OVER 200 REVIEWS
A CZECH/SLOVAK SCENE REPORT!!

Mortem
Pleurisy
Besieged
Cryptopsy
Depression
Cornucopia
Suppository
Aurora Borealis
+ so many more . . .
Editorial

It's Monday the 25th of May, 19:55 p.m. to be exact. On the background I hear an old EP from American Dead, released ages ago on German Gore Records. Not a very good one to be honest. Today has been a day of total laziness. Yesterday we (Martin and I but also Theo) came back from a 3-day metal festival in Germany. Oh man, it was awesome! Today I hopefully try to pick up my daily life. Meanwhile this 9th issue becomes reality piece by piece. When you guys read this the 9th issue is out. I hope you all like it. In my opinion it is a good issue. At least the best we could've done. It has a nice selection of brutal death, violent grind, and dark black. And bands from different countries. And ofcourse the 'zine is completed with a huge amount of demo, record and zine reviews. This time they're not in alphabetic order. Time was too short for that but does it matter? At least there is enough to read again! Enjoy it! Time is short and I'm lazy so I leave you here. Hope to see you somewhere! (EP)

News from the underground

*Immured* will probably do a split LP with California slkca Exhumed. It must be released on Stuhlgang Records. I'm impatient because in July '90 the long awaited "Destined To Fail" full length CD by American Scattered Remnants must come out. Spanish Repulse Records will take care of the release. Also ready to be released on Repulse Records is the debut CD of Anaarca. I'll be entitled "Godmachine" and will probably contain 10 songs of violent grinding death metal! Dutch Centurian has signed a deal with American Full Moon Records. A Christ Agony CD is reviewed in this issue but meanwhile their new opus entitled "Triology" has been released. This time on Polish Pagan Records, so you know where to find it! Iron Fist Productions from Sweden released the Merciless demo on a pro-digital tape. The next one is their LP, "Meat Of Torment" and we'll keep you informed. Dark Captain from the Putrefaction "zine address" Our German death metal dudes of Kadath have their material ready for their debut full length CD. They hope to record it soon. Dutch death metal band Godly Beings does not longer exist. Agathocles is always on the move and some of their new and upcoming items are a split EP with BWF, a split CD with Nuclear Devastation (available for $12. at: Marco Zamburini, Via di Piemonte, 11, 10128 Milan, Italy), "Live And Noisy" double live CD ($8., to: Kif Davia, p.o.box 30206 Boulder, CO 80308, USA) and a split LP with Brazilian Dead Democracy. Drop Jan a line and he'll tell you more. Asberg 8, 2400 Mol, Belgium. Danish Tears Of Euphony has made a CD. Your copy is available at: Kipling Nygade 5, 6200 Aabenras, Denmark. Sinister is back! Their new singer comes from Severe Torture and his name is Eric. The new CD is recorded in April, and it's one of the most brutal death metal releases ever. And that's for sure. "Demonize The Flesh" is the title of the Ossuary Insane CD. The CD contains their "Demonized" promo and "Fallen To The Pits" demo. See the demo review for their address. Not mentioned in the Mind Probes demo review is that it's yours for $8.. German Dementor is working on a CD release. I'm not sure if it'll be a mini CD or full length album. Gandalfr from Finland are working on a CD which will seemingly be released on Wicked World Records, an Estabache sub-label. The debut CD of Resurrecturis is out now too. See their demo review. Amethist and Sustained are new bands in metal land. Amethist will help you with your suicide feelings. They play doom/death metal while Sustained is a fast thrash metal band. Erik Kwakenaar is playing in both bands and he can give you more info about his bands so write to: Dr. A. Schweitzerlaan 88, 3771 XN Barneveld, Holland. Bad news is that old school death metallers Pentacle have split-up. Their LP/CD On Damnation Records will be their last item. Damnation Records will also release a mini CD or LP from Soulburn. This band consist of former Pentacle and Asphyx members. Mexican black brothers Sargathanas will release a 12 song CD on Conquistador Records, from England. Info at: p.o.box 1-521/c.p. 44101 Guadalajara, Jalisco/Mexico. Incarnated from Sweden has been working on a mini-CD which will be entitled "Drowned In Blood". It must be out by now on Dark Past Records. Info at: N.S.P., S. Bäckvägen 5a, 821 51 Bollnäs, Sweden. Damnation Productions will release the 2nd demo of good old Matricide on vinyl! German crust/grinders Autoritär have released another EP on Rodel Records.

Thanks and hello to:
Ewald says thanks and hello to: Martin, Theo, Angelina, (S)erin/Cornucopia, Kai/Depression, Scoi/Besieged, Martin/Sanatorium, Juan/Mortem, Ruyul/ MASSGROUP, Batu/Cenotaph, Wilko/Fadeless Rec., Nicolas/Bones Brigade Prod., Daan/Damnation Prod., Lazio/Backwoods Prod., Dark Realm Rec., Aleksel A., Aesthetic Death Rec., Lofty Storm Rec., Pagan Rec., Morbid Rec., Hammerhead Rec., Necropolis Rec., Eihor Prod., Shock Wave Prod., Jimmies Rec., Perverted Taste Rec., Serious Entertainment, Ovaral Prod., Sure Shot, Still Dead Prod., Teutonic Existence Rec., Headbucker Rec., Last Episode Rec., Abstract Emotions, Oskorei Prod., Dwell Rec., Underground Promotion, Big Big Tiger Rec., Independent Rec., Voices Prod., Melk/Phil. + all the bands, 'zines, labels, people for their massive support, trust and patience. Thank you so much! Thanks to all my friends, to all those with whom I talked, drank beer, and had an unforgettable great time at festivals or gigs! Also thanks to de Boerderij in Geleen, for kicking us out of the place at 4:00 a.m. After all we had a nice time! No thanks to: Euphoric Evacuation (where's my demo?), Richard Ostrander (where are my CD's?), and most of all to Noiserat Records (you'll succumb from cancer soon!!!). Also thanks to The Noiz (almost forgot it, oops!)!


Theo says thanks and hello to: Ewald, Judgement Day, Damnation Prod., Howitzer, Sinister, Death Oath, Ron/Aurora Borealis, Jan/Flo of Cryptopsy, Alex/Plurais, Daniel/Depression, Lindsay/Khasim, William/Whispering Gallery, Eric/Severe Torture, everybody at de Baroe and everybody I'm in contact with, march to die!!! Special thanks to Margit Scheele, for the great time at the "F*ck The Commerce" festival. Hope to see you soon!!!

For more information about our 'zine, or about our other activities, you can reach us at the following addresses.

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GROOVY DEATH-GRIND FOR THE DIE-HARD METAL FANS!
GORE-GRIND THE WAY YOU LIKE IT!

Depression is a grinding death metal duo from Germany. They walk around in the underground since 1989. 3 demos saw the light of day and there is a 4th demo which includes those previous 3 demos. Then there is a 7" and a split CD with Agathocles. It strikes me that all their items have a German title. So, I want to know from Kai, Depression's drummer, why all of their items have a title in their native language.

First of all I want to say a big "hello" to you Ewald, and to all the metal freaks out there who are now reading this interview, cheers! O.K., to the question. You are right, we always have German titles to our releases. Back in 1990 I thought this would be original and new. I think it's more catchy and easier to remember such a title, and I like the sound of these titles a lot. To me "Ein Hauch Von Moder" sounds better than "A Breath Of Mould". Of course nowadays it is really a trend to use German titles, but if you're a Scandinavian band, to use Scandinavian titles. A lot of black metal bands are infected by us. And be sure, I won't do this anymore if I have another band nowadays. But I will always have a title in German for Depression. It's a tradition!

Another thing that strikes me is that your releases have a mystic cover, something which I expect from a black band but not from a death/grind band. Do your covers have a special meaning, or do they just refer to your bandname?

Do you think that our split CD with Agathocles has a mystic cover (yes, a bit)? Hmm, I can't really agree. To me it looks more nice and beauty. But well, you could see it as well. Yes, the covers are of course important for Depression. But I can't say that I always try to choose a cover that refers to our bandname. But it should fit to the title of the release. And I choose motives which are not too easy to understand directly together with the title. I mean, the cover from the split CD with Agathocles is not a shredded corpse, or something like that. You have to think a while to understand the meaning of this. I like this alot and it's the same for the "Ein Hauch Von Moder" 7", "Erinnerungen" demo and the other motives. And in this point I agree with you, the 7" and demo have a mystic cover. But I don't use these covers because of the fact that they are mystic but because they fit to the title. I don't want to use these cliché motives for Depression. We are a death/grind band, but I don't want to use these deformed bodies for a cover. I know that Mark (the other member) would like this alot more, but I suppose our music is cliché enough. We don't need a cliché image too, ha! It happens sometimes that I get letters from people who always thought that Depression was a gothic doom band because of our name, the titles and the whole lay-out. I can understand this, but I like these beautiful lay-outs, with love to the detail. On one hand this brutal music, and on the other hand a carefully styled lay-out.

Your latest release, the split CD with Agathocles, is a great and highly recommended. Why did you choose Agathocles for the CD, and did you have other bands in mind in case Agathocles couldn't or wouldn't? Are you satisfied with the CD? Is it a limited edition CD and how is it selling?

Thanks alot for these kind words! We are really satisfied with this release. There's no fuck-up on this CD. It is often that a release is great, but there are one or more things that don't turn out the way it should be, but not on this CD. Of course there are a few little details, but it doesn't matter that much. Well, we didn't choose Agathocles for the CD. It was not the way that we recorded new songs and that we want to record them on a split CD and then search for a cool band. The story was like this: I am of course a big fan of Agathocles, the music and the whole attitude of the band. And so I've send Jan AG our "Ein Hauch Von Moder" 7" and asked him if it was possible to cover a song from them on our next release. That was my only wish. Jan answered that he really loves our music. At that time Curtis from Gulli Records (on which we released the 7") told me that he wanted to release a split EP with Agathocles and if we wanted to be the 2nd band. We agreed! Jan agreed too. Of course for me a dream came true! But then Curtis wasn't interested anymore, but Depression and Agathocles wanted this split EP. We asked alot of underground labels, but nobody wanted to release it. Jan said we should try it with a split CD because the labels didn't want a split EP. But surprisingly there was no label that wanted to release the CD. But I didn't want to bury this idea! It was a big chance and a big step forward for Depression, so I decided to release this split CD by myself. The CD is selling very, very well. The first pressing is limited to 1000 copies, and it seems that it'll be sold out within a few months. Perhaps there will be a 2nd pressing, but then with little differences so that the first pressing will keep its limited edition bonus.

Depression is a name which is used by several other bands. There is one in Austria, and I believe there's one in (east) Germany too. Then there is a Depression in the Czech or Slovak republic and a Depression in Italy. Why did you choose this name? Aren't you afraid that the people will mix-up the different bands with this name? And that it'll be a bit confusing?

Yeah...too bad! Depression isn't very original nowadays. But I named the band Depression back in 1989. At that time I didn't know another band with this name. I choose this name because it totally fits with my feelings and thoughts in the past. There were so many things that I hated and nobody understood my lifestyle and all these stuff, you know? It's not easy as a metal fan if you are 14 years old and your family and most of your friends didn't understand anything of the metal philosophy. But that was not the only reason for my choice of the title. I love bandnames such as Death, Blood, Cadaver, Autopsy, Grave etc. very much. These words are very strong in their meaning.
and you won’t forget a band which is called like this. I wanted the same for my band. One cool word without misunderstandings, but I also didn’t want such a cliché word. It had to be more timeless and with more possible music styles that fits to it. So my choice fell on Depression, and I’m still satisfied after all those years. Well, to me it doesn’t matter that much that there are other Depressions around. Until now I haven’t heard any misunderstandings. I know it’s Depression in Austria. We’ve got a friend and want to release a split thing in the future that will be called "Depressive" ha, ha. As you can see there is definitely no evil blood between us. I think the Depression from the Czech Republic and the Depression from Austria are the same band because some of the guys are from there. I don’t know the Depressions from Italy and (east) Germany.

For a couple of years Depression was your one-man band. After a while Marc joined to do the vocal duties, but up till now you’re a 2-piece band...

But with the help of a session guitarist (Matthias) you’ve done a couple of shows. Is there a chance that you’ll (or try to have) a complete line-up in the future?

First of all I have to clear something. We didn’t do shows with Matthias (oeps). We wanted to do it, Matthias wanted it too, but there was no time for him (got my info about Depression out of the wrong ’zine). He works in his own studio (Kreativsound Studio, where we record our stuff), and helps out in a bigger studio. And if there’s a little bit of time left for him, he plays with his own band Darth. So there’s no chance to play with us too. Nowadays gigs aren’t a theme anymore for Depression. I think we will never find a cool session guitarist. Marc is in the military service now (fuck it). Our line-up is complete with me and Marc. We are Depression and nobody else! Depression has always been a one-man project or 2-piece band. I think it’s too late to change this now. It wouldn’t be Depression anymore. I don’t think that this band is infected by compromises. I’m sorry but in this case I’m an egocentric egotist, ha, ha! Hope you will understand!

I think your other band Gods Of Grind, and Marc’s band Dismal have come to an end, right? So maybe you can fully concentrate now on Depression? Does it take alot of your time? Do you get alot of mail and do you think that being in contact with alot of people in the scene is important, even if they don’t buy your stuff?

You are right, Gods Of Grind and Dismal are buried now. I’m still sad about the “death” of Gods Of Grind because I really loved this band. Until today I am proud of the songs which we created. Yeah, ofcourse the sound on our demos was total shit, but the songs itself are killers. I would die for a great studio production with these songs, but I think this will never happen...fuck! Dismal came to an end when I left Ludenscheid to live in Dortmund. The other guys totally lost their interest in the band from one day into another. They say that there is no chance to fill the hole I left behind, but I think that it would have been possible. Well, there are still 10 good and unreleased songs in the typical Dismal style. But I don’t believe that they will ever see the light of day. As you see, I’m not satisfied with the end of both bands, but what should I do? Yeah, now I’m fully concentrating on Depression. Puh, it nearly takes all the time I have. I make everything by myself. Marc is only responsible for his growls. Everything else is my cup of tea, so I often wish that a day has 30 hours. But I love this work from my heart. It’s a part of Depression that I don’t wanna miss!!! It is so cool to be involved in the undergroundscene and to have all these contacts with other maniacs in the whole world. That is very, very important for me and without that I can’t live anymore. Depression is and will ever be an underground band!!!

It seems to me that you in Germany have the same problem as we have here in Holland, the very high postage. I’m sure you don’t like it. Do you think that it’ll become a serious problem, maybe a threat for the underground, in which everything goes by mail? It looks to me that Germany has the highest postage rates, your opinion on it?

Yeah, fuck it!!! I hate the post so much! Ofcourse it’s a big threat for the underground. To ship some stuff to other countries is more expensive than the stuff itself! I mean, this can’t be the right way. To go on with all the contacts you have, and distributing and trading your stuff through the world is very expensive. I suppose there would be much more contacts and so on if the postage would not eat all the money. My hope is that the rates will get a bit cheaper when the post service is private, but it won’t surprise me if this is a naive illusion.

But the metal scene, including the underground, has discovered Internet. I don’t like to read in my (closed-minded) opinion the news (and only underground is through mail). But Internet can be an alternative, now that the postage gets so expensive (let’s hope not). Do you think that Internet is the "future"?

You’re right! More and more things go by Internet in the underground. I don’t like this too ’cause in my opinion this has nothing to do with underground. I think there are not very much underground freaks with a computer and with Internet. You have to open my little box every day and to get all those different letters with flyers in it. That isn’t possible with Internet. I’m always distributing the Depression stuff by myself, and this has to happen by mail, so there is absolutely no reason for me to enter the Internet. Depression is only for the cool freaks who have interest in that kind of music. If we are on Internet also the fakes and people who don’t understand anything, about Depression and the underground, will discover the band. I don’t want that.

Having alot of contacts in the scene is great, but there’s a bigger chance that you’ll be a victim of a rip-off. In the thanklist of your EP and CD you say “a really big FUCK-OFF” to all the rip-offs. Have you seen alot of rip-offs, and by whom? Does it happen often that people don’t write back to you?

That’s really shit with the rip-offs. Ofcourse Depression has often been rip ripped-off in all these years. Most of the time by fake fanzines that never existed. I can’t remember how many demos and promo’s I’ve sent out to get a review or interview, and I never heard something back from them.

The biggest rip-off is not very long ago. It was Paolo from Ematafogia Records, Italy. He wanted to release a comp. CD and to distribute our stuff. I’ve sent him a DAT with the track, the money for the CD and alot of our stuff. The CD didn’t see the light of day and I didn’t see the DAT or my money back. After alot of pissed-off letters I had send to him I got my Depression stuff back without an excuse or anything. I puke on you!!!

What about the ’zines? Bands complain, that they sent their material to alot of ’zines, but won’t see anything back, no review, nothing. Do you send alot of stuff to ’zines, and do you often get something back from them? Do you check the ’zines out CD’s before you see them?

Like I said, I was often a victim of a ’zine from which I never heard something back. I try to check them out mostly, but that is no guarantee that you won’t be ripped-off. I nearly always believe in a ’zine and want to support it and want to get support from them. It’s a new contact and I hope it turns out good. I won’t disappoint some people by not answering my mail, but I think I’m a bit naive because I often get disappointed.

A question I have often asked to German people, what’s your opinion on the German scene? Quite alot of great bands, like Blood, Dawn, Nycrophobic, Kadath, Entrails Massacre, Anaarca, etc. Is there alot of co-operation between the bands or maybe only jealousy (a problem in some other countries)? Are there any other bands in your area which we must check out?

I think the German scene is quite good, ofcourse only the undergroundscene. Yeah, the bands which you mentioned are all good and I’m in contact with nearly everyone of them, and trade with them. To me there is no co-operation between them. Certainly there are some black sheeps, like everywhere, but the great and cool bands that stay true to the underground are supporting each other. Yes, I suppose metal music is very popular in my area. You always see people with metal shirts, and the gigs are most of the time in front of a big crowd. It is easy to get all the things and all the albums you want, but it isn’t too popular here. Yeah, there are other cool bands to check out, Rejectamants and Maggot Shoes. There’s a split EP with Maggot Shoes and us now, and there’ll be one with Rejectamants in the future. Gore-grind the way you like it.

What is going to be for sale at the moment and what can we expect from you in the future. Tell me more about the split EP with Maggot Shoes. Will there be an “Ein Hauch Von Moder” pt 2, as mentioned on the inside cover of your “Ein Hauch Von Moder” EP?

At the moment we have the split CD with Agathocles (DM 25 incl. p & p), the “Ein Hauch Von Moder” EP (DM 10 incl. p & p) and the split EP with Maggot Shoes (DM 10 incl. p & p). A split tape with Herbas (I don’t know the price) and the “Ein Hauch Von Moder” pt 2, split EP with Rejectamants (DM 10 incl. p & p). The “Ein Hauch Von Moder” EP was filled with 5 songs from us and “Dogmatize” from Blood. The split CD with Agathocles contains 8 songs from us including the Fear Of God cover “Thy Beauty”, the split EP with Maggot Shoes contains 4 brand new tracks + the “Heart Of Illnies” cover from Impetigo. On “Ein Hauch Von Moder” pt 2 are 4 more songs from the same studio session (this time without a cover version, yeah). The split tape with Herbas is polluted with really old rehearsals and uncontrolled live sessions. It doesn’t represent Depression but it’s pure cool chaotic noise/grind. Certainly there are cover versions on it: “Boneyard” from Impetigo and Blood’s “Dogmatize” (puke-fart version). Check out our stuff! You’ll be disappointed, ha!

Coming from your city is Century
Media Records, known for its releases of oldies like Grave, Unleashed, Tiamat, Asphyx, Maybe a Depression CD on this label? Nah, I don't think so. But tell me, what's your opinion on the big record labels? Would you take the chance if a label offers you a deal, or do you stay on your own, releasing all kinds of items on small labels?

Hey, I'm working at Century Media Records, so no chance for bad words ha, ha! No, there is nothing bad to say from my side. People often ask me why Depression doesn't release an album on Century Media, because I work there. But I don't want this, and I suppose they don't want this too. Depression is not a band for a big label. There is no chance for us to reach a larger audience, from record to record and to "progress" from year to year. We will always have our same die-hard fans through all the years. Not more and not less. So no big label will ever put their money in us with big promotion, and tours and such. We had to change our style and the whole attitude of Depression to be interesting for Century Media or another big label. But I will never change my ideas and will make any compromises for Depression. Everything has to be under my control, and if you are on a big label, there are too many things that could go wrong. Of course, if I could realize my ideas for 100% then I had no problem with a deal from a big label. I think when you're on a big label, it doesn't mean that you are a sell-out. Look at Fleshcrawl, they released several CDs on Black Mark Rec., and they are still underground. Really cool if you stay true instead of becoming a money hunter. At the moment I release everything on my own so that it is the way I want it. It's more important for me to have a high quality release that is more expensive to produce than to release cheap crap and earn more money by selling it. If I want to become rich with Depression, I would play any other kind of music. Small labels often don't have the money to release the stuff the way I want it. So I prefer to bring it out by myself, so that I can be proud of it. But certainly every label is welcome!!

I have reached the bottom of my inspiration so I say goodbye here. Anything left to say?

Uff, I don't think that there was anything important that wasn't said in this huge interview. Thank you Ewald for your interesting questions and for the space you left for Depression, cool!! Keep the underground spirit alive and stay heavy and brutal!!

Depression c/o Kai Sattelau, Am Knappenberg 99, 44139 Dortmund, Germany.

DEPRESSION/AGATHOCLES split CD
DEPRESSION/MAGGOT SHOES split EP

Have to keep it short. The split EP is a fantastic item. Depression plays 8 brutal and heavy tunes while Agathocles comes with 5 studio and 4 live songs. Really good, an extremely professional item. You have to check it out! But the split CD is a good one too. The 3 Depression songs are kinda similar to their CD tunes. Extremely heavy and with guttural vocals. Maggot Shoes is a new name to me. They play 2 songs of fast grinding music with a good sound. Again a profit item! A bit weird cover, printed on orange vinyl. 500 copies made.

PURE FUCKIN' DEATH!!!

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Does Mortem need a further introduction? I don’t think so. Since their formation in 1986 they have released 4 demos and last year their debut CD “Demon Tales” saw the light of day on Merciless Records. The 2nd CD must come out soon. For a group enough to do an interview, Ewald was talking to bass boy Juan C. Muro.

It’s January 1998 now. How else can I start than to ask you about the 2nd LPCD, which must be out by now. Tell me more about the album, at least the play-time. Is it again recorded in the El Techo studio?

Well, the recording is a bit delayed. We have started the recording sessions on March the 2nd. And yes, it will be recorded at El Techo studio. The album is to be called "The Devil Speaks In Tongues". It will contain 11 songs plus a cover from Sacrifice (Canada) called "Turn In Your Grave". The length of the album is over 50 minutes.

Is there much difference between your debut LPCD "Demon Tales" and your 2nd LPCD? Did Mortem progress alot since "Demon Tales"? Meanwhile Wilber Rosan (guitars) was replaced by Sandro Kobal. Did this change or progress Mortem? Has Sandro been involved in the songwriting of the songs that will appear on your new LPCD?

There are some differences, but the style remains the same. It is definitely for people who know what real death metal is! On the new album the vocals don’t vary so much from one song to another. On the "Demon Tales" album there were songs that had very different vocals between each other. On the new album the vocals will be more combined, more mixed. We do have progressed a lot with the new members Sandro Kobal on guitars and Jaime Garcia on drums. The old drummer Alvaro Amduscia, original founder of Mortem, plays no longer in the band, but he still does some of the songwriting and lyric writing, together with Ferman, just as on the "Demon Tales" album, so the style and influences come from the same. On the new album he even does the vocals for the cover version of Sacrifice.

Almost 10 years it took before Mortem got a recorddeal, with German Merciless Records, on which you have released your CDs. What does Merciless Records mean for Mortem? Is there a good co-operation between the band and the recordlabel, and are you satisfied with what Volker (the label owner) has done for Mortem so far? Has Mortem’s popularity increased since the release of your debut LPCD?

Well, our debut album was pressed first on a Peruvian label, but it was a rip-off label so we wanted a new edition. It was really great that the interest would come from someone from Germany who would appreciate our music and sign our band. We had previous contacts with some German ’zines, and we got some support too. Labels in Peru and South America can’t do too much for their bands, mainly because of the lack of money. Yes, we have a good relationship with Volker, and we’re satisfied with his distri-

bution and promotion. He gave us the opportunity to put our music on vinyl too, and that’s really something for us. We have got alot of good response and comments in metal ’zines from all over the world, especially Europe, and I think that wouldn’t be possible without being signed on Merciless Records.

Will you continue your co-operation with this label, or have other labels meanwhile knocked on your door? Would you go for it if a bigger label would offer you a deal, maybe with the possibility to come to Europe or the USA for gigs?

We signed for 2 albums with Merciless Records, so after "The Devil Speaks In Tongues" is out, the contract will end, and who knows what will happen? We’ll see how the album does and then we can tell more. It is very funny that now we have got some proposal from South American labels, but not in the past. About touring Europe or the USA with a bigger label. I think we got our feet very well landed so it does not seem too possible to happen in the near future.

Well, I just wanted to ask if it is possible to come to Europe. Do you often play shows in Peru/South America? Do you have a strong following in your own country?

No, at the moment it is not possible for us to tour Europe. Yes, we often play at shows here and we do have a very strong following. Even if we are one of the oldest bands from the Peruvian scene, every fan respects us, young and old. You know, with the years people change their likes for music and stop listening to metal, so most people at the shows are always new. They are often of a younger age but they do seem to like our music.

Mortem has a strong anti-trend mentality, and that’s what I appreciate very much. Did the fact that it took so long to get a recorddeal, and that Mortem had to take so much obstacles, make you stronger, more underground minded?

How do you look on the black metal trend? Has it reached Peru, and what’s the result of it?

YESSS, you are right!!! We have always been a very underground band, and the fact that we are from South America gives us an extra under-underground feeling, and it also makes us very selective when we listen to metal music. Though we know that metal music is far from being born here but we’ve been listening to it for years and years, and it definitely changed our lives and we are sure about the music we like. That is the feeling that we want to express through our music, the feeling of the extreme underground metal.

The black metal trend is like the death metal trend was a few years ago, but a little more “over the top”, with hundreds of these people using the same make-up and singing and playing the same music. When one looked at some ’zines, it looked as if every black metal fan had his own band. I’m afraid to say that this trend has reached here, and some people talk about “the woods” and all that stuff. I guess it sounds pretty ridiculous here...

The reactions on "Demon Tales" were overwhelming. Did this give you x-tra motivation? Did the LP and CD sell well? How much of ’em were sold? What actually do you prefer, LP or CD?

Yes, our album got excellent reviews in the metal press and it was really compensating for us. As for the sales, I don’t know the amount of the sales, but I guess the results...
aren't that impressive. I guess it's because nobody knew about the band, but we'll see what happens when our 2nd album comes out... We defeated the LPs, when we started listening to metal, we bought all our music on LPs and that was really great for us. I have nothing against CD's, I mean, they preserve the sound better, but all of the production, art and layout can be more appreciated on LP.

Mortem mentions bands like old Slayer, old Death, Possessed, Sacrifice etc., as its influences, old bands to say so. Here in Europe there's a sudden invasion of bands that start to play so-called "old style" metal. Do you like it, songs build-up of stolen rifts, or bands that steel complete songs from other bands (like Norwegian Inferno does?) Do you think that this "old style" revival will have the same impact on the metalheads like it had back in the '80s?

I really don't think so. Lamentably, the '80s were probably the golden years of metal. However, metal is very far from being dead. I think the new bands should explore new sounds beyond the boundaries of what metal music is, not outside of it as most people do. As for bands that rip-off the glorious bands of the past, we definitely don't like them. We have old influences because we are more or less an "old" band, which plays since the early part of the '80s. But when you start to listen to a band that was founded in 1996 and plays stuff in the old vein, then it makes you wonder...

I asked this question to Turkish Cenotaph too... Do you think that Mortem has opened doors for other Peruvian bands? Do you think that the metalheads will have more interest now in Peruvian bands?

I hope so. There are many bands here in Peru, but also a lot of the good ones have disappeared too, because of the lack of support. Peru is not exactly what you'd call a safe place for metal. Only the strongest survive through the years. We can tell because we've seen so many bands wimp out here... And then there is your zine, Testament. I know the zine since the 2nd issue, and from issue to issue it has progressed a lot, and I can easily say that it's an excellent zine. How's the 'zine going, and what can we expect in the future, maybe an issue which is written in English?

Thanks for your words, my friend! The 'zine is going well, and it has some good distributors in Peru and South America (it's sold in Spain too). About the English edition, many people have asked the same, but I think the 'zine is mostly useful for people in this side of the world to know about the bands and releases. I don't know if it will be possible, but maybe someday I can publish an amount in English.

Is it easy to combine your activities in Mortem and your 'zine? Is your 'zine a good opportunity to give Mortem some x-tra promotion?

Yes, 'cause I don't work at the moment, and I'm only dedicated to these 2 things. The only difficulty I have is when I have to print the 'zine because I have to check personally all of the printing process (diagrammation, buy and choose the paper sheets, printing, photolines, etc.) which takes at least a week. You probably know about this, don't you, Ewald? Well, it looks to me that it is a bit easier here. The only real difficulty I have is the high costs? I think Mortem is the best band from the Peruvian scene, and I have supported it since the first issue of my 'zine (5½ years ago). I play in Mortem for 2 years now and yes, my 'zine gives me the chance to support my own band and other Peruvian bands too.

Testament 'zine features bands from all over the world, but strange enough not much from Peru. How's your local scene doing? What happened with bands like Hades, Necropoya, Kraniun and Mental Alteration?

In my past issues I have interviewed all of the bands which you've mentioned, except for Mental Alteration. About our local scene, it's very expensive to release anything here, so not all the bands come-up with demos. As for the bands you mentioned, Hades disappeared for several years, after recording a CD, but is back and is supposed to record their new stuff. Necropoya died some years ago too. Their last guitar player, Sandro, is in Mortem now. Kraniun is one of the oldest bands and is playing now a slower music with folkloric instruments. As for Mental Alteration, it started off as a grind band, then changed their name to Nahual and turned into a black metal band. And now they have changed their name again but I don't know what kind of music they're playing now.

Well, I'm gonna check out your 2nd album, and I hope that our readers will do the same after they've been reading this interview. Anything to add?

Our new album will be called "The Devil Speaks in Tongues", and it lasts almost an hour with 12 tracks of classic death metal which is in the old vein, but sounds very fresh now, compared to the nouveau chutty shit!! Thanks for your great support! Ewald, keep on going your great job with M.O.B. mag!

I sure will, and I hope you guys will keep your great job going! Check out Mortem's 2nd album and also try to get your copy of "Demon Tales", in case you don't have it yet. For information about the band you must write: Juan C. Muro, Los Huancas 171, Maranga Lima 32, Peru. The address of Merciless Records is: p.o.box 72, 97448 Arnstein, Germany. "Demon Tales" costs $20,-/DM 30.

TESTAMENT 'zine #5

Normally I would put this review in the 'zine section, but I have some place left here so here's the review. Besides, it's Mortem's Juan who's responsible for this piece of pure underground metal literature. #5 contains 36 A4 pages (written in Spanish!) and has a full-coloured front cover. Inside you'll find interviews with: Angel Corpse, Infamy, Immolation, Impaled Nazarene, Avernus, Ei Pecado, Vulpecula, Avulsed, Undercroft + an interview with Mortem themselves. It's the interview which also featured in the 7th issue of Ibasha 'zine, from the States. Furthermore there are a huge amount of reviews and there's a lot of news.

