sound. We've recorded the guitar in a completely different way with twice as many rhythm guitars and mixed the two sounds, to a much bigger guitar picture....." And then I would tell them about our new show, it's clear they're begging for the story. They are gonna have it. Some are better than others to speak and speak and speak. Sometimes it might have been a bit irritating. In USA I hadn't goddamn time to do a shit. It was simply a 24 hour job. You arrived in a city. Then you had instore. You could just get a cop of coffee, then down and sign autographs. Unfortunately there was a certain mister who never participated. A shame! Interviews and such things - no! "No thank you, go and talk to him over there". And that's a shame, because it's exactly this which features a band as a unite.

-I think Timi has tried a little!

-Oh yes, absolutely. And I think it's great. That's the way it shall be. It's up to yourself to do a personality out of yourself.

-You can see it on the stage, too. He's more characteristic.

-Yes, he certainly is! And that's what you miss a bit. The new guitarist should be absolutely wild on stage, it suites us perfect.

-Has he played in a band before?

-Yes, but it's no one you've heard of. Again a lack of professional engagement among certain persons in the bands he has played in.

-By the way, you've lost Melissa, right?

-Yes.

-Wasn't it a whole skull?

-Yes, I still have the jaw and the top. You can see. I have another skull here, it's very dark, so it has been in the earth for some years.

-How on earth do you get them?

-This one I've got from a doctor. The bones are from another doctor. One who's teaching medical students. And obviously they got the custom to "rip off" the bodies to the bones after class. Sounds tough, huh? Then it's no problem to steal a few bones.

-What do you think about of Bob Muldowney from Kick Ass? He once wrote : "Do you like K.D., or do you like HM!"

-I don't care. Bad references are better than no references at all. Our fans are very loyal. We won't lose a single fan. In almost all our fan mail there's written : "K.D. is God, K.D. is Mercyful" etc. Then you know who you can trust. Then there's one out of 1000 saying : "Dear Management, won't you please fire K.D., because he can't sing. He'd better go to the opera". Then you see where we are. What types are they. They don't understand a dick of anything. If opera singers can't sing, then I goddamn it don't know who can sing. They're such types who don't understand a bit classic influence and some great choirs.

-Have you ever went to song lessons?

-No, not a single one! There's always someone who dislikes you. No matter where and how. Even among the Danish bands. You always get shit in your head. You must learn to ignore it. There once was an article in "The Globe", the biggest "Yellow paper" in USA. On the first page I'm standing with the skull and freaks a bit out. And then there is a big headline : "Satanic Rockers Threaten our Kids". Great, right?! Below the picture : "K.D. is sacreligious". Oh, ugh! And then things like : "Danish doomrockers curse outrage across America". Great publicity! Thank you very much! Then there were two promoters from Pittsburgh and Norfolk (where we were forbidden to play) who said : "When we realized what it was, we shouldn't have anything with that to do!". They know NOTHING of what's going on! They only know it from their stupid little bible - You're evil!

-Have you ever had problems with the Major Majority?

-No, not at all! We have signed autographs and people were just wild. They're superenthusiasts. I think our fans are some of the most fanatic ones you'll ever dreamed of. It's no bullshit, and there were 3-5000 at a time. What we're doing is no different from what Alice Cooper did, at the beginning of the seventies. The parents forbade their children to go to his concerts. Exactly therefore they sneaked away - out to see Alice Cooper! What was so dangerous about that? And they wouldn't see his records in their houses, and then it was : down to buy his records, to hear what it was. It aroused 10 times more interest. Strange enough, because that is not why we've chosen that image - there's something real behind it!

-Now, I think you were some of the first too!

-OK, that means a lot to be original. People say : Bah, Black Sabbath were 10 times before you. But they never were on the right side of the case. They've always been standing far away with big Christian crosses saying "Beware, Satan's standing down there he's dangerous!" Again the old "bible-Satan" and not the Satan I'm talking about. On the next album, I've dropped the word Satan. Because people simply misunderstand it, and I won't hear that! So I'll describe it "The Unknown Powers/Powers of Darkness". Call it whatever you want, but it's powers it's concerning about, and it covers one word : Satan! But when people hear the word Satan, it's a person with horns and flames etc. No matter how many times you tell them : "It's not!" - "Yes it is! and you're evil" etc. I'm not interested in hurting anybody. On the contrary we shall have it as great as possible here on earth.

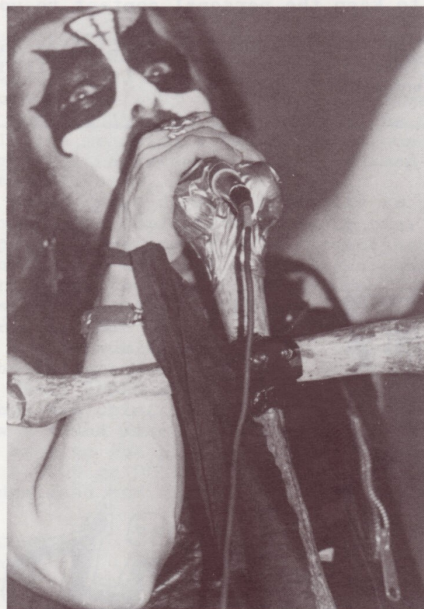


Photo : Esben Slot Sørensen

Does it taste good?

-The cover on your first mini-album (A Corpse Without Soul) shows a Christian view of Satanism, why?

-No, this is meant in a whole opposite way. It's a super provocative cover owing to what the Christians did 3-400 years back. How they simply slaughtered everybody who wouldn't believe in God. Just off with your head. Later on it became a bit smarter. There was more torture in burning and drowning them. Long needles were stuck into the body of someone who hadn't done a shit! Usually when a witchhunter came to a village, he found a pretty girl, and if she didn't want it then : "She's... and Satan bla bla" You know. "We must find the mark." And then they thrust their needles in her body. Finally she was insensible of pain, and couldn't scream anymore "Aha - we've found the point". Out and pin her and down to the nearest river. If she floated, she was a witch, and she was burned. If she drowned : "OK, we

were wrong, sorry!" That's how it was. And therefore we made the cover as a contrast. A Satan cult burning a nun on a cross. And it's only a fuckin' piece of paper with a picture on it. How many priests do you think have been scandalized at it? "This is the nastiest and ugliest I've ever seen. And then they even do it live. Hanging up a halfnaked lady on a cross, saying it's a nun whom they'll burn". We don't burn her right. Think of how many they really burned then! Simply hypocrisy! Not a shit else. A strong provocation but just legitimate, because they're doing themselves so fuckin' holy, and they're not! There's nobody more holy than others. Obviously you have to be careful about using the words Satan and Lucifer. Therefore it's described in a totally different way on the next album. Everybody will understand it unequivocal it's cutted out in cardboard Powers of Darkness. As said before, my Satanisme is not the Christian Satanisme.

-No, like Venom and lots of others.

-No, Venom is directly out from the Christian bible. There shall be as much blood as possible etc. I think that's cool enough, but they're just damaging the movement Lavey started.

-Who made the new logo?

-I did.

-What about spare time?

-I simply haven't what's called spare time. Daily it's out rehearsing. Days when I'm off, the phone's on from 10 morning to 6 afternoon. It's 50% business and 50% music. That's just the way it is. No band can exist by playing music and think business makes itself.

-Lots of bands get a management as soon as they come out on vinyl. You still publish your private address, to keep the personal contact to your fans?

-No, and yes. But the fact is that we've had some bad experiences with managements, so I'll do the business myself.

-What about live concerts? Will you play old Mercyful tracks?

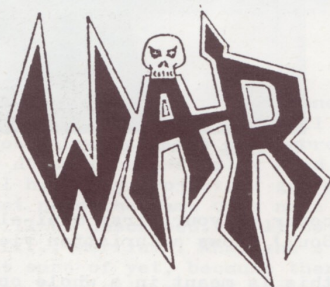
-Yes, there will be played some old Mercyful tracks, 4 to be exact.

-Thanx a lot for the interview!

-Yes, it was a fuckin' nice chat! So now you can go home and write 6 pages King Diamond exclusive. Ha, Ha.



A lesson in Vio.. guitarplaying?



At War, a three piece from USA, Virginia. It's always a great pleasure to receive a demo from American bands. They know how to produce a demo. They don't do many rehearsing recorded demo's. Just the opposite of German bands.

At War consists of Shawn Helsel (guitar), Dave Stone (drums) and Paul Arnold (bass and vocals). A very typical Hardcore line-up. They was formed in '84 and soon they gained a substantial underground following. They soon realized that Virginia wasn't a place with lots of Thrashers. After a couple of gigs they decided to record their first demo, so more people could hear what they stood for. They recorded a 2-track demo, with the tracks "Rapechase" and "Eat Lead". Soon this demo gave results. Which is well earned, because it's great.

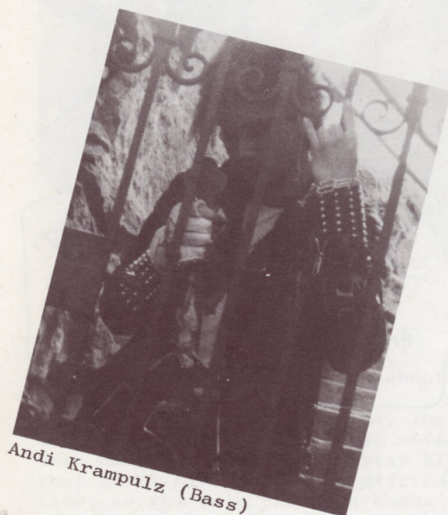
They've been signed with "New Renaissance" Rec. for a spot on their upcoming comp. lp entitled "Speed Metal". This should be released when you read this!

