A lot of battles have been fought before I could finally unleash this 16th chapter in the Slayer saga! 2001 has been a pretty confusing year for me. To give you a quick rundown of things that happened here lately I can say I ended my partnership with Head Not Found/Voices Of Wonder so the distribution of this magazine through their channels is gone. I'm not involved in Head Not Found anymore so please don't send any demos or anything concerning that! I had to start all over again, back to scratch! Then there was some talk about doing a split issue with a big American zine but I backed out of that - why? I had to change the layout which is really impossible for me. Slayer needs to have the Slayer look. Then there was some talk about a US label funding Slayer but nothing came out of that for now either, perhaps later. So now I'm more back to the roots than I ever been before. I sacrificed everything to get this deal thing unleashed and I'm happy I went this path. I'm now in control of everything (I probably know every Slayer reader face to face when I think of it), so again many of you will have problems finding this thing. Oh well - the story of Slayer. ‘Everyone’ heard about it, hardly anyone has read it! HAHA! It is a bit like the “Armed And Dangerous” mini LP of Razor, most Metal heads know about the existence of this pearl but very few posses this item. OK, well, I need to thank the distributors who still support Slayer, like Static Age, Merciless and Iron Pegasus to mention the essential ones - you bring life to Slayer. Also as you can see I chose a new printer this time, I was very disappointed in how Slayer 15 turned out with all the stupid errors done by the printer. I'm not even going there! So this time a new printer is being used and hopefully it will be OK! I look ‘bright’ upon the future of Slayer, at least a few more issues. (Not economical wise but money is not an essence!) And I need to make it to the 20 years anniversary (2005). The main problem is to find advertisers for Slayer, and then the other hard part is to get them to pay. It is amazing that so many 'big' labels have problems coming up with a lousy 100 bucks or something. If you promise something you have to follow it up, no time for bullshitters - ok? (I mentioned that in the last issue also so I let it rest for now!) Also in the past I been looking for contributors but I pretty much given up using anyone on a steady basis. I accept some help here and there and I appreciate that. But I'm most comfortable doing things MY way even if it takes a bit longer. No point in putting the fate of Slayer in other hands! Also, I know a lot of people are talking shit behind my back but that is OK, I really don't care about you either. Slayer is made to support the Metal I love - nothing else! I could go on a rant about the shit state of the extreme music scene again but I think you know about that, and you can also read my album reviews. Also, you might wonder why Sodom is on the cover when they are not interviewed? Go figure! I love Sodom and I put whatever I want on the cover. Also the moniker "Deathlike Silence" is to be seen as a tribute to Euroymphus and also Sodom.
ALL HAIL THE INSTIGATORS OF NORTHERN DARKNESS!

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ETERNAL GRATITUDE TO:
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HOLY FUCKING MOSES! For everyone who had a slightest interest in Teutonic Thrash Metal you must have heard of thee godly HOLY MOSES. Back in the days they released a handful of really fucking Metal masterpieces like for instance "Finished With The Dogs" which is forever one of the best Thrash Metal albums ever made. As their carrier slowly faded away they even made one album without Sabina Clasen on lead vocals. Even if it was an OK album it just didn't feel right without Sabina. Since that Sabina has been involved in the band THE TEMPLE OF THE ABSURD as well as running the BULLET TV thing. Anyway, at the end of 2000 there were rumors circulating that HOLY MOSES was to appear on some of the summer festivals of 2001 and then a bit later it was confirmed that the band signed with CENTURY MEDIA for the "Master Of Disaster" EP. So I was getting really nervous about this - would HOLY MOSES still deliver in the year 2001? Of course they would! The material on this EP fits in somewhere between "Finished With The Dogs" and "New Machine Of Liechtenstein". It's really fucking brutal thrash classic material! I must say I was extremely pleased by hearing this. So again I had to face my phobias, picking up the phone and speaking to Sabina Clasen for this interview. Yet another goal has been achieved in my journalistic carrier. THE DOGS ARE BACK!

So why did you decide to bring back HOLY MOSES exactly now, and why not earlier?

It was like a mixture of a lot of things, it always been in my heart. And it was like 4-5 years ago I wanted to start up again. And what I didn't like was this fucking word re-union, because there were a lot of people talking shit about the word re-union. I didn't want to do a re-union. I thought when I should do this I would make a real comeback with the band. I love the old HOLY MOSES songs and I love to sing those songs. And on the other side I was going really ill in 99, I got cancer and I didn't talk to anyone about that. I had a real bad operation. And also, about one year ago I had a motorcycle accident so I was again in the hospital. And because of the tumour and cancer I had to go back to the hospital even one more time in September 2000. So I told to myself I had to do something for myself. I'm a real workaholic and always doing too much stuff. And I need room for what I love. Before the last operation I said to myself: "I will do HOLY MOSES again because it is like therapy for me. And two weeks after the operation the doctor tells me everything is really fine, that everything was ok and the cancer was away. So I was driving directly to Andy (Clasen) in his studio and said we had to write new songs. So I think all those things were gathered in my head and I all came together because all the songs we wrote on the "Master Of Disaster" EP are all about my life. So I thought FUCK OFF to all those people who talk shit about re-unions because I need this for my life, so I can be happy again. So all in all is the reason why the re-union is now. So I wrote the songs "Hands Of Death" and "Master Of Disaster" together with Andy just after the operation in September 2000. So everyone told me this is OK Sabina, you can do this now. So we went into the studio in January and recorded the other three songs. So that is the reason why it is now - it really is that time now!

So it seems like the lyrics are really personal then?

Yeah, but I always did that. The lyrics were always special to me because I have had always had personal things in the lyrics. So when you have been near death, two times, so you are thinking a lot of things about life. And you see which people are you real friends, because the time I was in the hospital I lost a few people I thought were friends but they were not friends. People talk shit and people who don't even know me talk shit and all these things. So like for instance in one lyric I say "I ARISE, I ARISE" means for me the people around me try to be something special and try to talk about me and because of that I say "I ARISE, I ARISE" because I see now they were not real friends, just stupid people. So because of the re-union we have this line "YOU CANNOT KILL US, YOU CANNOT KILL US." Because it is my music, I'm the musician and I love this kind of music and I want great music. So I'm starting a 2nd carrier. I'm really happy and all those things with HOLY MOSES really mean a lot to me, to be happy again.

So you are not inspired by other bands to do this re-union? I mean, with the recent success of DESTRUCTION in wind you didn't get inspired by that?

No, not because I think everybody has to decide what is right for them and what they want to do. I like DESTRUCTION a lot but it is not the reason because Schmier is doing it. I can do it too. I think that everyone has his own reason why he is doing it. So I talked to Schmier because of the BULLET TV and I did an interview with him and I asked him the same question why he was doing DESTRUCTION again. Schmier and I had some things in common, not that he did it or anything he was trying to do something with HEADHUNTER but it was not really the same feeling as with DESTRUCTION. He told me he was doing his pizza service and things like that. But he was a musician too and he was thinking about new things do in his life and he was sick of the business as well just like I was. But when you grow older and see why there were problems in the band and why you had to stop and everything then you start again. So I think that was a bit of the same with Schmier and me. I think it is hard for the people in the press and not the music to see why the musician is doing it again. But it is so deep in our hearts, I can't speak for Schmier of course but for me he seemed really earnest because I knew him a very long time ago. It is not if you sell albums and you say it is commercial on the one side, but if you can sell albums and live from it is perfect. I think that with the music of DESTRUCTION, HOLY MOSES or any other band we are not top bands and cannot earn so much money because our music and style is so hard, but it is fine for me. Because if you do it because of money which happened to HOLY MOSES in 92 all this business fuck up come to us and it destroyed the band. Because managers and all those other people told us change the style of the band bish while. So in the past nine years I learned a lot about the business I didn't know before. So now it is all-frsh again and the feeling is a lot better now. Now I know what to do and I do it the best way I can.

Ok, when I first heard that you were coming back I just heard it was just for the festivals only, and then this EP. But it seems like it is more things coming from the HOLY MOSES horse.

Well, when we did those first five tracks we decided to wait to do the full-length album so much time in the studio to record more stuff. It is me like on one side celebrating 20 years of HOLY MOSES and on the other celebrating the fact that I'm not ill anymore. I need something for myself you know. So when I get depressed or if I know I still have cancer I change style of the music. So we decided that we should release this EP for the festivals and after the festivals here we are going to Asia as well, Korea. So when we are back from that we start to write more new material for a full-length album, and we want to go in the studio then around January or so.

That sounds like good news to me, but let's go back to those festivals you talked about in Asia, that seems a bit strange doesn't it? How did you manage to get that together?

It was because of the Internet you know. Because this guy was e-mailing me because he heard in New York that HOLY MOSES was back together, that was a funny thing. And he has been a huge HOLY MOSES fan for years and he heard from a lot of people in Korea that they liked HOLY MOSES. So he was writing me e-mail first checking out if this was real that we were back together. So now we are playing at the 11th of August near Seoul and it is really huge festival with 500,000 people. And we are playing together with SLIPSNOT, IN FLAMES etc. so this really is something special.

It must be really strange playing there.

Yeah, and I hope to fly and now I must do it! But I really don't know how it is happening there so I how to get some more information about the country. We are pretty nervous to do this but it really is something special and it certainly is for the biggest crowd we ever played.

So back to the EP again, it says that you and Andy wrote all the material on it, but he is not in the band.

Yeah.
What is going on with that? He writes material but doesn't participate in the band?

- Andy is the sixth member of the band but he is not playing with us live. As you might know he is a really famous producer and what he said to me is that he cannot leave his studio which is a huge problem. Because all the bands booked the studio and he is booked out until next year. And there is really famous bands recording at his studio as well so he can't really say that he is going on a tour with HOLY MOSES for 2-3 months so you can't record your album here. He's also on the one side a rather quiet person and he doesn't really like to be on the stage that much. So he told me it was ok that we found another guitarist. He helped us during rehearsal, like for instance the riff on "Finished With The Dogs" is really, really fast and you can't really listen to the riff on the album. So he played the riffs really slowly and recorded it on a CD and gave it to our guitarist and they rehearsed it together. So the situation is really fine, it is like he is with us in our minds. But also in the band we have the bass player Jochen who founded the band in 81 so I'm not totally alone HAHA! But for me it is important to have a real band together where I can start with a 2nd career. If I only had the stars in the band who did the most popular albums with HOLY MOSES it would be a re-union but this is really a new band in a way. You know, Ulli is now playing in HELLOWEEN and then you would have the re-union feeling. But so I said what I really wanted was to comeback with a 2nd career. So I had to find those new people, which was not easy. It was really difficult to find a guitar player that could play like Andy. The solo guitarist I found near Hamburg and the other guitarist I found away. He has to make a flight to get to the rehearsal. So when I started to call around and said I need a guitar player for HOLY MOSES almost all said: "NO! NO! I can't play that stuff!" So I was getting worried if I ever could find anyone to play Andy's style. And I told Andy no one could do it like you. So now I'm happy that I finally have these people together. We are really feeling fine and Andy is with us, and he will come along to some of the festivals to meet us there. But he will do the production always anyway. So he has to write the songs with me so it really sounds like HOLY MOSES.

Thank you for clearing that up for me, I was wondering why he not on the EP? Where is he?

- He was staying behind the B.A.T. recorders! HAHAHA!

So what about your old albums now? Is there any chance of seeing them re-released anytime soon?

- Well, that's a good question. Well, there are some problems with the copyrights because different companies all over the years have released them. We have been talking to CENTURY MEDIA to see how we can do it. I see that the scene changed quite a bit over the years and a lot of new people are now in the Metal scene and they don't have the chance to get the albums. Or they can get it on EBay and it is really expensive. I have seen our old albums on EBay for 50-60-80 DM. And I have seen our "Too Drunk To Fuck" maxi single for 120 DM so I think I have to do something about that. It is not fair I think if people want to listen to the albums and they have to pay 50 DM or so.

Anyway, what about the other band you had, TEMPLE OF THE ABSURD. Is that totally dead or what is going on?

- Well, we stopped the band because I was ill. And that was really the reason why we stopped. But now we recorded one track for a MOTORHEAD tribute. So I was singing with the TEMPLE OF THE ABSURD the song "Rock & Roll". This should be out now as well. And also I have my own recording studio here with the guitarist of TEMPLE OF THE ABSURD. And we are producing bands and everything and besides that he has a new band called BIONICS. So since we have this studio together we always have the opportunity to work on material for TEMPLE OF THE ABSURD together. But with him being busy with BIONICS and me in HOLY MOSES we really have no time for any side projects. And I also do the BULLET TV thing. That was one of the reasons I was so ill, I was doing too many things at the same time. But I heard that man people also liked the TEMPLE OF THE ABSURD stuff. It was not so fast and it wasn't HOLY MOSES of course but still people seemed to like it. I guess we will see - we are at the moment a little bit on ice. The MOTORHEAD tribute can be seen on a "Hello! We are still here but on the other side it is maybe a good bye? We really don't know, we will see what will happen but now it is a bit on ice. I don't want to say it is totally split up but now I want to do HOLY MOSES, that is the most important fact now.
I have no problems with HOLY MOSES at 14.00, but did you see when SOODOM is playing?
- Yeah, in the middle of the night! After MOTORHEAD I think. That is hard talk. I wouldn't personally think it would be a good thing to play after MOTORHEAD.

The line-up at WACKEN this year is really amazing I think. There are so many good bands.
- Yeah, I think this will be a really good festival. It is really a great thing. It is a really huge party. Sometimes it is not so important which bands are playing, it is just a matter of being a part of this great festival.

You are not living a far from WACKEN are you?
- It is just like 60 kilometres. So it is just one hour away.

Well, I spend around 16-17 hours on the bus to get there so, enough of my personal bus dramas here. Besides HOLY MOSES and TEMPLE OF THE ABSURD you have been involved in some other projects as well, like the X-FACTOR PROJECT and a guest appearance on one of the TOM ANGEL RIPPERS solo albums.

Are there any other things you have been involved in?
- Well, there is one funny secret! There is in Germany existing a band called JUERGEN WOLF COPPER BAND from Cologne. They sing in German and play like some sort of punk rock. And they are singing in English - the Cologne slang. And the guy is gay and really fat and he once phoned me. So I thought that someone was kidding with me. And he said I have this song you have to sing with me. And I think no one outside of Germany ever heard about this guy and he is no really known in Germany either. It is a like a 'cult' thing, like for a special territory in Germany. And I was singing with him a song from another schlager singer. And it was a song called "Wenn Du Denkst Du Darf Du Denkst, Ein Madchen Kann Das Nichtig" and it means in English if you think that a girl can't do this. And it is saying things like girls can't drink or go in the pubs. It is a totally stupid song, so we covered this song. It was released on BMP in Germany but outside of Germany I don't think anyone knows about this. The album was called "Fuer Du Zweifler". So was that done recently or?
- It was done in '91 or '92.

Well, personally I have very vague memories of seeing TEMPLE OF THE ABSURD playing a very intense show at WACKEN some year early in the morning. WACKEN is the gathering of the European Metal tribe and HOLY MOSES played there, at the ungodly hour of 14.00 Friday afternoon. Do you think that is a good time?
- NO!! HAHAAHAHAH! We would have preferred to play later but as you know they always have so many band. But the good thing about playing at 14.00 is that the people are usually not drunk enough and they have awakened up. I think that most of the people will be there on Thursday night so I don't think so many people will miss our show if they really want to see us. Originally it was planned that we were going to play on Saturday, but now it is Friday. But it is OK for me because WACKEN OPEN AIR and it doesn't really matter if you play at 17.00 or 22.00 because a festival is a different form of show. The people is always running around seeing if this or that band is playing. So in a way 14.00 is good, everyone has woken up, everyone feels fine and no one is drunk yet. I think 14.00 sounds good, that's a good beginning I think.
- And then after HOLY MOSES played everyone can start to drink.

HAHA! NAVALM DEATH is also playing at almost the same time as us, just a bit later so all those bands is playing early as well. So it is just fine.
Also another thing, you sang "Black Metal" along with Cranes on some WARPATH album or something?

That was so amazing for me! I was a huge VENOM fan, and I met them in CANNES in the south of France on the MIDEEM. And I told him I would like to do this and he said, "Is it okay with you?" and I said, "Of course!" He went on to phone me up, and one day all of sudden I had a call on the phone. He said he was interested in doing this because during this time VENOM did not exist. He liked the idea but he told me I had to write down the lyrics for "Black Metal" because he could not remember them anymore so that was a bit funny. He arrived by plane on the 10th and I had to pick him up at the airport. I was so nervous when this guy stepped out of the plane, as it was a really small plane. I was so incredibly nervous when I was driving to Andy's studio with Cranes by my side. I drove like a little kid. He was a really funny guy and really nice, we did so many jokes together. In the studio it was really funny as well because I sang much louder and harder then Cranes and the singer of WARPATH. So Andy gave me the corner of the studio as I did not sing louder than them. But I thought to myself, "I can sing louder than Cranes HEHE! But he was really a cool guy, I think he was almost for one week in Andy's studio so it was a private friendship starting up. And it was funny when I see him at WACKEN last year. He was really drunk in the back area and he screamed out SABIAN! When he saw me, he is really great, he is a nice guy.

So did you hear the last VENOM album "Resurrection"?

- Yeah, yeah! It is almost like VENOM height, the new stuff is really good. It is even better than expected to be. You know, I like the old stuff and I think it's more like the same situation with HOLY MOSES. VENOM is talking about the old stuff and I get a bit nervous to see what people think about what we are doing now. I think "Resurrection" is really great!

Well, Sabina saw VENOM at DYNAMO a few years ago as well, on event I sadly enough missed out on...

- I liked it better at DYNAMO 4-5 years ago. That was the first re-union show of VENOM and I liked it a bit more. It is the new drummer; I think he is too good for VENOM! HAH-HAH-HAH!!! That was my level! HAH-HAH! I hear a lot of people saying the same: they are too good now! HAH-HAH!!! Everyone knows that the HOLY MOSES "Too Drunk To Fuck" picture disc is quite hard to get, but I have a question about the "Road Crew" 12" you did. Was that released on picture disc?

- Yeah!

Was the cover as the "Finished With The Dogs" album cover?

- Yeah!

And on that EP, is that live versions or?

- No, it is the normal version. So the only reason to have this is the fact it is a picture disc. At that time the record company did what they wanted and they didn't ask us. It looks like a "Finished With The Dogs" live album but it's live.

So is the "Master Of Disaster" EP going to be released as a picture disc?

- Yes it will be! It is coming in September as a picture disc. Like, vinyl too and I have here a lot of vinyl so it is good. I need the record company to put out our releases on vinyl as well. CENTURY MEDIA is putting out a lot of their releases on picture discs in September because it is easier for them to release them all together and promote them all together. It is really expensive to make them but the next batch is coming out in September.

So the cover of the "Master Of Disaster" EP, is that supposed to be you?

- Yeah, because the title of the EP and the design are belonging together. Before I was joining HOLY MOSES I was singing and playing bass in a band called DISASTER. And Andy was the guitar player with me in DISASTER. And HOLY MOSES 'whole Andy and as he was going to HOLY MOSES I was alone. I had a drummer but we couldn't play. Andy was the one who could play in the band. So I was pretty pissed at HOLY MOSES! And then they asked me to come into HOLY MOSES, I was the master of disaster and now I'm bringing back HOLY MOSES! You can see parts of the old album covers in the new cover. And now everything should be broken out and the sun is coming back to HOLY MOSES. So that's the idea of the cover will go on the cover. But now I'm coming back with HOLY MOSES and the music brings back to me.

By the way, do you know there is a band from Germany called DISASTER in these days also?

- Yeah.

Have you heard them?

- Not but they are playing at WACKEN so I think I have to check that out.

I think they are a brilliant band.