A great issue, or better said: Excellent Impression! Bands, labels, 'zines must send their promo stuff to Juan C. Muro! Sent $6,- if you want to check out the 'zine. (EP)
CORONERS REPORT #3
A cool 'zine from the States, full of interesting death, grind and crust. Abscess, Discordance Axis, Agathocles, Final Exit, Human Remains, Nyctophbic, Rise, Deceased, Turning Of The Gears and Mass Psychosis feature in this 48 pages counting issue. Furthermore there is a Japan report and about 70 reviews. The print quality is good. It's yours for $5 ($3 in the US) to: Coroner's Report, 565 Drexel Avenue, Glencoe, IL 60022, USA.

RELAX #4
The guys who are responsible for this Italian 'zine won't make many friends in England with this issue. And that's because of the front cover. It's a copied issue, A4 size, and contains 30 pages with interviews with: Exhumed, Jesus Skin, Deranged, Beauty, Nile, Fortanus, Asphyx, Viscera, Ton, + about 100 record/demo/zine/movie reviews, and with some news. The layout is pretty simple. A nice issue. $3 to: Raffaele Sironi, via Biffi, 1, 20050 Subiaco (MI), Italy.

LIQUID OF LIFE #5
Liquid Of Life is an excellent fanzine which is strictly limited to the most intense, sick and violent forms of metal. Every death/grinder must check it out! #5 contains 68 pages with chats with: Disgust (Fra), Diabolic, Uncreation, Distorgy (Mex), Intens Hammer Rage, Naxor, Fermento, Martian, Dismember, Osyansy Insane and Krisun, + tons of informative reviews on demos/EPs/CDs etc. Lots of logos are used in the reviews and I like that! Get this damn issue for $6 (Europe), $7 (else) at: Olivier Meschine, Le Houx, 49680 Neuille, France.

X-TREEM #4
X-treem is a little magazine with lots of info on different subjects. It's formed as a half A5 format and copied but with a good quality. And it's written in Dutch. It got lots of info, about anarchism, anti fascist stuff etc. Also included are several demo and record reviews and interviews with Swedish Disfar and American Drop Dead. Next to that you will find a small mailorder with lots of stuff, like t-shirts, demos, magazines, EP's, patches, buttons, and some posters and postcards. Also there are a lot of drawings and poems in it from different people from different countries and a complete list of Dutch D.I.Y. magazines + an agenda with activities etc. An informative and interesting mag. Get it for $1 or 2 Dutch guilders at: X-treem, c/o Leo Extrem, p.o.box 6071, 3002 AB Rotterdam, Holland.

PUTRID DYSENTERY #4
Another 'zine from France which is totally dedicated to death and grind. This debut issue contains 44 copied pages and besides about 100 reviews there are long and short interviews with: Nyctophbic, Arvulsed, Hemdale, Dawn, Cataesnaxial U.M., Kadath, Malignant Tumour, Necrophagist, Thanatologist, Fleshless, Dead & Dumb, C.S.S.O., Bone Brigade, Mastic Scum, Behedead, Repulse Records, Exhumed, Grinded Artery, Inhumate, Enthralls Massacre, Suppository, Gharotar, Haemorrhage, Blood, Inhume, Dysentery, Dead Invasion, Crawling Due, Dead and Desperate Corruption, + a few scene reports. The copy quality isn't the best but there's a lot to read. I don't know if it's still available. Info at: Bruno Bascaud, 3 Rue De La Ronde, 57050 Metz, France.

PITFALL #12
One of Sweden's longest running 'zines has released its 12th issue some time ago. It's a good and profi issue which contains interviews with: Voices Of Patients, Acrement, Necrophobic, Loud Pipes, Desaster, Scepter, Vic Records, Terra Firma, Witchburner, Listenable Records, Sheavy, Arghoslent, The Haunted and Cardinal Sin. Of course there are many reviews too! It's the best Putrefaction issue so far and I appreciate the original choice of bands. Price is $5 (Europe), $6 (else) to: Tomas Nyqvist, Finningevagen 72d, 645 42 Strängnäs, Sweden.

GODLESS #1
A newsletter from Belgium. #1 contains 24 A5 pages with interviews with: Agathocles, Blood Suckers, Running Guts + about 68 reviews and a Belgian scene report. It's made with a computer and it looks to me like it's printed with a computer printer. Nice stuff! Get it for $2 at: Bram van Cauter, Wijsgangerd 20, 1703 Schepdaal, Belgium. A real A4 sized 'zine must be out by now.

SIEGEL #5
It's been 2 years ago since their 4th issue came out, but the long wait has been worth it 'cause their 5th issue is an absolute must! Barathrum, Deviser, Ancient Rites, Silentium, Thy Serpent are some of the bands that were friendly to answer their interview. But for several other bands it was too much asked, and they didn't answer (hmm, sounds familiar!). But the ones that did answer their intle won't regret it 'cause they feature in what has become a great issue. Interviews and many reviews on 32 pages. And you won't regret it if you sent $4 to: Antti Saarinen, Rahkapii 1, 92600 Pulkkila, Finland.

NEROCORE #4
For the first time we go to Poland. The 6th issue of this A5 sized and copied 'zine. There are 70 fullpacked pages but it's written in Polish. Some of the bands are: Ciborium, Eye Sea, Moonstruck, Damnation (Ger), Desaster,... Get it for $1 or 2 Polish guilders to: X-treem, c/o Leo Extrem, p.o.box 6071, 3002 AB Rotterdam, Holland.

PUTRID DYSENTERY #4
Another 'zine from France which is totally dedicated to death and grind. This debut issue contains 44 copied pages and besides about 100 reviews there are long and short interviews with: Nyctophbic, Arvulsed, Hemdale, Dawn, Cataesnaxial U.M., Kadath, Malignant Tumour, Necrophagist, Thanatologist, Fleshless, Dead & Dumb, C.S.S.O., Bone Brigade, Mastic Scum, Behedead, Repulse Records, Exhumed, Grinded Artery, Inhumate, Enthralls Massacre, Suppository, Gharotar, Haemorrhage, Blood, Inhume, Dysentery, Dead Invasion, Crawling Due, Dead and Desperate Corruption, + a few scene reports. The copy quality isn't the best but there's a lot to read. I don't know if it's still available. Info at: Bruno Bascaud, 3 Rue De La Ronde, 57050 Metz, France.

DARK FLOWERS #6
Lázló of Backwoods Prod. was involved in this 'zine. It has come to an end now. It's a good 'zine and contains interviews with: Mussorgski, Dark Funeral, Alfred's Violin, Mythoty, Night In Gales, God's Devastation 'zine, Naervaar, Blackend, Aeternus, Katharsis, Fadless Rec., Mordum, Noonan, Inseptus. Furthermore there are long scene reports from Slovakia and Malta, and brief scene reports from Costa Rica and Holland. There's a huge amount of reviews too. And all this is professional printed on 52 pages. The price is $5 (Europe), $6 (else). A good 'zine with an original choice of bands!

LAMENTATION #9
A really good looking issue which contains chats with: Dementor, Blizzard, Malefication, Desolation, Forth, Poverdive, Malevolent Creation, Domenech, Introitus, Resurrection, Sartinas, + some informative articles on some bands. Besides that there are about 160 reviews on 'zines/demos/records. A neat lay-out and clear printing, really good! Get it for $3 (Europe) or $4 (else) from Backwoods Prod., or from the editor: Bechtel J. Ervin, 7187 Majos, VII u. 22, Hungary. #7 and #8 are for sale for $2 (Europe), $3 (else) from Backwoods too!

FREEZING FLAMES #1
Wow, this is a good one! The best Hungarian 'zine I've seen so far! Excellent printing and a very good lay out! The choice of bands is very original. Here you'll find chats with: Mind As Mine, Cromlech, Det Hedenske Folk, Nuclear Death, Crematory, Dark Clouds, Apothecosis, Falkenbach, Amon Amarth, Penitent, Aligation, Weltenbrand, The Marble Icon, Autumn Tears, The Blood Divine, Dismal Euphony, Archaos, Grand Belial's Key, A Canorous Quintet, Bak De Syr Vjall, Darkness and Darkness Is My Pride. All this is completely with about 50 reviews. $5 (Europe), $6 (else) to Backwoods Prod., or to: Zsolt Palfagraf, Kinizsi L6p 1b III/11, 7400 Kaposvar, Hungary.

TRANSYLVANIAN DAMNATION #3
A 'zine which is limited to black metal and ambient stuff. There are interviews with: Absu/Equitant, Morzor, Penitent, Astaraxia, Plasma Tool, Mental Destruction, Tormentor (Hun), Summoning and Wallachia as well as some weird and unusual things. There are only a handful of reviews. The printing is good, the lay-out is simple and mystic. $4 (Europe), $5 (else) to Backwoods Prod. or to: Vámosi Tamás, 7634 Pécs, Rácvarosi u 33b, Hungary.

NIGHTWALK #1
Debut issue from this black metal 'zine. Except for the Dimmu Borgir interview, it is limited to Norwegian bands (unfortunately!).
NIHILISTIC HOLOCAUST #1

Once again we go to France ‘cause here I have the debut issue of Nihilistic Underground. And for a first issue it's not bad. There are chats with: Amon, Krabathor, Blood Suckers, Gothic, Dirtaxe, Disabled, Kadath, Heretik, Evidentia, Asphyx, Cabal, Lombric and Depraved. And of course there are many reviews! The text is clear but the printing in general is a bit dark. The review section is kinda reminiscent of Liquid Of Life 'zine. All in all it's a nice issue, and it's yours for the unbelievable cheap price of $2 at Skowron Gabriel, 9, rue de la Scarpe, 59552 Lambres Lez Douan, France.

CHAOS #6

The 6th issue of this highly recommended German 'zine is a very thick one with 68 excellent pages. Dimmu Borgir, Crown Of Thorns, Arch Enemy, Entombed, Obliteration, Sacrilege, Avulsed, Broken Hope, The Everedown, Opeth, Dissection, In Flames, Godforyr, Cardinal O Sin, My Dying Bride feature in it with an interview. Especially fans of Swedish stuff will like it! There's an innumerable amount of objective 'zine stuff, demo and record reviews + a story on the good old trashers of Protection. The layout looks really good, reminds me a little of Voices From The Darkside 'zine. The printing is great. The whole 'zine is printed on glossy paper. Don't hesitate, buy! Eeh, the price? Shit, forgot it, but I think 5 or 6 dollars will do. Write to: Schenker, Wormenstrasse 40, 72760 Reutlingen, Germany.

KOEL-VERZEKEN #2

Made by (Sm)erk and Jim of Cornucopia, this A5 sized grind/HC/punk 'zine. Filthy Charity, Yacopose, Deadmocracy, Outrage, Karma, Praparation-H and Metra Budocnrost are interviewed. Music and gig reviews are in it - articles and thoughts on different subjects. It comes with a cool metal poster. It contains 50 copied pages and costs $2, but I don't know if the postage is included. Check it out, really nice stuff. See the Cornucopia address.

INTELLECTUAL SPEW #3

A really good issue which contains 64 pages. Brutal bands such as Fleshgrind, Mortal Decay, Iced Earth, Beheaded, Krabathor, Nile, Chapel Of Grisile, Gore and kinda unusual bands like Therion, Ashes, Glossy Grim, Mainframe, Silhaven, Strapping Young Lad, Sonnus and Pipe are mixed through each other. There's also an interview with Coroner's Report 'zine, a good deal of reviews, and a story on Beethoven (?). The pages look good and the printing is well done. You can obtain it for $5 (world), $3 (USA) at: p.o.box 785, Cookeville, TN 38503, USA.

HEADFUCKER #6

Another 64 pages of what I can easily call the best European underground magazine, and one of the best in the worldwide underground. #5 offers you some of the purest brutal bands such as Italian Natron, Swedish Nasum, Danish Exmortum, Canadian Hidden Pride as well as American fuckers like Pyreza, Silent Green, Dying Fetus, Brutal Truth, Mortal Decay, Nile, not to forget the Australian groovers of Blood Duster. Besides that there are countless reviews. The lay-out is truly perfect and it's printed in the best way possible. Headfucker #5 is like a dream coming true, and every fan of brutal music should check it out for $7 at: Headfucker, p.o.box 151, 25038 Rovato, Brescia, Italy.

G.I.JOE #10

Got their 9th issue for a review but meanwhile their 10th issue saw daylight. It's a very good looking A5 sized issue which is written in German. Inside you'll find a diversity of bands and interviews with: Thorn, Dakria, Naglfar, Coercion, Haggard, Thorent, Decibitus, The Crown, Sarkonyx, Agathodaimon, Impending Doom and Darken Art Prod. A huge amount of reviews complete the 82 pages. The printwork and lay-out are very good. The free comp. CD that comes with it was done in cooperation with Perverted Taste Records. The price is unknown to me, so you better write first to: Kai Scheibe, Midweg 9, 02923 Uthemannsdorf, Germany.

MELLOMANIA TERROR MUSIC #10

Got this one from Pascal (Putrid Dysentery 'zine). There's enough place here so here are some words on this Spanish written 'zine from Venezuela. There are reviews and articles on Inferno, Voice Of Destruction, Mortib Blood, Mortofobia, Dissection, Putrid Faith, Asmodeo, Ejecucion and more. There's a Costa Rican scene report, a history on black metal and reviews. Quite well done! Contact at: Av. Principal Boulevard Raul Leon, Edif. Sicorporo, apt 32 Cafetal, 1061 Caracas, Venezuela.

FEAR OF LIFE #5

The final issue of what has become Holland's nr. 1 fanzine. A bright selection of interviews with bands such as: Theatre Of Tragedy, Dew-Scented, Pentacle, Phlebotomized, Paradigma, Decorah, Mythological Cold Towers, Lords Of The Stone, Orphaned Land, Crack-Up, Arch Enemy, Ygrassil, Scarev + Dutch rappers Oschph Passe (?) as well as Repulse Records and drawer Jacob Leonard. 200 informative reviews and the 2nd part of the Aussie scene report. Highly professional printing, a 2-colour cover, and yours for $6 to: Arco van Winden, Oude Leedweg 39, 2641 NM Pijnacker, Holland.

OKSORE #1

Impaled Nazarene, Satyricon, Immortal, Dark Tranquility, Owned Enslavement, Mundaun Impurum, Demonic, Contest, Reaction, Horna, Naglfar, Mainframe, Tubus, Left Hand Solution, Spread The Word, Agathodaimon are some of the bands that feature in this truly fantastic debut issue. There are a huge amount of reviews, about 400, and it comes with a little CD. The lay-out is good. The printing is good too although some of the review pages are not very clear. I think the review pages are a bit boring anyway. But what the fuck, only $6 ($7 outside Europe) for 48 pages. Write to Osoori, p.o.box 241, 5260 Indre Arna, Norway.

IMPERIADE #3

Imperiaede's 3th issue contains 62 pages of pure, slick and perversive death and grind. There are interviews with known and less known bands such as Deranged, Nyctophobia, Catasexual Urge Motivation, Exhumed, Agathocles, Final Exit, Entrophy, Unholy Grave, Squash Bowels, Dahner, Cepropatilia, Und emotional, Dismembered Fetus, Filth, Achaemenes. Also there's a concert report by Dan of Entraill Massacre and there are about 150 reviews. It's a copied 'zine but the text is clear. $5 to: Necrophil, 18, rue de la Presse, 78500 Sartrouville, France.

FECTICIDE #1

A Bolivian 'zine which is written in Spanish and English. And it's a 'zine which deserves your attention 'cause it's a good looking issue with good printing (although the pictures are not too clear). The lay-out is kinda simple, but it's surveyable and there's alot to read. Sickness, Catasexual Urge Motivation, Dismembered Fetus, Putrocrosre, Disembowel (Paraguay), Suppository, Hemdale, Numskull, Encomium, Disembouched, Haemorrhage, Deaden, Corpse Vomit, Xanther, Exhumed, Deeds Of Flesh, Dahner, Subverator, Fleshgrind, Disembodied, Mordedor, Disdian, Colements, + so much more. So you'll get a wide range of known and unknown bands including quite some bands from South America. Many reviews and scene reports from Japan and Paraguay. All this is yours for $5 to: Alan Castro, p.o.box 6817, La Paz, Bolivia, South America.
The Czech and Slovak republics both went their own way a couple of years ago. But for one time they're re-united, in the following scene report. And we kick-off with an interview. Representing the Slovak republic, here's Sanatorium.

O.K. Martin, normally I start an interview with an editorial in which I introduce the band to our readers. But why don't you do that introduction yourself? What and who is Sanatorium?

O.K. Martin: "Master Of Brutality" Sanatorium is a death metal band from Slovakia, now consisting of 4 persons: Vrano & Onecque on guitars (both 24 years old), Adrian on drums (18 years), and I, who plays bass and serves the microphone. It could be said that we came into existence in 1991, but the line-up was not complete until January 1994, due to problems with conscription, rehearsal rooms, personal affairs. Since May '94 we're doing concerts very actively and in March '96 we released our first demo "Sabotage" which has been received quite well and we gained "as much as such" of a name in the Slovak scene. And so we did more and more concerts. In October '96 we recorded 6 new songs in the Pro Art studio. They've all been released in May '97 on tape and EP. At that time, drummer Alky was still in the band, but he was replaced by Adrian as Alky (thanks to his addiction to alcohol) wasn't able to play with us any longer. That would be in brief.

Your 2nd demo "Aurum Shadows" has been released on EP too, why? Is it a limited edition EP, how many copies were made, and is it selling well? Why didn't you put the demo song "Unreal" on the EP version?

The vinyl version should've been released along with the demo, but it all became too complicated because the EP's were made in Prague, in the Czech republic. At first there should've been a vinyl version only. But here in eastern Europe things are not so easy. And we thought that we shouldn't spread many of 'em as EP's are not very popular. So we decided that there should be a tape version too. After the release of the tape there occurred further problems, with the Dutch EP. So it was all a bit delayed. It's a limited edition of 300 copies, having the colour of menstrual blood. "Unreal" didn't fit on the EP because of the lack of time. We were thinking of which song we had to throw out, but afterwards we got a recorddeal for a comp. CD which was released through English Godtech 'zine and Unknown Territory, so we got "Unreal" on the CD. I think the EP sells well as we do no special promotion for it.

Did you sell many copies of the demo version of "Aurum Shadows"? You've sent about 100 promo copies to 'zines, which resulted in many good reactions, but did it also result in many demo orders from people and distributors? Did it give you the response you hoped for?

We have sold indeed more than 1300 copies at the moment. That's it, I think very decent. Of course many of 'em were sold in Slovakia and the Czech Republic. I'll surely get better cause we cooperate with lots of distributors throughout the world who sell our tapes. And some people ordered them from mail, sending cash in a letter. Mostly from the USA we got alot of orders. But there are still countries where we are unknown and where "Aurum Shadows" is not distributed. We'll do our best to improve it. The tape version is not limited and it's no problem to make new copies. The firm which is producing 'em for us is able to make another edition of tapes within 3 weeks. We usually let them produce 300 copies per edition. As far as the response concerns. We actually hope that there will be any response at all. But we have in no case expected that it would be so splendid. We receive pletes of letters from the whole world. We do alot of interviews etc., it's great! But there are of course also people who want to be interviewed by Master Of Brutality (be proud of it, ha!). Thanks to all who've supported us!!!

Sanatorium's Your first demo "Subculture" came out in 1995. It seems to me that this demo is rather unknown overthere in west Europe. How much copies did you sell and how were the reactions? Is there a reason why both of your demos have a nature picture?

"Subculture" has a pretty bad sound so we haven't sent many copies abroad. Besides that there are many mistakes on it. We were inexperienced with the work in the studio so it didn't turn out according to our ideas. Inspite of that there are about 500 copies sold. The interest was raised after the release of the "Aurum Shadows". Although it was a poor recording, the reactions were quite good, mainly in the Czech republic, Poland, Slovakia. As for the covers. We never wanted to belong to the bands which use gore covers. We are rather fascinated by the beauty of what men never created and will never create, mountains, hills, woods, mountains, hills, woods...You'd better comprehend it if you would live in Slovakia. It's a certain kind of respect to the nature, to the powers from the past. It's a certain melancholy. We do not want to give this general subject up in the future. We are fascinated by combination brutality and morbidity with the beauty of nature. We already have some photos for the new material, and they are again in natural spirit.

When "Subculture" came out, the band was together for about 4 years already, so it took a long time before you made your first demo. Why did it take so long? Maybe because of the line-up changes, which you've had plenty of 'em, or maybe because it's expensive to make a demo?

Yes, this delay was connected with alot of personal changes. A fact was connected with that, namely Alky, who had to serve the army for 18 months and it was very difficult to find a compensation. The recording of a demo is not really a cheap matter. At that time there were 2 students in the band, Warmo also didn't earn big money and Alky was searching for a steady job. We'd been collecting money very slowly. And it can be said that we were also gathering courage to record something at all.

But it looks like it is not difficult in your country to find new members, is it? Are there many people in your area which can play an instrument and are interested in metal music?

Did the Sanatorium members play in other bands? How's the band doing with the new drummer Adrian?

In my opinion it is quite difficult to replace somebody from us. Especially at the present it would be almost impossible. We never had a good luck that we came across with Adrian. Otherwise we would probably have stayed without drummer. We are already a tight group and I can't imagine that either, Onecque or Warmo wouldn't play with us. There are few bands in our area that try to play, but they are still in the beginning and there is alot of work and drudgery still awaiting them. Everyone of us already played in other bands. Warmo played in a band called HT, which is one of the most popular punkrock bands in Slovakia at the moment, but he was not satisfied with their music. Onecque played in some bands, but I can't remember their names. Adrian played in an instrumental progressive metal band called Invisible Orchestra, and I played in death/grind core bands. As I do! I do well with Adrian. It's a guy who knows what he wants, and he's a very talented drummer. We both comprehend each other as far as the human aspects concerns. Moreover his style is much more aggressive and faster than that of Alky. We are fully satisfied.

Well, in both, the Czech and Slovak republics metal music seems to be very popular, with alot of interesting bands like Etryroz, Mentality, Fuzz, Inseptum, to name a few Slovakian bands. Are you satisfied with your scene, and do you cooperate with other Slovakian bands?

Is their alot of jealousy among the bands, which happens in some other countries?

Except for Mordum, we know every band which you mentioned. From time to time we play a gig together. I don't think that metal music would be considerably popular, but it isn't so bad either. There are alot of bands, there are enough concerts, and fans visit the concerts. We cooperate with the majority of bands. We are friends with Sarcasmsg, Phantasma, Trest, Daybreak, Bizarr Of Brutality, Suffocate, etc.

Except for Immortal Souls Prod., we keep in touch with everybody. Ofcourse there is some jealousy, mainly the bands that sit in the pub and do nothing, suffer from this syndrome. But we don't care about them. I think the biggest problem for the Slovak bands is their limited knowledge of the English language, laziness and excessive modesty. Therefore the Slovak scene is not named often in the world, but I hope it'll change in the future, and more and more bands will get into the awareness of the underground.

And how is the financial and economic situation in Slovakia? Is it hard for a metal band to live in Slovakia? What are the main difficulties, do you have good studios, good clubs? And what about the post service? A few years ago it was kinda messed-up and it was difficult for bands to get their material to foreign countries.

It's not a secret that the financial, economic and political situation here is quite bad, thanks to our unbelievable fucking government. We have a very bad reputation in the world. Though real life is quiet and calm, and there are no pronounced problems. The living standard is sufficiently low, and it's pretty expensive for a man who doesn't belong to the upper top 10000 class. Moreover I'm a student at the university and I still have no means in order to buy high-quality equipment. When we want to buy
something or we want to go to the studio we must collect money for months. There are enough possibilities to a studio. Well, the

Exponent studio, where Krabathor recorded the

"Lies" CD, is situated in Slovakia too. It's also no problem to set up a concert and we play quite

often. Maybe for young guys it is hard, but the situation is better since 2 years as it was in the

beginning. The post service is really an idiotic organisation. The people who work there have

often problems with mental intelligence or whatever. It is no problem to send some stuff

abroad, like it was in the era of communism, really no problem. Only the postage is fuckin' high. Fortunately I have no problems with lost parcels and letters. It's a mere miracle, but I

rather send the costly things through registered mail.

You've done a weekend tour in October 97, with shows in Germany, Switzerland, Austria and the Czech republic, how did it go? Where did you play and with which bands did you play? Did alot of people come to your shows?

It was quite good. Just the gigs in Austria and Switzerland don't take place because at the time we should play there, Crematory and Therion played there, and I doubt if somebody would come to our show. We played in Torgau in Germany, Prague, Kolín and Uh. Brd. in the Czech republic. Some gigs in Slovakia with bands like Fleshless, Depraved, Embalmer, Kadath, Tortharry etc. There were about 120 people per gig which is o.k. Do you think the shows are a good opportunity to sell your demos and EP, and do you sell alot of 'em at your shows?

Yes, there are many people who don't order our stuff through mail, but they buy it directly either at shows or in shops. And without postage our tapes and EP are very, very cheap. Everybody can afford to buy it. I can not judge, if we sell alot or just a few. Sometimes 20 and sometimes just 2 or 3. It depends on how many people already knew us, how the show was soundlike, and how we played that show.

You arrange your own shows and so you played with Kadath, KAkath and this year you'll play with Agathocles. Do they arrange gigs for you in Germany and Belgium too?

We started to organize small weekend tours. We have already done gigs for Enochian (Czech rep.), and Depression (Austria), and ofcourse for ourselves. Kadath should call us back to come to Germany. We would like to do Agathocles concerts in February 98, but it's not sure yet. We invited Agathocles because we both the band and we will be really happy when they come. It's no problem to arrange concerts in Slovakia, but we are very busy with our own concerts, so we will not do it very often. But the bands which are interested in playing in our country and are able to do something for us, get in touch with us, and we will arrange some gig.

Besides these shows you have played about 50 other shows. Also your music is selling well so I guess everything is going very well with Sanitarium. Have recordlabels shown interest in your band, and can we expect a CD release from you soon?

We have obtained 3 orders for a possible CD release. All of them were from foreign labels, but those offers were not fairly good as they could not guarantee anything for the future. Also the distribution of these labels is bad so we're not interested. Further, we won't go to the studio before April 98, and then we'll see if we can get a contract or not. We would be glad in any case if the CD would be out by autumn 98. When it will come out to the worst, it will be released through View Beyond Records and Erebro Productions, our own label, on which the EP came out. Perhaps this would be the best solution. But I don't wanna make any rash conclusions, time will tell.

Aloft of bands in Slovakia, but are there aloft of 'zines too? Are they very helpful to you and have you done aloft of interviews?

Yes, there are aloft of 'zines in Slovakia. I know about 20-30 'zines at the moment. Although the majority of them are just few-sided xeroxed A5 sized rags, it is still better than nothing. And the majority of these 'zines is devoted to the Czech and Slovak scene exclusively too. But in order to be more concrete I will mention a few of them which I regularly read: Crucification, Termolic Voice, Inferno, Abomination, Scena, Loes Of Sanity, Death Fist, Vermin, Castrum Doloriae, Mystic Monumentum, Black Arter, Podsvetie, Love Stories and more. The 'zines were very helpful in the beginning. We've done interviews for almost every 'zine, and the new ones are still responding me. But the problem of the Slovak 'zines is monotony, poor graphic lay-out and, what I personally cannot bear, bribery of some editors in order to make "fitting reviews and interviews. This phenomenon is coming up more and more and I'm really disgusted by this. I will not name anybody but I know who's standing behind this, and such bastards do not belong in the scene.

"No rights reserved, spread this darkness", is written on your EP. And you are right, one of the best ways to spread your name and music is when people in the underground record items for each other. What do you think about tape trading and do you mind if people don't buy your demo or EP because they have a dubbed copy through tape trading?

Ofcourse it is better when somebody buys a cassette from us, so in that case we will have more money for promotion and other things. "No rights reserved..." is printed on it because we don't feel like rockstars who would like to earn big money with the music. A big "hello" goes out to the black metal bands and their shitty stuff with a bad sound which they sell for $8. We are glad that our music is being spread further. Neither has it a tactical justification in order to get a good name and gain many fans who would buy our CD then (when there is one). We simply feel ourselves as part of the underground and we have nothing against tape trading. I understand that there are thousands of bands nowadays and it's not possible for people in the scene to buy items from every band. We sell our cassettes for only $4, an original tape with a decent sound and a coloured cover for that price. I personally trade the cassettes with some people, and this way I have the possibility to listen to an amount of bands which I otherwise couldn't get through.

But what's in your opinion the best way to promote your band, tape trading, interviews, concerts, flyers? I think flyers are only important to spread the name, but it won't result into very much orders. Do you spread aloft of flyers and do you get many orders from people who got one in their mail?

Every activity you mentioned has its own justification and they are all connected together. Perhaps the flyers are the most important thing. Aloft of 'zines, labels etc. have contacted us through that. I would place the interviews as the 2nd one. One can learn aloft about the band in an interview. One can be more inquired in interviews than in reviews or through the flyers. Also the character of the members comes up to the surface in interviews, and that's in my opinion important too. 3th place is probably the concerts.

It's brilliant promotion and the shows have helped us alot. Well, and there's tape trading left, which I wouldn't like to place as the last, but I don't know how big this influences a band's success. But the most important matter is the quality music. One can succeed in selling the perfumed-splendidly packed shit, but after all the shit remains the shit forever.

Time is going fast, and my time has come, time to leave. What more do you want to say?

First of all, thanks to you Eward for this interview. We will never forget that. Those who can't find "Autumn Shadows" can send well hidden $4 (cassette), $5 (vinyl). Thanks for reading this interview. Contact at Martin Belobrad, Bajzova 29, 01001 Zilina, Slovakia.
A JOURNEY THROUGH THE CZECH AND SLOVAK REPUBLICS...

CANNASSER
"Rainy Night" demo '97
After the most insane band in this section we go to the most melodic band. Normally I'm bored with this type of doom metal (with melodic female vocals) within 5 minutes. But in this case, I'm not. This demo is excellent. After listening to this 8 song demo up 'til the end, I can say that Cannasser is a band of exceptional quality. The sweet female vocals are what makes this band stand out and normally they bored me from the very first beginning. But their compositions are of such a high level that it is a pleasure to listen to it. The songs are very atmospheric with many keyboards in it and with melodic guitars. But there are some pounding parts and raw vocals as well. The production is excellent or better said, the whole demo is. $6 (Europe), $7 (elsewhere) to Backwoods dist., c/o Laszló Káposvári, 3530 Miskolc, Corvin u. 17, 222 Hungary. Band info at Zoltan Benian, Janka Krála 64, 943 02 Sturovo, Slovakia. A very limited CD version is for sale too for $15.

PANDEMIA (see picture)
"Dance In Vicious Circle" demo '97
The 5 songs on this demo were recorded in early '97, and feature on their split demo with Exhumace which is released on Anti Nazi Prod. It is good death metal songs. Heavy death metal with varying rhythms, kind of crushing guitars, pounding drums and raw (not growling) vocals. It's a good demo. You can get the complete split demo for $5. Pandemia is looking for gigs outside their country!! Write to: Jaroslav Friedrich, Palackého 5, 350 02 Cheb, Czech Republic.

FORGOTTEN SILENCE/AGONY
split cassette '97
After the great "Thots" CD Forgotten Silence is back with a new release. This time it's a split cassette with Agony, also a Czech band. Both feature with one song. The music of P.S. is still original. "The Hills Of Sthenyan pt. 2" is a great song in the vein of black metal. There are numerous breaks ranging from upbeat tempos to melancholic riffs. People who like their CD, this is for you! Agony is also an atmospheric death metal band. Nowhere near as good as F.S. Their song "Black Velvet" sounds boring and is absolutely not the kind of death metal I like. For more info you can contact: Obscene Prod., Dolany 117, 533 44 p. St. Zdanice, Czech Republic.