At War have also started writing material for their first E.P. This should be out at the end of '85. Their demo is still available, let me tell you a little about it. It has a great production, a quality cover including the lyrics. The most important thing is of course the music. This is sheer THRASH POWER Metal. It's hard to compare them with someone. If you want to get hold of a copy of the demo, please send US \$ 4.00 to Megaton Management, 1979 Oceana Blvd., Virginia Beach, VA 23454, USA. Money orders shall be made payable to Lynn Peterman.

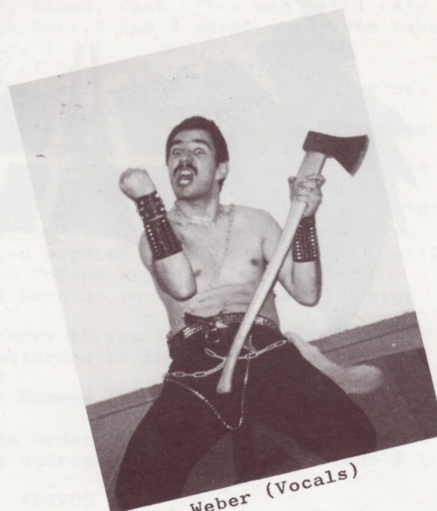
Poison



infernal massacre



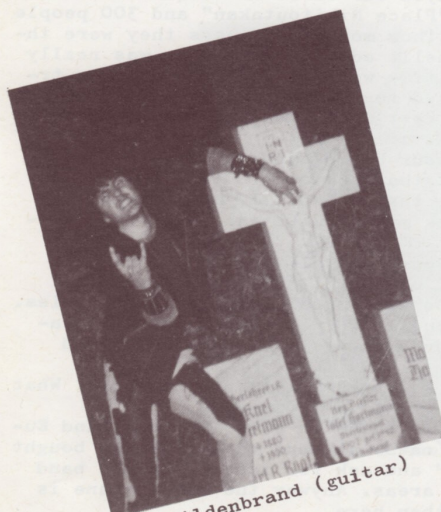
Andi Krampulz (Bass)



Armin Weber (Vocals)

Poison is another German Black/Speed Metal band. They call themselves "...The new dimension of ultra Hardcore BLACK METAL". Uli Hildenbrand (guitar) and Armin Weber (vocal) got together in the autumn of 1982. Both of them admired the Hardcore Metal style, and decided to form a Black Metal band in the same mould as their favourites Venom played it. 1983 they found a drummer. For unknown reasons the drummer is unnamed. He left the band in January 1984, because he didn't believe in the band, and was replaced by Alex Gilliar. In the meantime a bassist was found, Andi Krampulz. The first crew wrote a lot of "slow" songs. The replacement of the unnamed drummer resulted in a number of fast songs. A mix of Zn8white and Venom. In September '84 they recorded the demo "Sons of Evil", their first demo. The quality is very low, just as low as Hellhammer's "Triumph of Death"-demo. Poison admit this in their bio. They explain, the bad sound has to do with the bad band equipment. Sometimes you wonder whether they play a rhythm or they are making as much noise as possible. This symptom especially appears in the fast tracks. I recommend Poison to buy some new gear before they record a new one. They won't get far as they are now. The music material sounds good enough, but the sound, their ensemble playing and Armin's way of singing has to be improved. When this is done then they should go into a proper studio and record a 4-track demo. Such a demo would undoubtedly be recommended by all Death and Speed Metal mags. "Sons of Evil" will be recommended by none. I won't recommend it, unless you're one of those who has to have all BLACK SPEED METAL releases, including those of bad sound quality, or unless you want to get your own opinion of an up and coming great BLACK SPEED METAL band, if they'll follow my advice. Now I sound like a smart ass, but you'll probably agree with me, if you hear the demo. Let's get back to the point. I won't recommend it it's too noisy. If you want a copy of the demo, send US \$ 5.00 or DM 10.00 to the contact address below. You'll get a 45 min. long demo tape, logo (designed and drawn by Uli Hildenbrand) and lyrics.

BLACK FUCKIN' METAL RECORDINGS
c/o Peter "Herbie" Hermann
Unterer Hasenkopfweg 17
7900 Ulm/Donau
West Germany



Uli Hildenbrand (guitar)



Alex Gilliar (Drums)



LONG FIGHT TO VOIVOD,
THE IRON GANG, HENK
AND BLACKTHORN!!!

"RRRRRRROOOOAAAARRRR!!!", here is the promised VoIvod article. In December '84 VoIvod were on a "Morgöth Invasion", which resulted in a live tape. It contains new and old tracks and two cover versions. The old tracks are - "War and Pain", "Condemned to the Gallows", "Warriors of Ice", "Helldriver", "Nuclear War", "Black City", "Blower", "Live for Violence", "Iron Gang" and of course "Suck Your Bone". All these "old" tracks are played in the typical VoIvod vein, just fuckin' faster, so you know what you can expect when you get in touch with this live tape. The cover versions VoIvod do on this live tape are in order Venom's "Witching Hour" and Slayer's "Chemical Warfare". I've always had respect for VoIvod when they do cover versions, because they can do proper cover versions, not like Metallica. But when they copy my favorite band, Slayer, and even their best track, then I get disappointed, because Slayer is so great that you can't make a proper cover version. (Sorry VoIvod!). But the "Witching Hour" cover version is done great, nearly as great as Venom can play it. I say nearly because a vover version can of course not be as great as the real stuff. The new tracks on this live tape are : "Built Your Weapons", "Horror", "Ripping Headaches" and "Korgüll The Exterminator". These tracks including "Helldriver" will appear on their second album "RRRRROOOOAAAARRRR" along with "Trashing Rage", "Fuck off and Die" and others. The new tracks, including "Helldriver" which appears on this live tape, sound promising for the second scream from VoIvod "RRRRROOOOAAAARRRR". The new tracks are faster than the old VoIvod tracks, and with more melody! The best of the new ones is "Horror". It's so fast you won't believe it. "Korgüll the Exterminator" is a melodic track and oohh so great, I can't fuckin' wait to hear it on vinyl. It's also lovely to hear how Blacky uses his bass and what a sound it has, oohhhh I nearly get an orgasme, it's a fuckin' great band. Can you imagine how I would talk about Slayer? But let's get back to the VoIvod live tape. The sound quality is great. Maybe it's a little darksounded but this can be cured by turning up the volume, I can never hear it, ha ha! ViIvod are also one of the few bands who talk with it's audience but you won't understand a shit, 'cause they talk fuckin' French. But of course you don't give a shit. You don't buy this live tape to hear VoIvod talk. You buy it for the music. I guess you already have ordered it, so highly I've talked about it so far. Otherwise do it now. You must have this live tape. It's the BEST!

VoIvod don't gig and rehearse all the time, so recently they were at a W.A.S.P./Metallica gig (What a wimp gig!) to have some fun. Metallica did a good performance, according to VoIvod, I can't imagine it. After Metallica W.A.S.P. came with their comic outfits and their sleeping intro. At this time all the Montreal bangers (no THRASHERS to a gig like this, of course) started to scream "Suck Your Bone" and showed their Metallica T-shirts and also their finger to W. A.S.P. After about 4 songs Blacky (the VoIvod one) takes some beer cans and fly them at Blackie's face. Hopefully the beer cans were undamaged. Soon after Blacky flew outdoors, with a little help from the bouncers. Some other guys imitated Blacky and out they went. But what the fuck it's better freezeing to death, than listen to crap like W.A.S.P.

Let's hope VoIvod soon get started on their planned US tour, so they can show the wimps how to handle a gig. If you want to know when you can see VoIvod, then please contact them because I still don't know the dates. All I know is that it will be in summer '85, Europe properly later. I've contacted VoIvod for an interview. Here's the result.

BT.: Hi VoIvod, I have some questions I hope you'll answer. The first one, how was your first gig?

Piggy : We played our first in Jonquiere in a place called "Place Nikitoutakan" and 300 people were watching (how modest, I guess they were thrashing like hell. ed.) and the show was really good. At that time we only had 3 of our own tracks, "Condemned to the Gallow", "VoIvod" and "Blower", the rest was covers of Venom, Motörhead and Raven.

BT.: Blacky, your bass sound is very special. How do you get that sound?

Blacky : Oohh, that's easy. I just plug in my bars and cranck my MARSHALL amp up at full volume.

BT.: Why did you start playing?

Piggy : All of us started playing because we loved Heavy rock and Metal since we were babies. In the beginning we were playing sepreately along with records and so, but soon we formed VoIvod.

BT.: That was a little talk about the past. What do you expect of '85?

Snake : We really hope to play in the US and Europe in '85, 'cause all our real fans who bought "War and Pain" and ask for info about the band live in these areas. Anyway the metal scene is better there than here.



Voivod

BT.: You sound disappointed about the metal scene in Canada. How is it?

Piggy : I'll answer that one. The Canadian metal scene is not big and all the metal bands from here have difficulties to stay alive. We know that Anvil also have some difficulties at this time, so the only Canadian bands who have a chance for a break through will be us and Exciter.

Anyway we have played with Exciter and they're really great, but we don't speak too much with them, so you can see that the band connection isn't good either.

BT.: Who writes your texts?

Snake : I write all lyrics. I talk about war, pain, zombies, blood, fast bikes and "if I only had one minute left." And I surely hope you take them seriously, I do!

BT.: Does any of you work or study?

Away : No, I'm the last who left school for being in Voivod. We're all totally into Voivod. It's our life style. We put all energy and time in our music and band.

BT.: When you work so hard with Voivod, then I presume your new LP will be out soon.

Away : No, it won't be out before the summer '85. The title will be : "RRRROOOAAARRRR". But I've already started working on the cover and it will be in the true Voivod style.

BT.: Great! I have no more questions. Anything to add?

Voivod : We hurry to you to play in Europe. It seems that Amsterdam is the craziest place of the castle???