- Do you know there is another band called HOLY MOSES?
Again we travel back in time, this time to investigate the phenomena called PENTAGRAM, the Chilean PENTAGRAM. In their carrier they only released one 7" EP on the CHAINSAW MURDER label in Switzerland as well as a few outstanding demos. They might not be the most talked about underground band but they fit in the classic '87 generation who brought us exceptional releases from the likes of NECROVORE, INOCUBUS, MORBID ANGEL just to mention a few. Being from Chile gave this outfit a more obscure feeling...Anyway, since there recently has been released a comp. CD with all the old PENTAGRAM material we decided to check out the brains behind the band, Atron, or Behemoth as he called himself in those days... Tell me exactly when and how PENTAGRAM was formed? Had you made a concept in your mind how this band should sound before it was formed?

- No, actually, we started meeting with Juan Pablo (guitar) around 1984 - 85 just to hang out and drink some boozes, but at some point we grabbed a couple of guitars and started playing. Before we knew it, we were working on original songs, which become the backbone of the PENTAGRAM style.

About the early days, please tell how long it took before you felt you had something unique going?

- All this probably get serious when we recorded our first demo in January 1987. But to be quite honest, we only realized the impact of PENTAGRAM after we had disbanded. The feedback was a little slower than we thought.

How was it to be a young Metal head in Chile in those days, did you face a lot of problems because of your Metal lifestyle?

- Yeah. Besides the usual problems within one’s family it of ten occurred that you were stopped by the police or even arrested just because of your long hair, black T-shirt and ripped jeans.

So after how long time did you decide to make your first demo? Do you remember anything from your first demo session?

- We had recorded a few rehearsal tapes, but we felt we needed something more professional sounding, so in January 1987 we recorded and mixed three songs. I believe we did it all in one day. We didn’t know anything about studio work, except our drummer, so we didn’t have a big influence on the whole thing. We kind of left it to the engineer probably.

- We thought it was important to talk about all your recordings, please tell about your memories from those days and a small comment on each song.

- We only recorded two official demos actually. The second was recorded in September 1987 with the same engineer but in a different studio, with a different engineer, three songs again. We had a more definite idea of how we wanted to sound, but the studio was a bit hectic, the sound was kind of busy but not very clear. I remember that studio was close to our friend Pato’s house. He was (and still is) basett and vocalist of Chilean legend DORSO. He would come by and bring us something to eat, and we invited him to be on the tape. Actually, the wicked laughter you can hear in “The Makered”, that’s him.

You had a very dominant and unique Death sound, what was the main inspiration for the PENTAGRAM sound and how would you be describing it yourself?

- Well it was probably all out Death Metal, and the main inspiration came from SLAYER and POSSESSED, but we listened to all the classics of course, EXODUS, DARK ANGEL, CELTIC FROST, VENOM, you name it. It was also heavily into tape trading, so I got to know a lot of more obscure bands, too.

So how did this deal with CHAINSAW MURDER for the EP come about?

- It wasn’t really a “deal”, you know. I was trading tapes with this guy from Switzerland all the time, and one day he told me about him starting a record label. He was putting out an album by MESSIAH. He offered to do a 7” if I said yes. The royalties were actually copies he sent me to sell myself in Chile. There was some talk about putting out an EP later, but unfortunately it never happened.

About the recordings of this EP, they are the same as on the demo, right?

- Yeah, the 7” are two songs off our demo.

Was it a big thing for you to have a deal for an EP in those days?

- It was kind of cool, but I really wanted to make an album.

Do you think you become more popular because of this EP?

- Probably yes, but I think it spread slowly, very much in the underground.

So is it true that the master tapes for this is still in Switzerland and forever lost?

- I don’t know if it’s lost, but after we disbanded I kind of frantically and angry at the whole Metal scene for a while, so I lost contact with most people. Marco from CHAINSAW MURDER among them.

So how was the situation for you being from Chile? Do you think it was a good thing because it gave the band a more “obscure” feeling or do you feel it didn’t matter where you were from as long as you did good music?

- In a way it obviously brought the band some attention, but in the end I think it made more harm than good, because it would be extremely difficult to get a record deal. Even the labels from Europe and USA preferred to work with European or American bands.

I think we had something great going in those days, with the tape trading letting letter, it brings back a lot of great memories. How do you think of those days?

- Yeah, it was definitely something very cool, because you actually had to be dedicated and interested. Nowadays it’s extremely easy to get music with Napster and all that stuff.

You were not only being in PENTAGRAM, were you also doing an underground publication called BLOWING THRASH. Can you please tell me a bit more about that (How many issues etc.)

- That’s something I did in the years 1983 - 85. I think I only made it to the issue #3 but it was a great experience, and helped me to get to know a lot of cool people. Some of them I met to meet years later, like DESTRUCTION, ICREATOR or Gene Hoglan.

Did you do the magazine before you formed the band?

- The band was already going, but without a stable line-up and not in a very serious way really. Actually, when things got bigger with PENTAGRAM, I quit doing the magazine.

If we go back to PENTAGRAM again, can you tell us a bit about your live shows?

- I think we did around ten shows in all of the band’s existence, but surprisingly metal became very big very soon in Chile, so in 1987 we were playing to over a thousand people already.

Was there any violence at your shows?

- As far as I remember, there wasn’t a lot of fights or anything, but the whole stage diving and stage dancing got way out of hand. At that time we didn’t have any security either so everyone did pretty much as they pleased.

Even if you had quite a few good bands in Chile it was Brazil that gave the South American scene a face, did PENTAGRAM ever play there or in any other South American countries?

- No, the only shows we played were in Chile. I travelled to Brazil with a friend in February 1987 and stayed at Max’ and Igor’s house in Belo Horizonte. I realized that the Brazilian scene had a lot more going on, and actually considered the possibility of going there for a while, but it didn’t happen.

How close were you to getting a recording deal with PENTAGRAM?

- Well, in Brazil I was offered a deal and actually signed it, but later, when we started talking about budget and style, etc, all of a sudden the guy stopped answering my letters and phone calls. Other than that, there was some talk with CHAINSAW MURDER as I told you, and Borja from Gorgon offered me to be on the “Raging Death Vol. 2” compilation, but that never came out.

Do you think that is a sad loss that PENTAGRAM never released a full-length album?

- Of course, I think of all the bands as well as we would have loved to have all of the bands songs with a proper studio sound and cool artwork. Plus it could have been the starting point of an actual career.
Now that a PENTAGRAM CD has finally been put together, how do you feel about that?
- I think it's great. People have kept asking for those recordings over all these years, so it's great to finally have it out. Eduardo from PICORCODO RECORDS and myself put a lot of energy into the project to make it a real collector's piece.

I think that for many years people have been interested in releasing this on CD. Why did it take so long and why did you decide that now was the right time?
- For a long time I really didn't want to do it because my current band CRIMINAL was the priority for me, and I was afraid that PENTAGRAM would have overshadowed it. Now CRIMINAL has been very successful in South America, so this problem isn't one anymore. Last year I was approached by Eduardo to do the reuse, and I gave him my conditions. We worked on it, and finally agreed on everything. I wouldn't have put out something with bad sound or missing artwork.

I never got the story why PENTAGRAM ended, what was the story with your break up? Was it dramatic or was it more of a silent break up?
- There were so many things involved. In the end it just wasn't a priority for everyone as it was for me, so I preferred to let it die. We did one big farewell show, which was packed, but it wasn't really silent you know.

With your band name PENTAGRAM it is of course the Satanic link, how serious was you with that?
- Not really serious. Like all of us probably, we were kind of interested in the occult and dark side of things, but if you read the band's lyrics you'll see none of the typical satanic clichés like VENOM or SLAYER had on their first albums. Needless to say, we didn't take it as seriously as our colleagues from Norway, hahaha...

And what about the names you called yourself, you were BEHEMOTH, why did you choose that?
- Just because it sounded cool. To be quite honest, I was kind of stupid at that time, in regards of being enthralled by my real name, or my short hair. You probably know the story.

You even had a European band, almost anyway, he was called EURYNOMOS, and did you know about the Norwegian Eurynomos in MAYHEM?
- At that time we didn't probably, but later of course we learned about MAYHEM.

What is your current view on all the music released in the '80ies, do you still like stuff like SODOM, VULCANO, SARCÓFAGO and so on?
- The bands you just mentioned I never really liked that much. I always preferred stuff that was a little more complex. But of course I still listen to a lot of stuff from the old days, like SACRIFICE, NASTY SAVAGE, VOIVOD, NUCLEAR ASSAULT, VIO-LENCE, PENTAGRAM was a Death Metal band, no doubt about it, but as you can see we were never fixed on Death Metal as the only thing we listened to.

Well, after PENTAGRAM you have been doing some other stuff, a bit different than PENTAGRAM but feel free to tell what you have done since then?
- Okay, soon after the end of PENTAGRAM, I started the band FALLOUT with some ex-NECROSVISI gys. The style was very METALLICA influenced, and the band didn't last long, although we played a few more and recorded two demos. After that it took me a while to get another band together, which I finally did with CRIMINAL in 1991. We have released three albums already, toured South and North America, and played with a lot of top acts. If people are interested they can check out our website at www.criminal.co. Our second album "Dead Soul" was released by METAL BLADE in Europe, and we're looking for a label to issue our third album "Satanic", which came out in Chile half a year ago.

I assume CRIMINAL must have been a pretty big band; do you get a lot of people coming up to you after shows and remember you from the PENTAGRAM days?
- Yeah, always. Also people call for certain songs during our shows. I used to bother me in the beginning, but now I'm perfectly okay with it.

So what happened to the other PENTAGRAM guys? Are they still involved in music?
- Well, you must know that our bass player Alfredo killed himself over ten years ago. The other two guys are still playing, but not professionally. But here's the big news: We are rehearsing for a couple of reunion shows to be played in Italy, and it's sounding great. We would even do some shows in Europe if there were interest.

Thank you so much for doing this; it has been a pleasure, any last words?
- Just thanks to everyone who's been into the band for so long, and to you Metalion for being true to Metal.
Once every few years (if that) a truly special band emerges from the depressing and monotonous metal scene to leave their mark. One such band is DESASTER, who have been in existence now since 1988 and creating their own unique music ever since. Combining traditional Black metal mixed with Heavy / Speed metal and ancient folk like melodies, the four maniacs of DESASTER have garnered a cult following in the scene and a well deserving amount of support among METAL fans. Classic Black/Thrash metal vocals, extremely heavy/catchy Metal riffs and an overwhelming epic/war like atmosphere are all trademarks of this band, but devotion to making FUCKING METAL MUSIC is DESASTER’s specialty. I had the chance to talk with Markus (Lord Infernus) about this and a variety of other issues and like always the German madman had much to say!

Let’s start with a band bio... Eh, Nah, scrap that. BORING! Let’s start with how you crazy fuckers are doing these days!

- Hell Emperor Wilhelm: Everything’s all right here at the DESASTER headquarters, the beer is still tasty and the Metal is hot!

Of course we are now listening to the latest DESASTER masterpiece “Tyrrants of the netherworld” released by IRON PEGASUS. I noticed that the production was a bit like it was on the “Stormbringer” MCD. Darker and Raw... I think it’s the same as the previous two full lengths. Maybe you agree maybe you don’t what are your general feelings on your latest cult record?

- Yes, I agree that the sound is darker and rawer this time. We wanted to sound that way. You know that we don’t like this modern overproduced sound, so we wanted a raw and powerful sound and I think we’ve reached our goal. The new album is another first in every genre face and a pleasure for every real headbanger around the globe. Of course we haven’t changed our style, we still present the typical DESASTER-sound on the new album with some Speed and Thrash riffs, one more atmospheric song and some fast Black/Death Metal songs as well. Everybody who liked our previous work won’t be disappointed and I’m sure that even some more maniacs who appreciate traditional Black/Thrash Metal will join the horde of DESASTER. Follow our Yes, we are very satisfied with the album!

I was a bit shocked you decided to leave MERICLES and join with IRON PEGASUS since MERICLES was obviously the bigger and more established label. But then again IP is just as much dedicated to the cause of the Metal scene as MERICLES. You did tell me that MERICLES were working far too slow with your albums anyways, especially “Hellfire’s Dominion”. Was this the reason you left? What do you think about the move and your new alliance with IRON PEGASUS?

- Well, it simply was time for a change, but there are no bad words between MERICLES and us. Of course we had different reasons for our decision to change the label, but we don’t want to discuss this in the public. MERICLES is a good underground label and Volker (the man behind MERICLES) is a great guy who has released some underground stuff, but now with our new label there is some fresh blood flowing around which is very helpful from time to time. Costs of IRON PEGASUS is really very dedicated to Metal, that’s very important for us, and what is also a positive point is that he always has some cool ideas concerning layouts and new releases.

How did you get connected with Costs in the first place? Tell us a little about your relationship to him, his label and magazine TALES OF THE MACABRE.

- We know Costs for quite a long time now (I think for about 8 years), we are close friends with him, he’s also a member of our HELLBANNERS Metal club, so we meet quite often together with the other crazy bastards, drinking beer, banging our heads and praising the Metal gods together! Of course we also appreciate his fanzine TALES OF THE MACABRE, it ever was one of the best underground times worldwide in my opinion, far away from all modern trends, just supporting cool music. I hope that Costs still has got the time besides his label work to release some more issues of his cult zine. And about his label work: He already released stuff from SABBAT, METALICUFER, ZEMIAL, AGATUS etc., you see quality stuff for real maniacal Metal heads. He’s not into releasing everything that could be interesting to the trendy kids of today. He only releases original stuff, which he’s 100% personally into.

Do you think DESASTER will remain connected with IRON PEGASUS?

- Well, we are very satisfied with his work so far, so we don’t see any reason for another label change at the moment.

Since I last interviewed you for one of my old zines you also released the cult double LP “10 Years Of Total Desaster”, and should I say it was EXCLUSIVELY on the vinyl format Halal! While it contained some unreleased material, live recordings and old favourites it did not contain the whole 1989 reh. Tape, except for 2 songs! Will there ever be any plans to release this old piece of German Metal history? And didn’t you tell me there was also a reh. from 1988 with you and creator Cassius?

- Well, we wanted to include one or two songs from every DESASTER release on the anniversary double LP, so we put two very original unrehearsed songs from 1989 on the album. HAH! I won’t speak of “a piece of German Metal history”, because in this time we were hardly able to handle our instruments, so the songs weren’t really good. Back then we decided not to release the stuff and only taped the songs to some of our friends. First of all because it really was too bad and second because in that time nobody was any more interested in Satanic stuff. I remember that every mail order sold the old VENOM records at the end of the 80ies for only a few bucks, unbelievable nowadays. Yes, I also have some unreleased tapes from 1989, you, but the quality of the songs is really not good enough that we could release them. Sometimes I play the old stuff and you can see me sitting here with a big smile on my face because I remember the good old crazy time. I had with my companion Creator Cassius, HAH, but I don’t want to torture the DESASTER fans with this old novice!

And since we are talking about the vinyl format what are your general feelings for it? And how does it compares with CD’s, tapes and now the ultra shitty mp3’s that people download from the Internet?

- We are all vinyl-fanatics, this is the original and the one and only format that suits perfectly to Metal music. What can be better to put a record on your player, open a beer and close your eyes, have a look on the cover, listen to the good old scratchy sound and remember the good old times? So it’s clear that every DESASTER release must be out on vinyl as well as on vinyl only, these are collector’s items and we always try to make our records a jewel for every collection. I must say that also the sound of a record appeals much more to me than the sound of a CD, it has much more feeling than the digital and even sterile sound of a CD. I don’t have anything against tapes; I also work much with tapes and don’t forget that tape trading ever played an important role within the underground. About MP3 I can’t say anything because I’m not into this Internet stuff, I simply don’t have the money for a new computer, HAH HAH!
Now that we have finally kicked this interview into high gear I'd like to hear DIRECTLY how you formed DESASTER, with Creator Cassius I believe. Is it still true that DESASTER are the first German band of the Black Metal variety or what? In a time you say Bermuda shorts and skateboards in DEH were playing the kind of music to me sounds like bleated Hal.

- Well, let's go back in time: I started to listen to Metal in 1986, first bands I heard were WARLOCK, JUDAS PRIEST, ACCEPT..., but then in '87 I met Creator Cassius every morning at the bus station to drive to school and he introduced me to bands like SLAYER, CELTIC FROST, HELLHAMMER, BATHORY etc. So I got more dedicated to the extreme and satanic stuff. It was really crazy times back then, we were even drinking beer before school in the school bus, throwing the bottles on the pupils who were into Pop music so that they soon changed to another bus so that we had enough place to bang and binge in the bus, ha ha! And after school we immediately went to the local record store to listen to the newest Metal records, buying the best and most extreme stuff, driving to Creator Cassius home, banging the heads the whole day long! I think it was already in 1987 when we had the idea to form our own band, I think it was because we saw VENOM's Live Video ("The 7th date of Hell") and we were so impressed by this because we had never seen a Metal band live or on video, so we decided to form our own band to produce as much chaos as Cranes and Co. did in the past!

At the end of the '80ies nobody was any longer interested in our favourite stuff like VENOM and HELLHAMMER, everybody was into this anti-MAXI-THEATRICAL bermuda short stuff, even former Satanic bands like SODOM or DESTRUCTION tried to change their image to gain as much success METALLICA did back then! We hated this and wanted to stay extreme, Satanic and wild like Metal was meant to be in the past!

I remember that we had discussions about our name, we thought about "Eternal Torment" or something like that before the DESTROGION song "Torment" brought us our band name, I remember that we discussed saying "Let's go to town and cause some DESASTER" and I thought "why don't we call our band DESASTER?" It perfectly fitted to our wild and crazy characters. So the band was born when we had songs or even instruments! We had how we called "vendetta" to buy some cheap equipment, but a drummer was still missing. Creator Cassius knew somebody from his school who played drums, so we asked him if we could make some noise with him and he agreed. So we rehearsed with him from time to time and wrote our first songs, then in summer '89 we performed our first concert, a still remembered event in our region. Unfortunately Creator Cassius wimped out in 1990 so that I had to search for other musicians to complete and formed them in 1992. So this was the story about the very beginning of DESASTER.

DESASTER also seems to be connected to various other bands around the world as well, like SABBAT for example! Actually I hear they attended the DESASTER reunion party you held. Are the they to Japan what you guys are to Germany? What do you think about them and other Black metal bands still existing today (NUNSLAUGHTER, MORTUARY DRAPE, VARATHRON etc.)?

- I don't know about SABBAT's position in Japan, I only heard that the Japanese fans don't pay much attention on their national bands, which is a pity I think. Yes, we are in good contact with Gezal(Upper) from SABBAT (METALUCIFER). I don't know if you heard about it yet: the new METALUCIFER is a German-Japanese co-production also our drummer Tormentor plays on the new album So Gezal came over to Germany last year to record the basics tracks for the album and when he was here we just held our release party where Gezal, Tormentor and Blues (the guitarist of the local Metal band METAL INQUISITION) performed some METALUCIFER songs, which was really great! I must say that I was never much into VARATHRON, but NUNSLAUGHTER and MORTUARY DRAPE still kick some fucking ass.

Give me some general opinions on the older gods of Black/Occult Metal like MERCIFUL FATE, WITCHFYNDE, VENOM, BATHORY, HELLHAMMER etc. I know these bands play a heavy influence on the DESASTER sound along with the German ones...

- It would take much too time and space to mention all the bands that had an influence on the music of DESASTER because I think every music you like to have also to do with your own playing, I must say that I'm more into the old 80ies stuff than into all the modern Death or Black Metal bands. You must know that I've witnessed many trends coming and going through my 15 years being into Metal, every trend brought us some of the greatest new bands unfortunately also many bad cop bands, too. I especially think of the Death Metal explosion 1989/90 and the Black Metal hype from 1992. There are few bands from this period I still like to listen to today, but there are much more bands I still adore hailing from the 80ies, I think the quality of the music (necessary to get a record deal) in that time was much better.

I see that a lot of people compare you to KREATOR, SODOM and especially DESTRUCTION. I think you guys obviously sound a bit like them but you also have a special trademark in your music that I'll get into on the next question. What do you think?

- I feel honoured when people say that we are the heirs of SODOM, KREATOR or DESTRUCTION, nobody can deny that especially these three bands had inspired us a lot. We have various Thrash songs in the traditional vein, but you are right, these songs only show one side of DESASTER.