MENTALITY
promo '97
What we have here is the promo of this Slovak band which contains 4 songs of their newest material, which in complete lasts about 40 minutes. They describe their music as death metal with keyboards, which is pretty much what is indeed. I'm not sure if this tape is meant to sell, but every fanzine, recordlabel, distributor and radio station can write and ask for a promomart. The address is: Jan Honc, F. Stefunko 14, 036 01 Martin, Slovakia.

MINICH
"Impervious Gates Of Heaven" demo '97
After watching the beautiful cover of this 38 minutes during 8 track demo, and after reading song titles such as "Ave Sathanas" and "Welcome To Hell" (not the most original titles) I was expecting a pure black metal tape. Maybe their lyrics are black metal, but their music certainly isn't! It's very well played death metal with death metal influences. The songs are varying and kinda aggressive as well although not too much. The vocals are raw
and a little growling. The production is good too. The address, which is mentioned on the cover, looks incomplete to me, so you better write to the guy who gave me this demo. And hopefully he can help you out. Jaroslav Beznec, Charouzka 15, 794 01 Krmov, Czech Republic.

NO PROMISES

"Face Human Soul" demo
Strange name, for a band that claims to play death metal. But their music is more than just some ordinary death metal. It's mid-tempo paced metal with elements from death, thrash and heavy metal. And all this with deep growling vocals. The songs are varied with good guitar riffs and a few solos. There are a few faster parts, but most of the time they keep it mid-tempo paced. The sound quality is good and the coloured cover proves that we have to deal with a serious band. Get it! Palo Sebesta, Nesperova 14, 90901 Skalica, Slovakia.

INSPEKTUS

"Considerations" cassette EP
We're still travelling and for the next band we're in Slovakia again. Inspektus exists since 1990. In the first few years they made 3 demos, but only the 3rd demo was spreaded, and that's 5 years ago by now. "Considerations" is old too. It was released about 3 years ago. They describe the 4 songs on this tape as "emotional noise", but it's nothing more than varying death metal. The usual death metal songs with both, fast passages and emotional moments. The tape kicks off with a part which is pretty much in the vein of Paradise Lost's "Gothic" album. After this we'll get a fast pounding part. And that's what the cassette is more or less all about. I mean it's a combination of different rhythms and stuff. Well played and 23 minutes long. £/DM 10,- is not too much asked for this item. Get your copy from: Radoslav Priputen, Puskinova 20, 083 01 Sabinov, Slovakia.

CEREBRAL TURBULCENCY

"As Gray" cassette
Sheer brutality is what you get on this release. 33 minutes of pure blasting death/grind with influences from Suffocation and Napalm Death, bands which they mention as their faves. Just 13 songs which vary in length from 1/4 minute to 3/4 minutes. Fantastic violent stuff with a good production, a gory cover and with grinding vocals. Get in touch if you want it brutal. Stay away if you go for a more polished way of metal music. Mirek Cholasta, Krakoehorace 3/1/259, Havírov Podlesí 736 01, Czech Republic.

MALIGNANT TUMOUR

"Killing For Profit" cassette '97
And what is a review section without a review on an item from one of the coolest Czech bands? "Killing For Profit" is a pure D.I.Y. item and therefor it is not the very best item when it comes to the quality, but the music is fuckin' awesome. And after all, that is the main thing that counts. In case you haven't noticed, they have dropped their gore grind style and are now into the mincecore direction. And Agathocles must have been their biggest inspiration 'cause the 13 songs on this tape are kinda like A.G. Even 2 A.G covers are recorded. It's really a great tape. It comes with a small info booklet with lyrics and thoughts. Get your copy now! Check out the interview on the following pages.

INGROWING

"Perverted Look At The World" demo
The main reason for this review is because there's some place left. But after all it ain't such a bad idea 'cause it is a really cool demo. Really intense and heavy grinding death metal with deep growling vocals + some screams. Kinda like Nyctophobic does it. The songs are pretty short. Only the last song stands out, with its 5 minutes. Yeah, really good one. An old one too as wrote first. Patrik Stansel, Vrtena 60, Ceske Budejovice 370 05, Czech Republic.

ECHOES FROM THE UNDERWORLD pt. II
Czech compilation CD
This compilation CD sampler contains 7 bands all of which feature 2 tracks, except for the last band Forgotten Silence, but then again their song lasts 14 minutes. All are pretty much the same level of death metal. Only Ingrowing stands out with their harsh sound. The other bands are: Godless Truth, Isacarium, Ritual, Disfigured and Slax. Available for only $7 from: Zdenek Simecek, p.o.box 53, 771 11 Olomouc 1, Czech Republic.

TARTAROS

"Lead Astray" demo
I've been listening to this demo a couple of times and in my opinion it is kinda ordinary stuff which they come up with. It's well played, but does not leave an impression behind. In 23 minutes you'll get 7 songs of mid-tempo paced raw metal. It's kinda trash metal with little aggression. The vocals are raw but still kinda harmonic. Both, the sound quality and cover are well done. But I'm afraid that all this is not enough to "capture" a place in the international underground. Again it's a demo which was recorded a pretty long time ago, so write first before you send money. The address is: Radan Kostovský, s/n, 79401 Krmov, Czech Republic.

SUFFOCATE (see picture)

"Unborn Suffer" demo
I don't know if you can still obtain this demo at the band's address. You see, it's pretty old stuff (again eh...). But I got my copy from Backwoods distr. It's the band's 2nd demo and consists of 6 extreme and brutal compositions.

21 minutes of grinding death metal. There's little difference between the songs. They are all fast and aggressive with some grinding parts and with deep growling vocals and tuned and heavy guitarwork. Also the production is very heavy. A recommended release. Get your copy for $5 (Europe), $6 (else) from Backwoods distr. Band info at: Zden Holgye, Berany 1367/12, 92901 Dunajská Streda, Slovakia.

SUFFOCATE

"Cold Taste Of Blood" compilation CD
Virual Void, Imperial Foetidize from the Czech Republic and Inspektus from Slovakia. Carrion, Suffocate, Mentality, Dementor from Slovakia all appear with 2 tracks each. The quality of the death metal is quite varied and good. I don't know the price, but it's cheap. Juraj Harin, Brezova 9, 0341 Ruzomberok, Slovakia.
And here we have our grinding brothers of Malignant Tumour. And I can assure you that we are honoured to have them in our 'zine. They are the Czech part in this scene report. Martin "Gewap" is responsible for the questions, and Martin "Bilos" was so friendly to answer them.

First of all, give us a little story about the beginning days of Malignant Tumour...

Cheers friend! Hi there! Let's get it. Our band Malignant Tumour was founded in the end of '92 as a noisecore band. After one year we decided to play grindcore, like old Repulsion, Carcass etc. We released some demos and split tapes or EP's. Of course we had lots of personal changes in our line-up. Our line-up today is: Bilos - bass/vocals, Marek - drums, Richard - guitar/vocals. After another year we decided to change our gore lyrics into political/protest lyrics. Our music today is more into the mincecore style, like Rot, Agathocles etc.

How has the response been over the years towards Malignant Tumour? And how's the crust/grind scene in particular responding towards the split CD with Squash Bowels?

I think the response to our music has been great. Especially the people out of the grind/crust scene say that we play very well. In the past we had some problems with our lyrics. Now some people say that our old lyrics were much better for us, but we don't think so. About our split CD with Squash Bowels. We're getting a lot of letters from our friends all over the world and they say that it's a very good release. We're very satisfied with it.

Tell us something about that split CD with Squash Bowels. Are you satisfied with it? How did you get in contact with Obscure Productions, and will they release more Malignant Tumour stuff in the future?

Curby of Obscure Productions is a very good friend and he's also our manager. We know each other for some years now. He did a first offer to our band for a split EP with Czech Decomposed. After this we did another split EP with German Immured, and a split tape with Czech grind/crust/et al. Grind. And finally we released our split CD with Squash Bowels. I think that it's a very good release. We recorded 26 brutal grind songs with medical/pathological lyrics. Squash Bowels recorded 16 songs of grind-core/bulldozer! Crazy tracks for sure! Yes, Obscure Productions will release more stuff from us. First there will be a split EP with legendary socal/grinders Dead Infection. And at the end of '98 there will be a full-length album from Malignant Tumour. We're still looking for another label which will release the album on vinyl. Thanx to Curby and his label.

It seems that you changed your lyrical style, from gore to political/protest lyrics, not so long ago. Tell us something about it. What kind of topics will your lyrics deal with in the near future? And what's more important for Malignant Tumour, music or lyrics?

Yes, it's the truth, we changed our lyrics, 'cause we need to arise against some problems which fucked us! Against fascism, racism, violence, hypocrisy, destruction of mother earth etc. Also some lyrics are influenced by our car accident. We had a big car crash some months ago. And when we spent our time in the hospital, we thought about the medical system and patient rights. We have to fight against all capitalist bastards who turn you into a puppet to see there money grow! Both, the music and lyrics have the same importance for us. But in our noise days it was only fun, without using any lyrics.

What are the main influences of Malignant Tumour? Any personal favorite bands, movies, etc.?

I think that every person has been influenced in some way. Not only musicians but also writers, artists and all other forms. We are very much influenced by bands which play grind, crust, mosh, punk, metal. For example: Regurgitator, Agathocles, Kreator, Suppository, Disrupt, Dead Infection, Discharge, Squash Bowels, Dead Envy, Testimony, old Carcass, old Napalm Death, LSD 50, Inhume, and tons more. My favorite book is a Czech book, old and cult, "Doby Vojak Svejk". Also books from Stephen King. Favorite films are "5th" and "Brain Dead". Another hobby of Malignant Tumour is drinking. After our rehearsals we usually go to a pub where we drink some pils or wine. We like this a lot. Interesting is that our rehearsal room is in a pub.

Tell us something about the small Czech tour which you did with Agathocles. How's life for a grind band in eastern Europe? How's the living situation in general in eastern Europe these days? Has there been some improvement over the years?

Oh yeah, this 3-day tour in November '96 was perfect. Maybe the best days for me. We have experienced a lot of fun and we drank tons of alcohol, especially beers, ha, ha... I think that Agathocles was also satisfied. This tour was realized by Obscure Productions. Now this guy is preparing another tour for Agathocles in the Czech Republic. Other bands on this tour will be Suppository, I Scream and Malignant Tumour. I hope that it'll be better (more fun) than before (no fun 'cause the tour was cancelled). The situation in the Czech Republic isn't good for a grind/metal band. There are many gigs but only death metal. But still we play often. For about one or 2 years ago we played about one or 2 gigs a month. Now it's 3 to 5 gigs a month. I think it's getting better, but still we're missing a lot of communication and co-operation between the bands.

Are there any labels interested in a full-length album of Malignant Tumour? On which label would you like to appear, and with which bands would you like to do a split LP/CD?

Yes, we've had some offers from foreign labels. We must send a lot of thanks to these labels, but our "home" label is Obscure Productions. We have promised Curby to release the first Malignant Tumour full-length album on his label. Also I think that Obscure is the best suitable label for us. In the near future we'll release a full EP on Belgian Unicord Records. This label is run by Burt of Agathocles. And some split tapes and EP's on different labels. We would like to appear on Obscure in the near future, and we would like to do a split LP with Agathocles or Kreator. But we like all good bands and we can do split LP's with all grind, noise, mosh, metal or punk bands. Always against fascism and other shit.

Does Malignant Tumour have the opportunity to play outside the Czech Republic? In which places and countries have you played thusfar? And how was the foreign public responding towards Malignant Tumour?

Yes, we've had that opportunity. We played several gigs in Germany and one in Belgium, at
...A JOURNEY THROUGH THE CZECH AND SLOVAK REPUBLICS...

The last part of this Czech/Slovak scene report. Let's take a look on what these countries have to offer when it comes to CDs.

PATHOLOGY STENCH

"Gluttony" CD '97

I hadn't heard from these dudes before until I got this CD from Fadeless Records. And it's a good Czech CD. Not shocking, as the 11 songs are pretty ordinary, but it's well played, technical, brutal and even kind of gloomy death metal, with a deep growling vocals. Monotony and Broken Hope, both from the States, seem to be their influences. Good production! $17.50 for 1 cassette, to Fadeless Records, or write to: Juraj Harin, Brezova 9, 03401 Ruzomberok, Slovakia. (EP)

DEMENTOR

"Kill The Thought On Christ" CD '97

It was a few issues ago that Dementor's demo was reviewed. Now they're back with their CD, which got released on Immortal Souls Prod. They too have recorded 11 songs, 11 songs of very well arranged death metal. Brutal stuff with pounding drums, heavy guitars and gutural vocals. Very well done. Available for the same price as the Pathology Stench CD from Fadeless Records, or write to the address mentioned in the previous review. (EP)

MALIGNANT TUM.../SQUASH BOWELS

split CD '97

Malignant Tumour plays 26 compositions of great smashing grind including covers from Dead Infection and Agathocles, probably the band's biggest influences. Quite fast and with an effect on the vocals. Also you can read the lyrical change, in my opinion an improvement. Squash Bowels is brutal and fast. Again with an effect on the vocals. Kinda like Malignant Tumour but faster, and sometimes they come close to the noise genre. Great CD, $15, to Obscene Prod., c/o Miloslav "Curby" Urbanec, Dolany 117, 533 44 p. St. Zdanice, Czech Rep.

EROTROS

"Incomplete Minds" CD '96

If you wouldn't know that these comrades are from Slovakia, you would think that they're from the States, 'cause their music is very much in that vein. 30 minutes, 7 songs of very technical and brutal death metal with extreme deep growling vocals. Really well performed and with a heavy and clear production. The package is good too. Most of the distro's will have it for you or else write to: Metal Age Prod., p.o.box 42, 038 61 Vratky, Slovakia. Band info: Stanislav Lastvka, Ludmila 3, 01 01 Košice, Slovakia. The price is $12. (EP)

KRABATHOR

"Mortal Memories" mini CD '97, "Orthodox" CD

The latest items from this leading Czech band. The mini CD is out for quite some time now. It includes 3 old demo songs, originally recorded in 1988 and re-recorded in 1996. Nice to hear these oldies, and to compare them with their recent material. It's completed with 2 new songs. Fast and brutal death metal, just great! There's not so much to say about their new full-length CD "Orthodox". It's just pure Krabathor, fast and violent stuff with low tuned guitars and bass, and with thunderous drums. Death metal in its purest form! It takes 31 minutes, 9 songs. Get both items from Morbid Records. (EP)
OSSUARY INSANE
"Demonized" promo '97
2nd demo from this American 3 piece. Their debut came out back in '95 under the old moniker Ossuary. 7 songs of blasphemous and brutal death metal is contained. Excellent stuff it is, nothing wrong with it! Actually it's a shame that a killer band like this is still not signed, why? And with a play-time of 33 minutes it's a long one too. It has a fantastic production and comes with a black/white cover. Great stuff! Get it for $6 at: Ossuary Insane, P.O. Box 22954, Eagan, MN 55122, USA. (EP)

BLOODSUCKERS
"Human Atrocity" demo '97
On this 2nd demo, this Belgium quartet comes with 14 songs (from which one is an Agathocles cover) of extreme fast and intense grind/crust. Their music is kinda influenced by fellow grind bands from Belgium like Condemned and of course Agatha Galina and their lyrics are about social/political issues like fast food, Nazism and stuff like that (always interesting!). The production is pretty simple, the packaging looks good. But I like it, it's pure grinding crustcore. You can obtain this demo for $4 at: Pela Gregory, 2 Rue de Post, 6717 Azert, Belgium.

RESURRECTRICS
"Copse" promo '99
Never heard of these Italians although they're together since 1990 and have released several other items before this one. It seems that they sound different on each item. But what they come up with on this promo is something like a combination of thrash and death metal. And it's excellent stuff! Especially the guitarwork is amazing, great! This promo contains 5 different songs with different rhythms (even some grinding parts), different vocals, lyrics in Italian and English, with an excellent production and with some killer guitar solos. Highly recommended! Watch out for their CD which must be out by now and try to get their split EP with Sunshine Ward, Carlo Strapa, via Medaglie d'oro, 73, 63023 Ferro (AP), Italy. (EP)

KHALBALIUM
"Kali Yuga" demo '97
Lofty Storm Records' next release is this black metal demo. Kinds strange as all the previous releases on this label were splatter grind items. But Lofty Storm is not a pure grind label, however it may seem so. It's a pretty good demo which contains 8 songs and takes about 22 minutes. It's well played but not very varied as it's mostly fast paced. Black as well as death metal vocals are used. The production is well done but it's not very well mixed. Khalbalium, Rue Gregorio Geronimo da Silva, 37, Rocaio Sao Jose-sc, Brazil-cop: 88108-270. (EP)

KHASM
"Khasm" demo '96
A band from the USA here from which I don't have any background info so I don't know if they have any more releases. I can tell you that Khasm offers you 4 songs of melodic and atmospheric black/death metal. Clear vocals, whispers, grunts, screams, female vocals, it's all present. And don't forget the keyboards. The songs are cool but I think that they would be much more powerful with a better production. Now it sounds a little bit weak. Anyway, this is a nice demo for people into atmospheric metal. I don't know the price so contact them at: Khasm, 43 Dominicccan Rd, Branford, CT 06405, USA. (TH)

DESECRATION
"Curse Of A Thousand Pray" demo '97
The first demo from Indonesia in our 'zine! I can't explain how enthusiastic I was to find it in my mail box. It's just great to receive a demo from such an "undiscovered" country. Desecration is a pure death metal band in every sense of the word. 7 songs, 25 minutes. The music is aggressive and fast, with brutal vocals and pounding drums. The production is pretty good, not perfect. The music is quite well played, and the demo comes with a coloured cover. Check it out if you want something different! Leo Sitompul, Jl Halimahera 1/0 # 9, Jember 68121, Java Timur 34132 Indonesia. (EP)

TON
"Blind Follower" demo '97
Quite alot of you are probably familiar with this band as tons of their flyers circulate through the underground. These guys are together since 1993 and this is their 4th release. It contains 5 excellent songs of bone crushing death metal. Quality death metal in the American tradition. Technical, varied, brutal, and with an excellent production. All the members contribute in the vocals. The demo comes with a profi cover with lyrics, info etc. Especially the lyrics of the title track are interesting! Check it out 'cause it's great! $5 to: Tom, 445 Cole Ave, Akron, OH 44301, USA. (EP)

ZI XL
"Backhand Human Rewarding" demo '97
I got interested in this demo after I read a very positive review on it in Chaos mag. Now I have my own copy and I can guarantee you that this Dutch 2-piece kicks ass!!! Lyrical they seem to be very much influenced by old Morbid Angel. Musically they remind me a bit of Kristian. Maybe I'm wrong about that. Fact is that Zi XLs debut demo contains 7 songs (30 minutes) of violent and intense death metal with deep grunts and a brutal production. Get this excellent piece of "soul piercing brutality" for $6 (f 10.-) at: Zi Xul, Fleerde 410, 1102 AV Amsterdam, Holland. (EP)

ETERNAL HATRED
"The Eve Of Destruction" demo '97
"Carass Chris" returns, and this time with a complete line-up. He found a suitable bassayer/vocalist and drummer and with this line-up the band is stronger as ever before. "The Eve..." is a fantastic piece of thrashing death metal. And that's the difference with the first demo! The debut demo was a pure death metal demo, but on this one they've added some thrash influences, just a few. In general this is a great demo which contains 4 songs and takes 20 minutes. It comes with a good production and is packed in a beautiful looking cover. A demo which you can easily add to your demo collection and which is yours for the fair price of $5. E.H. P.O. Box 1250, La Grande Park, IL 60156, USA.

KRYPTOSEXUAL CANCEROID
"Social Repression Becomes Social Aggression" demo '97
After all those great demos of Zi Xul, Eternal Hatred and others, this is only a disappointment. Open minded as I am (at times!) I gave this band a "listen. I've heard it once and that's more than enough. They claim to play grind but I have my doubts. Maybe it is grind, but the production is miserable and so it sounds more like noise. Maybe I'm right if I tell ya that they play some sort of industrial noise in the vein of Gore Beyond Necropy (their split with Merzbow). Sorry, not my stuff! Raffaele Sirasli, via Biffi 1/0, 20020 Subiata (MI), Italy. Check his "zine out instead! (EP)

GORESLEERS
"Far Away From Anywhere Else..." demo
I was expecting some gory stuff from these Russians (because of their name) but I'm wrong. In fact Goresleers plays some kind of melodic heavy metal which does not belong in our 'zine. But what the heck, I'm in a good mood today. This demo contains 8 catchy songs which take about 40 minutes. The music is very good and the production is clear. Not my taste, maybe yours? Roman Glin, P.O. Box 222, 300057 Tula 57, Russia. (EP)

CALVARIA
promo '97
These dudes hail from Poland and their songs are in their native language. 3 songs of melodic death metal, kinds like Chorus Of Ruins. It's well played, not too difficult. Just 3 mid-tempo paced songs with some pounding parts. There are 2 guitarists but due to the production, which is kinda empty, I can only hear one of 'em. It's nice, give it a try. Roman Markowski, ul. Traugutta 3a, 83-400 Koszklerryna, Poland. (EP)

NATRON
"A Taste Of Blood" demo '97
Natron is an Italian band and their music is penetrating deep into your weak soul. 3 songs of high quality brutal death metal in the same vein as the first Suffocation albums. A lot of tempo changes, very speedy guitar riffs and a grunt which we, death metal freaks, admire. There's no doubt that this band is made up of some really good musicians. Listen to...
"Quarantine Of Leprosy" and you know what I mean. Next time A CD guy! $5 to: Nitrox, c/o Max Marzocca, Il Traversa G. Marconi 37, 70054 Giovannino (BA), Italy, (TH)

DAMNABLE
"Impedance" cassette

Extreme violent and blasting death/grind, that's what Polish Damnable stands for. 8 songs of pure heaviness on this cassette. Immortal Records has released it while Italian Cryptic Soul Productions released a mini CD version. The music is ultra fast with very few slower parts. The production is powerful and heavy. This cassette ends with a piano part which doesn't fit in here. But Damnable is great! Check it out for $5 (Europe), $ (elsewhere) at: Immortal Records, P.O. Box 14, 75300 Slupsk 12, Poland. Band contact at: Andrzej Pakos, or, Armii Krajowej 20, 26-400 Przyzucha, Poland. Also check out their split EP with Haemorrhage. (EP)

DEAD MEAT
promo '97

I've tried to get into to this but sorry, I can't. The debut tape from this Portuguese quartet which is specially made for record labels. I wonder if any of 'em interested. 3 long and chaotic songs it contains. Some riffs are nice and quite original but other riffs and parts are totally messed up. It sounds strange but it's nothing more than a lot of riffs and after each other without being real songs. It's unsight, and the female vocals don't fit. $ (Europe), $ (else). Josen, R. Cabeco do Salvador, 7, 6030 V.V. Ródas, Portugal. (EP)

HOMICIDE
promo '97

Already the 4th item from these Italians which I have to review. Maybe their best item, but for me it's the most disappointing items. 'cause the "Homicide" has changed into (what they say) a "cyber-industrial-noise" band with improved and sharpened songs. Not the usual trashy songs but industrial orientated songs with breaks every 10 seconds, what you're into you must write to: Massy Allegretti, v.le Matteotti 340, 20099 Sesto S.G. Milano, Italy, (EP)

NECROSIS
"Disconnected" demo '97

2nd demo from this Danish quartet which contains 3 songs of aggressive and groovy metal inspired by black and death metal. They didn't want to limit themselves to a certain metal style and so they decided to play their own way of heavy music with elements of different styles. The result is a mixture of heavy brutal parts and groovy melodic rhythms. I like their heavy music slot, and the growling vocals are fuckin' great! The production is excellent too (recorded in the same studio as where Autumn Leaves recorded their CD). What I totally dislike is the Dog Eat Dog-a-like part in the beginning. But except for that it is just a great demo. Write to Jacob Bredahl, Banegardgade 1, 1 # 11, 8000 Aarhus, Denmark.

ANIMOSITY
The Legend Of The Dark One" demo '97

I'm proud to present this Dutch band to you. It's already their 3rd demo and a good one too. Due to some line-up changes their music has changed a bit from death metal into death/black metal. They call it "dark metal", and I do agree. 4 songs on this one. The music is very good, especially the new drummer. The songs have both aggression and melody. Some keyboards are used, but they kept 'em on the background. The screaming and growling vocals are good and the demo comes with an excellent production and good looking cover. A demo that has to be yours...and it's yours for $8/12,50/DM 12 to: Casper van Leeuwen, Str. 13, 3815 JT Amersfoort, Holland.

GARDEN OF SHADOWS
"Heart Of The Coroner" demo '97

G.O.S. is different from the average U.S. bands 'cause while most of the other bands play grinding death metal G.O.S. plays atmospheric death metal reminiscent to British bands like Chorus Of RUin and such. Not a bad choice as I like that style slot. The 4 songs take 30 minutes of your time. Atmospheric parts with keyboards and harmonic guitars are mixed with more heavy pounding parts. The production is good, pretty raw, and the demo comes with a covered cover. Recommended and yours for $5 ($ in the U.S.) to: Brain R., 14712 Botany Way, Gallipolis, MD 20878, USA. (EP)

DEMONICATION
"Divine Absorberence" demo '96

These Italianos mention Sufocattion as their biggest influence, and that's exactly what they sound like. And that's why I like this demo so much. 4 brutal death metal tunes with an average play time of about 5 minutes and with vocals in the vein of Sufocatttion's Frank Mullen. The demo has a great production and comes with a simple cover. $3 (1) to: Secchiari Lorenzo, v.le Turligiano 6, 54031 Carrara (MS), Italy, (EP)

WALBALLA
"War Over Nordland" demo '97

Members of Nomicon, Soulgrind/Tenebrous and Thy Serpent have joined forces, and the result is Walballa. 3 black metal songs on this demo. The music is pretty simple, just 3 varied songs with mid-tempo and fast paced parts - a few extreme fast parts. I like it 'cause it's well played and has a good production. I like the crunchy guitar sound. Check it out for the fair price of $4 at: Agathon, Keskikatu 1 e 47, 00650 Helsinki, Finland, or Aquarius Productions, Torkkelinkatu 4 a 2, 00500 Helsinki, Finland. (EP)

GLOOMY GRIM
"Friendship Is Friendship, War Is War" demo

Holy Records has already signed this band, so it's probably a good one, and it sure is! Gloomy Grim is a bit of a strange band. The music is kinda reminiscent of Nomicon but the band has its own identity. But just like the afore mentioned band it is strange music with many keyboards combined with metal instruments. Especially "Reign" is strange due to the unusual rhythms. The vocals remind me of black metal. Check it out for $4 at Agathon's address (see Walballa review). (EP)

MAXI NOISE SENSATION
compilation tape '97

Only for the most insane bastards! This comp. contains 90 minutes of pure noise and grind. I like Exericated Alive and Corrocubic. Packratten plays acceptable grind. Others are Anaal Macabre, Nikodurei, Spaceblitzers, Facial Mess, Anal Oral, Discord, Intestinal Infection, + more for $3. You've been warned! Helko Knappstein, Friedrich Wilhelmstr. 27, 43655 Solingen, Germany. (EP)

CENTURIAN
"Of Purest Fire" demo '97

Centurian is the continuation on Inquisitor and here they are with their new release. The band consist of Win van-ex-Inquisitor/Hammerhawk) on guitar. The demo contains 7 songs + an intro & outro. You'll find 2 coversongs on the tape namely "Blaosphemy" from Morbid Angel and "Destruction For The Holy" from Inquisitor. Both done in a damn good way. The other stuff is fuckin' fast brutal death metal in the vein of Deicide and Morbid Angel, only faster. This band rules and all the songs crush! Get this one, it'll definitely improve your death metal collection! $5/10/DM 10 to: Centurian, Wallenbergstraat 27, 3882 HA Putten, Holland. (TH)

MIND PHASER
"Shiny Madness" demo '97

Another great band from Italy. This one here is their debut demo and it contains 7 excellent tunes. They play kinda like death metal, but have mixed too much unusual riffs and elements in their songs that it would be wrong to call it ordinary death metal 'cause it's more. The fast pounding parts and deep growling vocals are pure death metal orientated but there are many breaks with kinda experimental parts in between. It's very well played and has a fantastic production. The playtime is 27 minutes and the demo comes with a profi cover. Write to: Alessandro Simondi, viale Sabotino 4, 46100 Mantova, Italy, (EP)

ENCUMBER
"The Repentance" demo '96

The Russian scene is very much alive, and new bands come to join the underground very rapidly. This trio really deserves a place in the scene 'cause they've made a good demo. The Repentance takes 30 minutes of well played and varied death metal. The music and vocals are very well done and the songs (5 of their own + a cover of Slaya's "Epidemic") are varied and contain some excellent guitar solos. The demo comes with a profi cover on glossy paper. The only thing that could be better is the production which is clear but not very powerful. Check it out,
for $5, but it's advisable to send it in registered mail. Andrey Yakovlev, Shevtchenkostree 62-39, Smolensk 214020, Russia. (EP)

SOULGRIND
"Helkaviria" promo '97
Must be known to you, this rather unusual outfit from Finland. This new promo came out in summer '97 on Regress Records. The CD must be out by now on the same label. In the past "Soulgrind" music was hard to take. Either way you loved it or you hated it. With some Thy Serpent members in the line-up now, "Soulgrind" has become a real band, and the music has changed too into...ehh? Let's say into original and raw blackened metal with atmospheric and moody waves. It's still kinda weird stuff. The vocals are a combination of raw vocals and female vocals. The lyrics are in Finnish, but I believe the CD comes with English lyrics. Good production! For more info write to: Regress Records, c/o Enrico Leccece, c.c. 1558, 1000 corso central, Buenos Aires, Argentina. (EP)

GOREFORMORE
"Bleeding Black" promo '96
Goreformore is a new Dutch death metal outfit. Their music sounds quite groovy. A bit of brutality mixed with a bit of melody. The vocals are just a normal death grunt. Not much fast parts in their music, it's mostly slow and mid-tempo paced. The vocalist's voice change into the screaming direction too. Not much outstanding stuff, just a normal death metal band, but I must say that it doesn't sound bad at all. Interested? Send $5 to: Goreformore, Averkampstraat 19, 5012 CE Tilburg, Holland. (MD)

AHRIMAN
"From The Dark Nature" casset, EP '97
Ahriman is one of the few bands that tries to keep the black metal style and mentality alive in Hungary. The first steps in the underground were set in '93 when the first line-up was completed. This casset, EP is the band's 3rd item. It takes almost half an hour and consists of 5 average black metal hymns. Just the traditional black metal song structure, kind of grindcore guitar, screaming vocals and some moody keyboard lines. Well played and with a good sound quality but musically it ain't special. The full coloured cover looks good. Available for $6 (Europe), $7 (else) from Backwoods distr., c/o Lazlo Kaposvari, 3530 Miskolc, Corvin u. 17 22 Hungary. Band info: Lambert Le'deey, 6724 Szeged, Rókusni krt. 31 VIII/45, Hungary. (EP)

DISFORTEGR
"Black Thoughts Of The Warriors" demo '97
These guys got a touch with me after Max of Kristian had told them to do so. And after listening to this 4 track debut demo there's only one band I can think of: Kristian. Pure brutal death metal is what they claim to play, and pure and brutal it is. But I've to be honest, they're not on the same quality level as Kristian. Especially the guitars need to be improved. Also it's too chaotic at times. The cover looks good and it has a very powerful production. It'll cost you $5. Kristian fans should give it a try, but don't expect too much. Write to: DisforTEGR, Rua: João Batista Da Silva, #20, Centro Arauca MG Brazil, 38180-000

GUIDANCE OF SIN
"Soul Disparity" demo '97
Debut demo from these Swedes which contains 4 songs of raw and kinda emotional death metal. Well composed songs with raw pounding parts with brutal vocals varied with emotional parts with melodic guitar lines and some keyboards on the background. The music has a bit of the characteristic Swedish melody. The production is very well done and the demo comes with a good looking, kinda dark and mystic cover. It takes about 18 minutes and is yours for the fair price of $5 at: Jesper Löfgren, Hallonvagen 60, 196 35, Kungsängen, Sweden. (EP)

IRONIA
promo demo '96
Ironia is a new grind outfit from Spain. The sound on this demo tape is not so good, but the music sounds pretty cool. Most of the time it is quite slow with some ultra fast parts in it as well. The sound is general very low. The vocals are done with alot of vocal effects, but that gives the total package a very brutal sound. I don't know if these guys already recorded some newer stuff. This one is worth checking out. Contact: Jordi Veilis Parada, Avd. Montserrat 13 6-1, 08820 El Prat De Llobregat, Barcelona, Spain. (MD)

AGONIZING TERROR
promo '97
A good example of a fantastic band which has grown out of the demo stadium. What Agonizing Terror comes up with is of high quality and deserves much more than being released on a simple demo tape. This here is the band's 2nd cassette release and it contains 4 songs of excellent death metal with both, brutal grinding parts as well as moody parts with keyboards + just a few female vocals. The main vocals are the traditional growling ones. Their songs are of a high level and they're able to keep that high level up 'til the end. And with Marco in their ranks, they have a great solo guitarist. Good production! Get it, it's great! Tójás/Sara, Rua da Teceloa, 100, Bom Sucesso, 3810 Aveiro, Portugal. (EP)

MORTIFIER
"Breath Of The Night" casset, '96
Another Polish band which has released a cassette on Baron Records (just like Parricide did). It's their 2nd release. Their previous release was a demo entitled "Mega Blasphemy", "Breath Of The Night" contains 8 songs of blasphemous and dark black/death metal. It takes 40 minutes. The songs are well structured and very well played with excellent guitarwork, heavy drumwork and with emotional parts in, as well as between the songs. It's a professional product and comes with a good looking cover on glossy paper. The price is unknown to me so you'll better write the band for info. Piotr Demski, p.o.box 17, 103 Slemianowice, Poland. (EP)

Looking Through The Windrows compilation tape
7 South American bands feature on this comp. tape and they all play raw metal. One plays pure
death, the other kinda doom. The bands are: Caos (good death metal, not too fast), Sancturay (very good death metal), Leihtsimisti (pretty raw but too chaotic), Purulent (great, pure brutal death), Eskidra (boring, keep practising), Sufference (again great, brutal and violent death!), and Tribal (is good, pretty raw, not too special). Pictures and lyrics of each band are printed on the cover, but except for that there is no more info. Write to Trauma Records for your copy (see Sadden rev.).