But maybe all Europe is??????

If you want to order the live tape, then send \$ 7.00 to the address below. Please include \$ 1 for P&P.

VOIVOD
4154 Des Epinettes
Jonquire
Quebec
G8A 1R7
CANADA

BATHORY

It's hard to imagine, that the fastest fuckin' satanic based metal ever done by a mortal, just to use Quorthon's own words, is hailing from Sweden, the land of melodic metal bands. Bathory became quite well known among Hardcore Metal freaks for more than a year ago, after their appearance on the Scandinavian Metal Attack sampler. This compilation album didn't feature just one Danish band!? Soon after Bathory released their first LP, (very short about 25 min.) simply called Bathory. This album sold well after the circumstances, it wasn't released worldwide, about 15.000 copies. Since then, it has been pretty quiet on the Bathory front. The reason is undoubtful that Quorthon has been alone in Bathory for the last year. It most have been a busy period for him. He wrote 11 new tracks, which will be featured on the new Bathory album, titled "The Return...". It should be available now. The album must have been recorded with studio musicians, Bathory being still out of members. The new album is said to be much better. It's fast and the sound quality is better. "Bathory" was recorded in 68 hours and it took about a week to record "The Return..." Beneth Quorthon tells a bit of what's going on.



These spots are Quorthon!?

Hi Quorthon, how's about an interview?

Oh, I would like to thank you when you say that you really wants to do an interview with BATHORY as Blackthorn only features the very fastest/hardest/heaviest/Thrash/Speed/Death/Black fuckin' metal... I dont see it as a must to be the fastest band in the world, but the new BATHORY album "The Return..." are probably the fastest fucking Satanic based metal ever done by a mortal...

BT: Don't you think it's a bit short LP you've recorded? It's only about 25 min.

Quorthon : Well, to tell you the very truth I was a bit afraid that we wouldn't be able to release the "Bathory" album as an album 'cause it really is a bit short, but I didn't have more songs at that time and the record company really wanted to do an album with BATHORY to see what it would sell. From the "SMA" sampler BATHORY was the band to receive best respons. With an BATHORY album it would be much more easy to see the whole respons and wherefrom it would come. Now we know that BATHORY sells and that there are a big interest in the band world wide. So now we can concentrate on a good, fast, death fucking speed metal album with good lyrics and good fast songs.

BT: What's your future plans? We haven't heard new from you for quite a long time, what's the matter?

Quorthon : Well, the reason is that BATHORY has been out of members (and still are) I have tried to set up a good BATHORY line-up but it really seems to be fucking impossible, I even tried to get the drummer from ARTILLERY once (Carsten) and I had a few guys in USA who were interested to join BATHORY.

As soon as a good BATHORY line-up has been set up then you can expect a lot of stuff from BATHORY in the future.

BT: As you sure know, you're quite popular among the underground freaks around the world - but how many copies of your LP have you actually sold worldwide?

Quorthon : Yes, I know that we are quite well known in "the pits" and after that review of the "Bathory" album in Kerrang! I believe the interest for the band has become even bigger. (????? ed.)

About the album selling, I don't know exactly how much it has sold. I believe it has sold very good, much better than we thought it would do. All I know is that in Sweden it has sold about 5,000 and in West Germany I believe it has sold about 7,000 in USA and other countries I think it has sold some thousands. Right now we are dealing with some major labels around the world to get the new BATHORY album released on license worldwide, that's another reason why we want to wait a bit before we release the new album.

BT: Your lyrics are all very satanic influenced - Do you expound "The Satanic Bible" or are you composing them yourself?

Quorthon : Of course I write the lyrics myself. When I do the songs and lyrics to BATHORY I do everything I possibly can to prevent being influenced by any band.

I don't just sit down and listen to "whatever they might be called", I very often picture a scene and write down what I "see" and "feel". When I write the songs I usually get a good riff out of a lyric or just sit down and jam a bit.

BT: Do you take these texts seriously, or are you just "jumping on the Black Metal band wagon"?

Quorthon : I sing about the occult business and Satan because it all fascinates me. I don't sing about it because I think it's cool and just to jump on the Black Metal band wagon as you express it.

If I was into science fiction then I'd be about that right?

I really feel sorry for those bands who use the occult business to benefit themselves about having mags writing about 'em and all that. This isn't really just an image, I dress almost the same off BATHORY as what I look on the pix. About "The Satanic Bible", I've got it and it's good to read and so on but if you want to be influenced by some book then I think that the Christian Bible are better to read from that point.

BT: How old are you?

Quorthon : Well, let's say I was born in the middle of the sixties...

BT: That'll say about 20. Do you then go to school, work or are you exclusive playing in the band?

Quorthon : I left the school at the age of 14 'cause I never did what they told me to and I dressed up in a way the teachers couldn't stand and so on. Then I started to work some here and some there and then I started BATHORY and now I only concentrate on BATHORY.

BT: Anything to add?

Quorthon : Well, I can tell you a bit about the start. BATHORY was formed by me and two other guys in the beginning of March 1983.

We got into contact with a record company (Tyfon Grammofon AB) and I told 'em that this Speed Metal with occult influences was a thing that would come strong in the future so they decided to record two songs with us for the "SMA" sampler.

Shortly after the release of "SMA" I gave the other guys the kick. Since that day I have had a really hard time trying to get the band together again with good members.

I have tried a few guys and played and added some others but some months later I just can't stand 'em any longer.

A lot of people have compared us with bands like Hellhammer/Celtic Compost, Venom and Slayer, Destruction, Sodom and VoI...urrrk...vod.

I quite like the "Black Metal" album of Venom and Slayer never loses every though they play it fast.

Hellhammer/Celtic Compost are the biggest fuckin' shit I have ever heard, Sodom and Destruction are better than Hh/Cc and I have good contact with S and D. About VoIvod... They fucking stink and they are just as bad as Hh/Cc, to be telling you the truth Esben, I really don't think BATHORY sounds like any of these bands at all.

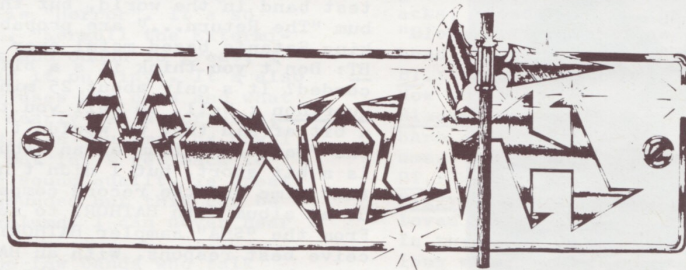
BATHORY are better than 'em all, faster than 'em all and also BATHORY are not wimps like Hh/Cc!

The new album "The Return..." contains eleven tracks : "Total Destruction", "Reap of Evil", "The Rite of Darkness", "Possessed", "Bestial Lust (bitch)", "The Winds of Mayhem", "The Return of the Darkness and Evil", "Son of the Damned", "Sadist (Tormentor)", "Born for Burning" and a BATHORY sound track that I haven't titled yet.

It is really fast and the sound is better than the last album, then it took 68 hours to record the album this time took a week, so I guess it will get A MUCH BETTER response than the first album...

By the way, if you're one of those who never received the Bathory T-shirt you ordered, you will receive "The Return..." T-shirt instead. Write to :

BATHORY
c/o Boss Production Inc.
Tyfon Grammofon AB
Box 14
163 93 Stockholm
Sweden



Monolith together with Bulldozer makes the top of Italian HM. Italy has always been known for their useless HM bands. This has now come to a change. Monolith have broken the prejudice with their demo "An Eye For An Eye, A Tooth For A Tooth!" They were formed in '82 and have gone through several changes in the line up. They've played some festivals around Italy. The style on the demo is rather melodic in the Anvil/Rush/Riot vein. The guitar isn't very raw. I'm sure this 8-track demo will give them a contract with a major label. But I have my doubts when it comes to the Thrashers. Will it be welcome in the home of a real Thrasher? I don't think so! Make your own experience. Write to : Maurizio Passaglia, Via Sauro 139, 55049 Via-Reggio-LU, Italy.

In a lot of mags records are given marks from 1-10. However, we don't think this is enough to classify the records. Therefore we'll use the marks from 03-13 which some will recognize from the Danish school system. When using the individual steps on the scale the following values apply :

- 13 : Is given for the unusually independent and excellent performance.
- 11 : Is given for the independent and excellent performance.
- 10 : Is given for the excellent but routine performance.
- 9 : Is given for the good performance a little above average.
- 8 : Is given for the average performance.
- 7 : Is given for the passable performance slightly below average.
- 6 : Is given for the somewhat hesitant but more or less satisfactory performance.
- 5 : Is given for the hesitant and not satisfactory performance.
- 03 : Is given for the very hesitant, very imperfect and unsatisfactory performance.
- 00 : Is given for the completely unacceptable performance.



Metal Massacre VI

The MM records have always been a springboard for a lot of bands Slayer, Tyrant, Savage Grace, Trauma and Znôwhite just to mention a few. Therefore a new MM is always an experience. Well, no. V was a flop, due to the bad production. No. VI contains 11 bands. Starting from the beginning we find Possessed. They're featured with "Swing of the Axe". A track which contains some real fast and heavy guitar rhythms. The drummer on the other hand is an real amateur. He can't keep the rhythm. When Mike T. plays solo the drummer plays a sort of outro, if you know what I mean. Still it's the 2nd best band on this album. Next is Nasty Savage with "XXX", a real heavy track but sometimes a little polished. Steel Assassin is featured with "Executioner". A Heavy Metal track in the Judas/Maiden mould. Mayhem with "Tear Down the Walls" is a lot better, a sort of Speed Metal with melody. The Hades track "Easy Way Out" starts off with babies crying. This is the most exciting in this track. A very bad ending finishes side 1. Hallow's Eve start side 2 with "Metal Merchants". A Power Metal track, with lots of great rhythmshifts. The Speed/Power Metal band Hirax follows with "Bombs of Death", a great track, the 3rd best on the album. But a new singer would do miracles. His light voice is definitely not suitable in this band. Pathfinder with "Fountain Keeper" lower the level on side 2 a little bit. The next band Dark Angel is definitely the best on this album. They're featured with "Welcome to the Slaughterhouse" a track in the straight ahead Slayer mould.