I think one thing that sets DESASTER apart from any other band in our scene today is your use of folk inspired Metal guitars to open up certain songs and then the epic feel of tracks like "Teutonic Steel", "Tyrrants of the netherworld" or "Battle Oath" for that matter are a big factor in the music. I truly feel this is a special way of making music, as most bands would rather not use such elements in their music. Comments?

- Yes, some of our songs also contain some medieval-sounding tunes and melodies. I think they have become another trademark of DESASTER. We always pay much attention on variety, so we not only have some straightforward Thrash songs, but also some epic and medieval sounding songs as well. I think that especially these songs prove that you can produce atmosphere also without keyboards, only with the traditional Metal instruments played with passion and feeling. You know that we are dedicated to many different Metal styles and so we absolutely feel no limited in making music we like. We have songs that start with a Black Metal inflexion and have an epic MANOWAR-like part in the middle of the song. As long as these different influences fit together we don’t hesitate to combine all our inspirations to our music. I think that is what makes our music to something special. We haven't invented something very new within the Metal scene, but I think you can never learn the less hear that there is DESASTER playing, no matter if it's a four Black Metal song or an epic mid-western.

I've been hearing some wild and crazy stories about the Helbinger's MeasFrankenLike the fact you are the most feared group in all of Germany! How is that? I mean, what worries me, I have heard that the official flag of the group has been switched to Kinderwelt? Why don't Jagermeister or Heineken have a part in the MeasFranken anymore?

- What the hell do you mean with Kinderwelt? Our favourite beer is Bitburger Pils, a normal German beer sort but definitely the best beer around of course also the manics in the club appreciate other drinks. No matter what it is as long as it causes some alcoholic excesses, HA HA! Ungarisch, I think is definitely not a good beer, also the Dutch people know don't like it at all, I think, it's only appreciated by some Americans who don't know how a good fresh beer has to taste, HE HE! Hey I will drink any beer except for Pale Ale -Wilhelm well, it's true that the Helbinger's don't have the best reputation here in our region but it's possible that especially the trendy local clowns also fear our crazy and wild gang of real Metal maniacs, HE HE! But I must say that it's not our aim to cause trouble all the time, we are here to enjoy Metal in first sight, that's the main reason why we formed the club.

You recently told me about this new "7" recording you have been preparing. Is it going to be a split or a single?

- Well, our label boss Costa had the idea to release another split single (this time with ZEMIAL) which is called "Four track attack" which means that there are 4 songs (two songs each band) recorded on a small four track recorder. We want to show the people with this 7" single that good Metal music doesn't need a big production in a big studio; you can also catch a great atmosphere at the rehearsal room if the music is really good. We will have two brand new songs on this 7", one song will later be on the 4th album and one is exclusively recorded for this split, I think it will be released around autumn 2001.

I just have to ask this... What do you think of the movie "Conan The Barbarian"? I don't think movies get much more "Heavy Metal" than that one. Conan Uber Alles!

- Yes, the first Conan movie is a great one, it has a great ancient feeling but of course it's just fantasy and has nothing to do with historical facts about the ancient Germanic tribes. Of course not. How many of them do you think you are工商银行with us, you know. Of course, my friend Markus AKA Lord Infernal, my utmost halls and support go to you metal brother maybe you could release some important details to the wimps reading this before we kill them HATEHATEHATE!

- Thank you Wilhelm for the support you gave DESASTER over the years. We appreciate this very much! Possibly there will be another EP released besides the mentioned 7" single with ZEMIAL before the 4th DESASTER-crusade will be unleashed in 2002!
DESTRUCTION!!! DESTRUCTION!!! DESTRUCTION!!!

For me there is no doubt that year 2001 will forever stand in the glory for fucking DESTRUCTION - the legendary Swiss Thrash outfit that returned in the year 2000 with the awesome "All Hell Breaks Loose" album. In the year 2001 they hit Sweden for the very first time, the 20th of April to be more exact. Schmier & co. took a break from their studio recordings at the ABYSSE to celebrate the Swedish CLOSE UP MAGAZINE for their 10 years anniversary. After pestering CLOSE UP Editor Robben for free tickets my camrade and me were well on the way to Stockholm's famous club called KAFE 44 located somewhere in Stockholm. I'm not sure where, we just took a cab I'm not getting into all the bizzare events going on before we got there (that might end up in the Metalion biography one day). And to be on the safe side we arrived there like 10:30 in the morning! Luckily there was a fancy pub just across the street serving us fancy drinks and ridiculous amount of beer. The club were the concert was held was among the smaller ones I ever been to (like anyone's living room or something) so in the beginning I was slightly worried if I ever was able to see the stage at all or even DESTRUCTION. Well, no need to worry about that I found out. After a very cool set by Swedish death/thrashers MURDER SQUAD it was finally time for DESTRUCTION! After all, DESTRUCTION was what I came to see! Luckily there was no problem getting in front row and as DESTRUCTION started up "Cure the Gods" I thought I went to Thrash heaven and died!!! RRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRR!!! What a brilliant event!!! DESTRUCTION absolutely amazed and did everything to please the thrash-starved audience!!! We got all the classics, personal requests here and there and even a few surprises. Like the EXPLOITED cover "Fuck The USA" and "Whiplash" featuring a nato so very willing Peter Tognen on vocals. None the less it was fucking killer! I never had been so exhausted after a gig as I was after this - nay so pleased. Seeing DESTRUCTION at such a small place at such a special event was really unique for me. It didn't matter that we had to sleep in the freezing streets of Stockholm afterwards (hotels are for wimps!!!) it was all worth it!!! THANK YOU ROBBEN AND CLOSE UP FOR HAVING US!! SEE YOU IN 10 YEARS TIME OR SO!!!

The original plan was to interview Schmier in Stockholm but due to certain circumstances like no proper backstage area or quiet places we decided to drop the idea and instead do the interview a few weeks later as they were playing a few gigs here in Scandinavia as support for DUNMU BORGIR. So again plans were made for an interview to be done in Gotthenburg on the 25th of May. Schmier also informed that I could also then have a prelisten at the then unavailable new album "Antichrist" (best album title ever!!!) At the time of the interview Schmier tells me he's voice is pretty fuxked up so we can only do a short one. OK by me, we already made a new deal for an interview to be done after the album was ready (what we heard was a un-mastered version as well) So doing an interview under this somewhat chaotic circumstances were maybe not the best but still, this was a most brilliant moment for me. Also there was a lot of verbal input from other alcoholic on the bus (Thank you Tampax). But still, I try to make this like a certain capture of this special moment. I was there - on the tour bus, Schmier was there as well as other Metallic brethren. Sitting there - listening to the new DESTRUCTION, trying to make an interview - drinking, and drinking even more!!! It was just too much. I think I had the best time of my life sitting there! How can anyone understand how important this was for me? Sitting there listening to the tape of this event is rather funny but I believe there is no point in printing the whole damn thing. But anyway, here goes nothing and nothing goes first!!! This is what I could transcribe from the tour bus havoc:

OK Schmier, what can you at this time tell me about the new album?

- It is better that I put it on so you can listen to it so you can form your own opinion you know.

OK, that sounds good to me! I'm surprised you managed to record it so fast because it seems like you have been constantly touring since the release of "All Hell Breaks Loose", how did you manage to record and write the material so fast?

- We kicked our asses you know! We were touring and we come back home and wrote songs and then we went touring again and then writing more songs after we returned. We felt that we had to hurry up concerning this new album otherwise people wouldn't believe in us anymore, so we really made an effort to make this next album as soon as possible.

As I said you played a lot of concerts the last year, have that inspired the music you write now?

- Inspired? Like the material is more live orientated in a way?

- Maybe this time the material is a little bit more straightforward, maybe even a bit more back to the roots, it is very strait and basic and everyone seems to like it so far.

Is there any surprises on the new album, like did you record any covers or something?

- Yeah, we recorded "Fuck The USA" originally done by THE EXPLOITED, but we are not sure if we are going to release that yet. We might get someone else to do the vocals on it.

Any reasons why you did this peculiar track?

- I'm a fan of good Punk rock you know so why not?

Is it a personal statement from you against the USA as well?

- They suck! They think they are the kings of the world.

Don't you think you will get a lot of bad press when you say things like that?

- I don't give a fuck. They are too stupid to realise that their country is fucked.

But you played a lot of concerts there?

- Yeah, the Metal fans and we did a tour there, the people there is ok but it is the overall American lifestyle I don't like. I been there and I seen some really bad things I really didn't like an...
By now you can hear on my tape are almost all drunken ramblings in Swedish. (Hello Charlie, Hello Tompa) To give you an impression of what it sounds like - invite a bunch of your best friends, have a six pack or so then start on the harder stuff. Then put on some really loud Metal you adore. Then you might have an impression of what it sounds like. It is not easy to transcribe tape like this when you hear 10 different persons or so. But hey, I'm not complaining. I just felt pity for Schmier sitting in the middle of it and actually trying to give good answers to my questions. I'm sitting there trying to get it all in - I have to capture this moment somehow, fuck yeah! After all, I'm very fucking happy, DESTRUCTION is among my favourite top 3 bands; I'm sitting there getting drunks, drinking Nick Barker's whiskey, (Name dropping kicks and I'm cool! ED) DESTRUCTION's new album blazing in the background. To tell you the truth I can't remember any happier memories of my miserable life! For once I felt like everything was worth it, I pays for being a fanzine Editor after all. In this case it took bloody 16 years but who cares? When you count moments like this it all makes sense. This when you realise you have the right path and Metal is the ultimate high. This is all about METAL FUCKING WORSHIP!!! Back to the interview - almost anyway:

I re-call Schmier talking about America, that was when all hell broke loose (no pun intended, I'm just a funny guy!) What he was saying was that he was more against the American style of life and all that crap. It was not like a personal assault of American fans. More like all his political bullshit. Well, I guess you know what it is all about. I remember he made a similar statement when they blasted "Fucking The USA" at the CLOSE UP party. And finally I can hear some questions again. I hear myself in a part alcoholic, part nervous voice saying:

Do you ever get tired of being in the studio? You were in the studio for two months, right?

- One month... We try to come back to life after we are in the studio because we drink so much all the time in the studio, so we try to do other things once in a while.

Do you think that is a bad thing, all this drinking in the studio and so on?

- No, of course not but... of course it is good to do some other stuff while you are there.

As a matter of fact Mike was in Norway for the INFERNAL FESTIVAL. (The reason why Mike was in Norway was that PAINT - the project of Peter Tanzen - played a review set at THE INFERNAL on he come along. I think many people might have been a bit surprised seeing Mike staggering along at the ROCKEFELLER that night.) But you didn't make it there did you?

- No, I didn't go because I met a beautiful girl so I was occupied with other things! HAHA!

Oh, I thought you were a married man?

- No, hopefully I'm not! HAHA!

So during the last year you almost played every corner on the surface of the earth, so what are your new goals now?

- Almost, yeah! Next we are hopefully touring with KREATOR and SODOM in autumn!
Schirmer – Headbanging and happy! Gothenburg 2001 picture by Metalion

When I first saw that the album was called "Antichrist" I was a bit surprised that you didn’t make a new version of your "Antichrist" from the "Infernal Overkill" album...
- Because then everyone would say: DESTRUCTION lives on things from the past, they only cover the old stuff to be successful and things like that. But it is a good thing to call the album "Antichrist" because the lyrics are in that vein. There is a great book from a German writer called Nietzsche, a really popular writer for heavy stuff, and he has a book called in German "Der Antikrist". And of course there is a title that will cause problems.

So don’t you think that some people will think you are a Black Metal band now because of that title?
- No, because... Well, I don’t think so. Because the Antichrist have nothing to do with Black Metal at all. It is difficult to explain but the lyrics on this album is not Satanic at all. The lyrics are against humanity, against religion you know. And the Antichrist is also some sort of prophet which is also written down by Nostromos and stuff. He is supposed to rise in the next few years on this planet. I think this is all pretty interesting stuff so that’s why we decided to call the album this. I’m an Antichrist too, I don’t like religion, I hate the fucking Christian church.

But do you believe in the rising of the Antichrist?
- Maybe! I don’t know, it is pretty interesting what Nostromos wrote sometimes. We’ll see you know. Like I wrote that the Antichrist is born in 1999 and he will rise in the middle of this century. So maybe one child was born in 1999 and he will rise in the middle of this century. So maybe 50 years later or so he might be the president of the United States or whatever and then it will be the third world war. And according to Nostromos’ books Adolf Hitler was the 2nd Antichrist. But it is pretty interesting stuff. Maybe it is true, maybe it is not true. It is better than believing in the church to read something like this.

So overall what you are saying is to believe in yourself?
- Exactly!

But why do you think so many people in this world need religion?
- Because they have nothing else to believe in you know. That is the whole problem. Also it is easier to manipulate people in that way. It has always been like that and I think it is difficult to get people away from it.

If the Christian church will die there will come something else to replace it you know. Like all those Asian sects or something.

Well, as we pointed out earlier you don’t like America very much do you?
- You can tell that in the lyrics of the last album. There is one song called "Dictators Of Cruelty" which is about America.

The most country of the free! [Smart ironic voice ED] I have a lot of friends there and I like some sides of the country of course. But I don’t like the way they treat other countries. Like this attitude they have that they are so big, that they are the best and so on. It’s bullshit.

So you think Germany is better?
- I think so, because we don’t open our mouth as much as the Americans you know.

I have this impression that Americans tend to be loud and make their presence known.
- And if there is a war, Americans come there to destroy, that’s how they keep their economy up. I don’t like that.
Well, let’s keep the political comments down for a while and get back to Metal. The cover of "The Antichrist" share some resemblance to the "Infernal Overkill" album...
- It is inspired of course, it is the DESTRUCTION colours and it is the "Infernal Overkill" colours. And it is the world exploding. We had this idea for over one year already. We wanted to have a cover that was more like a easy eye catcher. Something which is not that difficult, "All Hell Breaks Loose" is a great cover and I love it but many people couldn’t get along with it because it was too difficult, too much art. And we said this time around we want something more easy, something more catchy. So we said why don’t we use the "Infernal Overkill" skull and at the world that will explode. I think it is a good idea and everybody likes the cover so far. It is cool you know, I get the posters today and they look fucking cool.

It will be released on vinyl as well I hope...
- Of course! And the vinyl version is going to be special. I don’t know how limited edition it will be but the first print is going to be really cool because we are going to have bonus tracks.

What bonus tracks?
- It is going to be "F*ck The USA" originally done by THE EXPLOITED and a new recording of "Cure The Gods".

Yeah, yeah, that sounds like it...
- That was really crazy, it was in the middle of the woods... in the middle of the run forest. (For a more in depth review of this peculiar event in the rain forest of Colombia please see the review somewhere else - ED)

Well, for me at this moment I decided to save Schirmer’s voice and rather do another interview after the proper arrival of the new album. After this alcoholocaust it was time to see DESTRUCTION perform on stage again.

Well, we almost missed DESTRUCTION due to certain events (Thank you Necromancer) but we were lucky enough to enter the KÄRKEN place (nice place by the way) just as DESTRUCTION entered the stage. In pure ecstasy I jumped into the photo pit and took a bunch of pictures before I was eventually thrown out (Thank you ugly bouncer) But it was good going out in the crowd seeing DESTRUCTION from the best place over - from the eyes of a blood stained audience, heads were banging, noses were bleeding! (Thanks again Necromancer!) Fuck, I bleed for DESTRUCTION! AWESOME!!! If I compare this show to the Stockholm gig the month before, this was more serious, more professionals in a way. This shows DESTRUCTION is a killer live band. I seen them destroying Wacken in 1999, destroying this mini club in Stockholm and destroying this mid size arena in Gothenburg. No matter what DESTRUCTION is the ultimate live experience!!! I can hardly wait ‘til I see them again!!!

HAIL TO THOSE WHO OBEY AND BELIEVE IN DESTRUCTION!

OK, so I head into the time machine and let a few more months side away, the new DESTRUCTION album 'Antichrist' has arrived and if you wonder what I think about it feel free to check out the album reviews. What more can I say? Sometimes words are not enough!!! So I schedule a interview with Schirmer on a Monday night in July, a few minutes too late (I don’t want to tell you about all the horror stories going on through my mind the resty minutes I have to wait...) Schirmer calls and tells me that there has been too many interviews so if it would be ok to do it tomorrow? So "ok" I say (or stutter if you like...), wondering if I ever will get my interview. Anyway, next day (well, night) Schirmer is right on time to do the interview. Finally I can do the interview with Schirmer without any interruptions!!! ALL HAIL! MAY THE CEREMONY BEGIN!!!
Speaking of vinyl, "All Hell Breaks Loose" was released in three different versions, wasn't it?

- Yeah, because the first version we did was 1000 copies as a double vinyl.
- And it was sold out very fast. Nobody even knew it was out before it was out. Normally a band will sell 500 or 1000 copies on vinyl, like DESTRUCTION fans like vinyl so we did a 2nd print and that was also sold out very fast. And then the last print was in red vinyl. Nobody knew we would sell so much vinyl so that's why we had to print them as many times.

But this thing is not going to be going to do things night and print up a couple of thousand in advance. But the thing with vinyl is that you never know how many copies you are going to sell.

Yeah, I feel like a good thing to do against the fans. Personally I bought all three editions of the "All Hell Breaks Loose" vinyl...

- You bought it three times???? You're crazy! HAHAAHAA!

So what about this thing, what we call "All Hell Breaks Loose" on red vinyl is only printed in 300 copies! Can we really trust that?

- I don't know because I heard they printed 1000 copies on red vinyl too.
- They told me that the black vinyl version was sold out and they were going to print another one on red vinyl. I have to talk to them and see how many copies were printed. If they are going to print 3-4000 copies I think they should all be the same you know. (Well, according to the NUCLEAR BLAST mail-order catalogue it says the red vinyl is only printed in 200 copies, well, I'll rest my case. I really don't care either as long as I have a copy of it. But I read somewhere that 3-4000 copies were printed.)

And there is even one more vinyl, the 7" EP of "Whiplash", that is a pretty neat item.

- I think that is a really cool thing. Just 1000 copies printed! (Well, well.) We'll have to see about that, huh? - ED It is on red vinyl, one live track on the B side and it is a single. Hardly anyone is doing this anymore so I think that is very cool. And you only pay like 1 EURO for it and that is a lot cheaper than hamburgers or something. (Well, not in Norway.) It is really great and I'm really proud that NUCLEAR BLAST did that for us because they don't do that for every band. We just played at the FULL FORCE FESTIVAL and I think we sold a couple of hundred copies there. A lot of people called up to us and had the "Whiplash" EP they wanted us to sign.

On the American version of "All Hell Breaks Loose" the song "Whiplash" is featured as a hidden track, why is that?

- Because Americans are stupid. Because we thought we could get easier into the American market by putting "Whiplash" on the promo. So it might get more airplay. So if the Metal radio stations played "Whiplash" they would play more DESTRUCTION material. Because it is really difficult to get into the American market.
- They fucked it up and produced it as a hidden track. I was totally upset about that. They really fucked it up. The American NUCLEAR BLAST team is totally different there. I think they fired everybody so it is all new people now.
- They had many problems in the past I guess.

But originally "Whiplash" was only meant to be on the Japanese edition of "All Hell Breaks Loose", right?

- Exactly! But also for the American market (but not as a hidden track) because both these countries release the albums a lot later. A lot later than we thought so therefore we had to release a bonus track for those.

Have you played in Japan yet?

- No, no. Sadly no. It was too early. I think it is really difficult to play in Japan these days. You can't go there with only one album when it is a comeback album. So we said we played so many concerts and we are going to come to Japan.
- Yeah, you basically played around the world but not in Japan...
- But Japan will come one day too! It's just going to take a bit more time.
- But you played in Japan earlier with your HEADHUNTER project...
- Yeah, that was killer. It was really good!

Because I have a old HEADHUNTER shirt from that Japan tour you did in '84...

- Really?!! Cool! How did you get that?

From a guy in Germany, it has this thing like head on the cover as well as the tour dates on the back.

- Cool. I don't even have this. It is fucking rare. The thing is the shirts were totally sold out at the shirts in Japan. We didn't know we would sell so many shirts so it was sold out on the 2ND date already.