SEVERE TORTURE
"Baptiz5ed..." demo '98
The debut demo of Severe Torture here. 5 songs of pure fuckin' death metal the way it was meant to be. Severe Torture's music can be compared with leading bands in the genre like Suffocation, Cannibal Corpse, Sinister, and is produced by Vincent DiJKers. This demo has everything what a death metal release need: deep grinding vocals, very fast drumwork and aggressive guitar riffs. So it's not surprising if I say that every brutal death metal fan should buy this piece of brutality. The demo comes with a manicured inlay and costs $6/ $10/DM 10... Severe Torture's vocalist Eric is the new singer in Sinister and drummer Seth also singing in Century, together with Patrick, who's playing bass (just to let you know). Seth, Millstraat 55, 5281 LK Boksela, Holland. (TH)

PARRIDGE
"Crude" promo '97
I don't know why, but for some reason these Polish ones are not satisfied with this release. In my opinion there's nothing wrong with it, but i of course I don't know what they had in mind. "Crude" is a 30 minutes durin of pure death metal. There are no song titles enclosed, and i don't know how it'll be released. It's good stuff for sure. Get in touch with them and ask for this promo! Partridge, p.o.box 28, 10-104 Chein 5, Poland. (EP)

MORTUARY
"Eradicate" promo '98
French Mortuary is still very much alive, and their 2nd CD called "Eradicate" has been released on Thunder Prod. The 3 songs on this promo are from that CD. The titles are "A Step Towards Amenta", "Create/Eradicate" and "Trauma". It is brutal and pounding tracks with enough variation and some great guitar solos and with growling vocals. The CD contains 12 songs. Check it out for $20 if you want some well played and well produced death/thrash metal! Germontville Patrick, 25 rue Alexandre 1, 54130 Saint Max, France. (EP)

HOSTILE
"Behind The Eyes" demo
Hostile plays quite melodic and emotional death metal. And with 2 singers, male and female. Most of the time both are singing at the same time which sounds pretty good. Some acoustic parts are included as well which gives it a pretty dark atmosphere. Also some screaming vocals are used. It has a very good production and the music is quite well played. For those who enjoy melodic death metal Send $5 to: Hostile, c/o M. Djuse, Skolmastervagen 7, 79133 Falun, Sweden. (MD)

SEPULCHRAL ENTOMBMENT
"The Black Destiny" demo '97
I was expecting pretty much from this Belgium 5 piece band because it looks good, but they never come up to my expectations. I can easily say that this demo is not good. The songs are amateurish and very unight! The growling vocals are good, but is accompanied with a very irrita-

IMMURED
"Lanquid Oblivion" cassette '97
It's been a couple of issues ago since I reviewed their debut demo. It contained some nice death metal but nothing more. But during the years I kept on buying their stuff and so here they are again. This release takes 35 minutes and contains 10 songs, 4 of 'em are new. Then there is a remake of "Torture Master" (title track of their debut demo), a Carcass cover + the songs from their split EP's with Kadath and Malignant Tumour. It's good stuff, and reminds me a bit of Gut, due to the vocals and drumwork (very good). Check it out, if you want some heavy grinding death metal. It costs $7 at Dave Johch, Fickheimerstrasse 129, 90409 Numberg, Germany. Also ask for his "Exitus Lealtas" distr. list. (EP)

MY SOVEREIGN
demo '97
Stephane of Disabled told these guys to sent me their demo. And I'm happy he did because the 4 death metal songs on this demo sound good. Their music is varying and with pretty much breaks and changes in rhythm. Doomy as well as pounding parts are used and the vocals are in the usual deep growling vein. The production is clear and with heavy guitars. The snare drum could've been a bit louder. It costs $7, to: Patrick Badets, 4 rue de Belot, 40270 Grenade sur l'Adour, France.
ESQARIAL
"Armorphous" tape
ESQARIAL present themselves as an aggressive music band. They hail from Poland and this is the advance tape of... That's something that could be better. I get a tape from these guys without any info or whatever. There's only a short note with an offer to order enclosed. But the band's music is good, no doubt about it. It's raging death thrash metal with varied riffs and different rhythms and with extreme deep growling vocals. The instruments are low tuned with pounding drum parts and some fantastic guitar solos. Good sound quality, certainly something to check out. Info at: Wojciech, Obuchowsky, ul. Maia 2, 59 230 Prochowice, Poland. (EP)

BAXAJA
"Erscheinungen" tape
A pretty weird duo from South America, but I don't know from which country in particular. The tape is released through an Argentinian label which I got my copy from Columbia/Transcend Records. But is it a weird band? Well first, they have a German title for their tape. The tape kicks off with a Hellhammer/Frost type of song (even the characteristic Tom Warrior "oe" is used), but they also cover Malden's "Waysted Years" (not that bad). There is pretty much difference between the songs, harsh, clean, fast, slow, etc. The production is good. A nice one. Write to Trauma Records (see Sudden review) or: S.H.P., p.o.box 2091, 1000 Corr Central, Buenos Aires, Argentina. (EP)

FLESHGRIND
"Sorrow Breeds Hatred (Bled On Me)" demo
Fleshgrind comes from Illinois, USA and stands for quite brutal death metal. However it's mainly mid-tempo paced, it sounds quite smashing. This tape contains 4 compositions influenced by bands such as Sufferfication and Cannibal Corpse, especially on the vocals. The tape is worth checking out, for $5. at: Fleshgrind, p.o.box 7142, Grayslake, IL 60030, USA. An old demo so I don't know if it's still available. Check out the "Destined For Defilement" CD too. (MD)

NOMAD
"The Tall Of Substance" demo '98
Nomad's new demo takes about 45 minutes and contains 10 songs. It comes with a highly professional full colour cover on glossy paper. The music is again very good. Varied and extreme death metal with a certain brutalitshness and with both, deep growling and screaming vocals. There are some nice pounding parts as well as some slower parts + some guitar solos. The production is clear but it is a little more raw. You can get your copy for only $5. (Europe). $5. (else). Christian Kuligowski, ul. Zeromskiego 8/8, 26 300 Opole, Poland. (EP)

VENAL DIVINITY
"I Landet Med To Mander" demo
With such a demo title you might expect a band from the cold vastlands of Scandinavia. But no, these dudes come from the tropical heat of Israel. The demo contains 4 songs of ordinary and mid tempo paced blackened metal. It has its nice moments but most of the time it's just ordinary stuff, nothing special. The screaming vocals are similar to other black metal bands too. Production is pretty good, price is $6. Tel Orlev, p.o.box 39451, Tel Aviv 61393, Israel. (EP)

DISEMBOWEL
promo '97
So many Greek bands and items have passed the M.O.B. review section, but I believe this is the first time that I get a pure grinding death metal demo from a band from the country of the ancient gods. While most of their countrymen go for a direction which is ruled by darkness and evil, Disembowel goes for a direction of sheer brutality and violence. Pure death metal with sometimes a little step into the grind direction. Good stuff. And all you have to do to get your copy of this promo is to send them a tape + $2. for postage. Demo '95 is for sale for $4. (Europe) and $5.- (else). A split tape with French brutalo boys Inhumate is available for the same price as the demo '95. Vassilis Platapas, 3K. Kristallist, 56429 Thessaloniki, Greece. (EP)

SOILS OF FATE
"Pain Has A Face" promo '97
Soils Of Fate is a new Swedish death metal band. They recorded 4 compositions which ended up on this demo. I think their main influences are American bands like Cannibal Corpse. The music is mostly quite fast with some melodic parts attached to it. It all sounds quite brutal. The vocals seem to me as a bit of a mixture between Suffocation and Deranged. The cover is copied and full colored and comes with a lyric sheet. All in all it's a nice death metal demo. Order it for $6. at: Henrik Crants, Satansvagen 24c, 195 41 Marsta, Sweden. (MD)

HILATION
"Dammatio Memoriae" demo '97
A pretty good demo from these Germans. But it's not perfect as there are some things that could be a little better. For example the vocals. Sometimes they're good but sometimes they don't impress me. Their melodic doom/death is well done. The songs have alot of variation. It's not typically doom metal and certainly not pure death metal but just a combination of the two and mostly played in a mid tempo paced rhythm. They've built up their songs well with a little bit of suspense. Both the sound quality and cover are well done. Give it a try at: Dark Music, Kaffeeberg 10, 71634 Ludwigshurg, Germany. (EP)

5 B HATED
"Somewhere In Nowhere" demo '98
New Dutch band, but not a brutal one. A good friend of us is handling the bass in here and so we give his band a few lines in this issue. 5 B Hated is a speed/thrash metal band. I don't know where to compare it with. Their songs can be melodic at times with harmonic guitars but sometimes the drummer is beating the devil out of his drums. But whatever it is, the vocalist remains the same, with his clear and sometimes raw voice. 4 songs are recorded. Production is good, not great. The cover looks good. Info at: Ron, Spinstraat 7a, 5402 AL Uden, Holland.

SORROW BEQUESTED
"Tom From The Last" demo
Another American band. This time it's a bit of a mixture of death and black metal. It sounds quite melodic and alot of guitar solos are used as well. The vocals are in the screaming vein but it's mixed with some death grunts. All in all it sounds quite nice between all these brutal death bands. Some titles are: "Affinity Flow", "Yet To Transcend", "Euphony", "From The Wires". Give it a try for $5.- at: Sorrow Bequested, 342 W. Juniper Ave, Wake Forest, NC 27587, USA.

WHISPERING GALLERY
"Gallery Of Dreams" demo
Again a band from the Amsersfoort area here. They started at the end of 1995. The songs on this demo are very different. Slow doom metal alternated by faster and more aggressive parts. Although Whispering Gallery's music isn't really my favorite style, I hear some real good ideas in their songs which makes this demo highly entertaining for the fans of this genre. 6 songs including a cover of The Animals called "House Of The Rising Sun" is what you get will here. A playing time of about 25 minutes and recorded in the Harrow Studios. They use a heavy grunt singer and 2 normal vocalists and so their stuff reminds me a bit of old Paradise Lost. Guitarist William told me that they have signed with Polar Bear sound so you can expect more of them in the future. Anyway, fans of melancholic doom metal, don't hesitate and send $6.-/f 10. /DM 10. to: William van Dijk, Jisvogelpad 14, 3815 KE Amsersfoort, Holland. (TH)

PLAGUE RAGES
"Endoacanibilismo" demo '97
A Brazilian grind/death band with a 2 song demo which takes only 6 minutes. Can't say much about it 'cause it's all in Portuguese. "Julgamento Final" is quite a good one with pounding drums and quite some variety. "Sofrimento Constathe" is in the same vein. The vocals are raw and the production is kinda primitive. Info at: R. Baixa # 24, cep 02258-080 Sao Paulo-sp, Brazil.

NYCTOHOBIC
adv. tracks for split EP '98 with Exhumed
Yes, you read it well! Nyctohobic and Exhumed out on EP. And a new German label called Revenge Records is going to release it. It's gonna be a cool one for sure! These Germans will play 3 short but fast and furious grinding tracks. Really great ones and with a powerful production. Let's hope the EP will see the light of day soon. At least write to: Tom Will, Friedhofstrasse 10, 67245 Lambshem, Germany, or: mzon@junior.net.de. (EP)

DARK MOON
3 song demo
Great band from the States, that's what I can say after listening to this 3 song tape. Just very powerful metal. Maybe kinda like black/death metal, don't know exactly. Look, got this one from Martin (didn't have the time to review it so the easiest thing you can do is to give it to one of your fellow editors, right?), and there was no further information enclosed. So all I can say is that this is a good recording with aggressive and varying songs, and raw and a bit screaming vocals. Get your copy at: Scott Pletcher, 8723 Barry Oak Circle, Charlotte, NC 28224, USA.
GRIND BUTO
"Extreme Damage" demo '97
Fast, extreme barbaric and grinding death metal.
6 songs (11 minutes) on a tape with an excellent sound quality and a high quality cover on glossy paper. That's what Grind Buto stands for. Frank (bass/vocals) and Henk (guitar) are the guys behind this band. A drum computer is added for the blasting drumbeats (could be a little more varied). Mortician must be their number 1 influence. So you know what to expect. Really a cool demo! Yours for $6,-; to: Grind Buto, J.l. Kanwil Palembang 27, Beaucuc/Jak-Tim, (JKT) Indonesia. (EP)

WEAK HICKS
rehearsal '97
Weak Hicks is a new band from Holland. In the line-up we find the ex-Phlebotomized singer Barry. He also handles the vocals in this band. This rehearsal is a big change. They've already recorded a full demo or any other work. Weak Hicks' music sounds a bit like doom metal with death metal influences and even some grindcore aspects. Their music is mostly based on mid paced tempos, with some faster parts to give it a more changeable atmosphere. All in all it sounds pretty good, original indeed. Contact them at: Weak Hicks, p.o. box 2101, 3200 Spijkenisse, Holland. (LSA)

MALEFICARUM
demo '97
Maybe some of you remember Iconoclast and Excidium from Italy? Members of these bands have joined forces and formed Maleficarum in '93. In the same year they released a demo tape followed by a CD in '95. Here they've back and with another demo. It contains 8 songs of pure brutal death metal. And it's a good demo. Fast death metal with grinding drums, low tuned guitars and vocals which remind me of Immolation. It takes half an hour. Check it out! Gianlu Carolla, via Perugia, 25809 Termal (CB), Italy. (EP)

BLOOD SUCKERS vs BLOOD SUCKERS
split tape '98
Really cool to have 2 bands with the same name on a split tape. The one that kicks off comes from Slovenia and they play 5 songs of nice hardcore/grind (I suppose). Pretty cool stuff although what I'm into (and so it's difficult to describe). I like Blood Suckers from Belgium alot more. They play 5 songs too, 5 songs of extreme fast grind. Their part is provided with a funny intro.
Cryptopsy from Canada, which lover of ultra brutal death metal doesn't know them? The first demo was recorded in 1993 and was called "Ungentle Exhumation". After a few line-up changes they released "Blasphemy Made Flesh", which was in May 1994. Their latest release, and an absolute brilliant one, saw the day light in 1996.

The band survived 2 big Canadian tours and they were playing at the famous Milwaukee festival in 1997 with bands like Angel Corpse, Exodus, Broken Hope, Cradle Of Filth, Venom, Absu, Obituary, Hypocrisy + a private "unplugged" performance of Macabre. Cryptopsy is currently in the process of writing new material for a 3th release, as of yet untitled. Believe it or not, the new material will be even more brutal than their previous material. The following interview is made by Theo and answered by drummer Flo.

Hello Flo, I've some questions for you... In July 1997 Cryptopsy played on the famous Milwaukee Metal fest. Can you tell our readers what this festival is all about, and how was your gig? Were there any surprising bands for you? Please, tell also something about what happened with you while you were playing.

The Milwaukee Metal fest, is the biggest metal festival in North America, and we were very pleased to be asked to play there in July of 1997. The place is very big and has 2 different stages. One in a big hall and the other in a smaller hall. We were playing the 2nd night in the smaller hall. We didn't watch too many bands that day because we were outside, talking to fans and selling merchandise for a good part of the day. It was extremely hot that day and inside the hall it was even hotter with no ventilation. We had to play 7 songs in 30 minutes so we didn't really have time to stop between the songs. I had no water in my system and I started to get dehydrated towards the end of the set. When we were asked to play another song we started it and I was dehydrated to finish so we stop and the guys had to take me to the hospital to get better. We learned from our mistakes that night and it won't happen again. Other than that it was a great show and we were surprised to see that we had packed the place.

The first Cryptopsy CD was released on Invasion Records. The 2nd one on Wrong Again Records. What was the reason to switch from label? Are you satisfied with what both labels did for Cryptopsy? Can you tell me any news concerning the next CD? Which label will release it?

Invasion Records simply screwed us over for a large amount of money they owed us, and they are not to be trusted. Wrong Again Records was much more professional and gave us everything they promised. We are satisfied with Wrong Again Records and the job they did for "None So Vile". For the 3th album we haven't decided which company to go with. We are in negotiation with some bigger labels.

After the 2nd Canadian tour the band underwent a line-up change. Singer Lord Worm decided to quit. What was the exact reason of his decision? On which point was decided to ask ex-infestation vocalist Mike?

Lord Worm simply quit the band because of different musical interests and other career goals. Mike, ex-infestation vocalist, had recently moved to Montreal so we approached him about since we had been friends for a while and he worked beautifully with the chemistry of the band.

I like your music alot! All of Cryptopsy's songs belong to the most brutal death metal ever written. What about the new stuff, will it just be like the previous releases? Can you give us an idea of which direction you go with the new songs?

Well, if it was just like the previous releases we wouldn't have been very pleased. Cryptopsy believes very much in the progression of our music so we have taken these new songs to another level. I can't compare the new material to anything I've ever heard so it's hard to describe it. All I can say that if you like it brutal and over the top, you'll love it!

Let's go back to "Blasphemy Made Flesh". What was the reason to re-release the CD? Did Displeased Records want to do this that much? Do you know how much copies you sold of "Blasphemy Made Flesh"?

We were never informed that Displeased wanted to re-release "Blasphemy Made Flesh" and they basically did it because they knew that there was a demand for it and they wanted to make some easy cash. This goes back to the back-stabbers from Invasion Records who also probably made some more money with this re-release. We have no idea how much our first CD sold and that is depressing, but that's what happens when you start out and you have to deal with scum.

The cover art of "None So Vile" is a painting of Herodias with the head of John the baptist. Are
you interested in this kind of art or were you thinking "yeah, this looks cool, let's use it for our CD". Do you want to express something with this painting?

Cryptopsy is a band that shares a sarcastic view on all of things. We didn't want to use the typical blood and guts stuff that many brutal bands use so when we saw this painting we knew it was right. It's a beautiful painting that displays something brutal and horrifying, just like the music.

The album intro is a part of the theme of the "Exorcist 3" and the outro of "Evil Dead 3" movies. Why did you choose these particular themes? Are you guys fascinated by horror movies? Do you know the movie "Zombie Holocaust"?

We thought that both the intro and the outro were fitting for this album, that's why we chose them. Horror movies are cool and we like them just like anything else we like, it has to be good. So we could have just as much used an intro from a documentary. I've never seen "Zombie Holocaust" but I have heard about it.

What do you know about the European death/black metal scene? Any favorite bands? Do you have plans to tour in Europe to support your upcoming release?

To be honest, I personally do not know about the European death/black metal scene, but the others in the band are very much into it. I don't think that there is a place that we'd like to play more right now than Europe. Yes, with the release of Cryptopsy's 3rd album we will invade Europe. One of our favorite European bands is Vader. We enjoy their music alot.

What about your musical taste? Do you listen only to metal or are there any other music styles you listen to? Do you like Canadian bands like Obscene Crisis, Infernal Majesty or the ancient death metal gods Slaughter? Can you recommend some more brutal bands from Canada?

This is the cool thing about the members of Cryptopsy. We all listen to different styles of music, so when we are writing new material we have all these different ideas and influences, creating something that sounds different. Music is an incredible art and many genres and styles are interesting. Yes, we enjoy the Canadian bands you mentioned. As far as naming some other good Canadian acts, well there are a lot and it's all a matter of your own taste.

Well Flo, this is it. Thanks for your time, good luck with Cryptopsy. Stay brutal! Any last words?

Thanks Theo, and we hope to see you and the rest of Europe in 1998. Stay true!!

Cryptopsy, P.O.Box 37534, 159, 25e ave. St-Eustache, P.Q., J3P 5N2, Canada.

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First tell us how it all started with Suppository...
Well, Rutger (drums), and I (Max, guitars back then) were together at a concert of a local pulp death metal band, and these guys didn't have a support act so we came to the idea to enter the stage, just to make some noise. 2 guys from the crowd did a little bit of "vocals". After this total chaotic performance, Rut and I decided to continue, and that's more or less how it all started.

Tell us something about the "Project 13" demo, and about the split 7" with Rakitis. Are these items still for sale?
The "Project 13" demo was our 2nd demo, which we released in 1996 with our new (and still consisting) line-up. After this demo everything began for us and we've done many concerts and festivals. In the middle of 1997 I got in touch with Johnny of Rakitis, and so we did our first split 7" with them (at the end of '97). Both releases, including some split tapes are still available at our address and at some distributors.

Which influences are important for Suppository? Which bands did influence Suppository?
Our biggest influence is still grindcore, and it'll always be the biggest influence. But during the years we got more influences from different things. This mostly happened when René (guitar) joined the band 'cause he used to be a blues/metal guitarist. Before he joined it was more like 3 chords grind which we made (is always cool). I think we're mostly influenced by bands such as: Agathocles, Brutal Truth, Assuck, Sodom, Drop Dead, Discharge, Blood Duster, Mystic Scum, Boycott, Rotten Sound, and xxx more.

How have the reactions been on the stuff you have released so far? Have you got many opportunities to play concerts, and how do people react, at your shows, on your music?
The reactions are often good or very good. Of course there are always people who dislike it, but it's impossible to please every person. And to be honest, we don't give a shit about that anyway 'cause we make the music for ourselves. The concerts are often going well. We play about twice a month. But we try to stay away from our province of Limburg (Dutch province where these dudes come from) as much as we can, 'cause the local scene really sucks. Most of our gigs are in Germany and Belgium. The people there receive us well and the atmosphere is the best.

Do the lyrics play an important role in Suppository? What topics do you have in your lyrics?
We're not a band that preach more and play less and want to leave a message behind, but the lyrics are important for sure. The lyrics are mostly about war, environment and personal annoyance and frustrations.

Tell us something about the German tour which you did in 1997. How did the people react on your music? With which bands did you play? What has been the best moment for you and what has been the worst moment?
This mini tour is one of our highlights up till now. It was a tour together with Cornucopia and it was organized by Danilo, the singer in Wojciech/Entrails Massacre (thanks!!!). There was a good atmosphere every day and the other guys were really cool. We've played there with: Wojciech, Autoritar, Cut Your Hair, Vaseline, Entrails Massacre, Mindflair, + many more. The best moment was when we had to play at the "Stup-nitch Ship", in the hold of an old fishing-boat with about 150-'til 200 boys and girls from which almost everybody got totally mad. The worst thing is for all 4 of us the same, the trip to Germany and the trip way back home, a too small car with too much stuff and the trip took about 6 hours.

What is your opinion on the Dutch grind/crust scene? And what does the Dutch grind/crust scene think about Suppository?
The Dutch scene is quite good and there are quite a lot of good bands like: Distress, PCP, Nee, Inhume, Bar, Catweazle, Boycott, Last Days Of Humanity. These are all bands with cool guys and we get along with them really well. And these bands all work hard. Besides them there is not very much going on here.

How did you get in touch with Hepatitis D Records and Rakitis. And how is the co-operation with Hepatitis D? Will you release more in the future through this co-operation?
I met Johnny, the bassplayer in Rakitis and owner of Hepatitis D Records, in east Germany on a metal market. I already had slot of his releases...
and he told me that they were working on a new 7", but they were looking for another band that would like to share the 7" with them. A few months earlier we had recorded some new tracks and we hadn't used them yet. And so we decided to share the 7" with them, 'cause we liked each other's band and this way it was cheaper for both of us. If we will release something together in the future? We've never talked about that actually, but I think it will happen.

Any favourite bands, zines, clubs??
Favourite bands, plzzzz... To name a few: Rot, Brutal Truth (godz!), Skilsystem, Discharge, Rotten Sound, Abscess, Agathocles, Dismember, Boycott, Terrorizer, Disgust, Cruel Face, and xxx more. Furthermore I like to read: Final Holocaust 'zine, Penthouse, Profane Existence 'zine and of course Master Of Brutality. Favourite clubs? Don't have them actually. We won't complain as long as there is a good atmosphere and cold beer.

Maybe any political thoughts?
Yes, but does it care? Ever seen a system that works for 100% and that satisfies everybody?
How's the co-operation between Suppository and other bands from your area, or bands from elsewhere in Holland? Are there any promising bands in your area?
The co-operation is ok. There are pretty much musicians who play in different bands, like Rot, our drummer. He also plays the drums in Last Days Of Humanity and Catafalque. And the gays of Inhumus. They all play in a band or two. We know most of 'em and we get along with them pretty well. Promising band(s)? Most of the bands have enough quality, but keep an eye on Boycott. They are just good! Inhumus too!

Tell us a little more about the split CD with Agathocles, which is scheduled to come out in July on Obscene Productions from the Czech Republic. Have other labels shown interest in a full length CD of Suppository? On which label would you like to release a full length CD?

"Our biggest influence is still grindcore, and it'll always be our biggest influence."

The CD is recorded some time ago, but due to some circumstances it is a little delayed. The studio, where we recorded the CD, has a lot to do, so we have to wait some time before we can mix it. The rough mix sounds the same as our split 7". No other label has shown interest yet in a full length CD. And we haven't really been searching for it. We prefer to release a few more 7"s or a split LP/CD. I think that's more interesting too. I don't know on which label I would like to release a CD or whatever as long as the guy(s) behind the label are into what we are doing and really do something for us. That's what counts more for me than a big label where we are one of the xxx signed bands.

Are there any other split LP's or 7"es or whatever planned to come out?
We'll feature on a compilation 7" released on Yellow Dog Records (Germany), with one or 2 songs. Also, we will feature on a Japanese compilation CD called "No Fate" and one day we'll do a split 7" on Through The Eyes Of The Hatred Records (Holland). Furthermore, we haven't planned anything, but we're always interested in something. The most important thing for us is that we can play as much as possible.

Do you have any merchandise at the moment?
Oh sure, shirts, 7"es, badges (brillendoekjes), demos, split tapes. And if anyone wants something from us, just get in touch.

Anything else to include in this interview?
Gowap and Ewald, 1000x thanks for your interest in Suppository and for doing this interview with us. I wish you all the best with Master Of Brutality 'zine. And to all the people that have been reading this interview (and the rest of this issue), thanks to you too. Write us for comments, questions, hate mail or whatever. Bands, labels, distributors, let's trade stuff!!! Furthermore I'm always looking for people that want to trade tapes with me (punk/crust/grind/HC). You can reach me at the address below.

SUPPOSITORY/RAKITIS

Rakitis
split 7" '97
And here we have the split 7" with Swedish crusties Rokitis. The Suppository side contains 4 songs which are very fast and pounding. Mostly screaming vocals with a low growling voice on the background. The guitars are fast and heavy. It's all recorded with a great sound, definitely a must. The Rokitis side contains 4 songs too. They smash from the begin 'til the end and with a few mid-tempo paced parts in it as well. The vocals sound really brutal, the lyrics are in Swedish. Definitely one of the best crust bands around. You can get the 7" from both bands. The Rokitis address is: Johnny, Mollevangoestorg 5c, 214 24 Malmö, Sweden. (MD)
It was in the winter of 1994 that Besieged saw the light of day as a speed metal band. Soon after the release of their debut demo, in late 1994, they got rid of their drumplayer, and all their prior material was abandoned. A new drummer stepped into the drum position and Besieged continued as a brutal death metal trio. 2 more demos were released and a recorddeal with J-Bird Records was signed. Meanwhile they got another drummer and their latest line-up is: Jason - guitar/lead vocals, Gabe - drums, and Scot - bass/vocals. Their CD entitled "Akeldama" has been recorded some time ago. It's up to J-Bird Records to finally release it. The following conversation is between Scot and Ewald.

It's February the 25th today, 9.23 AM, and the weather is pretty good, kinda cloudy sky. How are things going over there in Oak Ridge, TN? What have you, and Besieged, been doing lately?

Tennessee is a beautiful, vibrant place but I imagine pales in comparison to Holland... Besieged are currently writing and rehearsing new material for a (so far untitled) EP, doing interviews and talking to various labels regarding new representation.

I have your bio in my hands now and it says that the "Akeldama" CD should be out in August '97. It got delayed till December '97. It's February '98 now and the CD is still not released. What's the reason of this huge delay? J-Bird is a new label, maybe with little money, can that be the reason? When will it come out now?

According to J-Bird representatives there have been several reasons for the delay... The August '97 delay was due to J-Bird signing so many acts and still being understaffed and therefore unable to get all the graphics work and pressings done in the 90 day envelope, which was specified in our contracts. So, release was delayed until December '97 and meanwhile new proofs of the CD sleeves were forwarded to us. We found elements of the sleeves that needed to be revised, so then release was postponed until February '98. February rolls around and the CD is still not released and furthermore we have heard nothing about the status of release so I begin trying to contact J-Bird. Once I get ahold of one of their reps, I found out that our only set of masters have been lost by them so we had to get new masters burned from the studio VHS tapes. While we had the masters we decided to get a re-mix/remaster to improve the overall quality of the disc before returning it to J-Bird.

Due to this delay the recordings are getting pretty old. Are you still satisfied with the recordings or do you think now that you could've done better? Which songs are on the CD and have you used the same studio where you recorded your last demo (which its production I like a lot)?