The Obsessed is featured with a rather plain track called "Concrete Cancer", but it's listenable. Martyr with "En Masse (Stand or Die)" ends this album very suitable. Because this track is the average of the album.

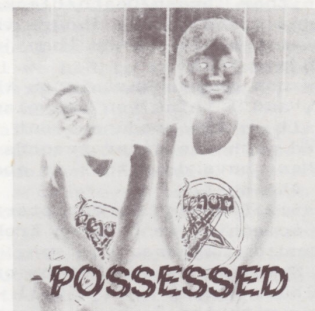
8



Impaler : The Rise of the Mutants

Do you remember the cover above? Yeah, it's right, it's the cover you nearly puked on about a month ago at your local record store, when you were in search of new BLACK/THRASH/DEATH/POWER/SPEED Metal records. You thought it was a cover version of those fuckin' wimps called oohh I also forgot their name, now I remember W.A.S.P., but you made a big mistake, because they are a real DEATH Metal band, something like No Mercy from Britain. "The Rise of the Mutants" is a 4-track maxi single, with the following tracks, "Shock Rock", "Crack That Whip", "Impaler" and "Heaven's Force". All tracks are very short. The shortest one is min. 1.41. But it's pure DEATH Metal all the way. Therefore go back to the record store, find a copy and buy it before someone else does it, and of you were the one who came too fuckin' late, then order it. You got to have it. It's a great aspirant for the maxi single of the year 1985. Hope, we'll hear more about Impaler soon.

10



Venom : Possessed

Canadian Assault

Holy shit! What is this? Have Venom run out of inspiration? Sure, Venom have become better musicians, but obviously this isn't a benefit in their case. By the release of "Possessed", Venom have invented the "PASSIVE METAL". What I mean is : Before, their music was more impulsive and spontaneous. Now they attache more importance to the production. A shame, 'cause Venom were popular for their "dirty noise". Now it sounds more like the music you hear an a supermarket. However, this is typical Venom, and maybe too typical. A track as "Possessed" is very close to their old "Bloodlust". Conscious? This LP is what you might expect after "Manitou". If they think it's "Too Loud (for the crowd)", they have better be careful, it's not the crowd there's too loud for Venom. Don't get ideas like : Thanx to nobody - Piss off! On "Canadian Assault" you get the real thing! Venom as you know them from the good old days. A superb live recording. 3 strong tracks : "Die Hard", "Welcome to Hell" and "In Nomine Satanas" (only released on 7" single). And the studio side "Warhead", one of their best tracks ever, "Women", the best song from "Manitou" and "7 Gates of Hell". All in all a very good "sales campaign" for Venom for those in Canada who doesn't know Venom yet! (If a Metal freak doesn't know Venom, are you then entitled to call him a Metal freak - even in Canada?!).

Possessed : 9

Canadian Assault : 10



MASS : War Law

Ho ho ho, how can they mean this seriously? Sending this HM album to a mag like Blackthorn? No sorry let me be fair. I just mean this isn't either Thrash/Death/Black/Power nor Speed Metal. Though they are playing a bit faster than just plain Heavy Metal. There's not enough sustain on the guitar, and I think you can place the guilt on the producer. But compared with the other records which Mass have done this is absolutely the best. The music style can be characterized as something in between Krokus AC/DC and old Tygers. The song "Metal Hymn" makes the bottom of this album. Simply Rock'n'Roll starting with the German national song "Die Fahne ho..." eh sorry "Deutschland Deutschland Über Alles". I have to disappoint you, this is certainly not "Über alles".

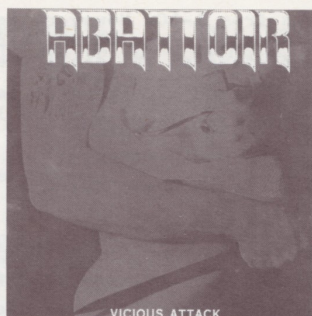
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Teeze : 1st.

As you properly all know, on Dec. the 9th 1984, the lead singer in Mötley Crüe, Vince Neil, was charged with drunk driving and manslaughter. This will properly result in a Mötley Crüe split up. Now you think, "Who the fuck cares" Well, I do ! Yes, I do ! A lot of money was spent on Mötley Crüe by the record company and now the company maybe would invest in a Thrash/Death Metal band. This dream was blown into micro-pieces recently, when I received a copy of a Teeze album. This band is an exact Mötley Crüe copy, especially their lead singer, Luis Rivera. I guess I don't need to say more, except that you'll undoubtedly hear a lot more about this band.

03



Abattoir : Vicious Attack

Here you get something with Speed and Power. An album getting better every time you hear it. Another thing is remarkable : Side 2 is completely different from side 1. I'm still thinking what they're reminding me of. Maybe it's Motörhead. Indeed they're playing a pretty good cover version of "Ace of Spades". Of course this track can only be played right by Motörhead themselves. Abattoir are from USA but they're playing a more melodic style than the one that is known today. Maybe Znôwhith will be the closest I can come. On side 2 they're playing more in the Thrash Metal style with good use of the double-bass-drums. It escalates all over side 2. It even sometimes beats Metallica. The rhythmshifts are often and good. Heavy rhythms and fast drums, replaced by a fast and raw guitar. Ending in the best track "Game of Death". Side 1 : 8, side 2 : 10. Total :

9



Slayer : Hell Awaits
Live Undead

As you maybe know I'm a great Slayer-fan. It's my favourite band, ever since they released "Show No Mercy". In the winter of 1984 they released their maxi "Haunting The Chapel", which promised us a new Slayer style. They were much heavier than the S.N.M. LP. After my opinion, this was just what Slayer needed to be perfect. Therefore I was looking forward to the new LP "Hell Awaits". And at last it came. First time I heard it, I got a little disappointed. Where was the Heavy Slayer style ? The second time I noticed the new style. It was more like the "old" Slayer, more melody, speed and heaviness. Soon it was fuckin' great

18

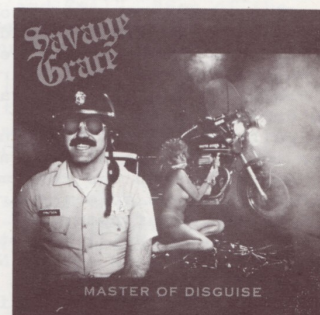
and I had to hear it 5 times a day at least, in the first two weeks. Now I play it once a day. You'll properly do the same if you hadn't got it, but I guess you have it already. Slayer is the ultimate Hardcore Metal band and will properly remain as such in many years to come.

At the same time they released a 6-track maxi, called "Live Undead". As the name says, it contains livetracks, 3 to be precise, "Black Magic", "Die By The Sword" and "Captor Of Sin". And 3 studiotracks, "Haunting The Chapel", "Antichrist" and "Fight Till Death". The production of the livetracks is great. It's a very heavy-sounded production with a clear sound. You also feel the great feeling at the gig or maybe the gigs. The cover doesn't tell. The music quality on the live-tracks is great too. If you compare with the studio version of these tracks, you'll realise that the live versions are better, which is rare, because they are played just as proff. only faster.

Now you can add one more great SLAYER platter to your collection. You MUST have it ! It's not one of those usual commercial live releases. It's a unik live release.

Hell Awaits : 13

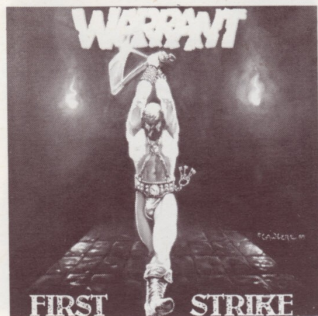
Live Undead : 10



Savage Grace : Master of Disguise

Savage Grace's first record release was an EP called "The Dominatrix". On this EP they played a sort of Power Metal, not a strong one, but still it was a great platter. Since this EP they've changed style, in what way? Read on and you'll find out! The LP starts off with an intro called "Lions Roar". This intro sounds like it is taken from an Iron Maiden album, don't stop reading! After a powerful bass transition into the track "Bound to be Free", SG show us what sort of Metal they play now. SPEED POWER METAL with a touch of melody. The melody I'm referring to is those little Iron Maiden riffs they sometimes use. Still an ace of album. I'm looking forward to the next album from them. They've got a great future ahead of them.

10



Warrant : First Strike

The first track on this mini LP promises great things for the platter. Well, not the title of the track, "Satan" what a cliché but the music is great. It can best be compared with Exciter. The rest of the album, 4 tracks to be exact, is weak. It sounds like Running Wild. Maybe you like it then, 'cause lots of thrashers seem to like RW. They've always been mentioned with great acts like Destruction, Sodom, Tormentor when the talk is about the German Hardcore Metal scene. My personal opinion is that RW is a little better than just plain Heavy Metal. Their music style can best be compared with the plain Heavy Metal. Therefore I don't understand the great excitement of RW. If you like RW I'll advice you to buy the Warrant mini album. You'll love it. My marking of RW is as said very low. Therefore the "low" mark.

8



Megadeth : Killing is My Business.