You are still going to play on this festival here in Norway aren't you?

- Yeah, we are still going to do the tribute show there in Bergen. I can bring the shirt there so you can see it.

- Yeah, that would be cool.

I don't think so many people have seen it so...

- No, it is really rare. It's really rare. I'm pretty sure that no one in Europe has it you know...

How come DESTRUCTION use so much of the colour red? Like the press photos, album covers etc.?

- It is like Fire. (Think of that.) The logo has always been red and it has to be red. On the last album it wasn't red enough, it was more like dark red you know. But on this new one we are going back to the more traditional red.

But there isn't any special other reason?

- For the pictures it is the Fire thing. And I think the logo hits harder if it is red. It has to go through your eyes and hit you hard. I don't like too much colours. Also when you play live on stage and things I think red is like fire on stage and it looks killer. There is only two colours that I like and that is red and black. It is blood and the classical black stuff.

Red is like a Metal colour...

- Yeah, it is defently also.

Also on some of the new press photos you have this guy posing as 'Mad Butcher'. You found him because of a competition you did...

- Yeah, we were looking for him through magazines and on and on. And in the end found him. He really looks like him, he is perfect. He is the reincarnation of 'Mad Butcher'.

So he was a fan also?

- We had a lot of people that wrote in but his name is not even a fandom. He is just a freak.
- He is just the 'Mad Butcher'...

- Yeah, he is the real one, hahaha.

About 'Antichrist', you recorded again with Peter in Sweden...

- It was a good decision. I think, because we knew from the beginning what to do better. And also Peter had the same thoughts on how to produce the new album. It turned out to be as cool as the first time but we progressed a little bit by putting a bit more Thrash into the production.

So you are not tempted to record in Germany with Harris Johns or something?

- No. But maybe with the next album we are going to go somewhere else. But I love Peter and I love his studio. Maybe next time we should try something else. But I'm sure we'll go back to THE ABYSS as long as it is really great to record with Peter. He knows his shit.

Is Peter playing something on the album?

- This time, hm, let's see. I think he did some backing vocals. He was more like really into his mixing and producing stuff. He didn't touch too much instruments this time. He was really concentrated on his producer job.
- Very long time did you spend in the studio this time you said?

- We've been there for three and a half weeks. And we also did two shows in Sweden in between. We recorded the backing tracks, guitar, bass and drums in six days. And then we started to set up the sounds and everything else. We recorded everything on the desk and then put it into the computer to mix it.
You don't spend too much time in the studio...

- We play Thrash Metal, it is rock & roll, it is no computer music. It doesn't have to be so clean or so tight you know. Of course, it has to be tight together but if you spend too much time on it, it is going to sound too clean and not scratchy anymore.

That's maybe the danger that some bands spend too much time in the studio?

- It's bullshit. I hate that! Before we recorded the album we recorded a demo version of it in one day! One day recording and one day mixing eight songs. I don't give a fuck, it was great if sounded good you know.

As we pointed out earlier the album is maybe a bit more straightforward or so...

- That's what everybody says. Everyone says it is more straight forward.

And that it is more old school. That's what everyone says, I don't know myself. I just play on the album, I can't tell.

I personally really loved your last album but this new one is certainly better by all standards.

- That's cool, because many people thought that "All Hell Breaks Loose" was just one stroke from some old people. I think it is a good surprise that this new album is also very strong so people will see that it was not just one stroke from some old people. I think it is a very good surprise with DESTRUCTION. We can continue to do that. I am very happy with the writing team. We are together the song writing team and the band and the music and the sound. Now that we are together the song writing team and the band and the music and the sound.

I'm looking forward to working very well together those days you know. So I'm looking forward to the future. The next album is going to be different, it has to be different, but we are not going to go away from the roots you know.

The opening track on the album is called "Thrash 'Till Death", don't you think that is a bit cliché like?

- Of course. Why not? We started with the clichés so. Also the DESTRUCTION words appeared in other bands later on also. I like to play with the clichés some times as long as it doesn't get too much. But I think it fits perfect to the song and it is a real Thrash song. The lyrics are about believing in our music you know so therefore it is all right. If the whole album would be like this it would be silly, but for this one song it fits perfect - it is from my heart. Listen to the lyrics carefully and you will find a lot of references to a lot of old Thrash bands.

Do you know if any other band used this same phrase as a song title?

- I think WHIRLPOOL used it for a song. But I realized that after the song was ready and I used it "All Hell Breaks Loose". The title was there before but I didn't know it. I was going through my old records and I found the WHIRLPOOL album and I was like "OOPS, But who cares?? But you wouldn't call the album "Thrash 'Till Death"?

- Oh no, that would have been a bit too much then. So have you signed a long term deal with NUCLEAR BLAST now?

- Three records. One more after this one maybe, we'll see. We have to see how much we sell, it all depends. If we don't sell enough we might get dropped. NUCLEAR BLAST just dropped MANOWAR and they just
It is strange with NUCLEAR BLAST now because a lot of the recent releases has been like live albums or comp. Stuff from bands like DEATH, CREMATORY, IN FLAMES or whatever...

- I don't know, but maybe it was the right time for them to do so. CREMATORY split up anyway. And for IN FLAMES I think it was about the time they did a live album, AND DEATH...

Well, personally I really don't care as long as I get some good stuff once in a while...

- It is good live albums also, it depends you know.
- I just thought it was so many live albums released at the same time.
- Maybe it was just by accident you know.

Another thing that was going on was that there was going to be a bonus CD released along with the regular version of "Antichrist" with some new up and coming bands.

- Yeah, but this won't happen because so many magazines send in the entries too late. So we have to find out how we are going to work this out. So far there has been like around 15 magazines who send in a couple of songs. But a lot of the magazines send the stuff here too late so the release date of the album was a problem. Every band has to confirm the songs and stuff and it takes a while to get everything done. But NUCLEAR BLAST said we had to keep the release date and since the magazines send in the stuff late we have to find out a way to work it out. We are going to feature some of the best bands in one way or another. So we have to find out how we should work it out. There was some really good bands there. But also a lot of crap of course, a lot of stuff I didn't like much. I was hoping for some Thrash bands of course. There was some nice Thrash bands and also bands doing DESTRUCTION cover songs. And also a good return from a German band called NECRONOMICON. They have a new demo and I think it is really cool. NECRONOMICON, they are from the same city as you aren't they?

- No, they live like half an hour away from here. The newer stuff sounds really cool. Real Thrash again. They are kicking ass again and the songs are really good. The demo sound is not so good but the songs are really killer. Well, you don't need a killer production to hear the quality of the songs.

- I told them if they get a record deal I'd be interested in producing their album.

Hasn't there been anyone from DESTRUCTION playing in NECRONOMICON at one time?

- No, they are just old friends.
How is it when you play in Germany? Is that a good thing for DESTRUCTION?
- Three weeks, that’s enough.

How long was the American tour you did?
- It’s a long tour. I always hear horror stories about doing shows in America where the promoters are running away with the money and shows are generally badly organized.
- Yeah, exactly. HAHA!

Is it possible at all to make any kind of money on tours like that?
- It is not really possible. It depends, perhaps when things get bigger and more people will come to the shows. In general, we draw between 200 and 400 people a night and it is not enough in America because it is such a big country. We had to travel every day for ten hours or more. And even with bigger bands like TESTAMENT they don’t draw more than 5-600 people.

It is different here in Europe, if you travel for ten hours or so much likely you will be in a different country.
- Yeah, that’s one of the reasons it is difficult to make money in America. Do you make enough money with DESTRUCTION to live on?
- I try to! We will see after “The Antichrist” how things go. It is ok, maybe not enough to live totally good on the music, but it is enough to survive these days you know.

But you still have your restaurant business also, right?
- Yeah, so I have another thing planned.

So is the other guys doing anything else?
- No, Mike is just smoking and playing the guitar all day. What a surprise?
- HAHAHAHA!

I think a band like DESTRUCTION deserves to live on the music.
- I think we now have gone a step further. We will see how “The Antichrist” goes but we are already surprised by how much “All Hell Breaks Loose” did so. We have a good deal with NUCLEAR BLAST and we earned more money than we thought and that is a good thing. It is not millions and it is not enough to make a big living out of it, but it is enough. And it is better than in the past. NUCLEAR BLAST is a fair company and we have a good deal so everything is all right.

Lots of bands say they earn most of their money on merchandise. I think it is safe to say that DESTRUCTION is a old school Thrash band, but do you also get influenced by some newer stuff?
- I’m not so much into newer bands. Mike likes some newer stuff like PANtera and stuff. But I like the traditional stuff, but I do buy sometimes new stuff too. I like traditional stuff mainly, but I’m pretty open minded. If it is a good album it is a good album, it doesn’t matter what style it is. Of course it has to be hard and of course it has to have guitars. And as long as nobody raps it is ok by me.
So you buy a lot of albums?
- I buy the stuff I really like. But I have a lot of friends in record companies so I get a lot of free stuff. But I'm buying stuff too, if it is interesting. For me I will buy it, I don't have a problem with buying records.

I think it is good getting a lot of records even if they are shitty to see what is going on in the Metal scene.
- Exactly, it is interesting to hear the bands the people are playing. For me it is important to see what is going on in the scene. To see what is interesting or what is not interesting. That brings us back a bit to your current audience, are you surprised that so many Black Metal kids are into your music?
- Yeah, of course. Also with DESTRUCTION we have been very extreme from the beginning and we also had very extreme lyrics so I guess that's why...

I think also in the early days DESTRUCTION were considered as a Black Metal band...
- Yeah, because we had really heavy lyrics and the music were anti-religious. There is still good Black Metal out there and I met a lot of those bands and they seem to be all cool guys so I don't have a problem with that.

As far as Black Metal goes there is still some good bands out there but too much crap.
- Yeah, of course. It is always like that. If there is a trend getting big everyone is following and everyone starts to sound the same.

Also I think that a lot of Black Metal bands can't really cut it when it comes to live performances.
- Because it is easier to make the product in the studio...

Also the keyboards are destroying a lot I think, some bands do it in a cool way but far too many use the keyboards in a wrong way.
- They keyboards are easy to play because they are electronic, it is a digital thing, so it is no miracle to make the keyboard sound good live. But it is more difficult to play the guitar right...

I think the trio format is perfect for a aggressive Metal band as it has no room for any kind of other bullshit.
- I think we make more noise as a trio than other people so...HAHAHHAHAA! Well, our time is running out and Schmier is again running late with his interview schedule so I progress towards the end here. Maybe a few words about the live video with RAISE HELL, CREMATORY, KATAKLYSM and of course DESTRUCTION.

- It was a thing that NUCLEAR BLAST did and it was nice. It was only four songs by each band but it is at least something for the DESTRUCTION fans that haven't seen us live yet. We are going to do our own home video in the future so, so this can be seen as just a little appetizer or something...

OK, so we can look forward to that in a not so very distant future. Anyway, I think I better stop now so I can let you go now.
- So you get everything?

Yeah, I think I have plenty of material here to work on...
- Yeah, we did a part of it in Sweden also...

Oh yeah, but the problem with that interview was that it was so many people on the bus...
- So you couldn't hear at all? HAHA! Was it that bad?

All you can hear is all those Swedish people babbling about...
- HAHAHAA! Schwede...

But now I have enough material to work with...So I'll catch up with you when you come to Norway then...
- Yeah, I'll see you in Bergen and I'll bring the HEADHUNTER shirt!
- Cool...

So thank you very much for doing this interview!
- No problem, I'll see you there. BYE BYE!!!
You know, I have actually had people coming up to me and saying that SLAYER MAGAZINE has been losing credibility due to featuring NIFELHEIM in every issue. Yeah, right! Well, I'm sorry to disappoint that deluded reader once again. Here we are with yet another NIFELHEIM interview and I assure you this is not the last one - not by a long shot! Well, enough of my ramblings already! HAIL FUCKING NIFELHEIM! Here is Tyrant!!

The year 2001 has been pretty fucking strange, also this is the year that NIFELHEIM started to play live. First concert was held at the 2nd HEAVY 4 FESTIVAL in Sweden. What are your impressions from that concert?

- It was a pretty cool festival, we decided to play our first gig there because we thought it was a good warm up start to do a pretty small gig and some heavy metal bands were also that great and obscure (anyway in Scandinavia) metal bands like ROOT and KORROZIA METALLA were supposed to play there as well. Unfortunately KORROZIA METALLA had to cancel but ROOT did play a great show there! To say some more I can tell you that after descriptions from the organiser we thought that everything should have been much bigger than it was, so we were pretty surprised when we saw the tiny stage. The strongest impression was anyway that Arne Bopp appeared in the sky when we played! (A BABY IN THE NORTHERN SKY) I'm glad that someone else witnessed this unique event as well (ED)

After waiting so long to play live was it worth it?

- Hell yeah! the world need some darkness and evil we have as many already know tried to get a line up for fucking aged. So it feels really fine to at last have played some fucking cursed gigs.

How would you describe the feeling to play live, was it what you expected it to be like?

- Pretty much yes. it is a great feeling playing live, especially for NIFELHEIM because we have waited for so long. But anyway I'll probably never will be satisfied because I want everything to be so fucking extreme and brutal it will be impossible! Like putting napalm on the audience etc. Total death!!

So tell us a bit about the other gigs you did in Holland and Germany?

- The second gig we did was in Germany at the "UNDER THE BLACK SUN" festival that has got a pretty bad name, so we choose to play there. I think it was a great gig, we all had a great feeling on stage and most things went ok. On the other hand we had almost no stage show equipment because it was a fucking festival and we didn't get permission to use some of our stuff, so that's probably the reason why not so many things kicked up. Well, by the way, we forget our set lists as we had to run around and decide which song we should play all the time and the drums broke in almost every song which we had to fix every now and then, but what the hell? I don't care so much about shit like that, that gig was totally ok. Then we played a festival in Holland called 'Stonehenge'. That was also a pretty great show, the most shitty thing though was that it was fucking light outside when we played and a very small stage but, anyway, we had pyro (that was working for the first time) and we tortured our drummer which was nice! The third gig was indoors in Holland. That must have been our best gig this far, we have developed from every gig so I just want to say that we will be MUCH worse in the future than we are now!
So do you feel that the NIFELHEIM machinery is working well in a live situation?
- Yes, and it's getting better and better. We had only rehearsed the songs with our new (ex)guitarist about 3 times before the first gig so he had a hard job to remember everything. Our other guitarist had never even recorded a demo before he joined NIFELHEIM and he had of course never played live before so he is also doing a great job. So I think that after the circumstances the machinery is working really well. We still need a bit more practice before we are the best, but that time will come. Our gigs are already much better than all other wimpy Black Metal bands (other crap).

So what about the new members, it seems like they all fit in. Or can we expect some changes in the line up soon?
- We and Hellbutcher have decided very carefully which persons would be the best for the band before asking them if they would like to join so I cannot see any reasons for any line up changes for a long time. This is the strongest line up we have ever had. You have a strange habit when it comes to drummers; one previous session guy is in ORACLE OF FILTH and your current drummer also handles the drum sticks in WITCHERY. A band not really loved by NIFELHEIM. What's your take on that?
- Fuck off!!! I think we have to kill them.

What kind of people do you see at NIFELHEIM concerts? Do you have faith in future Metal generations now after you have seen many of them up-front for yourself?
- Well... to my pleasure there are actually not. There are mostly older bangers that seem to worship the band most, the really true people who have been into the scene the longest time. You know, the ones that knows for real what real black speed metal is about. The average age of the audiences have been around 30-40 years old but of course there are some younger people as well but we have succeeded to sort out the silly trend kids that listen to all new shit Black Metal bands. Our evil is too much for them, they can not take it!

You do not only play your own originals live; you also play a cover of the Russian KORROZIA METALLA, how come you chose a cover by them?
- When we heard that KORROZIA were cancelled from the 2 HEAVY 4 U festival gig we thought that we at least should do a cover of the band. And we thought the song were so great we also played it at all other shows as well. It was a success, especially in Germany.

Do you plan to record that song for an EP or album or something?
There was some talk about a "Tribute To The East" CD, please tell more.
- We are planning to do a record (mini LP) with only covers of east European/Russian bands. It is the time to give some honour to the true evil bands from the east, they are all much more cruel and sick than the bands that normal Black Metal kids listen to. We will probably choose some more famous classics for the bangers from the East, which for the rest of the world is totally unknown. Unfortunately many people aren't worthy to even hear those bands, but they most likely doesn't understand or like it anyway.

You once said to me that the new NIFELHEIM material could be described as IRON ANGEL playing "De Mysteriis Dom Sathanas", how much new material do you have and when can that be expected?
- That description is not totally wrong. Well, we haven't finished any new song since "Servants Of Darkness" but it's coming soon. We have some almost finished stuff and it is even darker than before! Probably it will take sometime before any new record will be out but I don't care because as some of you understand it's better to wait until the material is fucking perfect before you release it, so posters don't wait, go and die instead!

Are you pleased with the way BLACK SUN is treating you? Do you want to stay on that label in the future?
- They are ok. We haven't wanted to kill them yet. I don't know how long we will stay on their label.

BLACK SUN also have some very annoying bands, doesn't that bother you?
- I don't even know what more bands they have but it sounds annoying. Anyhow, we didn't sign there to listen to the other bands if they are annoying we have to rape them.

I think lately we had some pretty killer releases by bands like NECRODEATH, DESTRUCTION and so on so there are some good new stuff coming, the Black Metal genre is pretty lost, how do you see, have you experienced any new good extreme music lately?
- Not particularly much, the new GAROTERGOS CD ("Burn") is great! And the latest EXCITER album ("Blood Of Tyrants") is fucking great! That album is much more extreme and violent than all new so called extreme bands! And also the new album by IDEATOR is very good, there are some killer releases from the old bands, but there are no new bands that I really like. Fuck off to all new bands! Please stop bothering me with your existence!

There has been some talk about a tour with you and DEATH SS, can you tell me about that?
- Yes, we will do some tour with Death SS in Italy and maybe some other countries as well. I am not sure when right now, but we have talked about it together for a pretty long while now. Probably it will be next year!

THANKS!
- Varsadog! Fuck OFF!!!

[Cartoon illustration of a goat holding a guitar]
Hey, in all fairness, which bands are you talking about, who record in the woods or crap studio that I support??? It is true that I don't care as much about the production as you do at all times. I need to get a kick out of music, and that can be done either through nice ABBEY Productions or ugly 4 track recordings. I don't care as long as the music has the right strength of mind. But mainly SLAYER MAGAZINE is about supporting metal of extreme aggression. So if you want to look like a panda or a bus conductance is of no interest to me as long as you perform metal art and have a Die-hard attitude.

- Well MAYHEM and all that crap for starters. That shit is weakened!!! And all the 'underground' Black Metal turd bands Hell, maybe you don't like some or most of these either That would be great!!!!!! Hope so!!!(Well, I guess you haven't got the last issues of SLAYER MAGAZINE, but fuck forest Black Metal. We need Metal fanzines, not idiots running around in the forest with fake swords!!)

By buying your releases we as the consumers are not supporting the bands at all, we are only supporting you. Or have you started to pay royalties?

- I just told you!! This is bullshit!! If you try and turn this into OLD METAL RECORDS wise about the money you are a fucking idiot!!!

Hey, I'm just trying to get the facts here, but I might be an idiot anyway.

- Nah you aren't an idiot but you get my point I think HAH!!! Anyone in the world could of stepped up and put this stuff out! Called the bands on the phone as I did and made deals like I did! For the ones I didn't make deals with 'early on', I realized it wasn't 'cool' to do it and I moved on! You should ask these labels that rip bands off right under their noses! And everyone doesn't know a thing about it Ask anyyyyyyyyyyyyyy band that I worked with of old metal and they will tell you they got taken care of! I hate $$! And this question is one of the reasons I put the label to bed!!! F**king half assed not knowing the 'whole' story!! Like you in this case.

Yeah, ok then, so it is great we have the chance to communicate then so we can get the facts straight. That's what interviews should be all about, right? Spreading facts.