The studio work for the forth-coming "Akeldama" was done in early '97, so it is aging with the delays from our label but we are satisfied with the musicianship with regard to the fact that the material was played flawlessly but we are less than pleased with the engineering and production overall. Gabe was only with Besieged for one month prior to the studio work for "Akeldama", so given the circumstances we feel the disk reflects our best at that time. "Akeldama" will contain 9 songs (of which were re-recorded from the '95 demo for legal reasons surrounding the departure of our previous drummer). The tracks are: "Golgotha", "Reflection", "Age Of Malevolence", "Sarcophagous", "Pathogen", "Euphoria", and "Beneath The Grave". The new tracks are: "Inteccessor" and "Misanthrope GoD". The tracks were recorded at a different and much better studio than the '95 demo (32-track, all laser to digital and fully automated) which resulted in much better separation and overall quality (plus the fact that the songs are on CD improved the quality), but the engineering was not to our satisfaction. We sent the masters to another studio in New York to be re-mixed and digitally mastered after our label lost the originals set which improved the mix dramatically. Much more time, effort and money was put into the production of this CD than the '95 self-titled tape (which was recorded, mixed and mastered all in one 14 hour studio session).

The demo was your first full length item and came out in autumn '95. The CD is the first item since the demo so there's a big gap between these releases. Aren't you afraid that some people will forget Besieged? Is the demo still for sale? Ever thought about releasing something in between, an EP or whatever, just to keep the name circulating?

Yes, the demo was our first full length release. We released 2 EPs prior to the '95 self-titled tape: "Forging Of Ruin" in '94 and "Gologotha" in early '95. During the period between '95 and early '97 we disbanded with our drummer who played on the '95 release and was unable to find a suitable replacement in our area for a long time. Even when Chad (the former drummer) was with us, he was touring with another band which hindered our rehearsals and arrangements of any studio time greatly. This almost ended Besieged. We auditioned countless drummers but none were Besieged material until Gabe (our new drummer) joined in early '97 to record "Akeldama" with us. These events were the reason for the lapse in releases from '95 until the present not to mention the fact that Besieged material takes months to compose and work-up as a band due to the intricacy of the material. We are not very prolific writers and do not attempt to rush our songs just to get a piece of tape out. We instead work long periods of time on each song to ensure that each is more than just a group of melodies thrown together. The self-titled '95 tape is the only release that is still in circulation and we plan to discontinue it prior to the release of the CD. Many have probably forgotten Besieged but will take notice once again upon the release of "Akeldama".

Actually the 8-song demo '95 was the 2nd Besieged demo (as a death metal band) 'cause you made a 4-song demo too which was released in 100 copies. You didn't like
that one, why? Have you used those 4 songs again, or will you use 'em again?

Yes, "Golgotha" EP preceded the 8-song self-titled Besieged and the latter did contain 4 songs of the EP because we were satisfied with the musicianship and the engineering overall. We just felt that we could do the material better and get a higher quality recording so we added 4 new tracks to the EP and recorded the '95 tape. None of these songs from previous releases will appear on any further Besieged CD's after "AkeladAmA". The material for "AkeladAmA" was recorded for legal reasons concerning the former drummer and due to time constraints put on us by the record label for the delivery of masters for replication to them within 90 days of signing. This made recording more than 2 new tracks impossible. Once we met this deadline the label decided to sit on the release for almost a year and then lost our masters.

Some other independent labels offered Besieged a deal, but you didn't sign with any 'em, why? Pulverizer Records and Abiated Records have released some brutal stuff lately. Maybe one of 'em suites you, maybe in the future? Or maybe a CD on your own, like Avulsion and Severance did?

All the independent labels offer we got requested that something be changed regarding the music. One was "try not doing guttural vocals", this was unacceptable. We will not change or even modify what we write and play to gain label status (not even for a major label). Also the previous labels that made offers did not have international distribution and that is a must for any extreme metal band since much of the audience is outside the U.S. We are very interested in Pulverizer at the moment. We are talking to several other labels including Needless, Repulse and Century Media currently, but all want to wait until "AkeladAmA" is released and see how sales go on J-Bird before making any moves towards signing. We have considered releasing an EP with 2 new tracks if the delays from our label continue with regard to the release of the "AkeladAmA" CD.

Back in '94 Besieged was a speed metal band, but you got rid of this style after drummer Shannon had left, and you continued as a death metal band. Why did you change? Have you been involved in death metal bands before Besieged? But you're a versatile musician 'cause you're involved in a band called Fathom too. Tell us more about, how's it going?

Besieged just kind of out-grew speed metal I suppose and we wanted to move on to something heavier and more challenging, more intricate...I've been involved in a few other extreme metal projects and some that were signed or of the stature of Besieged. I played several different genres prior to Besieged including metal, punk, thrash, funk, blues, etc. No project worthy of mentioning though. Fathom is a side project that Gabe and myself are involved in, with former Besieged 2nd guitarist Daniel. We are currently doing the studio work on an untitled CD. 8 songs of dark, experimental, genre unpecific material. We basically just wanted to write a CD of material without trying to create it as or label it as any certain genre and see how it turned out. It's close to completion, the percussion will be finished on March the 21st. After that only sampling and vocals remain to be done. At this point Fathom is only an experimental studio project and Besieged remains our primary focus.

Since the formation of Besieged you've had several line-up changes. It were always the drummers that were replaced. Will Gabe continue to play the drums in Besieged or did be only help you out with the recordings of the CD? Are new members easy to find in your area?

Yes, we have not been very fortunate with drummer situations in Besieged. The original drummer Shannon developed a heart problem while in Besieged and was under doctor's orders to not strain himself excessively. It was a mutual decision that he disbanded. In early '97 we disbanded with Chad (drummer on "Golgotha" and the demo '95) due to his touring commitments with other bands. Gabe was brought in on drums in February '97 for the recording of "AkeladAmA" and will remain with Besieged and help us rebuild this project yet a 3th time. It is extremely difficult to find musicians to play music such as ours in our area. There are personality considerations as well as musical. If Gabe would not have accepted the position then we would've had to go to other states to find a drummer. A drummer in Besieged occupies a demanding role. Gabe was the only drummer in this area with the necessary skills to fill the position vacated by Chad but that had nothing to do with him being chosen (as the drums on "AkeladAmA" will testify).

I won't get an award for the originality of this question, but I just want to know it. You told me that you're influenced by both, European and American death metal. Also you claim to draw influences from virtually all forms of music. So what are your influences, musically and lyrically?

Influences are very diverse and somewhat eccentric for Besieged. We are inspired by the typical death metal influences such as Morbid Angel, Immolation, Sufferation, Cannibal Corpse, and some black metal such as Gehenna, Emperor, In Flames, but our main influences are non metal. We're into alot of classical like Beethoven, Bach, Vivaldi, Tchaikovsky, Dvorak, Segovia, and more modern artists like Al de Miola (we are as likely to be seen at a symphony performance as we are at a Cann. Corpse show). I get into Scandinavia folk, Dead Can Dance, Lisa Gerrard. There are also tons of non musical influences. The literature of H.P. Lovecraft, Aleister Crowley, Anne Rice, Patricia Cornwell, the poetry of Edgar Allan Poe, John Dryden, Jonathan Swift, Robert Frost, the art of H.R. Giger, M. C. Escher, Vincent van Gogh and impressionist art in general. We are influenced by anything aggressive, disturbing or starkly original.

America has much to offer when it comes to death metal, but the main part seems to be based in NY, Illinois, Ohio, California and Florida. Tennessee seems to be less metal minded. Any other bands in your area? Do you get alot of support from the local metallers? Do you often perform?

The areas of America where extreme metal is still popular has much to offer but overall I tend to think that European countries have far more to offer and moreover appreciate musicians of this genre more than America. Musicians are not given the artistic respect in America that is common in European scenes. Tennessee is not a very good scene for extreme metal at this time. The scene here is slowly developing. There are a few bands in this area (Abluminant in Kentucky, The Darkening in Tennessee) and even more grindcore projects. The grind tends to be marketable in this area because it is not as outrageous or complex for the simple minded people of this region. We very seldom perform in this area. We prefer to travel and play areas like the Carolinas, Florida, Ohio, where the scene is more supported.

I hope the CD will be released before this issue comes out. I've to be patient. I've nothing more to say so I'll leave you here. Anything left to say?

Our label says now that it should be available by May '98. Support the underground internationally! For more information regarding Besieged visit the Besieged website at: http://www.teufelstomb.com/ besieged/, or write to our address. To order "AkeladAmA" visit the J-Bird Records website at: http://www.j-birdrecords.com, or write to: J-Bird Records, c/o Christina Sallito, 5 River Road, Suite 301, Wilton, CT 06897, USA. Phone: (203) 761-9393, Email: caallito @jbirdrecords.com.

Besieged

c/o Scot
164 Johnson Road
Oak Ridge
TN 37830, USA
Cenotaph is the first band from Turkey which has released a CD on a Turkish label. Do you think you have opened doors for other Turkish bands, that some of 'em will follow with a CD? Yes, our band is the first gore-grind band from Turkey which has released a CD/MC on a Turkish label, Hammer Muzik. It's a good step for our band, also for other Turkish bands. I'm sure that other bands will release a CD like us too. Good luck to all 'em.

With a total play-time of 22 minutes it's a short CD/MC. Why only 22 minutes? Didn't you have more songs or was it a financial case?

I think that it's enough for us because we're not a doom band or something like that. Our songs generally are between 3 and 4 minutes. I think long grindcore songs can bore everyone. We repeat our riffs only 2 or 3 times in a song and try to use as much variation as possible. This way our songs are like this. On "Voluptuously Minced", our CD are mostly songs from our "Life Immortal" demo 1995 and promo 1996 and some unreleased new songs with a professional recording and in new versions. We'll continue to write songs like this because we're very satisfied with what we have played on the CD. Also we've enjoyed to play it and to listen to it. I don't understand the financial case question or something like that. It's impossible to earn money with our music. We have to pay everything by ourselves, out of our own pockets. The concerts, the studio, the recordings etc., everything. And creating a new song is for us really hard and difficult 'cause

...That's what these guys claim to play. It's Cenotaph from Turkey which we have here. I think the band was unknown to most of you until they released their debut CD/MC last year on Hammer Muzik. Time for some questions. Ewald did 'em, Batu (vocal) answered 'em.

we create a song and practise it until we can play it well. It takes about a month, for only one song! Our guitarists and other rhythms are not classical and not very easy to play. For that reason we don't have more songs, but the songs we do have are in my opinion of high quality.

Hammer Muzik has released your CD/MC "Voluptuously Minced". Is it a limited edition CD/MC, and how much copies are sold by now? Are you still satisfied with your work and with Hammer Muzik's work?

I think it's not a limited edition CD 'cause Hammer Muzik has made a second edition. And you know, generally record companies and labels don't give clear information about how much copies they sold but Hammer Muzik said to us that between 900 and 1000 copies of the CD were sold, and here in Turkey only about 1200 copies of the MC were sold. We sold the CD versions in the worldwide underground and in Turkey we only sold MCs. These numbers are changing every day and increase day by day 'cause Hammer Muzik continues selling it, but for the moment these numbers are valid. I've no idea about the future selling rates. We're still satisfied with our first CD. With this stuff we got in touch with so many bands, dirsto's, 'azines, radioshow and new people in the underground scene. And that's great and cool. We're the first CD experience of Hammer Muzik, but they spread our CD well. But we don't know about our future, maybe we'll change our label. We are now looking for a new label. It depends on the conditions. Time will show what will happen.

The picture on the CD inlay looks really horrible, but what exactly is it? Are you a big fan of horror/gore stuff and movies, and do you watch 'em often? Is gore stuff easy to get in Turkey or do you get it somewhere else? What does your family think of it? Already struck off the family testament?

They are the body parts and intestines of my body he, he, he. Yes, we all like all kinds of horror/gore stuff, and to watch gore movies etc. It's so difficult to find those kind of things here. We found the cover picture and inside picture in pathological and medical books. Our families and parents think that we are not normal and that we are crazy (that's everybody's reaction on our music and on us). But this kind of gore stuff, and our band Cenotaph are a real part of us since we started in 1994.

Before the CD you released two demos. How much of 'em did you sell? Do you think the CD/MC has increased the popularity of your band?

Yes, we released two demos: "Life Immortal" demo. Five death/grind songs. We released it in 1995 and sold 300 copies (it's sold out now). Then there's the promo tape 1996. Three gore/grind songs + an ultra slick cover with photos. We nearly sold 370 copies (sold out) but I don't exactly remember how much copies we sold. Our aim is to spread our sick music in the worldwide underground and our CD helped us much. Our upcoming second CD will increase the interest in our band. I'm sure 'cause it's kill... Also everyone can get in touch with us.

Metal music is popular in Turkey, but it seems to me that it is limited to the big cities Istanbul and Ankara - a bit in a city like Izmir. Tell me more about the Turkish scene. What bands are worth mentioning? Do you have alot of 'azines, concerts and recordstores?

Yes, metal music is popular here. Also the shitty trendy black metal is popular here, but we are not into metal or things like that. Gore-grind is not popular in Turkey. Generally we got all the good reactions on our CD outside of Turkey (Europe and the USA). Overthere are so many posers and stupid black metal kids and some MTV copy hardcore bands. Generally our scene is enjoyable but here is no real underground here, and everybody is into trendy shit. I can only advise you a Turkish raw grind-punk band called Flying Dirty Clouds. They're good friends of us and I like their music. Highly recommended to all freaks. If we can find a good label, we will maybe make a split with them. Also Endured magazine is the only serious and good mag from
Turkey. In one month there are about 3 or 4 gigs in Ankara. The concert places are not well enough, but also expensive to rent etc.

And how do other (non metal) people react on your brutal music? Are they getting used to metal music or are they still reserved? How’s life in general in Turkey? Overhere “civilized” people often treat us like scum!!!!

Yes, life is the same, and the reactions are the same everywhere in the world. In Turkey the nonmetal people are not interested in us. When some of them listened to us, they were shocked, and when they looked at the cover of our CD, some of them started to vomit (ha, ha, ha). But we really don’t care about them so much. Life in Turkey is normal and the same as else. I’m working at the airport, as a supervisor. Our guitarist player works at the studio in which we are playing and practising. Our bassplayer and drummer are at the university. They are students (pathology students, no joke ha, ha!). Life goes on and what can I say more? GRIND RULES!

Not much grindcore in Turkey. Besides Cenotaph there’s Flying Dirty Clouds and there was the recently defuncted Obscurity. Do you think that more Turkish people will start to play grindcore now that you have made a CD and have proven that there is a worldwide interest in a Turkish band?

Yes, the grind scene is very limited here, but there are some good bands but others have split-up. I think our own band Cenotaph is the only active grind band here in Turkey which is active in the underground scene. My honest opinion? We are not very interested in the Turkish scene. The scene outside of Turkey is much more important for us. We try to create our own sickness and brutality and I’m sure that everyone can see it on our second CD!

Do you think that there are close-minded people in Europe and North America who are not interested in a band like Cenotaph because you are from an “unusual” country and are only interested in bands from Europe and North America?

Generally people here are hungry for concerts. We play sometimes and generally in front of nearly 500 or 600 people. But our first concert was great. We played in front of 1200 people and it was perfect, human massacre, pogo, stage diving etc. After releasing our second CD we’ll make a Turkey tour and we’re planning to play some shows in Europe.

The second CD is on its way. What songs will you have on it? When will it come out and which label is going to release it?

We have already prepared our new songs. They are much faster as the songs on our debut CD, megagrid, psycho and sick! There will be 7 or 8 new songs on the CD + intro... I think the total play-time will be nearly 30 minutes and we’re gonna record it in winter 1998, January or February. If we find a good and serious label, it will be out in 1998 too. We’ll wait and see. I don’t know which label it’ll be. There are some labels interested now, but I don’t know what will happen.

I won’t waste more of your time, so I’ll leave you here. Some last words, complaints, advice?

Thanks alot for the support and for this cool interview! Only open-minded people can get in touch with us. Our second CD is coming soon so watch out! Support the brutal scene and fuck trendy shit! Greetings to Holland’s grind maniacs and to Dutch girls (I’m a cunt killer). Naughty boy! Take care, STAY GORE! Cenotaph, Me-sa Gînîes Sitesi Turgutlu Sok, 13/8 Gazioemanpasa Ankara, Turkey.

CENOTAPH
"Vulputesserally Minced" CD `97

The first Turkish grind band with a CD. And I can recommend this one to all of you who’re into extreme brutal goregrind ‘cause Cenotaph’s debut CD contains 8 intense songs of quality grindcore. Good and well played music with some variation and with extreme growling vocals. The production is good, with powerful guitars. The lyrics are absolutely gore, so is the cover. Splatter grinders will love it. Get it for $15 (CD), $8 (MC) at Hammer Musik, Mühürdar Cad, Akınar Pasaj 1/7012, Kadıköy 81300 Istanbul, Turkey.
CROWN OF AUTUMN
"The Treasures Arcane" CD '97

"If you do it, do it good", must have been the intention of these Italians. They've combined death, black, gothic and folk into their own unique style. This debut CD is released on Elnor Productions, which is nothing more than the band's own label. By doing everything themselves they can do everything the way they want it. And this CD, including the bio, flyers and everything else is made in the best way possible. And the music is worth your attention too. Their fairy-like music is atmospheric with many gloomy passages and with different vocal styles. Must say that I don't like the melodic vocals. The production is perfect. The CD comes as a digi pack and is yours for $18,-/DM 30 (in a registered letter) to: E. Restelli, via Teulèi, 7, 20123 Milano, Italy. (EP)

NOCTURNAL BREED
"Aggressor" CD '97
Black metal is out, old style metal is in! And here's the next band to come with an old style metal album. But Nocturnal Breed has made a great album which contains 10 fantastic metal "hymns" - a cover version of the best Death song, "Evil Dead". The music is of high quality, Modern black metal with "old style" riffs (especially the main riff in "Maggot Master" is awesome), Good vocals, some killer guitar-solos and a powerful production. This band sure has potential! Not strange if you know that the band consist of experienced musicians from Satyricon, Gehenna, Covenant and Troll. Get this one from Hammerheart Records, it sure kicks ass! (EP)

DEATH OATH
"Pernicious Conjure" CD
Death Oath is a band from Turkey, formed in 1994. In the same year they released a demo called "Lunatic Curses". A year later they made an EP called "Demon Power". Now they're back with their album "Pernicious Conjure", on Hades Records. 8 songs of normal death metal here. The guitar-solos are really cool and the vocals are very evil. It's a nice CD which needs several listenings before you will like it. Right now I try to consider which band I can compare with Death Oath and I really don't know. This proves that they have their own style and that's a plus point for the guys from Death Oath. Contact address is: Sivas Cadde, Deniz Apt 52/10, 38030 Kayseri, Turkey. (TH)

MORGUL
"Lost In Shadows Grey" CD '97
Another black metal CD. It takes about 40 minutes and contains only 5 songs. Varied black metal with the usual black metal vocals and the usual acoustic and keyboard parts. Not the most spectacular one and not original. Just some fine black metal and nothing else. Distributed by Hammerheart Records, so get it from them. (EP)

ROTTERING HEAD
"Backwardsness" CD '97
12 songs of well played death metal on the debut CD from this Polish quartet. Varied songs with grinding as well as kind catchy parts and with raw growling vocals. The production is good and the good looking cover comes with lyrics and info. $20 is what you have to pay for this good CD. Shock Wave Records, Res. Medicis. A-20, Impasse Jean Gabin, 31700 Blagnac, France. (EP)

ENTHRONED
"Towards The Skullthrone Of Satan" CD '97
2nd album from the Belgium black metal warriors. This CD contains 11 tracks + an intro and outro. Enthroned brings us a highly entertaining album with well structured fast black metal songs. And why isn't this boring music like the black metal machine mostly produces? Because this is simply manic music, a powerful black metal product with a massive sound that should be appreciated by every painted individual. Check this one out from Damnation distribution. (TH)

MASTIC SCUM/BLOCKHEADS
split EP '97
3th (split) EP from these grinding Australians. This time they come up with 4 songs, and I might be wrong about it, but I guess it are all new ones. 4 fast grinding songs in the typical Mastic Scum vein. Absolutely great! Blockheads is another grinding quartet, but they hail from France. They also play 4 grinding songs, and it are hyper fast ones. I like it a lot. Both bands have a good and very raw production. The Mastic Scum lyrics are enclosed. Great EP which is yours for $6 to: Mastic Scum, Burgwies 155, 5724 Stuhlfelden, Austria. (EP)

SARGATANAS
mini CD '97
It has been a while ago since I received something from Mexico. This black metal trio comes from Mexico, but I got my copy from Fadeless Records. It contains 3 songs and takes 12 minutes. It's black metal, but it sounds more like extreme heavy and pounding death metal. Maybe it's kinda reminiscent of some American black/death metal bands. The music is well played and especially the heavy pounding parts sound great. I like it and I want to recommend it to all of you. Get it from Fadeless Records, or else write to the band at: Julio C. Escobedo, P.O. Box 1-521/44101 Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico. (EP)

HERMÈS
"Angeldom" CD '97
And Pagan Records continues to release high quality items. And with Hermès they have signed another talented band. "Angeldom" is the band's 3rd CD. The debut CD came out on an Italian label and contains the band's 2 demos. The 2nd CD "Tarau" was released on German Last Epoch Records, but it was a disappointing album due to the bad production. With this 3rd CD they've made a new start. It contains 9 songs of orchestral and melancholic gothic/black metal. The songs are beautiful, kinda emotional at times, and the production is excellent. It's yours for only $16 from Pagan Records. (EP)

GARDENIAN
"Two Feet Stand" CD '97
Another great band to come from Sweden's number 2 city Gothenburg. Their debut CD is filled with 10 songs of extremely well played metal music, but I don't know how to categorize it. The music is very well played and contains many intense fast parts with raw and kinda growling vocals. The production is clear, but with a raw touch. Especially the guitarwork is well done, and I like it a lot. A 38 minutes during and highly recommended piece of raw death/thrash (?). Check it out at Listenable Records or from Hammerheart Records. (EP)

ANDRAS
"Die Rückschwe der dunklen Krieger" CD '97
Just another second rank black metal band which has released its debut CD much too early! The music is nothing special, except for a few parts. The guitar-solos in "Nacht des Todes" and "Die erste Schlacht" are very impressive. But this one kicks ass! 4 long songs build around beautiful keyboard melodies. Especially the 2nd and 3rd track are beautiful. And this time it's well played and it has a moody atmosphere. Maybe the last song is with its 16 minutes a bit too long, but all together this is just a great CD. One of my all-time faves! Folter Records has released it. Distributed by Hammerheart Records. (EP)

ARATHORN
"Niemals kroenender als war einst war" CD '97
I'm just recovered from the Andras CD and here's the next German band. Again it's a black metal band with titles in their own language. But this one kicks ass! 4 long songs build around beautiful keyboard melodies. Especially the 2nd and 3rd track are beautiful. And this time it's well played and it has a moody atmosphere. Maybe the last song is with its 16 minutes a bit too long, but all together this is just a great CD. One of my all-time faves! Folter Records has released it. Distributed by Hammerheart Records. (EP)

GORGOROTH
"Under The Sign Of Hell" CD '97
The 3th album of Gorgoroth is a very nice release, necessary for every fan of this genre and of course the band. 9 songs of fast black metal in the Norwegian style, nothing more, nothing less. For as far as I know there'll be a sales video with 2 songs from this album called "Revelation Of Doom" and "Blood Stains The Circle". The CD is available from Damnation distribution. (TH)
NILÉ

"Amongst The Catacombs Of NephrCUR-KA" CD
This is definitely the new era of death metal. Nile saw daylight when the brutality in death metal ended. Brutal as hell and technical as some conservative freaks. Especially the drums almost got me into an orgasm which a girl should never be capable of. The first time I listened to this piece of artwork it was hard to believe that this wasn't a drum computer going berserk at 380 volt. This band sounds so good that you really should check it out! They flip with tempo changes like Joe Vertastepen (Dutch racing driver) crashes into a concrete wall. Constantly fast without losing strength or brutality, inspired by the Egyptian gods which is also where they got their intros from. The best death metal CD of 1998. (MD)

MYSTIC CIRCLE

"Drachenblut" CD '98
With the release of their debut CD Mystic Circle was nothing more than one of the many faceless bands in the overpopulated black metal scene. But the boys have worked their way out and with "Drachenblut" they have made a really good CD. The songs are mystic and contain both, melodic and raw parts. A good production and good looking cover complete this product. Give it a try and write to Last Episode Records. (EP)

HELLSTORM

"Murder" EP '98
One of the EPs which is released on Oskorei Productions. Hellstorm exist since summer '97 and consist of experienced (black metal) musicians. Afraid to be seen as another trendy black metal band they decided to play "brutal death 'n roll" in the "old vein". But isn't that the newest trend? They remind me of old Sodom. Quite primitive with simple riffs. Sometimes they speed up a bit. Especially the last song is a fast one. Entertaining stuff! Yours for $7.50. (DM 10. Write to Oskorei!)

GODS OF EMPTINESS

"Blind Obedience Madness" mini CD
A new band from Austria which released a self financed mini CD. The result is this disc with 6 songs in the grindcore vein. Fast stuff variant with some slower parts. All in all it sounds quite good. It's not outstanding but the result is a nice CD. Pounding drums, growling vocals and heavy guitars. Some titles are: "Fuckin' Sense Of Life", "Burn You Nazi Pig". Write them before you order it! Helmo Lenzbauer, Ernst Fuchsstrasse 206, 2480 Scharding, Austria. (MD)

PAGANUS DOCTRINA/PSEUDOSTRATIFIED EPITHELJUM

"Sinistrius Necromatix" split CD P.D. and P.E. join forces on this CD. P.E. from Costa Rica must be known to you. Don't ask me where P.D. comes from. I don't care about that anyway. Their song contains 6 chapters and takes 22 minutes, but I'm not impressed. Just ordinary and kind of like orchestral black metal. P.E. is a lot better. Totally extreme and intense grinding metal with extreme growling and screaming vocals. They're responsible for 31 minutes and 9 songs. The sound quality is clear and the cover is really beautiful. I got my copy from "the master butcher" himself. His address is: Ronald, P.o.box 1727-2050, San Jose, Costa Rica. $14. (Latin America), $18. (USA/Canada), $21. (eep). (EP)

CENTINEX

"Shadowland" EP '98
Another vinyl release from these Swedish death metal guys. A short one with 2 songs (these songs also feature on the Japanese version of their new CD "Reborn Through Flames"). Pure brutal death metal is what they still play. And I love it, also because of the heavy production. Recorded in the once so popular Sunlight Studio. Absolutely great! $7.50/D/M 10 to Oskorei Prod. Watch out for their "Reborn..." CD, out on Repulse Records. (EP)

SOLENT GREEN

"A String Of Lies" CD '98
These guys already started recording demo back in '88, and went on tour with bands such as Clutch, Extreme Noise Terror and Pantera (17) more. But their first CD saw daylight in '98. Their music is a combination of mid paced and ultra fast metal grind. The fast parts are brutal and smashing, but I'm not so "crazy" about the mid paced parts. 2 guys do the vocals, one is growling, the other is screaming. All in all it's nice. Write to Relapse.

SUDDAKRA

"Auld Lang Syne" CD '98
Another German band which was unnoticed by me until I got the promo for their 2nd CD. Their début CD was self financed but this 2nd CD is released on Last Episode Records. It contains 10 dark/bare metal songs. Folk parts are used too and I do not really like that. For example a song like "An Dudladch" is in my opinion not necessary. Without this song the CD still takes 36 minutes. But except for that it is a good album. Listen for example to the excellent beginning of "And Another Cist Looma". Good album and provided with a beautiful cover. (EP)

DISINTERMENT

"Endless" CD '98
I was expecting some brutal/death metal from this rather unknown American band, as that is what is written on their flyers. Instead of that I've been listening to 12 songs of kinds melodico and raw death metal. Well played and varieting stuff which is not too fast but contains some faster parts. Good stuff, different from the average but it didn't blow my mind away. For $11. (US), $13. (epee) you'll get a good CD. Write to: 19 E. Main St., Le Roy, NY 14442, USA. (EP)

WARHAMMER

"The Winter Of Our Discontent" CD '98
Their has never been a band which its music is as closely related to Hellhammer as Warhammer. And that's exactly their purpose, to continue what came to an end with the depart of Hellhammer back in 1984. Warhammer is nothing but a copy of this Swiss cult band. Therefore they will be loved by some of you, the ones that still "die" to hear the remarkable heavy and doomish metal of Hellhammer. And hated by some of you, the ones who see this band as a cheap trick. "Old style" metal is in, right? Fact is that Warhammer plays the 3-chord metal style of Hellhammer like nobody else ever did. Even the cover of the CD is reminiscent to "Apocalyptic Raids". Black with the band's logo + the title in dark red and with a drawing of the same monstrous creature. A good album! Out on Voices Productions. Damnation distr. will release a limited LP version, 500 copies. (EP)

FINAL EXIT/GONKULATOR

split EP
The Final Exit side contains many grindnoise songs. I don't even know if you can call it music, but it sure sounds like a lot of fun. Sounds like a vacuum cleaner with weird guitar/tin in between. To my surprise there are even some songs recorded which sound pretty good (the beginning of the songs). A bit like a funk punk song. Gonkulator is the band of Fudgewonguer Ross Charlie Infection. It has 2 songs and an intro. A strange combination of grind and black metal (what a combination?). It's quite noisy but it definitely is an original approach of both musical styles. You can order it for $6.

AEBIA

"Im Schattenreich" CD '98
Nothing special! German black metal with titles in German and English. Not better than the average and certainly not as unique as the bio promise us. Too predictable and very trendy. A better drummer will be a first step forward. Released on Last Episode. Don't buy it! (EP)

INCANTATION

"Diabolical Conquest" CD '98
This is Incantation's 3th full length album. Just another part of their musical capabilities. Very good death metal! Started in '89 and never lost the trail of their path, which is a remarkable thing if you would ask me. Their music still sounds quite brutal and still hasn't lost any of its heaviness, even though with the line-up changes throughout the years. It contains 8 new songs but yet in the same style as they've always done it. Some titles are: "Unheavenly Skies", "Skeptical Misery". Incantation is still one of the best American death metal bands around. Get it from Relapse Records.
N-QUEST
"Extrusion: Battlehymns" CD '97
n-Quest's debut CD is out since late summer '97, and they can be very proud about what they have achieved. "Extrusion..." is a great CD which contains 8 songs of raw death/thrash metal. The songs are really well played. Technical metal with a couple of guitar solos and with hysterical as well as deep growling vocals. The production is really good and the packaging looks beautiful. 50 minutes of highly recommended insane intense power!