Oh, how I hate to say it, but this album really disappointed me. In almost all metal mag's, you could read that Megadeth was the new ultimate Death/Black Metal band. Therefore the expectations to this album have been very high. According to their excellent live demo, this might have been a right expectation. On this Dave Mustaine's voice was really powerful and the music was fast and raw. Except that the sound quality nearly always is bad on a live demo. You'll learn to ignore that after listening to enough demos. The production on this album is very poor. I was wondering if it was recorded in a 5-track studio. At least there's no abundance on the sound. And Dave Mustaine's voice is weak compared with the live tape.

I guess I've said all possible bad about this album. Though there's one more thing : Where's the beef in Dave Mustaine's complaining about Metallica has stolen his songs? Metallica's "The Four Horsemen" is identical to "Mechanix" but they're doing it a hell lot better than Megadeth. In fact you should think Megadeth was just doing a bad cover on Metallica. Along with all this criticism I will say one good thing about 'em. "Rattlehead" is a great track but still it isn't as good as the live tape. By the way, doesn't the singing on "Looking Down the Cross" sound a bit like Plasmatics? Anyway, here you have an album which would have been an even better album with a better production.

9



Crossfire : Second Attack

Oh boy, are we in trouble now! At the very first moment I thought I have sat it on 45 r.p.m., but I hadn't. This is Speed Metal to the maximum. You really feel you're in crossfire (ha ha). When you hear "Second Attack", "Feeling Down" and "Highway Driver" you may think to yourself : "All right, it's Speed Metal, but it isn't that fast as I read in Blackthorn". Maybe not, but at that time you hadn't heard the track "Atomic War". It makes me think of the text on the back of the cover : "Watch your ears - Save your neck, We're up to our Second Attack" And this is about right, I think. It's just a shame that Peter's vocals on this track sounds a bit like Marc Storace of Krokus. By the release of "See You In Hell" Crossfire were "just another Heavy Metal band added to the list", now they're "another Speed Metal band to add to the list". Anyway - They're not just one of the crowd. "Master of Evil" and "Scream and Shout" are more heavy, sometimes sounding a bit like Exciter. Do you recall the Jap Metal band Bow Wow on your mind? Well, "Running For Love" will, I'm sure, lead your thoughts in that way, especially the guitarplay. Fact : This one is for all, who want both Speed and Heavy Metal on one record.

9



Helloween : 1st

Helloween became quite well known after their appearance on the compilation album "Death Metal". They appeared with the two tracks "Oer-nst of Life" and "Metal Invaders", two real great Power Metal tracks. Still we had to wait 6 months for the next Helloween release, a 5 track mini album. The album starts real funny : A man wakes up, opens the first beer, switches on the radio, changes channel a couple of times and on goes Helloween. Like Savage Grace, Helloween's style has changed from Power Metal to Speed Power Metal with a touch of melody, sometimes a little too much. This change of style improved Savage Grace, because they played a sort of weak Power Metal. On the other hand Helloween did play a very strong sort of Power Metal. A strong part in Helloween's music is their lyrics. They sing about junkies, the men in the shelters etc. A great album.

9



Martyr : For the Universe

The tracks on this mini album are the same as featured on their demo "For the Universe". To this is added a "For the Universe"-theme and requiem. The tracks are of course re-recorded. This has given a more professional sound. Another improvement is the vocalist. Robert Van Haren has been replaced by Gerard Vergouw. He sings much more powerfully than Robert. I'll recommend this record to people who want the music to be something in between Power Metal and Heavy Metal. And also want tracks with one rhythmshift after another.

8



Vortex : Metal Bats

Vortex was formed in 1979 by Martio Brongers (guitar), as a Hardrock band. Later they became a Heavy Metal band. They appeared on the Dutch Steel compilation album with two tracks. Now they've released a 6-track mini LP. The music quality on this, is much weaker than the two tracks on the compilation album, and they were weak. If you've never heard Vortex before, I'll describe their style to you. It's plain Heavy Metal Rock'n'Roll meaning that's very weak. There is one so so track on the mini LP It's "With Witches' Help", where they try to play a Heavy style, but it's sure as Hell not worth buying, just because of this track. They'll get 5 pions because of this track, otherwise it would have been 03.

If you're still interested in buying, send US \$ 5.00 to : Vortex, Mozartstr. 41 B, 9722 EB Groningen, Holland.

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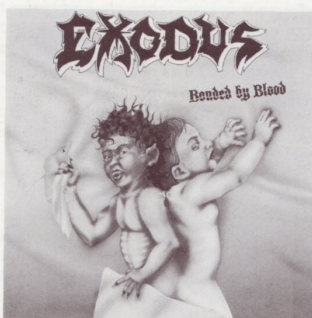
Metal Church : Metal Church

Metal Church's first appearance was on the compilation album "Northwest Metalfest" with a track called "Death Wish". And death is the codename of their debut album : "Metal Church". They're playing in a Death/Black Metal vein. On the track "Beyond the Black" you can hear a clear Slayer influence. Especially one riff reminds of Slayer's "Black Magic".

They're best characterized as a mix of old Slayer (maybe not as fast, but indeed as rough and wild) and Grave Digger. I don't know why, but the bass player reminds me of Geezer Butler. Maybe it's his way of playing the bass. (Listen to the track "God of Wrath").

On side two you again will feel a close influence of Slayer. "(My Favourite) Nightmare" is just one example. Suddenly, while enjoining this excellent album, you jump up from your chair. What you now are hearing is a bloody old Purple track. You grab the cover just to state the simple fact : It IS "Highway Star". I usually don't like bands covering other bands but this is so goddamn perfect that you nearly can't hear that it isn't Deep Purple. No - of course you can hear it. It's simply too fast for Deep Purple. And the guitar solo : Here you may ask old mr. Blackmore to go home. All in all a very strong release.

10



Exodus : Bonded By Blood

This album, first title "A Lesson In Violence", for unknown reasons (ha ha) changed to "Bonded By Blood", is a very powerful release. It shows where Metallica has their inspiration. As you know, Kirk Hammet once played in Exodus. A pity Metallica had their releases before Exodus, 'cause now you're disposed to say : "Hey man, listen how these mother-fuckers are covering Metallica". However, this is just not true. The album is pure Power Metal in the typical Metallica vein. With Carsten Lohmann (ex. Artillery!) doing the singing. (or at least it sounds like Carsten). Fast, precise, hard and powerful. A track such as "And Then There Were None" is too much like Metallica. If this track appeared on Metallica's maxi "Creeping Death" you wouldn't even notice, that it wasn't Metallica. All right, I know it! Exodus made it at first. They might say to themselves, "OK, these Metallica-wimps are covering us. We'll make another sound of our recording". Just a suggestion. Don't think I don't like 'em. Don't get mad with Exodus. Get mad with Metallica!

11



Hell : The Devil's Deadly Weapon

England has always been a poor place concerning real Metal. Their only true Metal band is Venom. Well, Raven were great once. The reason with that intro is that the above mentioned band, Hell, is from England. Along with the single I received the other day, followed an info sheet with a couple of pics in it, two pics and a bio. The pics promised great things about the single. The two guitarists Dave Holliday and Kev Bower, looked like two guys who could have been members of Slayer or Venom.And the music? Well, it's the same shit as usual when it comes from England! They combine the styles of Iron Maiden, Toto and Mike Oldfield. If you're still interested then contact Shades in London.

03



Running Wild : Gates to Purgatory

Running Wild have never been one of my fave bands. I see them as an average Metal band. However, they seem to be rather popular. Recently they released a maxi single called "Gates to Purgatory". It contains 3 unreleased tracks : "Victim of States Power", "Walgurgis Knight" and "Satan". All of them are typical RW tracks. This maxi is therefore a must for their fans. I can't recommend it! It's one of the records you buy if you hadn't got a new record for a long time and you just want one right now.

At the time being there's a lot of new great albums available such as Megadeth, Exodus, Slayer, Destruction etc. Therefore : use your money with care!

7

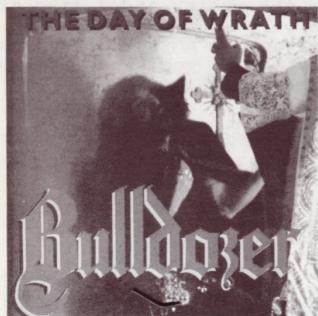


Sodom : In the Sign of Evil

By the release of this record we're over in the Celtic Frost/Bathory-vein. Sodom plays fuckin' fast, sometimes so fast that they can't follow each other. Listen to the track "Sepulchral Voice", the guitar can't follow the drums, or is it the opposite? Never mind, I would just call it a slight blemish. If you think life's boring and empty, Sodom really makes hell hot for you!

And if you think you've heard everything what's worth listening to, then turn this record on side two. It blows your brains out! In a short while I thought Cronos had joined Sodom, but by watching the back sleeve photo I decided to myself, that it couldn't be Cronos. In that case he should have changed his name and got himself a haircut. All tracks are fast and heavy (a pity the guitar is a bit too low) and really spanking to your ears. Get in possession of this 5-track mini-LP, or it'll be the biggest mistake in your whole life.

10

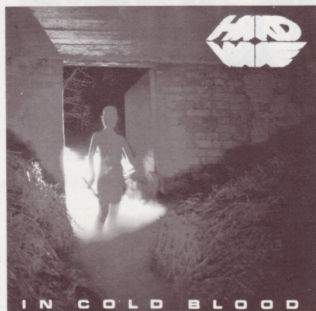


Bulldozer : The Day of Wrath

I've always been negative when the discussion is about Italian Metal. Just read my Ghost rider review. A band like Bulldozer has always got great reviews in other mags, even been compared with Venom. All I've heard of them so far is their single. On this they can best be compared with Motörhead, not the best compliment a band can get. Recently I saw a big Roadrunner ad with a picture of the new Bulldozer lp. Again they compared Bulldozer with Venom. Now this madness must stop, I thought to myself. Anyway I decided to check out the album. It start off with some Latin rubbish, I'm real negative.