- Well, it just upsets me sometimes for people to even consider old metal a 'scam' or 'ugly' record label. Bullshit!! This is about the music Ain't anyone going to say otherwise!! Doing business like this might be very funny, but you are bound to get into trouble aren't you? Please share some of your bed experiences with us; I heard there was a lawsuit going on from SHRAPNEL RECORDS or something?

- WILD DOGS gave me permission! I went with it! I called SHRAPNEL many many times to see how they felt! They couldn't be bothered! I got a contract from Matt of the WILD DOGS and that was fine with me! It's a fine and the bands music! Some guy that released their music almost 20 years ago didn't care anymore! In case you forgot metal is about the music not the 'ex' greedy record companies!! So after WILD DOGS came out it was yet again another 'don't know the whole story' deal!! Mike Varney tried to tell me there were 10,000 copies of the WILD DOGS CD's out there! HAHAAAHAAHAAHAA It was a joke!! It all was dropped!!!

Did you hear that SHRAPNEL had to demolish a lot of their original vinyl to get more storage space? Pretty fucked, huh?

- Yeah and Mike Varney wanted them destroyed because he's a born again Christian that told me I "can't release these records you like will ever see the light of day on CD because of their Satanic overtones!! But as soon as I press a 500 copy CD to push around to friends of the WILD DOGS to honour their existence and great music! Hello king, this is Mike Varney, we get to talk about this!! Blah blah blah, it's all about $$$ to these guys!!

So, is it safe to say you will do only proper releases in the future and not bootlegged? Which bands do you have proper contracts with?

- Yeah! If you want to still use the word bootleg!! I have gotten things on paper just to protect myself!! Too many liars out there in the industry! I've signed WINDIZERAT (formerly ATTACKER) to a record deal. And will be working with a few others that I can't say yet. Too many of my past ideas have been stolen by saying things!!
One cool thing is that you will release something extremely anti-commercial stuff. Like the PRIME EVIL demos on CD, which means you think with your head. When I was heavily involved with releasing albums on a head not found I thought, "I don't care if this sells" as long as I have a copy to listen to myself. Not the smartest businesses move but what the fuck. In many cases it seems you like the same? - No... I know, I meant... I thought I could care less what's popular!!! Hell, SOUNDS BARDOZ C.O.D.'man, said maybe 75 of them cover the band most of them to give or their old friends from years ago!!! Lost like $900 on that release! Out of my pockets! When something else sold a little more... I was made up to... I got me back to 'even' PRIME EVIL was all this cult Love them great friends!!! I get more 'cult' things coming I assure you well, enough of the label. It seems like you have a so-called big mouth and also talk about a lot of things, why is that you have this urge to bad mouth all in this metal scene? If you think like I do you do it because you love metal so much and take every shitty band as a personal offense. Well you know I hate bullshit bands. I don't talk about things unless I feel cheated!!! Too many people sit with their mouths shut while the scene decreases in unity and grows on green!!! I won't have it. I am not afraid to stand up to anybody anywhere that wants to fuck my band or me!!! And these trendy shit "here today, gone tomorrow" bands better earn their wings!!! I screammmmmmm Metal as much. But I hate "fake" and posturists as much as Hell. In the '80s all the Metal weapons were old and these people posted and hate them!!! Now everyone's trying to "get along" just for the fuck sake of it!!! Bullsh*t!!! Prove your worth!!! (Stop acting the fool Metal is life!!!) The underground doesn't need "rock stars" I grow up and respect Metal music. I can't fuck off!!! I know you hate a lot of bands. I want to know why you have an aversion to the following: DESTRUCTION - Because they turned their backs on Metal and 'went over to side bands etc. were trendy crap!!! Than all of a sudden Thrash is 'big' again WITCHERY and all this shit!!! Then 'ta da' DESTRUCTION is back Fuck you! Where were you when NIRVANA was the strike of the sick??? I'll tell you where. Fucking 'beaters' with your head between your legs. Should have kept on playing like bands like ANVIL and SAXON dammit!!! That's the bands I respect!!! Did you hear the band HEADHUNTER? That's the band Schmier had during the NIRVANA period I think. At least they did one cool album. But I talked to Schmier on a few occasions and he seems very truthful about what he does... oh well... I hate HEADHUNTER!!! I have the record, its suckish!!! (HEADHUNTER・ROCKS ED MAYHEM - Because they suck!!! The music is shit!!! Hellhammer is a jerk off and the music is foreverrrrr removed from what I believe from my old friend Euronymous wanted mayhem to be! They walked around the U.D. like they were Beatlemaniacs!!! More power in black leather and corpse paint! Fuck off!!! MORBID ANGEL - Hahahahahaha Too long a story!! Love Pete and Eric! Don't know ex singer/boes Steve much Trey Azagath he is the epitome of fucking power!!! The guy talks shit about everyone until he gets to their face and then he hid a fucking acts as "high and mighty" and tried his best to berate me and DECEASED... at a gig in N.Y. one time!!! That guy is a fog and I wish he were the size of a man so I could kick his fucking teeth into his throat!!! Fuck him!!! We all know about the doubtful sexual preferences of ex vocalist/bassist David Vincent, but is it any in the rumours of Trey being gay as well??? - He's a gay if not sexually then personally! He treats people like shit!!! No sense for Metal! 'unify'! Backstabbing piece of shit I know from many first hand experiences! Even time wasted on this prick DISSECTION - Because Jon said many things to me in a phone interview that he later hypocritically did different!! His fucking dance/techno whatever band he did outside DISSECTION was gay as shit!!! After he had told me how gay 'that kind of music' was on the phone with me!!! I don't like people and that change direction day after day!!! The reason why I ask about these bands in particular is that I like them, so... - Well go ahead and like them, I don't like you because you like them!!! And I would think you would like me still for being honest on how I feel about them!!! The fucking scene needs cleansing!! Bring back the 'glory days' Pleaseeessss!!!! And get rid of the Gothenburg wanna Metallers as well!!! - Sex, you have high feelings on certain things too! Good man! Speak your mind! That's what I respect!!! What about Rob Halford? What do you think of his decision to come back to Metal after he declared it 'dead' and did this awful TWO project??? - Rob Halford can fuck off!!! He is a pile of shit that turned his back on Metal when he realized it was 'dead' for the time. Now he's back!!! I hate this!!! I'd rather listen to rap then support fake fuckers who use and abuse Heavy Metal!!! And I hateseaosg Hope Halford dies of fucking aids!!! Are you the kind of person who rather talks shit about something which is bad instead of praising something which is good? Mention to me one new band you like... - I will love anyone who respects me as a person. Lets of new bands I love! DEFEATED TRASH! SQUARE CORPSE (USA), BANALIT, CARNAGE, SORCERY (not really new but great band), etc.! Good people who do their music and kick ass at it! I will scream at bands I love in prose! And scream just as loud at bands I hate!!! It's not 'fun' talking bad about people and bands I don't get a kick out of it!!! But sadly it needs to be done! It's very great to see, many people on these message boards starting to point out these fake fuckers!!! It makes me know that my 'yelling' has a purpose!!! As I said twice already... The scene needs to be cleaned of bullshit 'disease' bands!!! I find your critical views to be of very healthy nature, it is not good to accept everything. If there is something wrong we need to tell!!! Personally what I hate most is these stupid bands trying to mix Goth and metal, I hate that pretentious shit. Do you? - Most of the time!!! If it's honest I can respect it!!! It's fake and phony I'll say so I always say what's on my mind, alwaysassassasissss, some people really respect me for this, and others hate me for this!!! Sorry, get to be honest to myself!!! I'm a massavesessssseeeme music fan and am sick to death of crap people making crap bands. What do you think is worst? all these new born again true Metal bands or modern Black Metal? (Please explain why) - Both! Explaining is easy! They are Faked Most everyone! Very few I've seen or heard have any real dedication and sincerity!!! And I am not going to support some 2-year 'fad' band just because it's popular!!! My opinion is that Metal! Prove me you are in this for life!!! Then whether I like your music or not I will 'respect' you for doing what you want!!! CANNIBAL CORPSE isn't my favourite band. But they still do what CANNIBAL CORPSE does night after night. And year after year I give them 'respect'!!! I heard that some people said you were always talking shit about other bands because of lack of success for DECEASED... How does a statement like that make you feel?? - HAHAAAAAA That makes me laugh DECEASED... has done very well and still goes on strong 16 years later!!! We do albums whenever we want!!! Play what we want and are still the same guys we were from day one!!! People that say crap like you just wish to be 'reachable!!! I'll go out of my way not to be 'popular' I could easily 'shut up' and not say anything negative!!! A lot of bands and people do that!!! They hold it in and not 'open' anyone!!! You know how many looking agents and bands that we have confronted want 'help'!!! as we because we say what we feel???? A bunch!!! But... you know how many people in the die-hard and me 'wince' underground look up to and respect us for the same thing!!!?? That's what I get out of this!!! Hate me/deceased whatever your call But at least know the facts before hand!!! Thankful I think it is a stupid thing to say (the statement above), but you deceased... have always been some sort of underdogs. Are you happy with being on that level?? - Yep Love the underdogs!!! Will always stay there!!! Don't want fake peoples support!!! Go support shit like cradle of filth etc. We want people who love metal and love talking about and collecting metal!!! Not some 'puppie' who dances when we tell them fool Metal people are idiots!!! What keeps you motivated to go on still?? - Dedication to music and our csrf!!! We get in this for life!!! Not to kill a few years! Nothing can stop us!!! We are real music fans first and foremost!!! DECEASED... is on RELAPSE, a label that mostly release shitty stuff in my ears. Are you happy being on RELAPSE?? - They were there at the start I personally don't care what bands they released! I don't like most of their roster either, and they know what I told them!! The whole band has told them!!! But who cares? They give us financial capabilities to record records when we need it. They promote our records and they are good friends!!! Can't talk for much more besides putting our records out ourselves!!! In your carrier you only been on release, do you think your situation would have been dissimilar if you signed with another label?? - Nope Isn't it the record labels shaping and molding DECEASED... it's us shaping and molding DECEASED... We are one of our pacific!!! We have lives outside the band and we integrate it all into one big family!!! In my ears DECEASED... have always released quality material, but it seems like there is no classic album you released. With that I mean there is not really an album everyone claims is the best. Do you have the same impression or is it just me??? - Well I think a lot consider "Foucekandmachines" our best!!! To me every recording has its place from the early, and sloppy "Luck Of The Corpes" to the latest material!!! It's just wherever we stand musically at that time!!! I'd like to think the music is always growing and improving!!! While staying with what DECEASED... is all about to talk it listen to it, thanks!!! If not, we are sorry it's not for you!!
"Fearless Undead Machines" is a great album, but perhaps to some extent too long, your opinion?
- I think it's just right! It was an epic length Metal frenzy! We needed that long an album to tell the whole story.
There is also a band called OCTOBER 31 you are in. You guys released your first works when this ever-growing stream of true Metal started. Is it annoying for you to be mixed in with all those?
- No! We paint them out too! Dummies will be dummier! These magazines and kids putting out "HAMMERFALL are gods" reviews aren't our crowd. We are fans of THE ROCKS, ANGEL, OSTROBOTH, BETCH, GREGH UNGO, TYRANT, and BARON ROZI! We are 'lumped' in with these newer bands. But it's OK! We know and the 'old timers' know the difference!
Why is OCTOBER 31 different?
- Because we actually play and listen to Heavy Metal! Probably our age too.
We are all pretty much older guys who remember when records like "Number of the Beast" were released and we've seen and learned so much through the years about Heavy Metal; Hell, I was a kid reading KICK ASS MONTHLY and SLEDGEHAMMER PRESS!! HAHAHAAAA!
Did it piss you off that IRON SAVIORS also did the "Headhunter" (KROOKUS) cover you did with DECEASED...?
- Nahhh! I heard their version! HAHAHAHAHAHA! Total shit! DECEASED did an OK job! It was mainly for fun! We love old KROOKUS! You always seem to be very happy with your BLACK LACE jersey shirt; I think your OZ shirt looks much cooler. Killer! Where did you get it???
- A guy bootlegs (there's that word again HAHAHAHA) all kinds of old school shirts: IRON ANGEL, HAILWAYS EYE, EXORCIST, RAZOR, etc. etc. He looks up if I get tons of shirts that I bought from bands in the day. But as the years go by you 'outgrow' them HAHAHAHA! I need XL now instead of medium!!! (Medium is for wimpel!)!
Thanks man.
- Thank you Metalman!!! I know you are an old schooler. And I think deep down you feel the way I do about a lot that's going on out there! All I want is the Metal to be pure, greed, egos, fakes, need to get away? I just want to come and drink beer and hang out with good people that know what it's like to put on a killer TANK record and get that feeling of 'unity' and Metal!!!!!!! I miss that soooooooooooooooooo much! Cheers and all the best my friend!

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What the funk can you tell me about the coming "Fukk" album? Track list etc., describe the songs please. Master Raul

- "Fukk" will be shit. Some of the tracks are "SPIRITUAL DYNAMIX", "SISTER VALERIE", "TWISTED BY TORTURE" and "ORGANIZED SADISTIX ABUSE". What can people expect, well of course the usual funky distorted guitar and fast drumming fueled by rubbish. I don't fucking know, it's all the same to me.

Can we expect any surprises like keyboards and acoustic guitars and other beautiful things?

- I fucking hate the reference to keyboards. Fukk I hate what metal has become. Years ago there would be no such stupid question like "will there be keyboards" because there was no fucking keyboards. KEYBOARDS, KEYBOARDS YOU GAY ASSE POOFER KUNTS. Fukk I hate that shit. Keyboards are for little kids to play with. What about pipe organ? The biggest problem I have is that all these FukkNuts do the same shit. They are all the same, a bunch of sheep. I'll tell you how you should play it. Like my crop called "FUKLED" from my first ROK CD. Other than that, I think the sound of a chainsaw mutilating one of these plastic toy keyboard things is something more interesting to listen to. I hate these stupid interviews. I don't know why I still bother. After fifteen years I am just sick of the same dumb fucking questions and I am sick of my stupid answers. No, there are no surprises on "FUKK". Of course it will sound like SADISTIX Fukking shit.

How come you managed to come up with such a brilliant title as "Fukk" for a fucking album?

- Simply because it must be called "FUKK". There is no other alternative. These bands tend to think up all these stupid titles that mean shit to me. Like, do they think it's important or mystical or intelligent? Who cares? Not me, so I just call it "FUKK", that's easier and better.

Do you think anyone will buy this fucking album?

- Look, why should I concern myself with these things. What difference does it make? No difference at all, because the fact is that we do what we do. If sales really concerned me I certainly wouldn't be recording in the first place, because our CD sales certainly aren't making us rich people that's for sure. If they do buy it they hate it anyway.

Do Dave Slave (bass) the only member of the band that thinks you will be million sellers?

- Dave Slave... Fukking hell, he is on another planet. I don't know how his brain works. I can tell you that his mind functions in a different way to me and the rest of the world. I honestly don't know what he thinks of SADISTIX EXEJUTION sales figures anymore.

Is it likely that SAD X ever will tour Europe again? Aussie bastard like DESTROYER 666 and GOSPEL OF THE THORN-already toured there quite a bit, Can we yet again witness the SAD X invasion?

- It is starting to become quite unlikely we will ever tour Europe again. Europe is too far away and I don't want to tour anymore. Who are we playing to? The crowds don't understand anything because they are too young and would have never understood us in the first place anyway. I'm not saying we will never appear in Europe at all. Maybe one or two shows, but certainly no tour.

Why the funk don't you do the "Spiritual Dynamix" album? Will that ever be done? About this album, has any other option then for this masterpiece?

- "Spiritual Dynamix" can never be done now. The reason is that if it were to be released the masses would relegate it far too closely to the modern trend of gay black metal. The concept of "Spiritual Dynamix" was an all white vinyl album cover with gold trim. We would have our photos showing us dressed all in white wearing gold chains. The music was supposed to be a bit like what these modern rockers call symphonic Black Metal, but with the SADISTIX style of guitar arrangements and riffing. I know that once again, people would not understand or feel comfortable with our white and gold image, but hey, that's typical of everything we do. Now, the only song of that era is "Spiritual Dynamix", which has been recorded for the "FUKK" CD. When you hear it will you notice the difference to most of our other songs? So the answer is NO. The "Spiritual Dynamix" album is history that will never see the light of day.

Just as you are about to release "Fukk" there is also a re-release of "The Magus" coming, why the funk do you do that at the same time?

- Well in reality it's not at the same time. The re-release of The Magus will still be a few months prior to the release of "FUKK". Obviously the re-release of "The Magus" is a low priority compared to "FUKK", however it is still important, because "The Magus" shows where we came from and "FUKK" shows our death. Fifty years of total shit.

I remember when "The Magus" was released on vinyl it was also a few copies on green vinyl - how many exist on green vinyl?

- Shit, I think there may have been about fifty or less. I can't quite remember. I haven't seen one for a long time now, but I would like to get my hands on a copy if I can. I think Rev. Kries hides own one of these green vinyls. (It too ED)

The CD original release of "The Magus" had some bonus tracks, will those fucking tracks appear on the new version of "The Magus"?

- Well yes, but only one of them I think. The arrangements of the tracks in Sydney by the Undertaker, who also did "KAGOS" and "FUKK", however it is still important, because "The Magus" shows where we came from and "FUKK" shows our death. Fifty years of total shit.

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What about the people in Australia now, has the attitude changed or is CAMEL OF FILTH and other Black Metal poofers still big?

- You know, I honestly don't have a clue what they are into these days. I have detached myself from these things. I never venture to places where such. As far as I am concerned it's all history now. I don't even listen to any music at all anymore. The last time I remember playing a CD was about two years ago, so I am not interested in any music released since then or anything else.

Do you plan to unleash a "Fukk" tour in Australia?

- No.

Your solo project ROK is going to release an EP through IRON PEGASUS RECORDS in Germany. What material is to be found on this new stuff?

- No. Just old stuff, but one song has been released previously. It's not a record you know. Why the funk do you want to do a vinyl EP? Do you care about vinyl?

- Vinyl, huh. This makes me sound like one of those stupid LANNERS who try to collect all the old vinyl records and are proud of their music anymore. Really it makes little difference to me in which format my music is released. OK, I do think the big covers look better, but really, I'm not that important things to think about. I thank you very much for this fucking interview. I hope you are doing well you fucking cunt!

- I am fucking sick of all this stupid interview rubbish. What does it do for me? Are you going to pay me money - NO, does it help my car go faster - NO, so just fuck off with this shit. Fukk off with all this goddamn Metal fucking dog turds, I don't want to know about this shit. I hate it.
OLD THRASH BASTARD PART II:
ALEX COLIN TOCQUAINE

In our series OLD THRASH BASTARD we have now reached the 2nd part. In the last issue we brought you the legend Dan Lilker and for this issue we come up with Alex from the French band AGRESSOR. Yeah, I know, the plans were to get Paul Baloff from EXODUS but things don't go as intended all the time... I hope Alex is still ok with you, and he is a really nice guy!!!

NAME: Alex Colin Tocquaine
BIRTH: March 12th 1969
OCCUPATION: Smoking, drinking, fucking, nothing
FAVORITE BANDS: POSSESSED, MERCIFUL FATE, SLAYER, BATHORY (early years)

First of all Alex, to show you are an old Thrash bastard, mention some under rated Thrash bands of the past.
- Well there are many bands to mention but let's say RAZOR, NASTY SAVAGE, ASSASSIN, CORONER, SACRIFICE, DARK ANGEL, and AGENT STEEL. But there was also NOCTURNAL, HELLWITCH, Slaughter (CAN), MINOTAUR. (Good call on HELLTWITCH and MINOTAUR - ED)

Tell us about your earliest experiences with Thrash music? And why did you prefer this brutal style as opposed to traditional Heavy Metal.
- Thrash metal brought more brutality and energy in Metal music that's why I went into it. I was looking for something else. I started to get really into metal at the end of the seventies with bands like AC/DC. IRON MAIDEN, MOTÖRHEAD and before I grew up with DEEP PURPLE, LED ZEPPELIN, BLACK SABBATH. Because my parents were kind of stuff at least for the Metal part and at this time it was extreme music.