THOU ART LORD
"Apollyon" CD
I haven't seen or heard much from Greece lately. But it also seems to me that the Greek scene is not as much alive anymore as it was a few years ago. I'm probably wrong...eh? But Thou Art Lord is still going strong and "Apollyon" is a great album. I guess it came out a pretty long time ago. It takes 46 minutes of fantastic black metal. Fast, very tight, and with a very good sound quality. My tape version contains 8 songs and ends with "In Blood We Trust", the '93 demo version. I don't know if it features on this CD, or just recorded on my tape as a compilation. Well, the progression is clear! Get this one! Write to: John Hiresell, p.o.box 79022, 17202 Himitos Athens, Greece. (EP)

BRUTAL TRUTH
"Sounds Of The Animal Kingdom" CD '97
Another Brutal Truth item. I must say that I've never been that much into their music. This item sounds pretty frightening. It's mostly hyper fast. The guitar riffs sound like they are all playing different stuff. It's quite original and aggressive. My personal fave one is "Fainting". It starts quite groovy but turns into a musical massacre. All the compositions are kinda like this. Check it out for yourself and put on your warface! Could be one of the most promising albums of this moment. (MD)

NATRON
"Hung, Drawn And Quartered" CD '98
Fans of the American type of brutal death metal can easily add this CD to their collection. Natron's "Hung, Drawn and Quartered" is a great album with 8 songs of technical, varied and violent brutal death metal with quite a lot of unusual riffs and ideas, and with extremely brutal and guttural vocals - some raging guitarists. The heavy production is brilliant! A killer CD for sure. It takes 23 minutes. Get this piece of death metal insanity for $14,-/DM 25, at: Headfuckers, p.o.box 151, 25038 Rovato, Brescia, Italy. Band info: Natron, Il Traversa G. Marcon 37, 70054 Giovinazzo (BA), Italy. (EP)

AURORA
"Eos" CD '97
A traditional death metal band which started in '94. After releasing the "Childhood Memories" demo in '96, some tracks on comp. CD's and a limited edition 7" they got signed by Serious Entertainment and so they recorded this CD in the Asbenras studio in Denmark. The music reminds me a lot of Dark Tranquillity and a bit of At The Gates. It's very melodic and with a lot of acoustic parts. The vocals are mostly screaming with sometimes an '80s-a-like rock voice which puts a nice atmosphere in their music. The songs are mostly mid-tempo paced but with some slow parts in it as well. The guitars sound very melodic too and are quite well done. It seems to be quite skilled musicians. Worth checking out for every death/thrash/doom metal freak. Get it from Serious Entertainment. (MD)

VIOLENT
"Beyond The Graves" CD '98
I haven't heard from this band before. The only thing they released since their formation in 1992 is a demo. "Beyond..." is their debut CD, and it's a very good one. Their melodic death metal is kinda atmospheric at times, but the main part is brutal, with pounding beats, as well as violent, mind blowing and grinding rhythms. All this is provided with a fantastic production, which was in the hands of Peter Tagtgren in his famous Abyss Stud. A strong death metal CD. Get it from Last Episode Records. (EP)

INCANTATION
"The Forsaken Mourning Of..." CD '97
One of the still remaining death metal bands from several years ago, without losing any of their brutality. This CD was originally released on Repulse Records from Spain. It's re-released now on Relapse Records and this version includes 4 brand new songs. I'm not going to say much about their music 'cause it definitely's a must! Good classic original American death metal from the upper part level. Mainly fast stuff with a lot of dripping double bass work, fast guitar riffs and a voice that sounds like a mixture of Morbid Angel and Mortician. And for those who enjoy cover songs, here's a classic one from Death: "Scream Bloody Gore". A must!! (MD)

ATANATOS
"The Oath Of Revenge" CD '98
Another black metal CD from Last Episode/Epitaph Records. But Atanatos is much better as their labelmates of Dunkelgrafen and Andras. Not that this is a very special CD 'cause it's just ordinary black metal, but it's well played and has a good and powerful production. It consists of 8 varied hymns and takes about 45 minutes. It comes with a very good looking cover. Certainly a CD which you must give a try. There's a vinyl version too (picture LP) which includes Sodom's "Outbreak Of Evil" as a bonus track. (EP)

MERCENARY
"First Breath" CD
Mercenary started back in 1991 achieving a style that was attractive at that time. Nowadays they play a more original style with their own influences. The best way to describe their music is as cyber death. The music is mostly mid paced and has a very good sound. 11 songs of high quality cyber death is what you get here. Pounding drums, screaming vocals and distorted guitars. Even some acoustic parts are used. It definitely creates a great atmosphere in their music. Worth checking out. Write to Serious Entertainment.

OBSCENITY
"Human Barbque" CD '97
It's been 18 months ago since their 3rd CD saw daylight, and here is number 4. And it kicks ass! This CD is much more grinding as their 3rd CD "The 3rd Chapter" with much more fast pounding parts and with varying vocals. Also this production is very much low tuned, really good. There are full length albums with parts, but in general there are much more violent grinding parts as on their previous CD. A good album. Check it out from Morbid Records. Band info: Obscenity, Pirschweg 5a, 26133 Oldenburg, Germany. (EP)

GONKLATOR
"Satan's Burial Ground" CD
What you'll find on the debut CD of Gonklator is a real noise attack. A mixture of black metal combined with grind/noise and even some Merzbau influences. Definitely a constructed chaos however the music is always not fast. It's mostly slow sounding and pounding. A lot of vocal effects were used. All in all it's quite original and weird stuff, or should I say audio violence? $10,- to: Fudgeworthy Records, 8 Stevin Drive, Woburn, MA 01801-5366, USA. (MD)

ENCHANTED
"Daylights Wing Collides" promo CD
Norse Enchanted spread this 2 song promo CD to 'zines, labels etc. It's not for sale! If all goes well, they'll be in the studio by now to record their debut full length album with parts. Some great future on the big German label Century Media Records. If that album is as good as the 2 songs on this promo, I'm sure I'll get my copy. Mid paced melodic death metal with kinda black metal vocals. Good stuff! Enchanted, Naustadaban 5676 Baldersheim, Norway. (EP)

GOTHIC
"Prelude To A Killing" mini-CD
The 2nd mini-CD from these French death/grinders. It contains 5 compositions of brutal death metal with some grind influences. Their music is mostly fast. On this mini-CD they included more variety such as experiments with atmospheric parts and distorted solos. They've done it in quite an original way however some parts reminded me of "Sounds Of..." CD from Brutal Truth. But it's worth checking out. Contact: Gothic, p.o.box 60, 9 rue a Lahaye, 93170 Bagnolet, France.

DERANGED
"High On Blood" CD
This is the 2nd full length album from Deranged. It's even more brutal than the "Razed X" CD. 11 compositions, mostly hyper fast and brutal stuff. Crunchy guitars, bulldozer bass and whirllwind drums is what they are all about. I don't know the
exact date for the release, but when you see it around, you can buy it blindly if you're into brutal death metal. Vocals are very low and brutal. Definitely a must (MD)

LYCANTHROPY
"...As The Mourners Arose" CD '98
FE is the next German label with a black metal release. But while other labels release items from mostly German bands, this label has released a CD from an American band. And Lycanthropity is a nice band. Not that this is an outstanding CD, 'cause their music is pretty average, but they perform it well. Just 6 well played black metal hymns with some atmospheric intro in between. Good production and an excellent 12-page booklet. Write to: FE, c/o Melk Kaufmann, Thönenstrasse 53, 29308 Thönen, Germany.

NO PAST
"Dragons" CD '98
Distorted "industrial" noise, and nothing else. After 34 minutes it's over, what a relief! Rudolf Weh- ran, 10, Rue Bon Pasteur, 69001, Lyon, France.

WITHOUT GRIEF
"Deflower" CD '97
After releasing a demo and after promoting it throughout the underground they got a deal with Serious Entertainment. The CD was recorded in the Aabenraa studio and produced by Jacob Hansen. Their music is melodic death metal and it has a lot of Dark Tranquillity influences. Melodic metal of good quality with dark lyrics. Passionate, melancholic, yet aggressive music, 8 compositions with a play time of about 48 minutes. Worth to check out. Serious Ent., Koningsgade 84, 6700 Ebelting, Denmark. (MD)

DISGORGE
"Chronic Corpora Infest" CD '98
Where are those glorious Mexican death metal bands such as Cenotaph, Anarchus? haven't seen a sign from these so beloved bands for years. But Disgorge is here to keep the Mexican flag high. And they are more brutal and extreme as the above mentioned bands ever were, 9 songs and almost 40 minutes of pure corpse grinding and pathological death metal. Great musicianship by those 3 dudes, good sound and a good cover. Get it for $15. (CD), $9. (tape) at Disgorge, p.o.box 1-310, 76001 Quetetaro, Qro, Mexico. (EP)

UNBURN
"Beyond Life And Death" mini CD
Good item! Contains 4 songs. Melodic death/doom with keyboards (are beautiful) and female vocals to create more melancholy. The songs have some surprising breaks and changes. The production is clear, yet kinda raw. Well done! Label address: Rui Gomez, Rua Sao Joao 126, Repeses, 3500 Viseu, Portugal. Band address: Unburn, Apartado 31, 6300 Guarda, Portugal. (EP)

ANAAL CUNT
"88 songz EP" EP '98
This is a re-release of their legendary EP from '89. How many songs their will be recorded? Just 88 songs of pure noise which only Anaal Cunt is capable of. Well, I don't have to say much about it 'cause I think everybody of you already know their musical capabilities. You can order this re-release for $6. (worldwide) at Infection distribution. (MD)

MORTICIAN
"Zombi Apocalypse" mini CD '97
Finally, their new mini CD. If you thought that it couldn't get any more brutal, than it's time to get your hands on this masterpiece. The songs are about the same as those on the "Hacked..." CD. But who cares as this band only plays "hits", even though the drums is done with a drum computer. Again alot ofintro's are used, taken from horror movies. It was first released as an EP. Now it's also released on CD format and it includes 2 coven songs, from Slaughter and Repulsion and there are 3 more bonus tracks from Mortician themselves. A must, get it from Relapse. (MD)

High Radiation Prod. II
Compilation CD
A 16 song compilation, released on Portuguese Independent Records. Bands from different countries playing different styles. And that's the reason why I don't like it so much. It contains some killer death metal bands such as Oasuary Izaner, Imito, Beheaded, Excess Of Cruelty, but also some garbage like Myself A Grant (industrial, puke!), Gothic Castle (shit vocal), Barriada. I think only a handful of open minded listeners will enjoy it. Please, make a comp. CD with only death/grind or only melodic bands or whatever! $12.-: Inde- pendent, Rua Sa Da Bandeira, 311-1-T, 4400 Gaia, Portugal.

RESURRECTED
"Akedlam A" CD '98
Everything about this CD has been said in the interview. And it finally got released in May '98. And I can recommend this CD to all you dudes out there who are "dying" to hear some pure brutal death metal. "Akedlam A" is a great CD! Good music and extremely deep growing vocals. The bad thing is that there's no info on the cover. Not even the bands' address is mentioned on it. But you must get it for sure. $11. - to J-Birds Records.

LUNAR AURORA
"Seelenleiter" CD '98
I didn't like their debut due to the harsh production. And this new CD is pretty much (but not exactly) the same. The "slower" parts sound pretty good but an hour, as they turn up the speed it becomes chaotic. It's difficult to distinguish the instruments. And I don't understand why their songs have to be so fuckin' long. They're not exciting enough to take about 8 minutes. Not bad, but not great either. Judge for yourself. Released on Voices Prod. (EP)

NECROPOLIS RECORDS
The Dawn Of Pure Evil compilation CD '98
Necropolis Records has its 5th anniversary and celebrates it with this comp. CD. Some of the bands are: Dawn, Nifelheim, Demonic, Uusper, Tortaros, The Ancients Rebirth, Ophtalatmia, Dissecation, Deathwitch, Arkranum, + more. All bands that have a deal with Necropolis. Would've been nice to have some older bands on it too. I still like Archgoat's mini LP alot. After all the Archgoat vinyl was the first item which they brought out. But it's a really nice compilation CD and it'll give you a good impression of what they have available. Get it and check their bands out.

CRYPTIC CARNAGE
"Rozelowe" CD '98
Their 2nd CD got released on Last Episode Records. But except for the fact that they're from Germany they're different from the average. No black metal, which I've heard a million times before, played by angry looking boys with predictable corpsepaints. No, Cryptic Carnage is a really good dark metal band. "Rozelowe" is a concept CD and tells the story about what happened in their hometown about 800 years ago. The story is separated in 10 dark and mystic songs. Very well arranged and good musicianship. Get it! (EP)

HANDFULL OF HATE
"Ghastly Sublimation" CD
Handful Of Hate plays an all-day black metal style. I'm not gonna say much about it. First of all I'm not into black metal and definitely not into average black metal. Second of all the price of this CD is pathetic!!! The label asks $16., for the CD, and next to this you have to pay $8., for postage. So, a total price of $24. That's more than a Rolling Stones or Michael Jackson double CD! If you like to pay a fortune for a crappy black metal CD, than contact Northern Darkness, via S. Quintino 44, 10121 Torino (TO), Italy. (MD)

RESURRECTED
"Bloodline" EP '98
Never heard of these German fellow until I got their EP. It's a 15 minutes during EP with 4 brutal and grinding tunes on it. Really raw stuff, also because of the harsh production. Is a bit chaotic at times. But a nice piece of vinyl for sure. Get it at Underground Promotion, c/o Timo, Bellermann- strasse 20, 13357 Berlin, Germany for DM 10/?-.

NIFELHEIM
"Devil's Force" CD '98
Now that the old school black/death metal is on its rebound, the 2nd CD by Swedish Nifelheim should prove to be popular. 8 no-nonsense tracks of a merciless and heavy black metal onslaught. It also features guitarwork of ex-Dissection members, which results in a powerful and massive sound. Released on Necropolis Records. (EP)

INTENSE
"Indifference" CD
Intense consist of former Intense Agorizing members but is in no way comparable to that grind band. Intense goes for a much more progressive way of metal music. Sometimes it's fast with a bit of death metal influences and sometimes it's much more like groovy thrash metal with catchy riffs and melodic vocals. Certainly not an album for death/thrash devotees, but a recommended album for open-minded people as it is a good release. Get it at: Backwoods distr., c/o László Kapovári, 3530 Miskolc, Corinth 17, 2/2 Hungary. (EP)

EVILUTION
"Shrine Of Desecration" CD '97
Quite a lot of rather unknown US bands have released CD's on small labels. Evilution too, and their CD is a real heavy one. With a play-time of 26 minutes it's rather short, but it's great stuff! Pure brutal and heavy death metal. Evilution, 403 Washington Ave, West Haven, CT 06516, USA.

DEVILYN
"Anger" CD
What a great one! Pure and traditional death metal, kinda comparable to Morbid Angel. 10 songs of sounding death metal, certainly as good as their country mates of Vader. Get it! Novy, ul. Lesna 16a/88, 33-100 Tarnow, Poland. (EP)
IMPENDING DOOM

"Caedes Sacriceae" CD '97

These Germans have gained themselves a strong underground following with their split EP with Atratos and their "Meraian Abaddon" demo. The "usual" next step is a record deal, with Perverted Taste Records, on which they've released this debut album which contains 10 songs of varying black/death metal. It's more the music that is somewhat melodically shred, but the vocals are very good, with a bit of echo which I like a lot. The CD comes with a beautiful cover which shows an ancient painting of some sort of battle. Check it out, it's a nice one. (EP)

PYREXIA

"System Of The Animal!" CD '97

The 3rd CD from this New York based quartet. MM, I don't know if it's a CD or a mini CD. It is that it contains 8 songs of very well played and extremely well produced death metal. The play-time however is with 24 minutes kinda short, but to listen to this CD is a pleasant experience. Most distribution will have it for you, or else write to: Serious Ent., Kongensgade 54, 6700 Esbjerg, Denmark. Band info: Mockery Prod., P.O. Box 615, Ridge, NY 11961, USA. (EP)

OSCULUM INFAME

"Dor-Nu-Paupth" CD

The history of this band is completely unknown to me, so I'll start directly with the music. As most black metal bands today Osculum Infame open their CD with a sweet intro. And not unexpectedly, the music is fast black metal with here and there some keyboards. Not bad but not spectacular too. I think that the "true" black metal freaks appreciate the music. For me this CD sounds like the other million of black metal bands. Ask Damnation distribution for it. (TH)

ANGEL CORPSE

"Nuclear Hell"/"Wolflight" EP's


MOON

"Daemon's Heart" CD '97

Christ Agony's Cezar took an unlimited brake with this band and formed MOON somewhere in the middle of '96. Things went fast. A deal with Pagan Records was signed and this CD came out in autumn last year. "Daemon's Heart" reflects Cezar's personal dark experiences. The result is this excellent debut CD which contains 9 brutal black metal songs. It's fast and intense music accompanied with mystical keyboard melodies. Doc of Vader did the drumwork. It takes about half an hour of your time and has a powerful production. Send $16 to Pagan Records. (EP)

NIDEN after 187

"Imperium" CD '97

Another Swedish band which has released its debut CD on Necropolis Records. But full length is maybe too much said as the CD takes only 27 minutes, and both, the first and last "song" are meaningless instrumentals. The remaining 23 minutes is separated in 8 songs of extreme fast, primitive and hateful black metal. I like it! It's simple but well played and well produced. $16 ($14 in the US) to Necropolis Records. (EP)

DEPRESSION

"Mindgate" CD '97

After a split CD with Czech Incanticide on Deathvastation Prod. (the label of Kababoth), Austria's Depression released their "Mindgate" CD. 10 songs (incl. an intro) of ripping death metal compared to the death metal of the early 90's. The aggression is almost non-stop and live a set like this could blow your head off. My favorite songs are "Mandibulous Death" and "Yearning". I think that the 10th song called "Klaidvo Na Carodejnice" is a cover, but I don't know from which band. Please guys, let me know 'cause it's a damn good one too.

Anyway, Depression can be proud with this release. I don't think this will disappoint the extreme mettlers! Write to: Daniel Gregorovic, Dr. Neudorferstr. 10, 6845 Hohenem, Austria.

HAEMORRHAGE

"Grime" CD '97

The long awaited 2nd album which is out now for a long time. And it's a perfect follow-up to "Emetic Cult"! It's an excellent piece of brutal splatter grind and nothing else. In 38 minutes you'll get 14 songs with a fantastic production. Get it, in case you don't have it yet. Out on Morbid Records.

KAMPFAR

"Mellom Skogklede Aaser" CD '97

The man behind Kampfar is a member of Mock who have ceased in existence. In 1995 he released his first item in the form of a 2 track promo. It contained bombastic and supreme black metal. This promo has meanwhile been released on CD format. The 37 minutes lastest being CD largely proves itself to be a proud follow-up to the majestic vocals and harsh sound are still present. Officially the CD has 7 tracks, however the first and last one are merely screams on the fastest grindcore music. The remaining 5 songs are of high standard and there is even the epic "Hymne" from the promo among them. Even though not as renowned as fellow viking mettlers Helheim and Enslaved, Kampfar deserves your attention. Available from Hammerheart and Damnation distribution. (AN)

IMPERATOR

"The Time Before Time" CD '97

It was back in '92 that I first heard the original LP version of this album. Meanwhile the LP became a collectors item. Due to the bad promotion only a small amount of the original LP were sold. Now, 7 years after its original release, Pagan Records has re-released this album on both, LP and CD. It's the same album but 2 bonus tracks added. The music is a bit ancient by now, but in my opinion it's still excellent black/death metal. It comes with a 24-page info booklet which tells you the story of this recently reformed band. The LP costs $16 (Europe), $18. (else), CD costs $14 (Europe), $16 (else). Get it from Pagan Records. (EP)

VADER

"Back To The Blind" CD '97

The veterans of extreme blasting death metal are back. The "Necrolust" demo is still one of my favo demo's, but I must admit that I haven't followed their work very frequently since their debut CD came out some years ago. In all those years they didn't loose their aggression and speed. On the contrary! It seems that they only became faster and on this album they often reach a speed with which they easily break grindcore bands. 10 songs, 30 minutes and with a fantastic production. An enjoyable CD, get it! (EP)
EMBALMER
"There Was Blood Everywhere" CD '97
Embalmer's formation already turns back to 1989. Finally the recordings for Release Records (their '93 demo "Rotting Remains" and the '96 7" "There Was Blood Everywhere") are now released on CD format. Not much fresh and new stuff but still interesting for every fanatic of brutal death metal. Their music is quite brutal. Mostly fast, sometimes a bit chaotic. The sound of this CD reminds me a bit of Exit 13's "Ethos Musick", probably recorded in the same studio. Good American death metal with growing as well as screaming vocals. (MD)

GOAT OF MENDES
"To Walk Upon The Wiccan Way" CD '97
Hm, I think these Germans were listening to The Black's CD when they had to find their band name as it is a song title from that Swedish band. Now they're here with their own CD. I think it's their debut CD although I'm not sure, but it's not a bad one. Goat Of Mendes is a bit different from the average black metal bands. Their music is mostly mid-tempo paced and very harmonic. The vocals are varied with all kinds of voices, which sometimes remind me a bit of British Sabbath. Also a lot of female vocals. Especially the spoken part in "Witchfresses" is nice. The production is clear, could've been a bit heavier. Except for that it's a damn good CD, give it a try. Released on Perverted Taste Records. Band info: Heinrich Frank, Lex, baumstrasse 8, 58097 Hagen, Germany.

YEARNING
"The Tragedies Adored" CD '97
This first full-length album of Finnish Yearning. They were already introduced on the "Holy Bible" comp. CD on which they came out to me as a very promising act. Well, the 8 tracks which you'll find on this CD are in the same vein as the track on that comp. CD. Their music consists of very emotional/melancholic doom/death metal. A lot of acoustic parts are used as well which gives the total project a great atmosphere. The music isn't fast at all and a lot of keyboards are used. The vocals are mainly done by a normal voice but yet very emotional and melancholic. Definitely a promising act. Check it out. Out on Holy Records. (MD)

DISSECTION
"The Past Is Alive" CD '97
This is not another full-length album from this Swedish band. It's a compilation of their demo and EP recordings. It comes with a good sound quality. The music is the same as on their full-length album. Good stuff and atmospheric death/black metal. Tracks which you'll find on this one are: "Shadow Over A Lost Kingdom", "Frozen", "Feathers Fell", "Son Of The Morning", "Mistress Of Bleeding Sorrow", "In The Cold Winds Of Nowhere", "Into Infinite Obscurity", "The Call Of The Lost Mind", "Severed Into Shreds", "Satanized" and "Born In Fire". Old demo, EP and rehearsal stuff, so it's some kind of exclusive work from the band. Get it from Necropolis Records. (MD)

THE NOW NOISE
"Raging Mad Insanity" CD '97
You can see this band as a kind of side project of some Obscenity members. One of 'em used to play in this band in the '80s until the band came to an end, and thought that it would be nice to call the band back to life. And so a CD was made. A nice one but nothing more. Just well played and fast metal with influences from death and thrash, and with some grinning rhythms, but that's all. Pretty ordinary stuff with a good production and a bit unattractive cover. Released on Morbid Records. (MD)

MASS PSYCHOSIS
"Necroporno" CD '97
Mass Psychosis is still going strong and their real debut CD came out in '97. I say 'real' because their "Face" CD contained their demo and EP's but no new stuff. "Necroporno" is a complete new one. With 29 minutes it is a short one but take a look at the price and don't complain! And don't complain about the music because they have delivered a great product. Pure aggressive and raw death metal in their own unique style and with the traditional and brutal vocals. Great sound quality, excellent cover. $12. - to: Doug Brandon, p.box 267, Keyport, N.J. 07735, USA. The label address is: Still Dead Prod., c/o Julius Polczynski, 03-933 Warsaw, ul. Obroncow 2a, Poland. (EP)

MURDER CORPORATION
"Kill" mini-CD '97
A side project of 3 Deranged members playing death metal in a great way. 6 compositions is what you'll find on this mini-CD. Great death metal, the way it should be. A great guitar sound which still reminds me a bit of the Deranged sound. Killer vocals without a vocal effect and excellent drumming. The music is mostly mid-paced. It has a really good sound quality. Look out for their upcoming full length CD and split LP with Last Days Of Humanity on Gowar Records. Regain Records, p.box 120 26, 245 02 Hjarup, Sweden.

BAL SAGOTH
"StartFire Burning Upon The Ice..." CD
Here's a tasty CD. It's diversified, melodic and strong. It's difficult to describe it. The songs create an atmosphere combined with aggression. Weird clear vocals mixed with grunts and chants with an important role for the keyboards. The black metal, which is produced here is entertaining and a shining star among all other black metal crap. Buy this one from Damnation distribution. (TH)

AGATHOCLES
"Humoragrance" CD '97
"Humoragrance" is already the 5th full length album of these Belgium mincers. I must say that this one is a bit different from the older recordings and it took me a long time to get used to it. The best way to describe this is as another chapter of their 4th CD "Thanks For Your Hostility", but even more experimental than before. Their music is still fast and pounding. I think that will never change in Agathocles (hopefully), but they added much more false accords. But still the old good stuff is here combined with some experimental parts. 20 compositions of experimental mince core is what you get here. Morbid Records released it. (MD)

PROFANUM
"Profanum Aeternum..." CD '97
On this 2nd album Profanum dropped all the metal instruments. No guitar and bass here but ambient, symphonic art with instruments like piano, violin and such. All this accompanied with very obscure vocals. The long compositions are build around different drum beats. Beautiful music to dream away. $14. - (Europe), $15. - (else from Pagan Records. (EP)

DAWN
"Slaughterers (Crown Of The Triarchy)" CD '97
"...the only real contenders to Dissection's throne...", was written in Terrorizer magazine. And Dawn sure is in a position, and has the potential to become as big as Dissection. Let's hope Necropolis Records has the ability to get these guys on the road so that they're able to show their splendid black/death metal to a live audience. On this new CD it sounds really great. Powerful and pounding black metal with some death metal influences, but these are hard to find. Tagtgren again delivered a fantastic production. A brilliant item (7 songs, almost 60 minutes). For sale for $14. - (USA), $15. - (else). There's a picture LP version available too, in a limited edition of 500 copies. Get your copy now!!! (EP)

SADISTIC INTENT
"Ancient Black Earth" single CD '97
Finally some new songs from this American death metal outfit. It all became a bit quiet after their "Resurrection" mini-CD. But now they're back with 3 new compositions which sometimes remind me a little bit to Order From Chaos. Their music is still quite fast as well as aggressive and brutal. Somehow a bit as the sequel to "Resurrection". Also a bit reminding to the old Morbid Angel days. Worth to check them out! Daze Realm Records, p.box 5051, Downey, CA 90241, USA. (MD)

DUNKELGRAFEN
"Schatten der Ewigkeit" CD '97
It's easy to describe this, it's garbage! Just one of the many German black metal bands which got signed because they play trendy music, and trendy music sells! Anyone out there who wants to deny it? Yeah, probably the people behind Last Episode Records, the label which is responsible for this release (formerly operating under the name Last Epiphany, on which the Andreas CD was released, a CD which isn't better as this one). The music is just chaotic and primitive, and the sound quality is below every level. Besides, I'm sick of those promising bio's with statements like "one of the most unique German black metal bands". It's an ordinary band which was formed in '95, when the black metal trend had reached its "climax" with guys in corpse paint and titles in German. I've seen it all before, and heard it all before. They try to be different as numerous of the faceless acts of our time, but they're faceless themselves. Oh boy, the truth is so hard to take!!! There are so much other releases which are way better! (EP)
SHADOWS OF SUNSET
"Reflections From Afar" mini CD '97
Bands from Finland in our 'zine are getting rare, don't know why! But I can't ignore Shadows Of Sunset's debut mini CD 'cause it's a really good item. It's the 3rd CD release of Fadefless Records and Fadeless's releases are traditionally of good quality. So is this one! 4 songs of heavy and variating blackened death metal, play time about 19 minutes. Raw black metal and melodic death metal riffs are combined here and provided with an excellent and heavy production. You can get your copy for $12 (€17.50) from Fadeless Rec., p.o. box 1288, 6501 BG Nijmegen, Holland. (EP)

DISPATCHED
"Return To Your Mind" mini CD '97
Dispatched's items get reviewed in our 'zine very regular. Another issue and here they are again. This time it's a 4 track mini CD. During the years the band has changed alot. Dispatched is no longer a band which can be categorized in death or black metal. They've developed their own style. It's melodic, raw and dark metal with a bit of aggression. The music is kinda strange and certainly different than anything else. You have to be kinda open minded to get used to it. It's a good CD, give it a try. Send $10/DM 15 to: Daniel Lundberg, Mariestromsgatan 6, 64651 Gnesta, Sweden. (EP)

DYSPHORIA
"Hope Without Reason" CD
O.k., this is not exactly the music we're used to in M.O.B., but it's still worth checking out, at least if you're interested in hardcore the way bands like Madball, Sick Of It All are. The music isn't fast at all. Sometimes it gets a bit more aggressive but it's mostly based on mid tempo paced riffs. The vocals sound pretty much filled with hate. The CD is very well produced and released by the band themselves. Well, if you're into this kind of hardcore you should check it out at: Dyshoria, p.o. box 590, Buckingham, PA 18912, USA. (MD)

FROSTMOON
"Tordenkrig" EP '98
"Pure frost metal from the ultimate north!" Such a statement should say enough! Frostmoon is another Norse black metal band. Formed only a year ago and 5 demos within the first year of existence. The guy behind this band grabbed the attention of Oskorei Prod. and here's the debut EP. It contains 5 songs in the typical Frostmoon style. Pure and harsh black metal, with the traditional raw production and with hysterical as well as harmonic male vocals. A very good EP which takes 15 minutes and is yours for $7/DM 10 from Oskorei Prod. A full lenght CD must be out soon.

KAWIR
"To Cavin" CD
Greek Kawir is not an unknown band among the undergrounders. Before this CD they released a demo and EP, if I recall. And finally here is their debut CD which is entitled "To Cavin". Kawir's music is a mixture of aggressive black metal and tragic Athens guitar riffs. The main theme of Kawir's lyrics is about the Greek history. Songs like "Hymn To Zeus" and "Hermes And Artemis" deal with Greek hellenistic mythology. Their stuff is sung in the old Greek language. A very nice and original release. (TH)

VIRAL LOAD
"Brutalized Beyond Belief" CD '97
When Viral Load entered the studio in May last year to record this debut CD, they were together for less than a year. The result of 15 hours of intense studio work is entitled "Brutalized Beyond Belief". 10 songs of raging death/grind it contains, and 42 minutes it takes. I like the music quite alot but the drumcomputer is very irritating, and actually it lowers the level of the CD. The growling vocals are very good but the hysterical vocals can't convince me. Still I believe that Viral Load is a band with potential. But I think it's important if they add a real drummer to their line-up or else change the drumcomputer. You can get the CD for the cheap price of $11 (€13), (else) at: Shawn Whittaker, 611 Booker, Diboll, TX 75941, USA. (EP)

ARKKANUM
"Kampen" CD '98
This is the 3th album in the 4-album saga by this mystical Swedish band/project. When you have heard the predecessors "Fran Marder" and "Kostogther" you know what this new epic has to offer. Trolls and grim black metal with the occasional intros of forest sounds. Even being over 60 minutes in playing time, "Kampen" is never sleep inducing. Ofcourse the bewitching old Swedish lyrics are still present. Recommended! Released on Necropolis Records. (AN)

ADNAUSEAM
"Desire, Aspire, Insatire, Expire" CD '97
I'm happy to have these Americans back in our 'zine. Their demo got reviewed in #6, but at that we lost contact. But here they're back and this time with their debut CD. 43 minutes it takes and there are 8 songs of pure brutal and grinding death metal with a heavy production and with guttural vocals. 4 of the songs are new while the other 4 featured on their demo '94. I wish there were some more new songs. But you must check it out for sure. It's cheap, $12 (worldwide). Brian Kohm, 452 S. Lincoln Street, Denver, CO 80205-1625, USA. (EP)

CHRIST AGONY
"Darkside" CD '97
Christ Agony's 4th opus goes far beyond the borders of ordinary black metal. Unfortunately because it's due to that, that I don't like this CD very much. Most of the songs are just ordinary but pure metal songs. They're good and I like them. But besides that there are some melodic heavy metal songs with vocalized male vocals. Too melodic in my opinion. But what I don't like at all are all the experimental songs, a bit like black metal songs on a disco beat rhythm. Kinda weird, I'm more into their older stuff. Black metal with a difference. Released on Hammerheart Records.