Immediately the music begins I thought to myself, this is not Bulldozer, it's Venom. But it was Bulldozer and they do certainly sound like Venom, not the "new" Venom, no, good old "Welcome to Hell" and "Black Metal" Venom. Just a little more professional. After this very positive surprise, I also started to love the intro. Great fun! This is another lp you must have. After this fuckin' great lp, I'm more open to new Italian bands. They need some proper studios.

11



Hardware : In Cold Blood

Here you got one of the typical German hardrock bands, as mentioned in the Crack Jaw review. However this is somewhat heavier than the other. But still it's too melodic. A kind of straight ahead Rock'n'Roll Heavy Metal. In between you can find some even great rhythms, but they're spoiled by the melodic production. ("Ready to Kill"). But with tracks as "Hell is Rising" and "Get Down on Your Knees" Hardware really proves that they're NOT a Death/Thrash Black/Power or Speed Metal band.

7



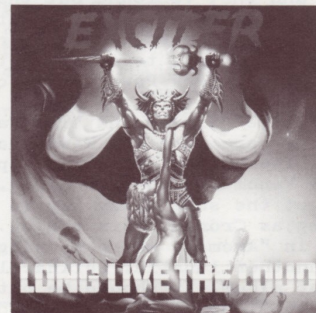
Kreator : Endless Pain

This band was reviewed in issue no. 1 of BLACKTHORN, remember? You don't? It was Tormentor from Essen ah, now you remember, great band, eh? Oh, I'm sorry, of course I meant fuckin' great. Let's get down to buisness.

21

At last they got a record contract. Their first release is this 10 track album, which is very similar to the first Destruction album. I'm ofcourse referring to the style and production. In fact it sometimes sounds like Destruction is playing. This shows how important a studio is. Kreator has also used Caet studios in Berlin. But of course it's a great album. Compared to Destruction, the old style in this case, is this one of the best recommendations a band can get. Need I say it's an album you must have. It sounds like a cliché, but what can I do, it's not my fault that the greatest bands of the world release new albums at the same time. One thing I especially noticed on this album was Mille's improved guitar work. Well done, Mille!

11



Exciter : Long Live The Loud

Exciter surely disappointed me with their "Violence & Force" album. The tracks were too long, they must have been in lack of fantasy, when they wrote the tracks to "V.&F.". When you start listening to this new Exciter album, you'll realize that they've tried to play in the old Exciter style. In fact they've used one particular idea from the "Heavy Metal Maniac" album. You know the real slow intro and then suddenly it all bursts out. This style continues on the rest of side 1. It's nearly as great as the "H.M.M." style, but the sound isn't as lovely dirty as on "H.M.M.". Now we come to the sad part of this review, side 2. It's so goddamn boring, you can't imagine, you've got to hear. Worst is "Born to Die", it contains one rhythm which just goes on and on and on and..... Last track "Wake Up Screaming" even contains some Scorpions ideas, you read right, and all the other quiet shit you can imagine. The whole album will get the mark 9, out of 13, and this is nearly a gift. Side 1 gets 10 marks and side 2 7 marks. Are the Exciter days over?

9



Amebix : Arise
(Advance tape)

A British band. Maybe the British Metal scene isn't as quiet as I thought. This band hails from Avon. Their new album, a 10-tracker, is featuring some brilliant tracks. First time I heard I thought it was bad. A New Wave album. But I wasn't listening, so I had to hear it once more, if it should have a decent review. I now realized their style. I presume it's an old New Wave band, and they've found out that Metal is the style. Their countrymen from Venom must have inspired them quite a lot, to a rare Metal style. Slow Black Power Metal combined with a little New Wave. Tracks like "Slave" and "The Darkest Hour" are more New Wave than Metal. Their lead singer is especially Venom (Cronos) inspired. He's got the same crazy way in singing as Cronos. This can be noticed in "Axeman" where he sings like another lunatic. Definately a great album. It should be out soon, but I don't think it'll be released world wide, so please contact the following address, Amebix, 12 Walnut Buildings, Tynning, Radstock, Bath, Avon, England.

9



Warhead : Speedway

This record I first heard about in a Mausoleum ad. They described Warhead with these words : "Faster than the rest, better than the best". I decided to check the album, and didn't expect the greatest, because it was an album released by Mausoleum, and they are well known for their melodic shit. The album started rather badly with a motorbike intro, very clichéd. When the music began, it just teared along. They weren't faster than the rest, but just as

fast as the rest. The first track was only based on the speed, the rest of the tracks also contains melody.

The band is from Belgium, a country with lots of THRASHERS, but not so many great bands. Now they've got one in Warhead.

9



Celtic Frost : Emperor's Return
(Mini-lp)

This mini-lp doesn't need lots of comments. It's a 5-tracker in the typical Celtic style, rhythmshifts, occultisme, heavy, fast, raw and a maniac singer. Isn't it great that you can go into your local record store, buying a Celtic album and knowing this is a band who never disappoints you. Not like Exciter and here we go again, Metallica. Well, now this Metallica ripp off must be stopped. I haven't criticed Duran Duran for not being heavy, so why should I criticize Metallica. Celtic! I've got one last comment to you. What about doing a lp?

11



Crack Jaw : Nightout

Do you remember the hard rock band Def Leppard? Well, I do. And after listening to the first track "The Change" it's bright in your memory 'cause half of the track is Def Leppard's "Let It Go". One "good" thing about this band is that they admit their influence. Not like some bands claiming they're the fastest and thrashiest band in the world - and then it's the worst shit you've ever heard. There's a characteristic tendency on the German Metal scene. On one hand you

got great bands like Destruction, Iron Angel, Kreator etc. and on the other you have Running Wild, Mania, Overkill, Crack Jaw etc. There's nothing in between. If you're hooked on Def Leppard and Pretty (M)Aids (the opposite of the BLACKTHORN style), then this record is just the one for you.

5



Trouble : The Skull

Wow - this is H-E-A-V-Y!! When Trouble released their first LP I thought : "Hey, this is Heavy Just like the good old Sabbath". But this is - believe it or not - even more heavy. It's clear to see Trouble's intention of today's Metal scene : The Metal scene is going in a monotonous direction with leather, studs and satanism. Further it's a question of being the fastest band of the world. Therefore they're very "Jesus"-inspired. Both their texts and clothes. I don't care. If they wanna play hippies - let'em! I'm just listening to the music. And I like it. They're very original. I can't compare them to anyone. I can just say : To all of you, who like Trouble - This won't disappoint you!

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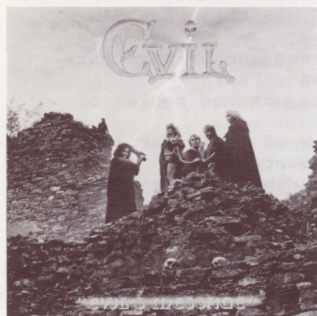


Destruction : Infernal Overkill

At last it came. At last, what does he mean? It's only 6 months ago they released "Sentence of Death", their mini-lp, you properly wonder. Well, 6 months is also a very long time, because "S.O.D." was so great it was worn out after 2 months. As you know I was a little disappointed with their

mini-lp, compared to the demo, which had a more outstanding guitar. Still it was a great album, otherwise it wouldn't have been worn out after 2 months. The new lp "Infernal Overkill" beats everything they've done before. They've cleared up with the production, become a lot more professional and Schmier sings so great. You can really notice their progress if you compare the new versions of "Tormentor" and "Antichrist" with the old versions, which were previously released on their demo. This album gets better every time I hear it, so out and bye. By the way, save some money for the Destruction T-shirt. (see news). Otherwise you are not a dedicated THRASHER.

11



Evil : Evil's Message (Mini-lp)

Evil is a Danish band, still quite unknown in Denmark. On the other hand they've lots of fans in Belgium and Holland. This can properly be explained by the fact, that they did some bad gigs here in Denmark (I have been told) at the beginning of their career, Belgium and Holland heard their demo first. But this should be a record review, so I rather get started. "Evil's Message" is Evil's record debut, a great one I must happily admit. Evil combines the power from Exodus and the melody from Iron Maiden, a very strange style, but Evil do it great. One very special thing about this band is their drummer. In most bands it's just a man mentioned on the cover, but you don't notice him when listening to the music. With Evil it's different, you're listening how he plays. A great album, let's hope the Danish Evil, get some new Danish fans.

9



Znøwhite : Kick 'em When They're Down

They've done it again. They've released a 17 min. long album. What is it you're offering your fans, Znøwhite? What about your gigs, are they also 17 min. long? One thing they've changed, their music style. They've been more melodic, they even use some Def Leppard riffs. Sad, sad! The old straight ahead ultra Speed Metal band Znøwhite is gone. Now it's more a melodic Speed Metal band, with not enough power. Well, it is not so bad, but I'm a little disappointed. And when you see the mark, you can see I didn't mean it so hard as I said it.

9

ONSLAUGHT

This band is now split, but I'll give them a review anyway. For two good reasons. 1. : Their leadguitarist Gavin Van Vlack has sent me a demo. 2. : He has formed a new band, called Treason and they will properly continue in the Onslaught vein. First a little band history.

Onslaught was formed 4 years ago in Stamford, Connecticut, USA. Their main influence were Metallica, Motörhead and Exciter. The line-up was as followed.

Vocals and rhythm guitar : Pat Walsh (18)
Lead guitar : Gavin Van Vlack (16)
Bass : Dave Mackey (17)
Drums : Ronnie Galetski (16)

In their spare time they loved to stare at naked women, drink a lot of beer and listen to true Metal. If people wanted them to get angry, they would play some typical L.A. Metal for them.

The latest and last demo Onslaught did, was "The Slaughter". It's a 4-track demo with the following tracks, "Maniac", "Off to War", "Scream with the Light" and "Dawn of the Dead".