When Thrash wave came out I felt like Metal bands weakened in their music and many of them turn into more commercial heavy rock and I didn't agree with this because their music lost energy.
- When the METALLICA album come out I was like, 'Oh! This is the way I feel Metal because it was powerful, fast and more brutal than what was made at this time. I had the same feeling the first time I heard MOTÖRHEAD. Also to me, Metal means extreme rock, and the real Metal is brutal part, for instance, listening to MOTÖRHEAD in the seventies, is the same as METALLICA or SLAYER in the 80's and any Death or Black Metal bands in the 90's.

Did you like METALLICA more than SLAYER? (Trick question)
- Well, when SLAYER came out I was more into them than METALLICA but I still enjoyed both now especially the three first album of each.

When extreme Death Metal and Grind bands took over after the first Thrash wave back then did you lose interest in bands like SODOM, DESTRUCTION and so on?
- At first, yes because some bands became less brutal in a way because Grind core and Death Metal brought more grind core drumming in their playing with bands like REPULSION, NAPALM DEATH, TERRORIZER, MORBID ANGEL, and there was more technique and energy in such bands. According to me, CRUCIFIXION went into a more commercial way, SEPULTURA, SODOM, DESTRUCTION and Kreator isn't a bit of energy after their 3rd album that's why I turned to more extreme bands. Now, with more distance, I enjoy listening to any kind of Metal at least for the main bands as they're belonging to a certain period if you catch what I mean.

Numerous German Metal brothers have this tendency of losing their hair, it seems like you don't have this problem. You must be happy about that...
- Yes at least.

Have you ever thought of cutting your hair?
- Not really, but who knows what will happen in the future. Maybe I'll tattoo my skull if I shave like Kerry King, but I'm an old Thrash bastard!

And I guess it's too late now!!!

I remember from the visits I paid you back in the 80's that practically all your family members used to be into Metal, is that still the same situation?
- My sister is still listening to Metal but she has stopped her band WITCHES a year ago. My mother, she's still going to gigs, not long ago, she went to see MORBID ANGEL, KING DIAMOND and many more. I think she has seen almost all Metal bands since the seventies and with almost all formations. This is crazy.

OK, how old were you when you first formed your band?
- I've founded AGRESSOR in '86 but I started to search musicians to form a metal band around 84 and I was fifteen. I played some gigs in my area with a old school heavy metal bands and on 85 I've founded a band called KATAKALYSIS which was a kind of Speed Metal, I wanted to do something more brutal but the other members weren't interested. They were more into old Heavy Metal and MENOFUL PACE/METALLICA for the newer part. At this period I was more interested in BATHORY, HELLHAMMER and VENOM.

Did KATAKALYSIS sound good?
- Well, to us it was good but if you hear the rehearsal tape now it wasn't that good.

Do you like the '80s bands better when it comes to bands?
- It depends how I feel. Sometimes I enjoy old stuff and sometimes I play only new bands and sometimes I'm listening to nothing.

For the most musical parts of your life you been connected to the band AGRESSOR. Have you ever been sick of AGRESSOR and thought 'fuck this, I'm starting a new band'?
- Wow! Tough question, to be honest, both yes and no. I was much involved in AGRESSOR and I was working hard on it but the result after some years wasn't so good and I gave up with AGRESSOR in '90 and reformed the band in '97. I was fed up with line up changes and the record company wasn't working on us. I think it restarted another band, maybe it won't be Metal at all. I prefer now to play in other bands already formed as a session to tour or record. I can play different stuff, which brings me something more, especially if the bands are not from France. I did that with ANDREWIX, NERVOUS LOUDCLAST. We are going to reform another one called CRUSHERS for the French ones and I've been asked to play with VITAL REMAINS and ASU in the U.S. and BLOODTHORN in Norway for a few.

Yeah, you are in BLOODTHORN we know. Congratulations with the new album, pretty damn good... Any plans to move to Norway?
- Not yet but I'd really enjoy Norway, this experience with BLOODTHORN was really great and it was the opportunity to come there and meet some old friends like Naro Butcher and get more in touch with the Black Metal scene there. I'm a bit surprised that many peoples especially bands in Norway knew AGRESSOR and came to me with the Split LP "Licensed to Thrash" and our 1st LP "Narverendending Destiny", that's really great.

Who do you want to see as the next OLD THRASH BASTARD? Please don't say Paul Baloff, can't find him!
- Necro Butcher (MAYHEM), Mike (DESTRUCTION), Wille (CREATOR), Snake (VOIVOD), Quorthon but I don't think he'll be OK! There's plenty of Bastards like me you can Thrash. Skål for faen i helvete Nordstorm

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The Occult Triumvirate

P = Proditor  E = Equitant  M = Mezadrachus

Our first assignment to Curriculum Martius was to get some info from the ABSU camp. This is what he came up with. Please see above to indicate who answered the questions.

Bands, distributors, magazines, tape traders etc. are making the "underground Metal" scene active each nights - and designers too! Some of them are quite fascinating, like Neocron, Riddle, C. Señor del, and also Ake & Ake (Abrahamsen), Hades, Considecide, Dead and - Equitant. Equitant, you have drawn the logos of BLACK FUNERAL, ZEITAL, PRODICTOR, ABSU & EQUIMENTHORN. Equitant, could you give us a short list of logos you draw from? Are you still active? Who has drawn the 2nd ABSU logo?

E - The second ABSU log (the latest one on "Tara") I did before we released "The Sun Of Tighkert" and the it was revised by myself and Michael Riddick in 2000, altered with computer, adding effects and new ideas.

B - I have met the intentions why bands like IMORTAL and MAROKU have left OSMOSE. Do you know why? Have you had the same intentions? Are you completely satisfied with the deal you've signed with them for ABSU?

P - I know the intentions why bands like IMORTAL and MAROKU have left the OSMOSE enterprise, but I'm not sure of their problem and not ABSU's whatever. We are 100% completely satisfied with OSMOSE and always will be as long as we are associated with them. I wish the distribution was a bit better over in the USA, but that's my country's fucking fault. I am so sick and tired of low intellect levels here in the USA, as well as tepid business transactions.

Could you present us your new album "Tara"?

P - Taro, which can be defined as "the exalted, imperial hill in County Meath, Ireland where High Kings and Kings of Tara were reigned in Celtic mythology, is the third and final development of a trilogy for ABSU. Metaphysically and conceptually continuing from The Third Storm of Cythral and In The Eyes of Joldanich, it is our intent to recreate two "spheres of destiny". Taro (highest Primord Mobilis), Cythral (mediocris Primord Mobilis), and Joldanich (sweet/external Primord Mobilis). After psychologically visiting such realms, we can successfully complete our battle and alchemical schemes to reach three thrones on top of this hill - Taro.

Taro is not only an album of "mythological occult music", but also an exhibition of pagan antiquity. Our determination is to balance the juxtaposition between tyranny, puissance, Grotescism, and magic(a), as the album is presented in a chronicled assembly dividing this exhibition into two phases: Joldanich's Pedagogy and The Cythralic Law's Scrutiny. Certain goals and objectives are finally accomplished with Taro, through practices of our ancestral counterparts (Scottish and Irish) and channeling divisions of pure magic(a) (Qabalah) within our minds and souls. This is our interpretation of what Taro is all about.

"Joldanich's Pedagogy" - In Joldanich, the All-craftsmen of every god in Celtic legends, was also known as the "god of wisdom". His thoughts and teachings are what made us triumphantly courageous throughout this first phase of the album, implementing weaponry skills and territory-like war tactics.

"The Cythralic Law's Scrutiny" - Joldanich's thoughts and teachings are also what made us victorious throughout this second phase as well. However, it was our responsibility to interpret our own battles and alchemical schemes in this second phase. We feel there is a constant exchange of souls taking place between three realms: Taro, Cythral, and Vrittil. Death in these realms conveys our inner selves and spirits to the apex of Tara, as well as the chasm of our glorious underworld: the Cythral - the Abyss.

This is my definitive explanation of the album's synopsis.

In SLAYER #10 you said "I haven't read Mein Kampf, but I'm very familiar with Hitler's knowledge". Have you read the N. Goodrick Clarkes thesis "The occult art of the anti-Semitism"? And you call this the basis for ABSU which are the best bands you've ever listened to.

B - No, I am not too familiar with this text you talk about concerning the works of N. Goodrick Clarke. Some of my favourite books have been interested me lately would have to be "Der Spiegel Zeitplan" by W. Wyner Westcott, "Dry Gullette" by Robert M. Huntley, "Diary of a Mad Playwright", James Kirkwood, and especially books like "Summa Specia", "Alexanda", The Soul of the Desert", "Book Four", and "The Book of Lies" by Dr. Crowley.

Have you plumped for a European tour in the way to promote your new CD?

P - Hopefully, we will be able to tour Europe throughout October and November of this year with ENSLAVED, IMPAIRED NAZARENE, ARKHUS PAINRUPTUS, HOUTWITZER and ANDROMEDA.

For the 1st EQUIMENTHORN album, Emperor Vorskaath from ZEITAL wrote some lyrics. Are you still in contact with him? Did he write some lyrics in the 2nd one? What do you think of the ZEIMAL's return?

E - I am still in contact with him, but I don't believe Equitant is any more. I think the return of ZEIMAL is fucking outstanding and a very important factor to the extreme Metal underworld. ZEIMAL has always been one of my all-time favourite and Emperor Vorskaath is one of my closest comrades, even we don't have the opportunity to converse all that much.

Apost the video clip '94 "Infinite & Profane Thrones", have you performed other videos? I like this video and its occult atmosphere. Why and how did you release it? What message is it supposed to spread?

E - Last year, we released a compilation video titled "In The Visions of Ioldanich" for OSMOSE, which features a newer video for a track from the MCD "In The Eyes of Joldanich" ("Vamanaan") and three videos taken from our demo album "Brethren of V. T.L.I.L.O.L". (An Inversion of Times; "Footstrapping to the Third of the Pagan Vision," and "An Evolution of V-Hermes"). These videos spread hate, as well as magic(a), mythology, and mysticism.

Proditor, you're involved in many bands, like MELECHESH, JUDAS ISCARIOT, ROLLER, HEAVENS DEVS, DEVIL BOAT, PRODICTOR, (and maybe INCREDIVORE?) How do you manage your time to work in all these projects?

E - Let me tell you what happened because I feel it is important to explain the passage in between the last two releases, which will answer your question to why I was involved in so many projects. After May of 1997, ABSU went on tour in Mexico in the summer of 1997 and that was the last time ABSU has executed a live performance. While we were performing the "In The Eyes of Ioldanich" mini-tour in late 1997, I had also formed a blasphemous Southern rock band called HEAVENS DEVS (with one complete album written), and recorded second album for PRODICTOR ("The Serpentine Hiss R trio"), and EQUIMENTHORN ("Laertes Antiverum"). March of 1998 witnessed the recording of the "Joldanich" MCD and suddenly, I saw the Cythralan Knop of ABSU slowly start to deteriorate. Once the MCD was released in the autumn later that year, each of us became rather hateful and cruel with one another, but we had to continue and keep on writing new songs. It was also challenging because a lot of drinking and drug use was occurring as well... (and it still is as of course). By this time, Equitant had completely disappeared for months and no one knew where he was existence was. Yes that is correct; Equitant was missing from Earth! It was definitely an enigma, a mystery to say the very least, but Shaffriel and I had to continue (which was difficult at the time). After months had passed, he finally showed up to our rehearsal dungeon and we conducted a very thorough, yet serious meeting about his future in ABSU. Afterwards with positive notion, it was if we had reformed the band again and everything was back to normal after 8 months had passed without his existence in the band. So, 1999 rolls around and things seem to be more prosperous than before. We were beginning to compose and arrange the new songs for "Tara", we filmed the "In The Visions of Ioldanich" video, recorded some cover songs for various tribute albums, and overall began to work with each others energy more fluently. However, I could tell that something was still missing within the myth and magic(a) behind our names and personalities. Since we were "burned out" on each other at the time, I felt like I had to participate in other bands besides ABSU (to keep my stamina flowing). So eventually, I joined up with a band here in Dallas called ROLLER, which are like Budweiser's answer to Motorhead, Rose Tarttis, and the Swedish Genahpm: beer and biker metal. After I got bored with them telling me how to play my own fucking drum (they liked drum patterns very simple, which is something I can barely handle), I got together with both JUDAS ISCARIOT and MCD1 for a Black Metal festival with Ahnenstern here in Texas in the latter part 1999, and in February 2000, I went to Holland to record the second opus with Melechesh, which is called "Djinn". So now, here I am again with the new release of "Djinn". I am working on a new album with these two bands (ABSU - "Abas" and MELECHESH - "Sphynx"), as well as other projects I am involved with such as PRODICTOR, EQUIMENTHORN, EQUITANT, HEAVENS DEVS, and OSMOSE. It is so fucking amazing how magic(a) can be dragged into my existence and how I have seen the past and present of ABSU's being. For some reason, I can only predict one more album from ABSU and that is all. I could be wrong, but this is how I honestly feel. Please tell me that I am wrong. Let us move on. In reference to "In The Eyes of Joldanich", the first thing I can tell about this MCD is that it was big mistake for ABSU (according to OSMOSE PRODUCTIONS). The only reason why I say this is because we should have waited a little longer and made it into a full-length album, but we had it into the timeline at the time. We decided since we had four songs completely written in 1997, why not go ahead and just release a MCD since we never had in the past. In end results, the consumer of ABSU's music saw that it was almost the same price for a full-length album and it did not want to purchase it. It is a shame because it is some of our best, yet most progressive material up to date excluding the music on "Tara". Well, what else can I tell you about it? It is a prolonged continuation from "The Third Storm of Cythral"; however, those four songs are the prediction and the future of what our most preferred Overseas ears in our past lives of immortality, which actually is Ioldanich. "Tara" is the continuation from this MCD. Three stories and three warriors are what we represent magically and mythically. Now I am really involved with MELECHESH, and PRODICTOR at the moment. I wish I could implement more time to HEAVENS DEVS, but I just cannot at this particular moment.
Hey Proscriptor, we both interviewed Jon DePatiech of NECROVORE for DESCENT MAGAZINE then for SLAYER MAGAZINE. What do you think of NECROVORE's return? Have you had the opportunity (I would say the 'privilege') to hear the DePatiech's work lately? Are you supposed to play drums in this cult band?

P - NECROVORE were once gods and still are in the sheer essence my glass-coated heart. I was supposed to execute drum solos for them. I think...but.

Judging by the question you asked to Jon DePatiech's interview (for SLAYER MAGAZINE), your metal knowledge seems to be quite big, as you mentioned: ROTTING CORPSE, SYRANAX, MORBID SCREAM etc... Few people reminds these old bands. I would be curious to know which were your '80s favouites?

P - I would have to say the mentioned bands above and also NECROVORE, BLOOD FEAST, ACID CROSSFIRE, WITCHKILLER, HOLOCAUSTO, TORMENTOR, VULCANO, SATAN, HOLY TEMPOS, SLAYER, KREATOR, MASSACRA, AGRESSOR, DEVASTATION, SODOM, SACRIFICE, SEPULTURA "Mourned Visions" LP, SARCOFAGO, MORTUARY, DARKNESS, SOD, KISSON, MEXICON DELTA, VOIVOD, BULDOZER, and the last ones and on.

I would like to know also what happened to those '90s bands: ENTRAPMENT, HAVOCHEM, BOAT LORD, V.O.N., MESSE NOIR, NEMPETHIVE, BLACK LORD, PROFANAPATICA, WINDS OF THE BLACK MOUNTAIN, maybe you heard some rumours about them? And what about the guy (Rimmon) who released the '91 BLACK MONTANAS OF SEPTEMBER?

P - Bands I know that are still in full existence or have remarried to the flames of Earth are MESSE NOIR and PROFANAPATICA I believe. Rimmon is from the Netherlands and ran the notorious label 'SO IT IS DONE' and not that magazine; that was operated by Equitant and myself during 1992 and early 1993.

ABSU and EQUIMANTHORN are sounding really different. The 2nd one could be sorted in the 'ambient' category. Apart Metal, which kind of music are you listening to?

P - Trash, some Black Metal, and mainly progressive stuff from the '70es and hard rock from the epoch on.

E - I listen to anything I find interesting or I like. These days I'm into Electronic music a lot, acts like DIE FORM, KRAFTWERK, SVEN VATH, LAIBACH, etc....

Why have you chosen this roughcut iconography for the cover of the 1st EQUIMANTHORN? CD cover? Who's the hired man inside the booklet?

P - The cover and his presence fits the channelling of souls and immortality best fits our notions back then.

From where your nicknames are coming from? And in which circumstance have you chosen them? Mezzadura is coming from the Stygian's tales. Why is Proscriptor and Equitant names?

P - Proscriptor is "To denounce or condemn; prohibit; interdict. A Proscriptor is an aggressor or one who banishes: one who prescribes the names of the dead in a requiem. McGovern is the Scottish surname of Proscriptor's regiment.

E - The name Equitant was given to me by Proscriptor, and it was only used at first with the old EQUIMANTHORN project. Then later taken for ABSU as well. Equitant = Overlapping, as a leaf whose base embraces the leaf next within or above it... To ride on horseback; horsemanship or light- hoof."

P - The title of Mezzadura is a reptilian storm wizard constructed within the Outer Gateways in the code of the Ogdhian/Sat-Thyon currents. Mezzadura represents the formula infiltration of the triple fire tongue within the Dragon star. A teacher of the Draconian current, A Qliphothic necromancer of Simon sorceries, and the crowned intelligences of the Atlantean, Yuggothian, Zethrian systems announcing the arise of the celestial Archonos. Mezzadura is the double current of my cosmic self among the magickal universe.

E - A so long delay between the 1st EQUIMANTHORN "hindernge... nmisnomashorgal cetillie" CD 94 & the 2nd "Luctiumens antiqulam" CD 997

P - The reason behind this long delay was due to some negotiation problems I was having with Pushead of UNOLSOUND at that time period. But then again, who was not having problems with him. He was very difficult, yet tedious individual to work with.

Mezzadura, you're linked with ABSU for a long time now. Could we consider you as a full-time ABSU member? Or is it just a side band for you, beside BLOOD STORM?

P - I've got the great pleasure of joining up with the Celtic tyrants of Cyrnhead for a few tours from '95 to '97 and it was all a tremendous experience and mystical might to perform with ABSU on stage!! I've never worked with better Metallic Metal magicians before until fate put me with my great comrades ABSU! I will always be there for ABSU should they summon my assistance again and we are very good friends, but do to our geographical positioning and my career with BLOOD STORM right now I think this remains as sessioning portion only if they need help with tours. I was always a session player for them from the start. But I'll always fall apart of ABSU in me always!

You've released your 2nd BLOOD STORM album last year. (See SLAYER 15 for further details - ED) Its title is "Perseverance From The Dragon Star". Those who appreciate the 1st one won't be disappointed I guess. Could you describe it?

P - Could you introduce the others members: Nazorathu, Teler Tanure (who already was the drummer for the 1st album) and Axaruth? From where those Atlantean warriors are coming from?

E - Well, basically the "Perseverance From The Dragon Star" is 100% pure uncompromising Black Deathshuffling sonic torment!! The concept of this release plunges into the sentient tunnels of the mystical Qliphoth, more importantly, the pyres of the daethian void is crossing into the 27th portentous entity known as Parfittus. It is the choice of the magican re-jewelling the visual entities of the KNA'AJEEL fevers and diseases outside the circle of time Yss. Telac Corax is present as always Axaruth is from here in Philadelphia and has been playing live with BLOOD STORM since 1997, Nazorathu only played 3 shows with us and when we recorded the "Perseverance..." album, he was not prepared and his bass tracks all had to be redone by Axaruth himself. He was fired and replaced by Derseagast on bass.

You also have released a split LP with a Swedish band named MORIA. Why a split LP? Under which label? Why with this Swedish band? Could you give us some info about this release?