A Call To Irons
A tribute to Iron Maiden, CD '98
Kinda weird to have a tribute to this hardrock legend in our death/grind 'zine. But isn't this the band which got most of us (not all) into metal music? At least they got me into it, and I'm still proud to have their old LP! 11 Maiden songs are on this CD, all together about 71 minutes. It are all kinda old songs from the period 1980/1984. The songs are played by: Opera IX, New Eden, Vital Remains, Opeth, Evoken, Steel Prophet, Ancient Wisdom, Angel Corpse, Margion, Abue and Solitude Aeternus. The last band mentioned here is my favorit. They play "Hallowed By The Name" very well, and with great vocals! To all old style' dudes out there, get your copy! Write to Dweil Records, p.o. box 39439, Los Angeles, CA 90039, USA, I believe it costs $16. (EP)

ILLDISPOSED
"There's Something Rotten..." CD '98
I'm not much familiar with this band. I only know their "Return From Tomorrow" mini CD. O.k., they still have the same sound, but I personally think that they lost some brutality since they started playing in a more progressive way. More melancholic guitar solos but it also sound like they have added more hate into their vocals. The music is more mid tempo paced with alot of melancholic guitar riffs. Also the vocals are less blasting than before. But all in all it sounds like a great death metal album. Definitely worth checking out. Released on Serious Ent. (MD)

JUDGEMENT DAY
EP '98
Judgement Day has the same problem as Last Days Of Humanity. Both should release an item on German Moonlight Records, but both items got terribly delayed. Reason enough for Judgement Day to switch to Damnation Prod. And here it finally is! It contains 3 songs: "To Conjure Conjunt Confusion", which is a new song, "Clouds Of Mordor", which also featured on their demo '94 and CD, and the Slaughter cover "Fuck Of Death", which too featured on their demo '94. It's the first time I hear them with their new line-up, and the band is much faster now. Especially the new song is extremely fast. The vocals are really breath taking and the guitar work is not easy to follow, due to the speed. The guitar work is a bit melodic, kinda like Pleurisy, Great EP and with a good sound. Get it from Damnation Prod., or write to: Theo van Eekelen, Valkseweg 225, 3771 SE Barneveld, Holland. (EP)

THE ANCIENTS REBIRTH
"Damned Hells Arrival" mini CD '97
Having released 3 demos, one live tape, a promo tape and first full lenght album "Drain The Portal In Blood" back in March '96, The Ancients Rebirth is yet another Swedish band. I haven't heard their previous material, so I can't compare and conclude any progression. They call it "cult blasphemous and hellish blackened metal with evil intent". Whatever the description, check it out!
BEYOND FEAR
"Haunted by Visions of..." mini CD '97
Check this one out if you want some brutal death metal. It's your only chance 'cause Beyond Fear has recently split-up. It contains 3 long tracks of pure death metal and nothing more. It has a great production and comes with a black/white cover. Recommended! $12,-E6, to: Utopian Prod., P.O. Box 91, Chipping, Kent, BRG 6UE England. (EP)

MOON LORE
"The Shores Beneath The Heavens" CD
One of the most boring, pathetic and whiny CD's I've ever heard. This is something for black'n'roll and guitar music lovers that like to masturbate on a drum computer. Thank you and good night! Ask Damnation or Hammerheart Records. (TH)

DEAD INJECTION
"Man Slaughter... Till Remains" CD '97
Don't think this is a new CD. Of course the CD is new but it contains old material, the band's '91 demo "World Full Of Remains" and '92 demo "Start Human Slaughter". Uninteresting for those who don't have 'em 'cause there are 15 songs which don't feature on their 2 studio CD's. 80 minutes of pure splatter grind, a must! Morbid Records has released it. (EP)

ASTERNUS
"Beyond The Wandering Moon" CD '97
Finally this much anticipated album was released and the long wait has been worth it. Ever since I heard their demo I've been following this band and not without reason. It's delightful that among the countless copies of a band it is able to produce a sound and vocals so strong and powerful resembling that of a blizzard. In between there is space for emotional symphonies after which the storm continues for over an hour. Released on Hammerheart Records. (AN)

BLAZEMETH
"Faderland" mini CD '97
Blazemeth's compositions are pretty simple, but it's nice and I've enjoyed it. 5 songs of mostly fast paced black metal with a nice guitar sound and the usual black metal vocals. The production is raw, I like that, but the drum sound could've been better. But the sound in general fits the music well. 20 minutes of Spanish black metal, give it a try! Just like their debut mini CD it is released on Abstract Emotions Records. (EP)

THE SHITLICKERS
"1982" mini CD
The material on this mini CD from The Shitlickers dates back to 1981 and 1982. First released on 2 EP's and now finally recorded on CD format. Excellent raw punk is what you'll find on this CD. Even for '81/'82 it's already as raw as fuck! It definitely makes this so-called brutal death metal sound like a bunch of wimps. Their music is quite simple, maybe even a bit boring after a while, but who cares. If you're into brutality, this definitely is a must. Great CD! Distortion Rec., P.O. Box 129, 401 22 Gothenburg, Sweden. (MD)

CRECION
"Forever Dead" CD '97
These Swedes used to release something on House Of Kicks Records but it got kinda problematic and so the deal was cancelled. Perverted Taste Records has picked them up now and released this album in late summer last year. It contains 12 varied death metal songs and takes about an hour. The music varies from fast to mid-tempo paced and is even doomy at times. But it's always played with aggression, and with a certain intensity. The production was in the hands of Dan Swano (Unisound studio), so you know what you'll get. A good death metal CD which deserves your attention. Band information: at Kenneth Nyman, Idholmsvagen 129, 127 47 Skikholm, Sweden.

DESTROYER 666
"Uncraned The Wolves" CD Band around K. K. Warslut, who left Bestial Warlust in 1995 to form Destroyer 666. They released one CD called "Violence Is The Prince Of This World". And with Bulet Eater, former member of Hobbes Angel Of Death these Australians are back with "Uncraned The Wolves". 9 songs of pure violent old school black/death metal. Most of the songs remind me of early Sodom and Destruction. The CD has a world class production and packaging. Fans of uncompromising black/death metal, this piece of pure art for you! Alright, let the demon speak! Send your money to Damnation distribution if you want this one. (TH)

OBSCENE CRISIS
"Silence Of The Mind" mini CD
Obscene Crisis released their track on cassette and CD format at the end of '95, so it's an oldie. It contains 10 songs of violent and brutal death/grind with all the ingredients in it which makes it brutal. Crunchy guitars, low tuned bass, pounding drums and deep growls with some grinding screams, it's all in it. It comes with a coloured cover and has a good production. The cassette version costs $6 at: J.P. Cote, 705 Sainte Julie, #4, Montreal PQ, Canada H2C 1V8. For the CD version you must write to Relapse Records. It costs $14,-. (EP)

LUX OCCULTA
"Dionysos" CD '97
One year has passed since their debut CD came out, and here they're back with another metal monument. Again it's a concept album. This time it's about the ancient Greek god Dionysos. In 46 minutes we travel through 6 long chapters of emotional and mystical blackened metal. Played with great care and produced in the best way possible. The layout and the booklet is beautiful. A refreshing and highly recommended black metal release which you can obtain by sending $16,- to Pagan Records. (EP)

ASHES
"Death Has Made Its Call" CD '97
Ashes is a Swedish band that combines old style black metal with their influences, Black Sabbath and Celtic Frost. The result of 2 years of intense practise is this 12 song debut CD which takes about 44 minutes. The music is well played and well produced but in my opinion it's not a very spectacular release as it's mostly based on slow and mid-tempo rhythms with a few faster parts. Must admist that this wave of "old style" bands does not attract me, but if this is what you're into, you can buy this CD blandly. $16 ($14 in the U.S.) to Necropolis Records. (EP)

GORGOROTH
"Pathless And Awkward On The Stairs..." EP '98
One of the few vinyl releases in this issue. It contains 2 songs of their own + 2 covers, from The Misfits and Sick Of It All. Their own songs are pretty fuzzy and crunchy but the sound quality is really primitive, like it's recorded in their rehearsal room. Give it a try if you live in the States and have 2 dollars left. People outside the States must pay $3 dollars (is cheap!). Write to: Ian Heran, p.o. box 362, Sonoma, CA 95476, USA. (EP)
STRYCHNINE
"Inverted Crucifiction" CD '97

Strychnine is a pretty weird band from the US. This CD is their 3rd release and contains 73 minutes of 'black alien death'. Ordinary and original riffs are put together into powerful songs with black and death influences. I don't like the 5 bonus songs. These songs differ too much from the other 11 songs. Too groovy and with quite harmonic vocals. I don't like that. But the 11 songs are good. Buy the CD and forget the bonus songs! Hammerheart Records has it for sale or write to: Apparition, p.o.box 173, Keyport, NJ 07735, USA.

FALL OF THE LEAFER
"Evanescent, Everfading" CD

Debut CD from this Finnish band on Defiled Rec. Death metal with some black metal influences, 9 well produced songs with a nice cover with lyrics and info. The music is fast with some mid paced parts. The guitars give it a more melodic atmosphere. The drums are a bit bombastic. They seem to be influenced by Dark Tranquillity, Dawn and 'The Gates. Check it out if you're into melodic death metal. (MD)

FLESH GRINDER
"Anatomy And Surgery" CD '97

Flesh Grinder's CD is provided with one of the most horrible covers I've ever seen. Pure gore for sure! It's the 3rd CD release on Lofty Storm Rec. and contains 10 pathological death/thrash songs. One of 'em being an Impetigo cover. Cool stuff for sure but the production could be a little more powerful. Still I want to recommend this CD to you. $15- to: Marco Moriguti, Caixa Postal 1550, Florianopolis-sc, 88010-970, Brazil. Distributors, get in touch! (EP)

AGORAPHOBIC NOSEBLEED
'Henky Production' mini CD

Scott Hull (Anal Cunt) and some friends from the Milwaukee area formed this band. Their CD has 26 songs and is a mixture of AnaL Cunt, Godflesh and Ministry. All songs are withgiving fast, and brutal as hell and with screaming vocals. A drum computer is used too. A must for people into brutal industrial grindcore. Out on Relapse. (MD)

PROFANITY
"Shadows To Fall" CD

After 2 demos (1200 sold) and the usual line-up changes (due to different opinions about what style to play) the band released their debut CD on their own. It contains 8 songs of brutal, technical and heavy death metal. The music is good and has a pretty good production. The cover is a bit unusual for a death metal band. It presents the game between sick and bizarre. Yours for DM 20/$14,- at: Thomas Santor, Steinfelderstrasse 8, 86405 Meitingen, Germany. (MD)

NOMICON
"Yellow" CD '97

"Yellow" tells the story of the destruction of the well known Islam city Mecca. It's Nomicon's debut CD which contains 10 songs of original and unusual metal music. Fast and brutal at time but the main part is quite melodic with original keyboard melodies. The guitars and drums are more on the background. All the songs have a certain atmosphere which marks Nomicon's music. Different vocal styles are used including female vocals. Nomicon has created something of their own, with their own characteristic atmosphere with metal minded traces which remind me most of black and death metal. Get your copy for $16,- at: Shiver Records, Bossepleinstraat 6, 3128 BAal, Belgium, or write to: Tommi, Torkkelinkatu 4 a 2, 00500 Helsinki, Finland ($16,- Europe; $17,- else).

Label addresses


FEADELESS RECORDS

Vomitory – Vomitory T-Shirt/Long Sleeve
Black Shirt, 2 colours, 2 side print and Fadeless logo on sleeve.
Size: XXL only.
Prices: T-Shirt 3.50, Long Sleeve 4.00

Shadows Of Sunset T-Shirts
Black Shirts, 2 side print
Size: XXL only.
Prices: T-Shirt 5.00, Long Sleeve 2.00

Fadeless Records, P.O. Box 1288, 6501 BG Nijmegen, The Netherlands. Phone/Fax: +31 (0)243357741

Prices includes postage & packaging.
I was very surprised when I heard the "Mansions Of Eternity" CD from Aurora Borealis. A perfect combination of death, black and thrash metal. I spoke with main man Rob Vento, a talented musician who knows damn well about what he's talking. [Interview by Theo]

OK Ron, not the most original question, but can you tell the readers of Master Of Brutality something about your activities before Aurora Borealis?

I was playing with a band out of Atlanta, Georgia, called Lestregus. Nonferatus for about a year and a half or so, and really just got tired of the whole theme of the band. I was not into it much at all. We really did not practice enough and I wanted to travel more to find better players. There are many reasons why I quit, but mainly just because I would rather be doing my own music and something I'm really totally into. Before that I was just going to music school and playing with bands here and there. Aurora Borealis is what I really want to do and this is what I will be doing for a very long time.

Wasn't it better to start a complete band? I think there are more advantages, like doing gigs, or do you have a different opinion?

No, I agree with what you are saying, but finding good players is easier said than done. I had to go down the whole east coast just to find a drummer that was able to do the first CD. Actually now I have a bass player as well, and a new drummer. The only thing we are short is another guitarist.

We plan to start playing soon, there are a couple of players I have in mind. After the release of the next CD we would like to start touring.

You told me that your drummer, Tony Laurenso, was on a tour with Malevolent Creation in Europe. Does he have a permanent position in Malevolent Creation now? And will you work with him again on a new release?

Yes, Tony was touring with Malevolent Creation. I'm not exactly sure if he will stay there or not. There is a chance that we will work together more in the future but as of now the drummer is Derek Roddy, formerly of Malevolent Creation. He only played on the "In Cold Blood" CD recently.

He's also a great drummer. I think our new CD showcases his talent much more than on the Malevolent... CD.

What kind of reactions have you received from labels? Will your next CD have some support from labels?

I hope it will. I am actually waiting on responses from a few labels. There have been some offers to release the new one but I will have to check out all my options before signing with anyone in particular.

You were also in Tampa, Florida, for a while. Everybody should know that especially Tampa was a stronghold of death metal once. How is the scene nowadays? Did anything change? And can you recommend some "new" bands from the Florida scene?

Actually the bands that were in that era where Tampa had the stronghold are still there, and there are many others. There is just so much music coming from everywhere now that it is hard for one place to actually be better than any other place. I have not been down to Tampa in a while so names of the newer bands are not jumping into my head right away, but they are there and Tampa will not go away, that's for sure.

As I take a look at the cover of the CD, I see Egyptian elements. The same concern your lyrics. What was it to write about this subject, in a scene where almost every band write about gore and satanism?

That's just it why would I want to write about something that is done to death. I would rather take a much more original approach to something than follow trends that everyone has already set. On our new CD we will not even follow what we have done to begin with. There is only one song based on Egypt. The rest are totally new areas.

What can you tell us about the upcoming CD of Aurora Borealis? Any new songs already written?

The CD is actually finished. We have already recorded and mastered. There are nine tracks total. I think everyone will not be disappointed. The songs are structured better, and it is a full length. Right now we are just trying to figure out who will release it. However I'm sure it will be a couple of months before it is released. I'm not sure if this question will be out but maybe by the time it is released.

You also have a website. Almost every band, 'zine, record company have one too. What do you think about the phenomenon Internet? And will it be the way of communication in the future?

I think it already is a way of communication now. I use it everyday. It saves postage costs in a lot of cases and is ten times faster than regular mail. It also makes access of bands and metal more reachable for kids who might not ever have heard otherwise. I sold a couple hundred CD's through my website alone, whether it be through individuals or distros. I think it will continue to grow and I would only advise everyone to have a site of their own.

Do you know something about the European scene? What do you think about the so called "new wave of Swedish death metal"? And the Dutch scene? Are there any bands here which you like?

Yes, there are a lot of bands from Europe I am totally into. But like in all cases you have your good and bad. For every good band that comes from Sweden or wherever you have five bad ones chasing along. I am really into bands like Autumn Leaves, Gates Of Ishtar, Old Sentenced, Vader etc.

I think alot of bands over there are definitely on the black metal bandwagon. They are all image conscious but can not even play their instruments. To me it should be the other way around. You don't just find that in Europe though, even here in the States their has been a rash of bandwagoners trist to be black metal.

I never saw an interview with you in a Dutch 'zine. Maybe you did, but are we one of the first 'zines in Holland that is doing an article on Aurora Borealis?

I think so. There might have been one other but I do so many, it is hard for me to keep up with them all.

"Aurora Borealis is what I really want to do and this is what I will be doing for a long time."

What can we expect from Aurora Borealis in the near future? And if there's anything I have forgotten to mention, you can tell it now! Thanks alot for your time and all the best with Aurora Borealis.

Just be on the look out for new merchandise and the new CD. I think you covered mostly everything. I would definitely like to thank you for the interview. I appreciate the chance to speak to all the Dutch people out there. I would like to see everyone write to us and get in contact. Aurora Borealis, P.O. Box 1327, Clinton, MD 20735-5327, U.S.A.
Pleurisy is a Dutch band from the Amersfoort area (their city, hail to the A.C.C.). They are in the scene for many years now and it's about time that we do an article about this great band. I spoke with Alex about what happened with Pleurisy through all these years. We can't begin without a little look back on Desultory, Alex's previous band. But before we start I want to thank Alex for answering my questions in a really detailed and great way!!!

Before Pleurisy you were playing in Dutch Desultory, and with this band you also recorded a song for a Displeased compilation CD called "Against All Gods". Which song featured on this CD? Tell us more about that period, which guys were playing in Desultory at that time?

Well, actually you, Theo, has introduced me to Johan Wessjåk (the vocalist of Desultory) back then, because he wanted to reform Desultory again. They had already released 2 demos ("Religious Extermination" & "Luminous Assassination"), but splited-up afterwards. I don't know why exactly, but I guess it had something to do with the musical style. Anyway...I was playing in Judgement Day, as a "stand-in" guitarist (cool word...) and wanted to have my own band. Johan and I got along well and so we asked Edwin from Pleurisy to join Desultory. We jammed some old Desultory tunes as a 3-piece, but when we started to write new songs, we asked Bas (now in Pleurisy & Judgement Day) + Artur (a friend of mine) to join us for bass and guitar. The first song we wrote together was "Decapitated" which ended up on the "Against All Gods" CD from Displeased Records. A nice CD, but nowadays I'm not very happy with the song. It's simple and not very well played. Besides that Johan had some vocal problems on this track. We played a few gigs (one of them at the Dynamo club = cult!!!). And that was it. Unfortunately we never got into the studio again. We had 5 or 6 new songs, but Artur left the band and me and the drummer Edwin were much more busy doing our Pleurisy stuff, which I went playing in during my Desultory period. These songs had some pretty cool parts though, so maybe in the future we will do something with it, who knows?

Before you were in Pleurisy they already recorded the "The Everlasting Silence" demo. What are your feelings about this demo? How did you get involved in Pleurisy, and when? Why did Desultory split-up?

"The Everlasting Silence" is not what I call a very good demo, but it was Pleurisy's very first attempt to make something brutal. I think only the vocals on this demo are worth mentioning. Just a few months after Edwin had joined Desultory, he asked me to join Pleurisy, 'cause their vocalist/guitarist Mathieu wanted to concentrate only on his vocals. He wasn't a good guitarist too. This was at the end of '92 I guess. I played together with Edwin in both, Pleurisy and Desultory at that time.

In '93 the band recorded the "My Favourite Girl" demo. Are you still satisfied with this demo? What were the reactions on this demo?

Besides the "Decapitated" song with Desultory, this was my first studio recording with a band, and with that in mind I think the demo had its moments. The songs already were very extreme and weird. I loved songs like "My Favourite Girl" or "Spawn Of Misery", but I also think that these songs were much too un-structured. I think many people couldn't get a grip on these songs. But hey, there were some very good riffs and vocal lines in it! Besides, the high vocals on this demo were done by Edwin, who did his vocals together with his drumming back then (just like Autopsy, the kings of gore/death, yeah!). We recorded "My Favourite Girl" just a few months after I joined the band, so I hadn't got the possibility to write something for this demo. The reactions were quite good, not overwhelming, but we had our first gigs and interviews with it.

After this demo, guitarist Winfred decided to leave Pleurisy. What was the reason for this departure? Johan (ex-Desultory singer) came to join Pleurisy as a second vocalist. Who's idea was it and why a second vocalist?

Well, Winfred left Pleurisy just before we wanted to record our 3rd demo "Degenerated..." 'cause he wasn't happy with the way some things went in the band. It was more personal stuff, had nothing to do with the music. I think probably 6 months before this we asked Johan to do the high vocals instead of Edwin, so that everyone could concentrate on his own thing. Of course we asked him also because he's just a great screaming bastard! Who's idea it was exactly I don't know. But we just discussed it sometime and everybody liked the idea. I personally always loved 2 style vocals in a band. Just listen to "A Holocaust In Your Head" by E.N.T. or the early Napalm Death or Deicide stuff. With these bands it was not the music that got me freakin', but especially the vocals.

In February '95 Pleurisy went to the Harrow studio and recorded the 4th demo "Degenerated To A Human Life". The song material changed from the more normal death metal into the.
Swedish style of death metal. Was this a natural change or did the members come-up with the more Swedish riffs? Are you still satisfied with the response? How many copies were sold of this demo?

The main reason for the style change was me I guess. As I told you I couldn't join writing songs for the "My Favourite Girl" demo. Winfred and Eric made them. But for "Degenerated..." we wrote together, and I was a big Swedish death metal fan of bands like At The Gates, Edge Of Sanity, Dissection, Dark Tranquility at that time (I still am actually). It was quite obvious that I wanted to have more of these influences in Pleurisy's music. I'm very satisfied with this demo, cause the songs, the sound and the cover, they are just great in my opinion. O.K., the song structures were not that logical again, but this little handicap was blast away by, in my opinion, the immense power and brutality this demo came with. We had only very good reviews on this demo (Aardschok, Rock Hard, Voices...). I guess we sold about 500 copies of it.

After the "Degenerated..." demo, also bassplayer Eric departed from Pleurisy, can you tell me why? Bas came as the new bassplayer and Axel as second guitarist. On which points did you decide to ask them? Now that the band was complete, what was the line-up? Nowadays the line-up is the same as back then, isn't it?

Yeah, Eric was just not motivated anymore. After we asked Axel to join us (Mathieu knew a friend of Axel, and so we contacted him) to replace Winfred we developed into more technical death metal, more double riffing with lots of harmonies, and Eric just couldn't develop with us. We told him to practise more, but for some reason he did not want that, so after some discussions that was it. It was kind of hard though to decide this (especially to tell him!) 'cause we were playing together for a long time already, and he was (still is) a good friend. To replace Eric we asked Bas (from Judgement Day) to join us (and leave Judgement Day, he, he, he...sorry, just kidding) (fuck off bastard!). And we came to the following line-up, which we still have: Johan - screams, Mathieu - grunts, Alex - guitar, Axel - guitar, Bas - bass, Edwin - drums.

Finally Pleurisy was ready to roll and with the new guys you recorded a promo tape. What can you tell us about this one? The songs from this tape were later released on a split CD with German Agaasa through Magnificence Records. What kind of deal do you have with them? Were there any other labels interested besides Magnificence? Are you satisfied with Magnificence's work for Pleurisy? This release is also available on vinyl, isn't it?

Hell yeah! We did roll...we just rolled into the Sandwich Studio in Bilhoven (where you did your CD with Judgement Day) and recorded our promo tape in April '96. We send it around and got a lot of answers from labels, but nothing happened finally until one day a guy from a small vinyl label called Paranoia Syndrome called me if he could release this promo tape on a split LP together with the German band Asgaa. We didn't know this band but we liked the idea to have something on vinyl and it wouldn't cost us anything...so why not?

A few months later Paranoia Syndrome made a deal with Hannes from Magnificence Records, to release it also on CD, which we liked of course. We had no obligations to each other, this was it! No deal further! Magnificence did a good job, when you look on the possibilities he had, he distributed the CD very well, but he had no money to do some advertising which I cannot blame him though. The guy may be glad if he gets even, ha!

Well, the relation between Pleurisy and Judgement Day has always been a little in-breeding. The biggest problem we have is that we have to cancel a gig sometimes, and that sucks! Luckily it happened one time until now. This was in December '97. We couldn't play 'cause Axel had to play at the Dutch Metal Nights with Silcon Head (It happened twice. Judgement Day had to play with Krabathor and Pleurisy had to play with Acroschoten). I cannot blame him that he consider that as a little more important, but we try to combine all bands as good as possible. Maybe we will ask our old guitarist player to 'stand in' when something might happen again so that we don't have to cancel something again. You know how hard it is to get some gigs nowadays, and if you have to cancel then it's just the most stupid thing to do. I think that the fact that Axel gets well known with Silcon Head at the moment might just be a positive thing for Pleurisy. We get alot of free publicity, you know? So we're happy with it.

What is your opinion on the whole death/black metal scene?

In my opinion there's way too much crap out there at the moment! I mean, it's difficult to stay up-dated, 'cause every week xxx CD's are released. That's not the biggest problem, but only a few of them are worth listening. And too many good CD's don't get the attention they deserve. An example: in the mid '90's, whilst working for an LP, I was waiting for months. As it came out, I went to the store immediately and then I played this record very intense for weeks! This way I also got the opportunity to discover alot of things on it.

Today, when I have some new CD's I hardly can't listen to it for long 'cause I've some others wanting to be heard. So when you have a very good CD, it doesn't get the attention anymore 'cause you have already a bunch of new CD's. There's a lack of time and just too much crap! Also I think the whole black metal scene has become a farce. I'm not a big black metal fan, just a few bands I like, and this are the ones with alot of death metal influences. People are looking too much for an image and forget to make the music priority nr. 1. Keeping that in mind I think the death metal scene is better. Of course it gets more underground again if you compare it with 6 years ago, but that's good. It seems to me that death metal bands are much more into what they're doing. Look at bands like Suffocation, Vital Remains. They don't sell that much anymore, but they still do where they're standing for. In general, let's wait and see what happens if black metal goes down in popularity.

Did you enjoy the 'Martian Lies' tour (a tour which Alex did as guitarist for Judgement Day in 1995 instead of Win?)

Theo, it was the best experience in my life! In Holland we're used to play for 50-100 people, who are watching you with their arms crossed. In the Czech Republic you play for 500-400 people who totally freak-out. These people overthere are not as spoiled as we are. Kinda strange to experience that. One night you feel like a rockstar and the next day you are the same loser you always were, ha! We sure had a great time, and if it's up to me, I would like to go again, but unfortunately Win isn't in the marine anymore, sniff!

Okay Alex, this is it. Thanks for your time and all the best with Pleurisy! Any last words?

Yes, everybody should come and see Pleurisy, we'll blow you away! Still available are: "Unholy Spirit" split LP/CD with Asgaa (STL-120-20.), "Degenerated..." demo '95 ($5,-/10.-). Write to: Alex Seegers, Rietzangerstraat 145, 3815 ED Amerongen, Holland. Thanks for your great questions, Theo, and good luck with Judgement Day. Ofcourse to all readers, thanks for reading!
Wow, it's a long one we have here so I better keep this intro short. Cornucopia is a band from Belgium which must be known to the grind/thrash fans. Many split tapes and a few EPs have been released. Responsible for the vocals on all of their items is Erik, and he's responsible for the answers in next interview. Eidow did the questions.

First, tell me the history about both, Cornucopia, and its vocalist (Singer) Erik. Since when do both exist? What has Cornucopia released up till now?

Hmm, if I remember it well, we started around April/May '94. Just like the other members (a girl and a boy from my schoolclass) I was about 15 years old. We began as a rockband with members from Metallica, Radiohead... We've also tried to cover Pantera, but it was a bit too difficult, ha, ha! Back in those days I listened mostly to the popular death metal bands and I also started to write some letters to other people and ordered some demos.

Then I got familiar with grindcore because I was at a gig with Intestinal Disease, Agathocles, Muggles (I do the vocals in this band now). We changed our line-up a few times and so our style changed piece by piece into grind with some sort of influences. Our line-up changed again (unfortunately) but it's difficult to find people here who want to play grind/crust. Actually 3 of the band's members are involved in it since we started: Bert (attempt to play bass), Jim (ex-guitarist, now on drums), and me (ex-vocalist). The other members are Robin (guitarist for 2 months now) and Filip (vocals).

What have we released? Sometimes I think it's too much because sometimes we used the same songs on different items and I regret that. But we're no musical talents who can write 20 songs every week, ha! What we have released: "Noisy Intent" demo '95, "Grind Your Mind" split tape with Agathocles, "And Yet It Moves" split tape with Karma, split tape with Bludge, split tape with Mundo De Mierna, "Social Desection" split tape with Anal Macabre, "Are You Ready For Grind" split tape with Sarcasm (this tape is so bad that we do not really want to sell it), "Taste Totally Ignored" split tape with Sideweed, and a split tape with Rubbish Heap (just released, very good HC for Belgium). Then there is a promo called "Boy Meets World...Man Hates World" with songs from our split EP with Intestinal Disease + another band, and the recordings from our "Lawaart...In De Maat" EP. This EP was finally released on a label from Amerikka but only got 30 copies of it (instead of the 500 copies they promised). I'm waiting for 'em for more than a year now. I think I have to make rip-off flyers against them. We have released the split EP with Intestinal Disease now. Something about myself: I'm a fan of Pink Floyd, Rush, and I'm studying "film and video". I spend most of my time on music, drink beer, write letters with other undergrounder, drink beer, visit as much gigs as possible, drink beer, hang around with friends, watch movies (especially insane splatter and grindcore stuff), and at least, drink beer. Cornucopia is a grind/crust band, if I may say so, or do you think it's an incomplete description? Why did you decide to play grind? Several other bands in Belgium play this music from which Intestinal Disease and Agathocles are probably most known. Have these bands influenced you in your music and lyrics?

I think it's different from period to period how to describe us. I've the impression that we had more crust songs last year, and 2 years ago we had more grind/crust songs. At this moment we are a bit more influenced by the powerviolence scene (bands like Spazz, Charles Bronson...), but it's mostly our drummer's influence. He's also the one that comes up with most of the ideas for our songs.

Personally speaking, I have a bit of a bad feeling when using the term "grindcore" these days, but I'll tell you more about it elsewhere in this interview. In the early days Agathocles was an important influence, just like it was an important influence for a lot of young bands. We've always played some Agathocles songs too. After a while we lost the AG influences a bit, also because we're a bit more scene oriented now and will be a lot more of my band. From the first moment I saw them I was totally sold. I think they are also one of my biggest influences in both, the lyrics and their way of singing/vocal structures (a bit technically explained 'cause my vocals are nothing more than some roars, ha!). I prefer their old songs (just like AG) but that doesn't mean that I don't "freak out" when I hear their new songs. I think the best description for our music is "mincore", "core" with some thoughts behind it. I don't know when I began a band. Everyone at my school played in a band and I thought it would be nice to stay on a stage too. Of course their bands were much more melodic as we are.

Grind is seperated in different styles, like political grind, splatter grind, and even porno grind. In my opinion the real original grind is the political/social grind, which exists since the '80s. Do you listen to splatter grind and do you like it? I know that you're against porno grind, tell me your opinion.

I listen to different music styles as much as possible. Also to some other bands like Rotting Flesh, Impetigo, Deger...can't get more of 'em in my mind right now. But I prefer the bands with social lyrics, those for whom the lyrics are more important than the music. Lyrics about festering wounds and drinking garlic juice can times, but I have no respect for pornographic and homophbic grindcore. I don't want to say that I'm a politically correct person (not at all) but I have no reason to support bands like Meat Shits, Vomt Spawn or Undinium. Meat Shits is the biggest example (they have an EP called "Homosexual Slaughters", and the vocalist spent some time in jail for beating-up a homosexual, and their excuse is always "there has been a girl in our band so we can't be sexistus". Well, in this case it is much more than just sexism. That's why I don't understand why some distributors are still selling M.S. stuff, and why bands still release split stuff with them. I can be short about Undinium. The music kills but they have a song called "Kill Gays", and that says enough for me. Such bands are still "grindcore", and that's why we wrote a song about them called "If This Is Grindcore, What Are The Meat Shits Then??!". We don't have to anything to do with these homofobic, pornographic "grind" bands. I've much more respect for bands who's music is maybe not so good, but who have to something interesting (the Brazilian scene is a good example of that) than a well produced CD from some sort of sexist band. I still prefer the punk-grind above the metal-grind.