The Onslaught style can best be described as a more melodic form for Power Metal with a lot of rhythmshifts. The most positive in Onslaught is definitely their singer Pat Walsh. He's a real pro. And the most "negative" is the guitar sound, which sounds like canned music. A better equipment would do miracles, because these guys can play, no doubt about that. But as said earlier, these guys have split up.

The reason to this separation is not the typical one, you know, musical disagreements. No, it's a very special one. On New Years Eve 1984 a thief paid a visit to Gavin Van Vlack's house. This criminal left the house with Gavin's equipment and some household stuff. Now you properly think that Gavin hadn't insured his equipment and therefore couldn't afford to buy something new and therefore the band had to split up. But no. The day after Gavin discovered that his former old friend and band mate Pat Walsh was the guilty!!!!?? This caused of course the split up. Gavin's comment to this episode was : "All I can say is that I feel sorry for a person who would sink to that SCUM-LOW level. I also want him to be warned NOT to cross my path and let him know that he has made the worst mistake and the worst enemy of his life". I must say it's a pity, that such a great singer has to go to waste. Of course there isn't any other band who want a thief like him. So far let's hope that Gavin has found some good members for his new band Treason. If you want to know more about Treason (they hope they can be giging soon) or maybe want to obtain a copy of the Onslaught demo "The Slaughter" (I'm sorry but I don't know the price) then write to :

Gavin Van Vlack
Rd. +1 Raymond Rd.
No. Salem
N.Y. 10360
USA

CARNIVORE

In the last issue we promised you an article of a band called Carnievore. That was of course a fuckin' misprint, it should have been CARNIVORE. Please excuse us for being such shitheads and of course a special excuse to you CARNIVORE. Carnivore was formed in Brooklyn, New York in January '84 by Lord Petrus Steele, (bassist) and Louis Beateaux (drums). Then a long search for a suitable guitarist started. He was found in a Norwegian named Keith Alexander.

All three sing and pledge allegiance to God. Their image is a lot like Manowar's, you know leather, fur, chains, shoulder pads etc. Musical influences are everything from Bach to Black Sabbath. (Different mags have compared them with Slayer, Venom and Manowar). The lyrics is also an important part in Carnivore. Basically they deal with our bleak postarmageddon future as they call it. So far Carnivore have got great publicity, they have won the "Battle Of The Bands" contest at L'Amour and they've opened for great bands like Slayer, Overkill, Anvil, Raven and TT Quick. The only promo material they've released is a 3-track demo. However they have stopped the spreading of this because they want to be considered as 100% Thrashier, Faster and Doomier. The demo might give a wrong impression. I interviewed the Carnivore guys :

B.: Who inspired each one of you ?

Keith : Twisted Sister, Vivian Cambell and my father.

Lord Petrus : Geezer Butler and Roger Glover.

Louis : John Bonham, Neil Peart and the '77 concert at the Garden.

B.: What does the name Carnivore mean ?

Keith : A flesh-eating animal.

B.: Which bands do you mostly listen to ?

Keith : Venom, Manowar and Dio.

Louis : Manowar, Led Zep. and Black Sabbath.

Petrus : Sabbath, Judas Priest and Blessed Death.

B.: Your image looks a lot like Manowar. Do you have any problems with Manowar fans, saying that you copy them ?

Louis : How could we have problems with Manowar fans ? Manowar fans love real Metal.

Keith : To this I would like to add, that just because we wear fur doesn't mean we copy them. But if anybody is going to copy a band then I would say Manowar is one of the best. Wouldn't you ?

B.: NO! Let's change the subject. Give me a description of your musical style.

Keith : I really hate to compare. If people dislike the bands you are compared to, they probably won't even give you a chance.

Petrus : We sometimes call it Polymetal. Meaning we take aspects of music that we like and combine them into Carnivore's sound.

B.: What do you think of all these new Black Metal bands ?

Petrus : I respect any band whose image matches their music and visa-versa.

Keith : Most of them are just bad copies of Venom.

B.: In your bio you speak of World War III and IV. Do the missiles worry you ?

Petrus : No we don't fear the missiles, because we are aware and prepared to deal with it.

Louis : If we survive the first strike and are far enough from ground zero.

B.: Any contracts yet ?

Keith : Record or MAFIA contracts ?

B.: Record contracts, please !

Louis : Oh, right now we are talking to record labels, managers, promoters and many other people in the "industry". There will be a major development in our career soon.

(He was right. Carnivore have got a contract and are planing a release of an LP in mid-summer. We hope to review this in the next issue. ed.)

B.: What are the plans for the near future ?

Petrus : A well produced album, major tour and the ultimate acquisition of the planet.

B.: What do you expect of the later future, let's say 10 years ?

Petrus : I expect to be in a cave in the woods.

Louis : On the cover of National Geographic.

Keith : Sailing the fjords of Norway.

B.: Anything you would like to add ?

Petrus : We shall climb to the sun, upon the corpses of those who have betrayed us !

If you want to hear more about the Carnivore album or maybe want to order some of the merchandise, they've got lots of it, then write to the address below. Some of the items are a Baseball Jersey (\$9 + 1.25 P&P), lyric sheet sets, press kits (IRC or SASE), badges, pins etc. etc.

Carnivore Promo
1652-E 33rd St.
Brooklyn
N.Y. 11234
USA



Lord Petrus, Louis Beateaux



Keith Alexander

By the way : They only want cash, so please wrap to prevent visibility.

HEAVY INVASION, DK MAY 1985.

All photos by Esben Slot Sorensen



Wasted

Denmark has got a new Pretty Maids, named Rigor Mortis. The name promises great things but no, Rigor Mortis is Denmark's wimp band no. 1. It's so bad that I even don't wanna tell about it - Just this : The drummer is too good for a wimp band!

Next act appearing on the little stage is Wasted. Here you know what you get for your money. Or do you? Wasted is usually very heavy but live they're much faster. I could hardly recognize tracks like : "Chained", "Evil", "Demons Recalling" and "Good-bye". Let's hope we'll soon hear something new from these 5 guys.

Half an hour later Maltese Falcon jumped on the stage. With a very long "Carmina Burana" intro they at least got started. I'm sure some of you have heard a tape recorded from Danish Radio from early 1984. Here Maltese Falcon sounds really like a band with a bright future in real Metal. Then they released their LP "Metal Rush" which has a very weak production. But after a few tracks live, you realise that it has nothing with the production to do; Maltese Falcon has changed their style. Great tracks such as : "Stonehenge" and "Headbanger" is simply dropped from the show, which shows new lines in the band too. A pity. I once liked Maltese Falcon.



Maltese Falcon



Kim Sixx

And then the big surprise of the night : Kim Sixx. I went to this concert prejudging that Kim Sixx were just a cover band playing plain HM (see elsewhere in this issue). Soon this showed not to be true. Like Maltese Falcon, Kim Sixx have changed their style, too, but in a better direction! It's more like Power/Speed Metal now, though they have got a lot to learn yet. I'm sure you can place a whole lot of the honour on their new guitarist. You can see he loves playing fast.

Another sign is that they've dropped their old Saxon/Judas/Dio cover tracks.

For Kim Sixx this was a real HM invasion. I'm sure one day they will have a breakthrough world wide.



Kim Sixx



Wasted

Onslaught

Before you read this article, please read the record review of the British band Hell. As you can see it's a rather bad review. After having heard that single I forgot all about new British bands. Then I received an lp from C.O.R. Rec. with a band called Onslaught. I nearly threw it in the trashcan, when I realized that they hailed from Britain and mentioned the word "punk" in the info sheet. Well, they send me a free lp, it should be reviewed. I put the lp on and turned up the volume, it always helps a little. Then I realized what I had received, a brilliant Hardcore Metal lp. Their style is a combination of Slayer, Exodus and Venom, mostly Slayer. I don't think I need to talk more about this slice of vinyl, you just got to have it. By the way, if anyone in your family is classic interested, you will get a new member of the club, because the lp ends with "Carmina Burana". Now a little band history. Onslaught was formed in '83 in Bristol. They emerge from the Bristol punk scene. Their strongest influence is Venom. To me it sounds like Slayer. Sooner they got gigs with punk groups like Broken Bones, Disorder, The Varukers etc. First vinyl appearance was on the Pax comp. lp "Daffodils to the Daffodils Here's the Daffodils". On this they appeared with two tracks. In May '85

they released their debut lp "Power From Hell" on the UK Metal/Hardcore indie label C.O.R. This will undoubtedly sell very. (Latest news : Onslaught is no. 1 in Shades) I'll support as much as I can. They have already started work on another album, which should be released at the end of '85. Currently they're planning to tour the UK, before they embark on a major tour in the US and Europe in late '85/'86.

Until then you can "only" get in touch of their lp. I'm sorry to say, that I don't know how much you have to pay for their lp. Try to contact C.O.R. Rec. on address : Box 333, Fullmarks Bookshop, 110 Cheltenham Rd., Bristol, England. If you want to get in contact with the band, write to : Onslaught, c/o Nige Rockett, 10 Larksleaze Rd., Longwell Green, Bristol, England.

In the next issue of BLACKTHORN we hope to feature an interview with this new leading Hardcore Metal band. The line up in Onslaught is Paul Mahoney (vocal), Steve Grice (drums), Jase Stallard (bass) and Nige Rockett (guitar and vocals).

Attention! Don't compare this especially fine band with the American Onslaught, reviewed elsewhere in this issue. An now you just grab pen and paper, and start writing to Onslaught (UK).



Artillery, maybe the heaviest band of Denmark, lost their singer Carsten Lohmann 2 months ago. I asked their manager John Kluge about their new conditions.

B : Hi John. Have you got a new singer?

John : Yes, a guy called Flemming. It was very easy. We just sat an ad in a newspaper. I think it took 3 weeks. We were contacted by both a negro and a girl.