E - It was released by HELLEFLAME PRODUCTIONS (Sweden) last year. It became a split LP because of the expensive cost for Nicola to release the BLOOD STORM and MORIA as two separate "7" EPs. I think that it was an excellent job done by Nicola and HELLEFLAME PRODUCTIONS T-shirts were also made of the album cover as well. Ask HELLEFLAME about that stuff. We did a studio cover of EXCITER's "War Is Hell" and two live songs of a good date sound board here in Philadelphia. I want to do another special LP again with HELLEFLAME! Time will tell though.

I salute you now. Have you any question to ask me or to Metallion? The last word is for you.

P - I'm the eternal fire of Iron on pars grazzii

E - Hello to readers of mighty SLAYER! hail to Metalion! Ride the winds of mayhem!

M - I send to you Curriculum Martinis and to you Metalion my sincerest bowles of Qliphothic necromancy and pure translogical Metal solvatura! Thank you so very much for your great support on BLOOD STORM and my comrades ABSU! Keep the Metal torch burning high and forever ZOS IIA CULTUS! Look out for the new BLOOD STORM full length release entitled "Ancient Wrath Of K.L. out on METAL WAR PRODUCTIONS. www.METALWARPROD.com. For BLOOD STORM correspondence write to:

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U.S.A.

By Curriculum Martinis
As a few of you might recall I wasn't that thrilled by the last
pass of this band. Anyway, some times things change for the
better. Many things have changed in the BLOODTHORN camp
which the third album "Under The Sign of Terror" is a great
evidence of. BLOODTHORN is now performing a much more
powerful and deathly style. I thought I should get hold of bass
slinger Harald to give me a quick rundown of the
BLOODTHORN events going on.
First of all, we need to be on the safe side - are you into Metal?
- Yes, I'm a Metal Throbber, Maad?
- Cool, what kind of Metal are you into?
- Mostly Thrash and Death Metal, but Metal in its variations and styles
are fine with me. The best of the genre came out of the (mid-) eighties
with all the classic Thrash Metal bands and the early Death Metal acts,
bands who blow away 90% percent of all the shit that's coming out today.
I mean, which contemporary albums can match "Reign in Blood" or "Seven
Churched", "Pleasure to Kill", "Altar of Madness", "Morbid Tales" or even
"Kill 'em All", not many. Of course there are some killer bands terrorizing
the world with their insane Metal even today, bands that have no
guilty for current trends and don't care for what's the latest fashion:
SLAYER, ABHMENITY, GOSPEL OF THE HORNS, NECROPHAGIA,
VOMITORIUM, NIFELHEIM, CADAVER, PENTACLE and MORTEM are some
prime examples of this. So there are always some good albums coming out,
even now, but there's a lot of crap also. Fuck all that techno infested shit
and the Fucking crap-metal that poisons the scene, fuck those baggy
pants aholes.
All right, this is the band you are involved in called BLOODTHORN.
As some of you might re-call I didn't really happen to love your last
album. What do you think of it now in retrospect?
- There are a couple of good songs, the two last ones, but the rest of
the material doesn't hold up. People who don't understand extreme metal
can't possibly write it and there were some people in the band who in the
died out not to have a clue about Death or Black Metal and unfortunately
they ended up writing a good part of that album. The atmosphere in the
band wasn't good and as you know, eventually after this release, most of the
band members who dismissed for obvious reasons. The album was hastily
made within less than four months and didn't really give us the time to think
things through. When it came out there was a lot of it
I didn't like, the songs simply weren't hard enough and also the symphony
where far too prominent and too high in the mix and the sounds (of the
symphony) where crap. The first mix was slightly better, but Season weren't
happy with the sound so they demanded a remix and the symphonies on
are much higher than the original one. The guitars where pushed in the
background, which was fucking idiotic cause the symphony was supposed to
back up, not lead. We don't blame the studio guys in any way, and actually
it seems we want to work with Studio Mega again in the future. The only
ones we can really blame is ourselves for letting it all happen, we did one
big mistake and that can't be corrected, it's a finished chapter for us
now. As you understand very well now, you're not the only one who didn't
like that album (even though it got a lot of very good reviews) and we're
not doing any songs from it live anymore. We do a couple from "In the
Shadow of Your Black Wings" and the rest is new shit.
Now you progressed towards more Death Metal like style, it is good
for my ears but how do you explain your musical progression? One
thing is that you got rid of the female singer, but is there more to it?
- Getting rid of the girl is just one factor; "Under the Reign of Terror" is
like a rebirth for us - BLOODTHORN Mk. II or something. Over half the
line-up is changed, different people are writing music and playing it,
and the whole atmosphere in the band is totally different. "Onwards into
Battle" left us pretty much fed up with that sound and style and it wasn't
at all what we're after. That this album, "Under the Reign of Terror", would
sound completely different was clear at an early point, but exactly how
it turned out we never really thought about. We just started writing
and suddenly new material was just pouring out. As you say it's more
Death Metal now, it's a helluva' lot more brutal and much more aggressive
than anything we've done. We're veru pleased with the new songs and I
can tell you, this is only the beginning. The next album will rape your soul
and rip you to shreds.

You almost got rid of the keyboards as well, but there are still some
keyboard things left, can we assume by the next album they are all
gone?
- I don't mind keyboards in metal as long as they're used "properly",
which usually means sparsely. I mean, the way Morbid Angel use them
only makes a lot more intense in overall sound, enhancing the atmosphere
of a certain part. That's what we wanted on this album, to let the
keys be a backdrop for some parts. At this point I can't however see
any keyboards on our next album. The songs we've been working on so far
don't have any room for that, but who knows, there might come a riff
or two that could fit some keyboards. I wouldn't bet on it though, but if it
so happens Tom or Alex will do it. I guess so there will definitely be
any more keyboard players in BLOODTHORN; not as a session and definitively
not as a permanent member. Whatever happens on the next album one
thing is certain, and that is we won't use keyboards in live situations any
more.

The opening track of your new album is called "Deathmachine",
hammm a thing that rings a bell? Why did you call a track that when it
was also the name of the MYRISKO album?
- Actually that song was the first one we wrote for the album, both music
and lyrics. We'd been playing it for quite a while when we heard about the
MYRISKO album with that title coming out. For a little while we changed the
title, but as we liked the original one better we decided to stick with
that no matter what. There are tons of bands coming out with similar
titles, both for songs, albums and even the names of the bands themselves
so what the fuck. By the way, I just got a copy of the new CLANDELE LP
and there's a song on that one called "Deathmachine" too. So we're not
the only ones who thought it was a cool title, HAH HAH!
Record labels are a funny thing; you have been previously involved in
the French SEASON OF MIST and now signed to RED STREAM. RED
STREAM might not be the biggest label in the world but as there
any differences at all?
- Well, it's a bit early to say what the difference as far as sales and
promotion goes as the album is just out. But we've been with RED
STREAM for over a year now and so far they have been more than
good. I mean, the first thing they did when we signed was to press t-shirts,
and they gave us total control of the design of that, just like they've done
with everything else. No interference with the composing, with the layout
of the CD booklet and LP cover or the new shirts. They let us do whatever
we wanted, not that we can't or won't do it or help out but if we wish to
fully control those things they let us. There are new shirts for the album
coming out as soon as we've finished them. They're not for a limited run,
but to print any day now so everything's got. SEASON wouldn't let us touch
anything, they didn't care if we had ideas for design or lay-out, we didn't
even get to see the photos for the album or the layout itself before we
get the finished product after it's released. As you say RED STREAM is a
small label, but we have a lot of faith in Patrick and the RED STREAM
crew and the vibe is very good between the label and the band. We know
they're working their asses off every day to get better distribution
around the world and they're really pushing the album, but only time
can tell. So far we're totally satisfied with their work.
Are you upset with SEASON OF MIST? Or are you in good contact
with them now, as they have to deal with your back catalogue?
- I guess we're not so much upset with SEASON OF MIST, as they are
with us, we're only glad to be working with some one else. Someone who
even though they are a smaller label works in a more professional way
and doesn't try to screw you every time you look away. When we left the
label, Misia went ballistic even though the contract was over and we held no
obligations towards them. He started spreading a lot of shit and lies about
us and he fucked up some possible record deals for us also. I know that
for sure as I saw on email he had sent (to someone who shall remain
named). What the hell basically said was "I fucked up some deals for
BLOODTHORN by talking shit about them to labels that were interested
in signing them". After this he was angry with us talking bad about him to
some people and get even more upset. Did he expect us to praise him and
his label after fucking up everything for us? We have no contact with
them anymore and no matter what we don't expect to get anything from
them that's for sure. We haven't had sales statements in a year and a
half and haven't received any royalties of any kind for almost two years.
Many labels try to make a selling point out of everything, but still RED STREAM did not mention that Alex (AGRESSOR) is playing with you, why not?
- First of all, AGRESSOR doesn't seem to have the same cult status in the states as it has over here, so simply I think RED STREAM wasn't aware of the influence they had on the European scene in the late eighties. Even though they knew it, I don't think it would have been something they would have blown up, it somehow doesn't seem to be their style of working. Patrick is a very down to earth guy, doesn't care about rock stars and is not kissing anyone's ass. He's been and still is a musician himself and is just a honest working dude running a label, releasing stuff he likes - much like you do with Head Not Found. He's not mister hotshot label boss thinking he's so cool, like a certain other person.

The sound on the new album is a bit different on certain tracks, how do you explain that, or is it just me?
- It's not just you, it's all drugs you are taking also. But yes, the sound does differ on some of the tracks as the album actually consists of two different mixing sessions. Actually all the songs differ a bit from each other, but the sound is always raw and brutal which was the most important aspect for us as far as the production went. We faced a lot of problems with the studio and the guy working there, so I guess the album would've sounded a bit different if everything had run smoothly. Some things definitely would've been done different. The sound is quite much as we wanted it though: ugly, just like your momma.

Alex is French and you even recorded the album in France. So why an earth did you record in a country where they hardly speak English?
- The guy who owned the studio was a long time friend of Alex and he had more or less become our regular sound engineer. The studio was brand new, and he was telling us how great it was and blah, blah, blah. Then he gave us a good deal so went for it, but when we got down there it was a fucking mess. The construction work on the studio wasn't even finished and all the equipment was outside in this big industrial hall in which the studio was built, collecting dust, being totally neglected. Of course when it was set up, a couple of days after we should've started the recording, it started breaking down, half a day into the recording. It must have been the most plagued and chaotic recording session ever. It was a fucking nightmare and we were almost going nuts down there. We had to get fucking dead drunk and stoned out of our minds each night just to get away from it all. Now we're just glad it's over and that we made it out of there with a finished album - even if all the problems caused a huge delay of the release.

I hear a lot of SLAYER like leads here and there on the album, is that Alex in action?
- Yeah, Alex does all the leads on the album and while the rest of us had some input and suggestions he gets all the credits for those. He's a great guitarist and has definitely added a lot to our sound with his style and skill. All of us are big SLAYER fans, (I mean who isn't?), so if you hear some SLAYER influence that just might be right, even if it wasn't a conscious thing from our side.

On the new album we find the MAYHEM cover "Deathcrush" featuring Necro Butcher himself. How did you feel about him taking your space on this track? Actually, it do sound like more than one bass is playing so you might be on it after all, or?
- No, there's just one bass track so Necro is doing that by himself. Isn't it weird how such a small guy can make so much noise? I don't mind at all him playing on it instead of me - I think it's great! He wrote most of the song as well as the lyrics for "Deathcrush" so it's great to have him playing on our version it and I think he enjoyed doing it as well. Actually it's quite "funny", cause I always wanted to do a cover of "Deathcrush" and now we're finally doing that, but I'm not playing! At least I got to play in the rehearsals. I fucking love that song. As you also know, Necro played the song with us (or the rest of the guys that is) at the Inferno festival in April. It sounded a bit rough - but it was pure fucking mayhem Metal aggression.
Some bands deserve some more support than others. Singapore underground Metal warriors IMPIETY is certainly one of them. What can I say? Certainly one of most killer bands in this genre of flesh ripping ancient Blackened devastating Metal! It took me a bloody long time to get this interview back from Mr. Schryven but I do believe it was worth the wait!

IMPIETY is already a pretty old band and even if the sound has advanced over the years you still stick faithfully to your roots. How come IMPIETY never wimped out and remained a brutal godlike act?

- It would well be the same as you Oh Mighty Metalians. Take a good look at yourself in the mirror and ask yourself the same thing! It makes me wonder as well how come you remain so godlike and never wimped out! As you know, it's simply the morbid passion and dedication to the craft.

The art of Metal as described in the interview that IMPIETY has remained proudly the same from day one and Needless to say, we are driven by extreme hate and as long as mercury is pumping fiercely from our heart through our arteries and veins, you can well expect as not to extraneous the flames, we will be the last fucking thing we will ever do! And never, not until Christendom has fallen to it's knees and left pulverized into a smouldering pile of ashes! Despite our age and having withered the biophenomes in life over time, I would say that everything that lies at present and ahead just remains challenging as ever And as you know, only the Strongest prevails with blazing might and prowess! Ah yes, the mentors will forever remain gods to us...and without them, IMPIETY would never stormed into existence!

IMPIETY keeps the trademark of what good Metal is all about, aggression, hate, fucking songs. Why do you think so many so-called 'Metal' bands have chosen to go other ways, like using more and more keyboard passages and female vocals. What is wrong with people you think?

- I think all these melodick metalheads need to be sodomized by an elephant to come to their senses but I for one am not least bothered about these entire keyboard loving boy bands and sickening 'Marsh Carey' female voice-overs I used to get real fed-up whenever I pick up a new metal release and find littered with excessive keyboards! All these smart ass folkloric shit bands well they're the ones who display the use of traditional Chinese violin-corp only but contaminate the underground with their own vile genre of so-called 'black-metal'. It's a disease beyond our control. Beyond mine for one thing A total fuck off to these circus acts, they all are nude to me.

I think that bands like NITTELHEIM and IMPIETY is real fucking Black Metal and brings forth the true feeling of what Black Metal is all about, and it pisses me off to the core. The Black Metal has been infected by so many crap bands and crap releases. Is there any hope you think?

- It's all these fucking labels that are spreading the disease! They sign crap, package crap, add beautiful and meaningless art to crap and make money from crap! The best part is that the GRIP SELLERS label finds deal with trendy bands! They only pollute and suffocate today's scene with shit! And as we all know 80% of commercial metal magazines are fucking hypocrites! Just because a label takes an ad out, the artist/band gets top reviews and ratings. Every magazine is the biggest cock sucking ball carriers of today's metal scene! What is the world coming to??? There is no unity but just hypocrisy and a shitload of bullshit behind the mirror! It's money or nothing! I rather not buy most of these commercial metal magazines because most of the times I can expect to see utter bullshit in it! Only handful magazines are reliable and dead honest! And now, speaking about Black Metal, I can say that the essence of it all has changed since the late 80's, early 90's and now this new millennium. The term "Black Metal" has been desecrated over time! It's good that bands has progressed but to me, innovation together with progression can be bad and disastrous altogether. I am an old deranged mother-fucking terrorist of the underground and I like Black/Death/Thrash/Speed Metal to be played exactly like it was commemorated back in the mid 80's!!!

You have released quite a few releases over the years and the "Skullfucking Armageddon" album is your 2nd album, but as the "Metallic Armament" album was limited to 4000 copies do you see "Skullfucking Armageddon" as your real first release?

- Astound! I am astounded! Our first album was released only recently and it is already selling like hot cakes! We have sold over 2000 copies and we are expecting to sell more! The album is being reviewed positively and we are very happy with the response we have received. We are planning to release a new album soon and we are hoping to have it ready by the end of the year. We are very excited about this new album and are looking forward to sharing it with our fans. Thank you for your support!
I remember in 1993 when you released the “Solve The Great” 7” EP on SHIVA/KOSMICANA and it had some harsh comments about the Norwegian Black Metal scene. What was that all about and how do you feel about this now?
- Here goes another long story about how Little Red Riding Hood got sodomized and fast-fucked by the Big Bad Wolf Back in ’92 when Morten was in EMPEROR and they just got their demo “Wrath of the Tyrant” out. I wrote to them and asked if we could trade demos. Morten who was handling the mail agreed and we did an exchange of demos. But when Morten got their demo tape, he included some very annoying remarks calling us “Niggers” and that “Asian/Niggers SHOULDN’T be playing Black Metal at all” and he also remarked “All shall bow before my elite race”. We were fucking enraged and wrote back in retaliation with a shit load of profanity! Morten was just a fucking 17 year old fuckhead at that time and were amazed at what a cunt he was! That statement was proudly displayed on the back of the “Solve the Great”, 7” EP as a clear warning that we do not take social comments and verbal stupidity lightly. It was targeted at those entire new generation hillbilly Black Metalers who talk too much about race and who only sing about their stupid Aryan heritage! If ever we bump into this fucking Pinocchio Tranny Moron, I won’t hesitate or think twice about punching his nose in! And the real one is the fake one, which I will gladly meet with my hellfire zippo lighter!
Anyway, that was then, but like I said, we won’t take shit lightly and especially if it comes from these stupid forest workers and farm boys who think they come into existence before SATANIC or SODOM and who think they know so much about Black Metal. In short: FUCK THEM ALL!
You have one release called “Funeralistic”, which was released on cassette only, would you be interested in releasing this on CD or vinyl if you were to be released?
- That won’t be released. The tape format was only 2500, released and sold only sold in Malaysia by an independent label. I barely managed to get them to a handful of moshers elsewhere on the planet back then. However, we did release one cult track from this M/L-pressing “Dragon Oath Diabolus” as a split 7” EP together with the godly PROFANATICA back in December ’99. The 7” was limited to 400 on blood red vinyl, the release was done by Jimie Zonder, SAMHAIN RECORDS (New Jersey, USA) who has been in constant contact with us for nearly 10 fucking years already.
Over the years there has been some interesting bands from Singapore, like ABORHER and so on. But there have never really been any big bands from Singapore, do you think? And will IMPETUITY change this you think?
- It’s our dream to have toured or played gigs with the mighty ABORHER but sadly, they called it a day (SPU-1996). There are a couple of good bands in Singapore and some who have existed for a long time now such as EBION, VAYKOLAKAS, RUDRA, DOXOMIDON but their sound is a bit slow, it’s not as good black/death metal band worth bleeding your ears to! As for the new bands, they can go as fast as I don’t even know what’s going on. Some have been excellent while others are just hobby bands (crap, in short). Bands like ABORTORY, Bloodwave, etc., are just killer of everything. Well, it’s time to new generation of bestial Metalheads here to continue to battle hard and keep the faith!
You have done a very smart thing by licensing “Skullfucking Armageddon” on vinyl to IRON PEGASUS, tell me how this worked out?
- Well I personally know Costa for 6-7years now, way before he started the label IRON PEGASUS and I know he always wanted to do IMPETUITY on vinyl so it wasn’t difficult achieving this when he started his excellent label! The bands he has released exclusive on vinyl are of his choice and I can say that he has really great taste when it comes to wicked skullfucking Metal bands! Costa is a true infernal vinyl overlord of the Metal underground and IMPETUITY greatly salutes him! In future, we will work with IRON PEGASUS, not to spoil any surprises yet, but you’ll see for yourself. IRON PEGASUS RECORDS released 400 LPs of “Skullfucking Armageddon” on Black Vinyl, 100 LPs in kult grey Vinyl and 100 picture discs with picture sleeve.
Tell me also about the gigs you played in Europe last year, did you lose a lot of money coming here? IMPETUITY must be a devastating live band I feel.
- Absolutely, ungggggghh... we miss the mass destruction of stages across old Europe! We did two euro assaults (tours) last year. The first one was a 4 date “Skullfucking Armageddon Tour 2000” and the second one was 15 dates over 6 countries “Skullfucking Euro Battlelards Tour 2000”, all in all both tours were savage beyond belief! We lost a lot of money during the first euro hellslaught and got ripped off DM 2000 during the second tour from the tour manager who was working for DRAKKAR PRODUCTIONS. All in all, we still like to thank Cyril and the entire crew of DRAKKAR PRODUCTIONS for kind and krazy hospitality! All the IMPETUITY admirers had a truly killer time deestroying and destroying stages and especially meeting really dedicated die-hard! and us-ass-fuck god worshipping maniac and steel shredding demon!
Interview with Matt Hefflief of DEKAPITATOR. Done by Labellelum. Labellelum says thanks to MetalIon for allowing me to contribute to the great SLAYER MAGAZINE! THE BIGGEST METAL MAGAZINE OF ALL TIME!!