O.K., something in between. I'm listening now to the "10" from Australian Nailed Down. You've probably heard from them, do you like them? To what are you listening now?

Nailed Down is really great. All I have from them is the "Violent Distortion" and that's a great one. Especially the cover of the "Blue Monday" songs are superb! Their 10" was for sale at the Hemdale show here in my town, but it cost 370 (about $10) which is in my opinion too much. Right now I'm listening to a live tape from Extreme Noise Terror. For as far as I know this is a Dutch band with members of Fless & Lice. I got this tape from a French friend who stayed here at my house last summer and was constantly talking about them. Hmm, last year I was at the reunion gig but I can't remember much of it. ha, ha. notas to where we were, what are your favorite HC/ grind/crust bands when it comes to the music, and what are your faves when it comes to the lyrics? What's your opinion on the Belgian scene?

Like I said, I listen to as much music styles as possible. What I've been listening to the last few days: Iron Maiden, Lou Reed, "Screams From Belgium" LP (with Honey Honey, Hinudo, Muggles and Les Schtroumpf Alcooliques), Capitalist Casualties, The Cranberries, Iggle, Nee, Estrails, Massacre (supertab/Usholy Grave, and a lot more. Bands which I appreciate because of their lyrics are: Life Of Agony, The Cranberries, Intestinal Disease, old Napalm Death, The Levellers, Lou Reed... You can see I'm influenced by alot of bands. Some time ago I listened to HCGR/crust only, but after a while I got bored with it and so I began to listen to other music styles. What in my opinion is very silly at the moment are all those Dis... clones with their lyrics about war (but their music is really great!). War... is getting pathetic! The Belgian scene is quite small, but it's nice to meet the same nice people at every show, even if it's in the middle of nowhere. And I only speak about the grind/punk scene 'cause I don't feel myself very connected to the HC scene. Some bands which are worth checking out and which are good friends are Honey Honey, Rubbish Heap,
Counter Attack, Jesus Youth, Muggles, Karma, Intestinal Disease, and there are a lot more, but I can't get their names in my mind right now. We have less contact with AG 'cause they're more into the metal-grind scene (unfortunately).

The lyrics in the grind scene are very serious and critical. Are the Carnioporia lyrics important for you? Do you think that the situation, in which somebody lives, influences that person's lyrics? That's maybe the reason why Brazil has so much grind/crust/HC bands?

Lyrics are important for me. In the beginning there were none, but every song had a theme, and the song was build around it. And for every song I wrote a lyric or a comment (Active Minds has influenced me very much in this, but they have real lyrics too); how I felt, what was in my opinion good or bad. There's a sheet with some explanations about every song included with the "Lawaat in De Maat" EP. The songs on that EP are about driving while being drunk (which is unwarranted), religion, trend following and certain bands/styles getting commercial, facism, I still write such comments, and some of'em will become lyrics in the future. In my opinion most of the lyrics (not only mine) become too much the same, the same words and such. I mean, you may sing, scream, or whatever about certain topics, but more recently I try to let it sound more subtle. The last lyrics I've written are about drugs, commit suicide (with drugs), pressure from society on people, a lyric against smoking (which is very normal in the grind/crust scene, but my personal opinion is that's a kind of pollution too). Of course your personal situation influences you in your lyrics (Brazil is a good example, so I can't write about incest or something like that 'cause I have no experience with that. But that doesn't mean that I can't write a lyric about the fact that parents should respect their kids.

And then there is your 'zine, Koel Verwerken. At this time/ writing 2 issues have been released. Are you still happy with 'em and how it's selling, or do you still give it away for free while being in a drunk mood? Is #3 coming, and what will be in it?

The idea for the 'zine came because we had nothing better to do. Jim and I had our holiday and we had to do at least something, ha, ha. So we made a 'zine and I'm quite satisfied with the first two.

The lay-out isn't perfect and I have a different opinion of the contents of some of the articles. But these articles more or less describe how I felt back then. I regret that I did an interview with inhumane because I don't like that band so much anymore. Only Loeck (bass) is a cool guy who's active in the underground (and I can't say that about the other guys). Well, I've heard they've split-up (no, they're inactive because they don't have a drummer). The 2nd issue is a lot better. More interviews, better lay-out and more diversified styles (more punk and emo). I don't know if there will be a 3rd issue, but I have much imagination, it'll probably be a split-zine with Ultra Eksemto (zine of a good friend of mine). So far we have interviews with Emphy Cagle, Insane Youth, and Cause And Effect, + a review on the "Woe Lawaat" fest. '97. Up till now I've only lost money but I don't care) 'cause I still give 'em away for free when I'm drunk, ha, ha. Can't care about that!

In your 'zine we can read articles about, for example Mc Donalds (a start at least, ha), suicide, violence against l&cm, info about animal rights organizations etc. It's important for you to put it in your 'zine and it is important for you to share your ideas with other people through these articles?

Yes, and that's the reason why I don't care about that it costs me my money because it's more important for me that the readers know something about me and my ideas. Included with the split EP with Intestinal D. is a booklet with info on animal rights and such things...thats as important as the music. I think it's a pity that a band doesn't explain their lyrics at a concert. Some people see that as preaching, but I don't agree with that. There are bands which really preach, but there's nothing wrong with it if you explain the lyrics/song or just say something between the songs (and it doesn't have to be political). I really like it that Seen 'Red (the best Dutch band) say so much sensible things between the songs.

In the D.I.Y. scene it are mostly tapes, EP's, LP's and LP's that come out, and hardly no CD's. What do you like most? Would you mind to release a CD with Carnioporia, on a label or maybe on your own?

What I prefer differs from period to period. I'm now in a period in which I buy mostly LP's (last week I bought Grotesque's "Inincarnation" m-LP, Maiden's "Number Of The... LP + more from a friend), and it can happen that I suddenly buy alot of EP's. Hmm, I don't have anything against CD's as long as they are for sale for "democratic" prices. That's the same with LP's, EP's and such... Last week I didn't buy the Nailed Down 10" cause it was too expensive. If I have to make a choice between an LP or CD I will take the LP. Not very long ago I bought some LP's which I have on CD (Sepultura's "Arise", AG "Thanks.." etc.). I can be short about a Carnioporia CD. I don't think there will be a CD from us, 'cause we still prefer vinyl.

We will release a Carnioporia/Entail Massacre split LP. Recently I got the offer from Shiver Rec. to feature on a comp. CD, but we refused it. We don't like the other bands and the conditions are ridiculous (we have to pay alot of money and we'll loose the rights on the song(s) to them)!

Hmm, I got a CD from a crust band and on the thankslst they mention big magazines like Rockhard, Kerrang etc. What do you think of such bands which feature in the big magazines? Don't you think it's getting kinda commercial?

To be honest, I really feel sorry about that. I would like to know which band you mean, Extreme 'Profia' Terror (Driitter Killer)? I think it's a bit much. I think the editors of Aardachok (Holland's nr. 1 metal 'zine) talked shit about crust a few years ago, and now they're suddenly very positive about it. I think it's silly. I talked with a black metal guy who told me that he listens to Driitter Killer, Disfear and such now. I mean, I like Disfear alot, but I already knew them about 4 years ago when they played in front of 5 drunk punks. I think it's really bad if all those who walk around now in Cradle Of Filth shirts will walk in Dillamont or Disfear shirts in the future. I must admit that I listen to commercial stuff too (Guns 'n Roses, Love Of Acacy, Therapy?), but I still have 1000 times more respect for D.I.Y. underground bands. I like to listen to Swedish crust bands, but I prefer the old and unknown bands (Anti-Cimex, Cruenity, Kansas Uitseiz... instead of the "new" ones."

Tonight we've been watching the "Grind Over Europe" tour with Nyctophob, Exhumed, Hemdale and AG. Did you like it? Do you like AG's new CD?

This is again a typical example of "metal-grind". I really had a great time and the bands were good (but Exhumed was a bit disappointing). But if you came back at the club the next day you could've seen what a mess it was outside (broken beer bottles and flyers on the street). It's again an example of how not to do it. Also I didn't like the crowd too much. And the "pi", in front of the stage was really silly. It was more violent as a Rambo movie. We like to go mad too, but we keep it friendly. But now it were just some machos' who were beating the shit out of each other. 2 weeks ago there was a show with Intestinal D., Muggles, Carnioporia and AG, and it was more fun, more friendly. It's great to have bands like Nyctophob or Hemandale in "my" club, but all those posers which hang around there make me puke! AG has progressed alot since they're a quartet again. I don't have their new album yet. If it's available on LP, I will buy it for sure.

There's an endless wave of tapes and EP's coming out all the time. Don't you think it's sometimes a bit too much? Do you think that tape trading is a good alternative and do you trade tapes (incl. Carnioporia stuff)? In the 1st issue of your
zine you wrote that you were going to release split tapes with Suppository, Sarcasm, Stormnoise and Anat Macabre. It seems to me that this has not happened yet, has it? And what will you release in the near future?

Sometimes it's just a little too much. I try to keep updated as much as possible, but it's getting more difficult. I don't buy much death metal demos anymore (because BFR 20055 is in my opinion a bit too much), and I try to trade as much as I can (against Convcopia stuff or something else). Tape trading is cheaper and it's much more fun. I try to listen to everything which I get but it's getting more difficult. I've been seriously trading with a couple of people but after a while they didn't get back to me. Most of the split tapes you mentioned did come out except the one with Stormnoise. I told them that we didn't have the material for it (and I don't like to use the same songs again). Haven't heard from them after that.

We should do a tape with Dutch Bullshit Propaganda too but again no material...

There are plenty of underground festivals and gigs. I'm very much into it. For me it's the opportunity to forget all the daily shit. What's your opinion on it? Do you have to play often with Convcopia at such festivals and gigs? Do you often visit them when you don't have to play?

Normally I go, with some friends, to a show almost every week. Sometimes there's nothing to go for a couple of weeks, and then we're totally bored. But when there is a show again we have a great time. I don't care if we have to play or not (I mean most of the time I go to see the bands anyway).

Occasionally I've been to a gig in Brussels. A group of extreme violent, drunk and stoned punk were there. I was really happy when we could leave the place. I'm always looking forward to shows, and it's a good opportunity to forget all the daily shit. I don't remember how much shows we did (I guess about 37), but most of the time it was great. O.K., leave you here. I'm hungry and I'm going out for a Big (murder) Mac (an easy snack, still animals die, and starving children cry)!...not! Anyways... some final words?

Thanks alot for this interview! I hope all of you take the time to read it. And I hope it was not too difficult to translate it (hope, with a little compromise!). If you have to say something, just write me a nice letter! And greetings to my Dutch friends!

There was another question, but it was not an important one so I decided not to use it. Sorry Erik, I hope you don't mind! Quite some of their releases are still available so write to Erik in case you're interested. His address is: Convcopia, C/o (Sm) Erik Minnen, Ginderbuiten 53, 2400 Mol, Belgium.

CORNCOKE/INTESTINAL DISEASE

split EP '98

12 minutes of the purest crust is what you'll get here. Maybe the bands have a more definite description of their music but I prefer to call it crust, or maybe grind/crust. Convcopia comes with 6 songs of pure grinding insanity + an outro and with political ideas and lyrics. Intestinal Disease plays 6 songs too. The EP comes with alot of information and thoughts, and so there's alot to read. Convcopia is in my opinion the best of the two. To be honest, in my opinion this is not Intestinal Disease's best recording. But get it for 53,-/BF 100DM 5,-. Write to Erik. (EP)

Massground is a Japanese 2-piece which was formed in late '96 with the intention to play extreme brutal and violent grinding death metal in the vein of American bands like Morbid Angel and Incantation. From the very first beginning the band was really on the run and within a few months they had released 2 split EP's, with Desperate Corruption and Monarchie Infernale. Also they featured on the "The True Ideal Realized Through The Underground" comp. CD. And there's much more to come. Massground is: Takeshi - guitar/drum programming and Ryuuji - bass/vocals, and it was Ryuuji who answered Ewald's questions.

Massground exists since autumn '96. But things go fast and your name goes around through the underground fast. How do you look back on the first 1/2 year. What did you do before Massground?

Yes, Massground was formed in December '96. We released 2 split EP's until now. Our debut stuff "In Apocalypse...Now We Reborn" split EP with Desperate Corruption came out in spring '97 on Bloodbath Records. Our 2nd split EP, with Monarchie Infernale, came out in summer '97, again on Bloodbath Records + Blow You Away Productions. We've spent all our time on promoting the band since the release of the first EP, and the reactions from the underground have become a lot better. If I look back on the first 1/2 year I can say that I was very busy, but I think it was very useful for Massground. Before I formed Massground I played in a death/thrash band called Devilant.

Yes, there are 2 split EP's, with Desperate Corruption and Monarchie Infernale. Both came out in spring/summer '97. Are you satisfied with both EP's, the production, the covers?

The split EP with Desperate Corruption contains our older songs "In Apocalypse...Now We Reborn" and "Naked Loser". The split EP with Monarchie Infernale contains "Beheaded To Be Kingdom Of Evil" and a classic cover of Napalm Death's "From Enslavement To Obliteration". Both EP's are sold out now (please, ask it from some distributors). These EP's were distributed by Repulse Records, Morbid Records, Sonic Corruption, Iron Distribution, White Crime, and some traders that are into our band or are running a zine. I was satisfied with both EP's when they were recorded, but our new songs (which feature on the comp. CD from Bloodbath Records) have a much better production. About the covers. I really liked to draw them, and I'm very satisfied with them. Drawing is my hobby! Some of my favorite artworks is that of both Incantation EP's. One day I hope I draw as good as Chris Moyen does.

The split EP with Monarchie Infernale sounds different as the one with Desperate Corruption. Both, the music and vocals are less brutal. Why is it so different? Do you like the production of that
EP? Why is the Napalm Death cover not mentioned on it?
I can understand your opinion well. Sure, my vocal style on the split EP with Morbid Infemnale is different from the other split EP. The reason why we are "ran up against a wall in our ideas and inspiration when we had to create a new song. I sang with growls on the split EP. But on the 2nd split EP, I sang with mid growls + some shouting (like Max Cavalera?). Some people may like those vocals while others don't. I like the production of our 2nd EP, but to be honest, I like the production on the first EP more. The Napalm Death cover was a secret bonus track. I did that on purpose, only for the real deathgrind freaks, to show their knowledge about this grind genre. That's why it's not mentioned on the cover.

Things go fast and there are 2 other split EP's coming, one with Christ Denied and one with Blood. Which songs will you have on these EP's? Just like the other 2, we will release 2 covers, but this time with Christ Denied. Both EP's will be limited to 500 copies. If you find these EP's somewhere, buy them immediately!!!

Christ Denied is the other band of Repulse boss Dave Rotten. Maybe this is your chance to follow the footsteps of Intestine Baalism, a CD on Repulse Records. Did you get CD offers from record labels yet?
Unfortunately, we haven't got CD offers yet... It would be really happy if a Massgrond CD would come out on Repulse Records. They are one of the best death metal bands around the world I've ever known. If it's possible, we want to release a mini CD this year. All labels can get in touch with us today!!!

And if all this is not enough, you will feature on 2 comp. CD's, one on Bloodbath Records (with the songs "Cryptic Death Hammer" and "Seven Son Of Heaven's Bitch") and another comp. CD on Shiver Records, from Belgium. But on which of these CDs will we feature? I am curious about the Shiver comp. CD. Maybe your cover songs from Torturer and Incantation? And if not, why interrupt on the first EP? We have recorded 2 cover songs from Torturer and Incantation, at the end of 97. We've never decided yet when to release them. I would like to use these songs on some sort of tribute thing.

You don't keep it as a secret that Incantation, Morbid and Immolation are your influences. But Massgrond reminds me most of all of Morbid because your music is reminiscent of Morbid, but Massgrond is also a 2-piece band with a drumcomputer (Mortician is a 3-piece band)! Is Morbid your ultimate influence? Which other bands are your influences?
Yes, we don't keep it as a secret that these bands are our influences. They are our influences since the beginning. We've heard from many people that our sound is pretty much in the Morbid vein. Sure we're a 2-piece band with a drumcomputer. That's the same as the Mortician line-up. But I don't think so, that we're mostly influenced by Morbid. We've built a sound with a basic rhythm with death metal elements and with a fine drum programming. The unholy riffs are in the vein of Incantation, Immolation and some cool old bands. The other elements are our own inspiration. So, Morbid is not our ultimate influence and I think nobody wants a Mortician copy. My other influences and favorite bands are: Entombed, Hypocrisy, Deicide, Vital Remains, Torturer, Imprecation, Symphony Of Grief, Shitaster, Altar, Blood, Avulsed, Desperate Corruption, Crypt, Intestine Baalism, Uncovered, Disrupt...and some old trash metal bands such as: Sepultura, Kreator, Slayer, Vio-lence (I'm still looking for their first album), Aversion etc. Too many to mention!!!

They above mentioned three U.S. bands are all kinds of old, but now and they got known during the death metal trend of the early 90's. What do you think of the latest draft of U.S. bands? The new ones are more technical, do you like that or do you prefer the old ones? I love the old death metal bands but I love the latest death metal bands too. I agree with you that the new ones are more technical than the old ones. Besides, some bands mix other styles (black, grind, industrial metal) through each other. Latest (?) band from Canada, Blood Of Christ is great! I think they mix black metal and classic melodic parts and death metal very well. To keep it short, it's an important point of my view that a band, old or new, gives me a feeling of death metal when I listen to them. That's all for me.

Japan has alot of killer death and grind bands too, like Disgust, Vampiric Motives, Vivisection, Coldass Grinder, not to forget bands like Intestine Baalism, Desperate Corruption, + much more. Are you satisfied with the Japanese scene? How do the "normal" people react on brutal people like you are?
It's a very difficult question! Japan got some killer deathgrind bands. But here around there is no death/grind scene or underground or people/musicians. We are the only band which plays death metal here in my hometown Kitakyushu. Here in Japan we got no reaction from the "normal" people. I think deathgrind is not popular here yet, so what? We don't care about it and we want to stay underground. We're satisfied, and with one reason, we have found and created our own songs.

Yes, a pretty big scene in Japan, but still Massground is a 2-piece without a complete line-up. Are you looking for more members. I like a real drummer more as a drum computer. Do you like the drumcomputer or do you want to have a real drummer in the future?
No, we don't need a real drummer in the band. I'll keep going on with Takeshi. Like I said, no musicians here in our area who want to play extreme music. When I will have another band I will have a complete line-up.

You're responsible for the lyrics which is probably a difficult job as they are in English which is ofcourse not the language which you are used to (just like us). Do you take alot of time for your lyrics? About what are your lyrics, and are your lyrics also influenced by Mortician etc.?
Yes, English lyrics are very hard for me. I take alot of time for it, but I like it! My lyrics are in the blashphemous vein, influenced by Incantation and Immolation. Sometimes they are about gore and murder, but mainly I forget this and go for lyrics and stuff. I write them and Takeshi makes all the music and riffs.

Here in Europe there are still alot of items released on vinyl, LPs, EP's and such. It's different from North America, where almost everything (not all) comes out on CD. What about Japan? Is the good old black vinyl still popular in Japan and do the metallers and grinders still buy vinyl releases (they release it for sure as there are many Japanese EP's)? What do you like most, vinyl or CD?
It seems that the old black vinyl is no longer popular here in Japan. Only a minority of the metal heads take it. Most of the products are released on CD. Both material (vinyl and CD) are important for us. If it's possible, we would like to release a CD in the future.

O.k., it's time to say goodbye. All the best with Massground! Any closing words?
Thank you very much for doing this cool interview. Greetings to all the readers, thanks for reading this interview, and I'm sorry for my ugly English. Contact me if you are interested in us. We are waiting for you at the gate of DEATH!! Thank!!
The address is: Massground, c/o Ryuj Nagaawa, 3-5-3 Kamufujimatsu, Moj, Kitakyushu, 800 Japan.
THEY ARE COMING FROM SWEDEN, AND THEY ARE COMING TO
GET YOU!!! THEIR NEWEST WEAPON IS ENTITLED "MURDER
CORPORATION", AND IT'LL CONTAIN 12 THUNDEROUS TUNES! IT
MUST BE OUT BY THE TIME YOU READ THIS, AND THERE IS NO
WAY TO ESCAPE! YOU'VE BEEN WARNED!!!

Tell us first of the beginning days of Murder
Corporation.
We basically wanted another band to jam with
besides Deranged which 3 of us are also in, so
we formed a new band. I came up with the
name. Dan asked a long time friend of him if he
wanted to sing. We had all heard him earlier as
he used to sing in a band called Mega Slaughter
(referred to as an LP on Thrash Rec. In '91). And I
guess he liked the idea as he showed up for the
rehearsals. We played together as a band for 3
weeks, recorded our first mini CD "Blood Revolution
2050", which was first honestly meant to be a demo, but we were all pretty
satisfied with it so we decided to send it around
to some people we're in touch with, to see if they
wanted to give it a try. Qabalah Prod. from Spain
(can be easiest described as a sub label of
Reptile) liked it so...that's it I guess! Although
all 3 of us are also in another band (Deranged),
Murder Corporation isn't either a hobby band or
project. It's a 100% serious band, and it just
happens to be almost the same guys as in our
other band.

Tell us something about the "Blood Revolution
2050" mini CD and "Kill" mini CD. On which
labels were they released, and are they still
available?
The first mini disc, "Blood Revolution 2050"
was recorded in November '95 or something...As I said, it's released on Qabalah Prod. from
Spain. 5 songs are on it and I guess it's still
available. I haven't heard anything else so...Our
2nd mini disc, simple titled "Kill", was recorded
in the summer of '96 and was first supposed to be
released by Dementor Rec. from the States. Unfortunately things totally fucked up and it
wasn't released till a year later, than on Planet
End Rec., a sub label of Regain Rec. 6 songs are
on that one, and compared to the first disc I
guess it's a bit rawer and rougher, slower without
losing any brutality or aggression. In fact, I think
the 2nd disc is far more aggressive then the first
one really... Yeah, that 2nd disc is without doubt
still available. Hopefully you're able to find them,
on most underground distribution lists. If not, write
to the labels directly.

How was the response so far on both releases?
And how is the undergroundscene receiving
Murder Corporation.
The response towards those mini CD's we've
put out so far have been alright. Nothing too
outstanding or anything. I've read some cool
reviews and some bad ones as well you know...All in all I find the response towards the band
really good. A lot of people are asking on what's
happening with Murder Corporation, shit while we're doing gigs with the other band and so
on. Unfortunately alot of people look at Murder
Corporation as some kind of hobby band or
project which is, as I said earlier, not the case at
all. Still honestly I don't blame 'em, having in
mind that it's almost the same band when it
comes to members and shit... The music is a
whole lot different though, which is what really
matters after all. It's not like we take alot of shit
which we never used for the other band we're in
and throw it into Murder Corporation. We sepa-
rate the bands quite alot would I say.

What kind of things influenced Murder
Corporation?
Bands like Repulsion, the early Napalm Death
stuff, Massacre, Autopsy, Cryptic Slaughter...
and stuff like that you know...

Tell us something about the upcoming full
length CD. On which label shall it be released?
Will there be some older songs recorded on it?
I hope we're nagging for you in March or
something. It's simply titled "Murder Corpora-
tion" and we recorded it in October last year or
something like that. 12 songs are on it, and I
guess it's about 3-4 old songs on it. We had
changed some shit in them and so on, and it were
cool songs so what the fuck! Honestly, I find it
rather good when bands feature like maybe 2 or
3 older tracks on their full length album, songs
which you might remember from an older
release and so on...I guess you pretty know what
I mean?! The sound is just amazing! Sounds
like the fucking 3rd world war, you know ha, ha!
I'm pretty damn satisfied with it really! With no
doubt the best shit we ever have done with
Murder Corporation you know. It'll be released on
Regain Rec., a new Swedish label which be
easiest described as ex-Wrong Again Records, Wrong
Again quit their activities a year ago or so and
one of the two new labels is Regain Rec. Certainly
looking forward to have it released. Not only
that I think it's a cool disc, also that alot of
people will hopefully see Murder Corporation as
a real band and not some hobby band or project.

How will the promotion be towards this CD?
I heard you also recorded a video clip to promote
this CD, tell us something about it? Aren't you
afraid that you'll loose the underground spirit by
doing a video clip?
Promotion? I don't know, the usual shit I guess.
Ads, gigs, reviews, and so on. Also naturally
interviews like this one, you know? If it wouldn't
be for the underground thing, 'zines, comp's, and
so on. I guess we would still pretty much be
stuck in our rehearsal room, if you know what I
mean. Yeah, we've also shoot a videoclip for a
song from the upcoming CD. Needless to say,
there are also loss of people into this kind of
music that are necessarily not involved with the
whole underground thing where we are usually,
to say so. Just a good opportunity to get those
guys a chance to check us out. As for the
underground spirit and so on, it's pretty much
what you make of it really. I don't really think it's
a big deal to shoot a video clip and so on. As I
said, it's mainly what people around make of it.

I receive like 5 or 6 letters a day (!). Both,
Murder Corporation mail and mall for the other
band I'm in. And I answer every single letter
although 80% of the people doesn't include an IRC.
Once again, it's pretty much
what you make out of it. As I said, if it wouldn't
be for the underground thing we even probably
wouldn't have recorded that first mini CD. As
long as you are aware of what, and which people
you will have on your way, and also which scene
it is, it really doesn't matter if you spend 100,000
dollars on a video clip or not a single penny
(which is the case for the here discussed clip).
It's just a matter of promotion to get your records
out to people. I mean, if some stupid fuck would
say that we have more or less "sold out"
because of a video clip they can pretty much
fuck off!!! To start with, they can't be aware of
how much it costs to be in a band. Not only
money for equipment, traveling expenses and so
on. Also how much time and energy you put into
this band. Most of the people that are walking
around saying that "this and that" so to say
"underground band" have sold out because they
have a video clip, are not doing a fuck for the
scene themselves, except for drinking the band's
free beer backstage, and that's not too hard! I
mean, when you put down alot of time and
energy on trying to do a good record, the least
you want is ofcourse that people shall be aware of
the fact that we really have a CD out, which
can only be done with promotion, for example a
video clip. Once again, I don't think it's a big deal
to shoot a video clip.

On what kind of network will the video clip be
shown? What kind of topics did you use in it?
I don't know if it'll be shown on any channels at
all, you know, ha, ha! Ofcourse we'll try things
out with the same channels that aired the first
Deranged clip. Metal in general has never been
the most popular thing to show on TV so... It's
just us in the video, nothing, you know? Not too much to say about the clip
actually. There are some smaller cable channels
in the States which are quite "underground", and
if someone will show it, they will!

Isn't it hard to play in two bands at the same
time? Are both bands have to go on tour or
with rehearsing?
From time to time it can be quite "hard" being in
two bands. Not exactly when it comes to
rehearsals though, more when it comes to gigs
really. But that's shit you have to take, I guess.
Ha, ha, ha, it's rock 'n roll!!

If it'll come to a point on which you have to
choose between Murder Corporation and
Deranged, which band would you choose for
(interview with Rikard Wernmen by Martin)
Unfortunately a lot of people look at Murder Corporation as some kind of hobby band or project which is, as I said earlier, not the case at all.

We talked some shit with the guys of Exhumed and Hemdale and they’re really great and cool guys. Must also take the opportunity to say that it was a killer to play with these bands.

You have just changed vocalists. Why did the old one left, and how did you get in contact with the new singer? Are you satisfied with him?

The singer we had on the first 2 mini discs decided to move back to Gothenburg, where he originally hails from. So we basically found ourselves a new singer right away. The “new” singer is named Johan Anderberg, and he’s been with us for 8 months or so by now. It works out great! I’m certainly satisfied with the new singer.

About what kind of things deal the Murder Corporation lyrics? Is it some kind of theme for the band? On the CD’s and live you’re all wearing hats, to cover your faces.

3 of us are writing the lyrics, and naturally they differ a bit… I usually write about some shit that pisses me off. As I see it the rest of the guys just write about “violence”. In one way or another it pretty much reflects reality most of the time. It’s not like in our other band in which all the lyrics are “fiction”. As always, when it comes to this kind of music, I think the music is the most important part. Naturally some of the lyrics are what you might call “theme” shit or whatever, having to do with the bands we all wear live.

I guess when you write about stuff which gets you fucked-up, like problems in your private life, it pretty much turns into being some kind of relief, doesn’t it? How are you standing towards this with your lyrics?

I won’t see it as a “relief” or anything. I mean nothing will change because of the lyric you write about something that pisses you off. As for Deranged, I write like 95% of the lyrics and they are like pure fiction, and have always been as well. Still those kind of splatter/gore lyrics can be a relief, really!

Were there any other labels interested in releasing a full length CD of Murder Corporation? On which label would you like to release the 2nd album?

There were a couple of labels interested so we basically recorded a quick kind of demo, just to have something about a month before we recorded the actual full length CD. Regain Rec. called me up right away. They had heard the tape and wanted to give it a try, so we hooked.

We seriously wanted to have a full length disc out, and as we saw it, it wasn’t really important to see what the other labels could/wanted to offer as the deal with Regain was pretty damn good to start with. Also a Swedish label is for us, being a Swedish band, alot easier to work with. The contract is a 3-CD deal so I guess Regain Rec. are stuck with us for a while now.

How’s the interest from the fans/onwards towards Murder Corporation? What can these mags do with their questions and reviews to make their mag a bit better, in your opinion?

The interest in Murder Corporation has been quite okay, especially from mags really. A couple of letters are dropping in every day. What editors should do to make their mag better and more interesting? Naturally when it comes to reviews, just do a honest review. That’s basically all I guess. Interviews can be pretty damn hard from time to time, really. Especially if we’re talking about a new band. It usually turns out to be a bunch of standard questions which isn’t really the editor’s fault either. A new band hasn’t, needless to say, done that much so it’s hard to do good and interesting questions. Write the band and ask for info and news. If you ask me, every band should get back to you with their info. You need to do a good interview. Otherwise they’re not worth to interview, if you ask me.

What can we expect from Murder Corporation in the near future? And what are your future goals?

Probably some smaller tours and shit. It seems like we’ll record a split 7” on a recently started German label as well. It’s runned by the guys that also does the Cothurnus mag. It’s said that we’ll split the 7” with Panzerchrist from Denmark. Otherwise, just continue to keep on releasing records and so on.

Maybe some new tours scheduled? Maybe a Murder Corporation/Deranged tour?

There aren’t any tours settled for the moment. We’re working on it though. We’ll see what happens. We’ll play at the “Fuck the commerce” fest, which is a really cool event. 3 days with only cool death/thrash bands.

Something left to add?

Would certainly like to take the opportunity to thank you for the interview. Your support is really appreciated! As usual, write us today and check out the full length disc!

Rikard Wermen
Angavägen 2
245 62 Hjärup, Sweden.

O.k., something I have to ask to piss someone off in America. What’s your fav color? Which girl have you dated recently?

Pnk? Jimi Hendrix! (???)
Pentacle - The Fifth Moon Pic. LP

Troll - Drep de Kristine

Releases:
- Pentacle - The Fifth Moon Pic. LP
- Gehenna - First Spell MLP
- Drep de Kristine CD
- Limbus Art - Moon in the Scorpio (Sold Out)
- Emperor - Wrath of the Tyrant Pic. LP (Sold Out)

Corpus Rottus - Rituals of Silence LP (Sold Out)
Demencia - Fawstian Dawn CD (Sold Out)
Einherjer - Leve Vikinganden Z
Carpathian Forest - Through... MLP
Ancient Trolltar MCD/MLP

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