B : A GIRL????!! This could make a very bad image of the band.

John : Yes, I know. It was also just for fun, to see if she was good-looking, ha ha.

B : Tell me, how is this Flemming singing?

John : I must admit that his voice isn't as rough as Carsten's. It's more melodic but by no means commercial.

B : What about your demo plans?

John : We're doing a new demo in a month, produced by Freddie Wolf from Evil.

B : You once told me that you maybe should appear on Metal Massacre VII. How's this going?

John : I don't know. I haven't heard from Brian Slagel for a long time. But we're doing another recording. We'll re-record "Deeds of Darkness" and "Hey Woman" with Flemming. These two tracks are coming on a comp. album from Renaissance Rec.

B : I hope this will be your breakthrough.

Good luck to the recordings!

Anything to add?

John : Yes, indeed! In no. 1 we told that a person prevented us to play support to Metallica. However this wasn't true. It was a misunderstanding from our side, and we like to excuse that statement. (This is hereby done! ed.)

MAYHEM

Here we go again. Another German band which have a demo out with a bad sound quality. This band was formed in '85 by Antichrist (guitar, vocals) Damien 666 (drums) and Agi (bass, **lead-vocal**). They're influenced by bands like Slayer, Voivod, Venom, Sodom etc. They claim to play a mixture of Slayer, Iron Angel, Sodom and their own musical ideas. And after I've heard their "Chains of Death" demo, I've come to that conclusion that 99.9% must be their own musical ideas. If you remember the record review of Metal Massacre VI, you properly noticed my big criticism of Mike Sus, the drummer of Possessed. But Damien 666 is the fuckin' worst I ever heard. My dog can do better than that. Antichrist only uses one string at a time, no real accords, which is okay, if one can play like Dave Mustaine. And as you properly have guessed, he doesn't play like Dave. And now you think I'll criticize Agi, the bassist, but I won't. I can't hear him, except his "singing" and I've heard worse before. Well, hope to hear from you in about 3 years. Then you might have come up with some great Metal, because you've got the right taste.

If you're interested in getting a copy of their demo, please contact the new contact address. Mayhem, c/o Manuel Kreissig, Staufenekstr. 48/5, 7332 Eislingen, West Germany.

METALLIC NOTES

METALLIC BEAST - Danish underground mag no. 2 out now! With Laaz Rockit, Iron Angel, Hirax, Tyrant, Deathslayer, Destruction, Overkill, Medieval, Siren and more! No. 3 will have interviews with Savage Grace, Artillery, Blitzkrieg, Possessed, and Slayer features on Sodom, Trauma, Destructor, Whiplash, Slaughter, Hammers Rule, Nasty Savage, Kreator (ex-Tormentor), Blood, Sacrifice and much more! Also live reviews, free stickers and Slayer mini poster with issue no. 3. It will be out in September. Each issue (written in Danish) is available at d.kr. 15 (incl. P&P) or \$ 2.00. Write to : METALLIC BEAST c/o Peter Markham, Enghaven 25, 4000 Roskilde, Denmark.

BLOWING THRASH, the ultimate South American hardcore metal fanzine, is looking for death metal bands to write about in the next issues. Every band which has a blowing metal sound will be featured, review guaranteed! Send demo/vinyl, black and white pix band logo and bio to : BLOWING THRASH, c/o Anton Reisenegger, P.O. Box 1895, Santiago, Chile.

GRINDER - Issue no. 4 biggest & most improved issue. Features interviews with : Mercyful Fate, Exciter, Voivod, Bathory, Possessed, Overkill, Artillery, Trouble, Motörhead, Megadeth, Deuce, Sortilege + tons more. Issue no. 5 out in June features interviews with Anvil, Destruction, Iron Angel, Death + tons more. Send \$ 2 (US) \$ 3 (overseas) per issue. Write to GRINDER, c/o Jim Powell, 102 N. Longcross rd., Linthicum, Maryland 21090, USA. Issue no. 3 still available.

English HM fanzine BRONZZ is searching for bands for feature in further editions, send demo/info/photo(s)!! Issue 4 in July incl. MORTAL SIN, POISON, ROUGH interviews w/ SLAYER, CHAIN REACTION, SAMURAI, LIVING DEATH, STORMWIND, TOUCHED, IRON ANGEL and many more, price : 1 pound. Thomas Schumacher, Schallenbergweg 29, 6920 Sinsheim 8, West Germany.

New fanzine Metallised. Belgiums biggest, printed on luxury paper. Send info to Metallised, c/o Johan Wuykens, Tervuursevest 159, 3000 Leuven, Belgium.

We want to announce the birth of a new HM magazine : METAL CAOS, the first Italian HM magazine! The project was born 3-4 months ago when 3 Italian fanzines (Welcome to Hell, 'Sdeath, Hardware) decided to unite themselves for creating the first true HM magazine in Italy. So after some time of preparation, the first issue of METAL CAOS has come out (early June) with this stuff : Interviews with SLAYER, METALLICA, QUEENSRÛCHE, RAFF ... and many other articles!!!!

METAL CAOS is looking for bands and labels all over the world for articles, advertisements etc. Are you interested in no. 1 then send \$ 1,5 (Europe)/ \$ 2 (USA) to : METAL CAOS, Via Tre Spighe 6, 67100 L'Aquila, Italy.

1.300 HM live + demo tapes! Live material with Voivod, Slayer, Nasty, Hirax, Iron Angel, Sodom, Destruction, Venom, Celtic, Exodus, Overkill, Anthrax, Sacred Blade, Megadeth and much much more. Send US \$ 1.00 for info + catalogue to : Felix Lethmate, P.O. Box 1721, 4450 Lingen, West Germany. We at BLACKTHORN recommend Felix, if you want to expand your collection of live + demo material.

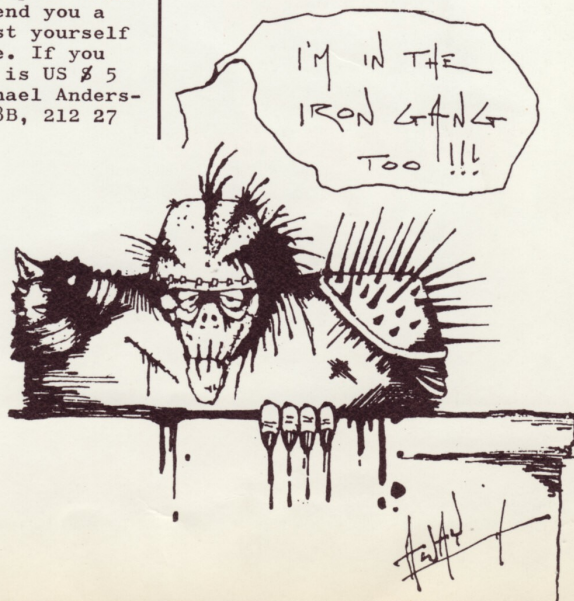
METAL WARRIORS. German Heavy and Black Metal mag. Feat. interviews with BATHORY, LIVING DEATH, OZ, THUNDERFIRE, WARLOCK, SAD IRON + reviews of MANOWAR, ACCEPT, STALLION + HM story and much more. Send DM 4 + 1 IRC to : Michael Voss, Nierenhofstr. 10, 4040 Neuss 1, West-Germany. Bands interested in reviews please send demo, bio + pic to the same address.

Hardrockrarities, Livetapes, interviews and demos. I've got recordings of about 100 groups. Will you trade or buy tapes? Then write to me and I'll send you a list. Do you have a list yourself then please send me one. If you want to buy, the price is US \$ 5 for a TDK AD C-90. Michael Andersson, Kronetorpsgatan 68B, 212 27 Malmö, Sweden.

POSERDEATH. Issue no. 1 out July. Featuring Hirax, Mayhem (N.Y. City), Blacktask, Nasty Savage, Possessed, Death and more. Price: US \$ 1.50, 2.50 (overseas). Bands interested in review please send demo and bio. Tom Walsh, 1361 Hall Rd., West Chester, PA 19380, USA.

METAL K.O. : THE ONLY FRENCH HM MAGAZINE IN CANADA. Issue no. 9 is ready to knock you out with articles on INTRUDER, CHASTAIN, DESTRUCTION, WARLOCK, ATTICA, OVERKILL, HANOMY, MESOMORPH and SWORD. Show reports on VENOM, SLAYER, D.D.T. and VOIVOD + an interview with SAVATAGE and all our regular features. Send \$ 2.00 to : METAL K.O. C.P. 237, SUCC. DELORIMIER, MONTREAL QUEBEC CANADA H2H 2N6.

Slayer magazine. Norway's first Thrash Metal mag. Issue no. 1 features Running Wild, Grave Digger, Slayer, Mantas (now Death), Celtic Frost, Oz, Mercyful Fate and lots of others. Issue no. 2 features Exodus, Metallica, Bathory, Omen, Megadeth, Whiplash, Savatage, Artillery, Hirax and others. (only few copies left). Interviews with Slayer, Cities + a Slayer poster is also included in issue no. 2. Issue no. 3 will be out in August featuring Venom, Abattoir, Metal Church, Violent Force, Zoetrope, Trauma, Exodus, Artch, Miss Lead and tons of others. Price: US \$ 2.00, DM 6.00 or D.Kr. 10.00 for each copy. Bands interested in review please send info, logo, demo/vinyl and pictures. Slayer Magazine, c/o Metalion, Stm. Kolstadsvej 29, 1700 Sarpsborg, Norway. News and facts welcome. We also needs ad's. Send for our special prices.



Next issue of
BLACKTHORN
will feature:

AGENT STEEL

ANGEL DUST

ONSLAUGHT

MÖRSÜRE

WASTED

SAMHAIN

SLAUGHTER

BULLDOZER

And much more!