What were the reasons for forming DEKAPITATOR in the first place? Obviously not originality.

- The idea for DEKAPITATOR had been around for quite a while before we actually acted on it. In January 1984 we were friends with some guys in a band called IN EXTREMIS, and they played mainstream Thrash like old METALLICA and MEGADETH. Our drummer, Andy, and I went to one of their shows and we started talking about how fun it would be to do something in the vein of the good old days, since at that time we were listening to mostly VENOM, BATHORY, MESSIAH, EXODUS, KREATOR, etc. Then, many bands later after kicking around a couple of ideas (and names) that didn't really go anywhere, we were hanging out with our bassist Bullethead and he was pissed because the hardcore band he had been in had just broken up. We decided to start something with him, because we had been friends with him for a long time, since '91 or so. By 1997, we had started practicing and writing songs very sporadically. It was not very serious at all at first. It was around that time we started hearing of bands like GULLOTINE, BEWITCHED, PENTACLE, USURPER, INFERNAL, etc. who were also doing albums in the classic Thrash vein, some good (USURPER, PENTACLE, DESEASTER, GULLOTINE etc.) and some not (INFERNAL, DESEASTER, etc.) That really encouraged us. We were just writing songs that we liked, and didn't really consider that anyone would actually get into the stuff we were doing. Then we did the split with NUNSNAUGHTER in 1998, and things got a bit more serious from there.

Do you guys fit into the "retro" thrash genre, or do you think you offer something new?

- Well, our sound is definitely rooted in the eighties style of Thrash, but when I think of "Retro-Through", I think of bands like Inferno, who just nail their riffs, and make no attempt to create anything on their own. I guess that we are not a throwback, but not completely derivative, in that we're the only band from the Bay Area doing this kind of style, all the other bands seem to be from Scandinavia or Europe, so that will give our sound something different, considering the Thrash legacy of the Bay. We all grew up on bands like VIOLENCE, EXODUS, early DEATH, ANGEL, old TESTAMENT, HEXX, EPIDEMIC, KAGOS, etc. so the "Bay Area Crunch" is just as big an influence as the great European stuff like KREATOR, SODOM, HOLY MOSES, CORONER, CELTIC FROST, NECRODEATH, etc.

The 'We Will Destroy, You Will Obey' album was released by Elden and Debbie from BLACKMETAL.COM. How did you hook up with them? How come RELAPSE didn't put it out, since they basically own your ass?

- Andy and I are under contract to RELAPSE with our other band, EXODUS, but they declined to pass on putting out the DEKAPITATOR album, because it doesn't fit in at all with what they're doing, which is more geared towards crossover/noisecore and of course Brutal Death Metal and Grindcore. We had known Elden and Debbie because they always hooked us up with great deals on vinyl; in fact they sold me my copy of NILE's classic "Unholy Death" album. The cassette dub that I had of it was worn through and through, so that was a great thing, indeed! They wanted to start putting out records and no one else had really come forward and asked us to do it, so we figured, "why not?"

Will you work with those guys again? If not what would be the IDEAL labels for you to work with in both the US and Europe for DEKAPITATOR?

- We most likely won't work with them again. There have been a few frustrating things that happened around the release, so it's better to move on to a different label. I'm definitely grateful that they released the album and put it out on vinyl as well, but I think overall, we need to move to a new label for the next album. I don't really know what the ideal label would be. Maybe COMBAT RECORDS? MEGAFOKE?? We don't have any definite plans right now, but there are some labels I really like, like IRON PEGASUS, LISTENABLE, maybe even HAMMERHEART, since they released the killer INVASIONS album. I really don't know.

How would you describe the sound of the first album? Obviously it's Thrash, but can you be more specific?

- It's probably an unhealthy mixture of Bay Area and German Thrash. The biggest single influence is probably EXODUS, "Banded By Blood". We describe it as "Headpiling Metal", which will also probably be a DEKAPITATOR song in the near future.

Is it true that you wrote the material for the first album, or was it a collaboration between all the members? Who are the current and former members?

- I actually wrote all the music and lyrics for the album. The whole band helped arrange the songs, though. That may change on the next album, with more contributions from the other guys, but we'll see how it goes. The line-up of the band is myself, Atomic Andy Maniac on drums, and Dan Bullzze on bass. Our old rhythm guitarist, Wes Blackwell, is now playing with us in another project, and has been replaced by Sean Bloodbath on guitar.

The first album has already been out for a long time now, what's going with new stuff? Will it go in different directions musically at all?

- We have about 5 new songs written and in various stages of completion. I know that it's been a really long time, but unfortunately we have all been busy with a lot of touring and recording with EXODUS, as well as working full time and bills, school, etc. It is already going in a bit of a different direction, with more complex riffs patterns and arrangements. There are a few more "monks sections in the new stuff, like slow SLAYER type sections that leave no head unopened. It's definitely still total Thrash, but slightly more unique and technical. Sean Bloodbath has brought a new aspect to the band as well, where we can now do harmonized guitar solos, etc. There will definitely no ballads however.

You told me a while back that the next record might deal with some sort of concept. Can you elaborate a little?

- I think the story I wrote that was very entertaining, so the idea of a concept record seems like an obvious choice. It will be a bit more focused than the first album, dealing with less occult and satanic stuff, but it won't be a "story" or anything. The next track will deal with the world of a nuclear war, the harsh "kill or be killed" type of reality that will follow. Some of the songs we have written as far, "Caught in the Crosshairs", "No Turning Back", "Earthsharper", and "Screams From the Holes". All deal with this theme. We will be describing different incidents in the same kind of world throughout the songs, but there will be no underlying story, only glimpses into the harshest and most violent reality imaginable.

Press reactions to your sort of music, from harsh criticism within the "mainstream" Metal press (as there's no villains and shit), to a lot of support from true magazines like SLAYER, TALES OF THE MACABRE, and other more underground 'zines, has been varied. Is this what you have noticed? Do you think that this kind of music is seen negatively by today's Metal scene, and if so, how do you feel about that?

- I don't think that Thrash will ever attain the level of popularity that it had in the mid to late eighties. It just doesn't seem possible. Although, with the success of bands like the Haunted, it shows that there this kind of music can still appeal to a lot of people in the underground scene, which is great. Some magazines just dismiss any band like us, without even listening to the music, but I don't really give a fuck, because we don't play for anyone but ourselves. Fuck critics! But, when I see great reviews for the band coming from people that I really respect, like Coats from TALES OF THE MACABRE, Metalion from SLAYER MAGAZINE, Frank Stover, Tom Wren from METAL NIGHTBRAIN, etc. it makes me think that we are definitely doing something right. Even TERRORIZER gave our split a 7, a great review, so I can't really complain at all about reaction to the album.

What is the song "Release the Dogs" about?

- It's just about turning loose the dogs of war to crush and consume everything in their path. It's about turning on your muntant and enslavers and tearing down the gates of heaven to let total chaos reign throughout the universe. It's also about using any means of carnage, from guns and ammunition, to swords and axes to mutilate and annihilate. So it's not really about Dogs, in an animal sense-just the dogs of war.

Do you have it in mind to write songs a specific way for DEKAPITATOR in regards to arrangements? Like Verses/Chorus/Verses/Chorus/Chorus/Chorus or anything like that?

- We try to keep the arrangements direct and in your face. I doubt that we'll ever have a nine-minute DEKAPITATOR song. The arrangement that you mentioned is the classic Heavy Metal arrangement, and most of our songs fall into that structure. It's really the best way to build a song, as long as your riffs are good enough, it almost always works. Our new songs have more developed bridge and solo sections, but the overall formula is still similar.
What are the best Thrash records of all time in your educated opinion? What are the most underrated?

- Hmm, that's hard to narrow down to just a few, but here goes:
  - EXODUS "Bonded by Blood"
  - RAPTOR "Pleasure to Kill"
  - SODOM "Persuasion Misanthropy"
  - POSSESSED "Seven Churches"
  - TESTAMENT "The Legacy"
  - SLAYER "Hell Awaits"
  - METALLICA "Metallica"
  - VOIVOD "Dimension Hatross"
  - RAZOR "Violent Restitution"
  - MACHETE "Power and Pain"
  - DARK ANGEL "Darkness Descends"
  - VO-LO-CE "Eternal Nightmare"
  - NIGERIA "Peace Sells, But Who's Buying"
  - DESTRUCTION "Infernal Overkill"
  - CELTIC FROST "Morbid Tales"
  - SEPULTURA "Beneath the Remains"
  - EXODUS "Nightmare Theatre"

You play in another band called EXHUMED, who are on RELAPSE RECORDS. A lot of underground Thrashers (especially in Europe) get turned off to American bands with total GORE images, but what they might not know is that while EXHUMED is very grizzly Death Metal, there's a big SODOM and Thrash influence that hardly any American "Baregrind" bands have. Care to elaborate?

- EXHUMED is more of an invocation of Death Metal, Grindcore, and Thrash. We have been around since 1991, and have a lot of influences from all those genres. We have been covering bands like POSSESSED, SODOM, and MEGADETH for six years or more now. Even EXHUMED is essentially an "eighties" band: if you consider that bands like CARCASS, REPTILULION, Nihilist, Autopsy, Siege, Electro Hippies, Extreme Noise Terror, SOB, and Pestilence all reached their peak in the mid or late eighties. Those are all of the main influences for EXHUMED, so to me all of those styles (Thrash, Grind, Death) are concurrent and part of the same thing and can't really be totally separated.

In addition to DEKAPITATOR and EXHUMED, you are also in another band called CADAVERIZER that features the legendary Kim Lee in the line-up, tell us more.

- CADAVERIZER is the band that has been taking up the most time for us lately. It's an old-school Death Metal band, basically. CADAVERIZER is to DEKAPITATOR as EXODUS is to IRON WARRIOR. We basically have created the band that we would want to hear Kim Lee fronting. Kim will be writing most of the lyrics and will be handling the vocals. We have half of our album ready, and a ton of ideas for new songs. It's very raw and primitive—very ugly. Is there any other project that you are in or that you are thinking of doing in addition to all these bands?

- I am trying to get something going with a couple of guys around here that will have a more modern Grindcore type of thing, but it has been difficult to coordinate. I don't want to say too much beyond that right now, but it will hopefully come together fully in the fall.

What about touring and playing shows with DEKAPITATOR? What's the deal there? Are reactions good when you play live?

- We have only played in California so far, mostly in the Bay Area, since that's where we're at, but we played at the Metal Festival in San Bernardino (outside LA) as well. Usually the reactions are pretty damn good, even if there are only a handful of hair-maniacs, that's all we need to get totally into it. I think that DEKAPITATOR is definitely a live band, as it should be, and that's where our music comes across best. We would love to tour once we get an album with some proper promotion, etc behind it. I really hope that it will happen.

You and I have this expression that we sometimes use to describe bands and albums, "Timeless Cullness". Explain to the dear SLAYER readers exactly what this means to you.

- When something or someone is "Timeless Cullness", it just cuts through all the bullshit in the Metal scene and stands out as something that no one can fuck with. It's also something that kids that have just gotten into Metal a year or two ago would probably not even know of. A lot of the people I meet while touring with EXHUMED are totally into Brutal Death Metal, but have never even heard stuff like "In the Sign of Evil" or "Gutter Stabber". It gets to the core. These albums are "Timeless Cullness" to the extreme. When you go to a show and you see someone with a completely rare shirt like a NEGROMONICON shirt or a CARCASS "Flieshripping Torment" shirt- that person is "Timeless Cullness". Then there are activities that are at the core of being a Metalhead, like getting totally drunk while listening to Thrash Metal- that's "Timeless Cullness" as well. Doing an interview for SLAYER MAGAZINE - which has been around since '85- that's "Timeless Cullness" right there! (Ironic the expression Timeless Cullness is a variation on the name of a hidden track on NERVANA’s "Nevermind" album, "Endless Timeless""). Does DEKAPITATOR make special efforts to be ugly, or does it happen naturally? I’m talking about your appearance and not your music by the way.

- Why do you think we play this aggressive and hateful music? Because we're ugly as sin!

Any final comments?

- Thanks for the interview Labelbaum, and thanks to Matison for giving us a few pages in the legendary SLAYER MAGAZINE. Everyone says this, but it truly is an honour to appear in this magazine! Hall Anne Bobb and Nuclear War! Release the fucking doge!
A couple of issues ago we did a real in-depth and everlasting interview with Wannes of PENTACLE. That interview was performed by Mr. Cronis, so since there was on time to feature them again I thought we might as well let Cronis interview them again also!

A lot of things have happened with PENTACLE in the last years (and since the last SLAYER interview, feel free to inform us about the matters...)

- Last years were indeed very busy for us. We had to search for a new drummer as our former drummer Marc didn’t want to do any more gigs anymore.
- There was more than enough response concerning this. There were only two guys responding to the ads we had placed. One of them was a Hardcore guy which wasn’t a suitable solution and the other one, Robert, became our drummer. We worked with Robert to get him the live-set learned, but at the same time the band rehearsed with Marc for the recordings of "Ancient Death". Marc really wanted to do this record as the was our anniversary release and as he was the original drummer he definitely was entitled to do this job. We wouldn’t have wanted anybody else to record this release with us. Marc got the honours and at the same time he helped us keeping the band on track. We’re still very thankful he helped us out!
- Robert’s first gig was with TARLETY in Belgium which went pretty decent.
- The second one in Belgrade with GOBEL OF THE HORNS was awesome. Killer show and a killer audience made this gig to a classic PENTACLE gig.
- It has been a heavy job to integrate Robert in the band, because he wasn’t used to our style. He was more into slower material, but he really did his best and we like our songs now in the true PENTACLE fashion.
- In the meanwhile we did lots of gigs with bands like CENTURIA, WARRIORS, DESEASTER, HADES ALMIGHTY, ABSORBED and more.
- We also did a small tour with DESEASTER and PULVERIZER through Holland and Germany to promote our "Ancient Death" release. This was truly a great event for all the bands.
- We did some of the best shows in our career. During the tour we were dropped by our label DAMNATION.
- Because of some personal differences, but as they are going to put us out of the August 1993 we had to search for a new label anyway. No news about the search for a new label. "Ancient Death" is out now, so we thought it’s better to let this release do its job and in the meanwhile we have a look for a new label.

- It’s been some time now since "Ancient Death" got released, how do you feel about it? Has it grown with time or are you feeling tired of it by now?
- We still enjoy this album very much and listen to it very frequently.
- Although it has been recorded last year it still feels "fresh" to me when I listen to it.
- The combination of the 3 new ones, an old track of our '93 "Winds of the Fall" demo and the MANIACS/DEATH covers definitely work out in my opinion.
- It’s heavy, raw with a fitting production. The vocals with Mr. Wurjktlet are still a highlight.
- It contains our most extreme track ever, "Immolated in Flames" which just roared.
- I’m still proud of the lay-out.
- Fortunately the backside has been printed much too dark, but the whole artwork, booklet and the rear are great.
- Everything is spectacular, but with this release we tried to modernize our lay-out.
- The design because I felt the look of the CD-version of "Lords of the Mannfoll" didn’t had the potential it could have had. Except for the usual fuck-up I’m very proud how this CD looks.
- I’m more "high-tech" (you can say something like that), but it’s still 100% PENTACLE.

Needless to say that "Legion of Doom" is one of DEATH’s greatest songs. Do you feel relaxed to finally get it down on plastic after all this time?

- Definitely.
- It was a long time wish for me personally to record this song (as well as "Witch of Hell") for PENTACLE and both songs shred in our version.
- Not that they weren’t killer in their original versions, but now these songs got at least a decent production. Of course we’ll never be able to automate all the original arrangements, because of that very special atmosphere those demos do have, but that was never our intention. We just wanted to give both songs the proper production they deserved. We didn’t change the songs very much. Some additional parts and other solos, but that’s it.
- Nothing like what we did with the DESASTER and POSSESSED tracks.
- Both "Legion of Doom" and "Witch of Hell" are classic tracks because of their empathy and aggression and we didn’t want to change this. Just as what we did with HELLAHARMMER’s "The Reaper" on the fifth Heaven's demo.

- Nobody wants to hear a technical version of such simple, but killer songs, especially not those people who know the original. Unfortunately right at the moment everybody seems to cover DEATH songs which seemed to be the case because of Chuck’s illness. Here in Holland several benefits were being held for him to cover the treatments he’s getting in the hospital. So it’s very "hot" to play some DEATH covers. I hope nobody thinks that’s the reason we did those songs. At least you should know we had this idea much earlier, eh?

- Correct me if I’m wrong but wasn’t at one time Kam Lee thought of helping you out with the MANIACS/DEATH songs? If so, how came he didn’t?
- We’ve wrote him a letter to get his "Goll" for doing the covers.
- He already knew PENTACLE very well, which was a major surprise to me, and was very enthusiastic about our intentions. He also asked me if he could contribute some backing vocals on both songs which seemed a great idea to me. So I wrote him back immediately after the time he didn’t get any response anymore.
- Don’t know what happened, but the same thing happened with THANATOS who were doing "Corpsgrinder". Kam first wanted to help them as well, but he didn’t work either.
- Lack of time or something. At least they got some kind of message while we were left in the dark. Oh well, I mentioned him in my thanklist, because of the kind words and his permission to use those songs... I wonder if Chuck would have given us the opportunity to record those songs... At least Kam did.

- "Prophet of Perdition" get a very POSSESSED/PENTAISH-ism feel to it. A one-night stand or is PENTACLE moving into a slightly new direction musically?
- Well, Kam, if you listen very carefully to songs like "Rained by Night’s Chose", "Black at Heart", "Baptism in a Fiery Void" or "Abandoning an Endless Down" one can notice the very obvious POSSESSED riffs in these songs.
- It’s not that we stole riffs from them, but merely wrote parts as POSSESSED would have done, so the POSSESSED influence was already there.
- Nothing new for us. Even in our early days we used to have in an influence. But I definitely see this as a big compliment! I don’t think we’re heading in new direction, except for not having any FROST influences on this record. That would be a right observation. Fuckin’ great you mentioned PENTACLE as an influence, Killer band! Have you got their CD’s yet!

- Still no lyrics. Again too personal or weird stuff to print down?
- It’s because of several reasons, but the most important is there wasn’t any space left for them in the booklet.
- For me it was more important to get the lay-out done the way you see it in the booklet.
- Unfortunately this ruled out the lyrics.
- No, they aren’t too strange or whatever. Together with the words for the song "Souls Blood" from the "93 with DESASTER these lyrics are the most straight thing I’ve done for PENTACLE in many years.
- Very direct and hard hitting. Both "Prophet of Perdition" and "Immolated in Flames" are dealing with the subject of war. "Prophet..." is a bit more abstract, while "Immolated..." is dealing with my favorite writer.
- Sven Hassel. The subject of "Waking..." are my personal views about the occurr, while "Descending..." has some real old school lyrics as I wrote them back in 1991. Giselle de Raye is the man we’re talking about.
- I guess you can imagine the topics for "Legion of Doom" and "Witch of Hell".
- What about the vinyl version? Has it come out yet and will it contain some extra stuff or will it be a cool version just because it’s on vinyl?
- No, it hasn’t been released yet. There are several reasons why it’s taking so long. First, the "12" is going to be accompanied with an extensive booklet containing the band history, stories, photos, etc. Because of the major costs of such a booklet it took some time to figure out where and how (black/white or colour) such thing could be printed. Unfortunately our relation with DAMNATION went down the drain for a while so this made it definitely not easier to get the whole project started. For some time it wasn’t even sure whether there would even be a PENTACLE "12" again. As I told you)..Jesper of DAMNATION is going to quit in August this year. He wasn’t sure if he should invest such a big amount of money in a band whom he kicked of his label, while his label is going to call it quit in some months.
- Now both band and label decided to pull it off anyway, so we’re going to pay for the booklet while DAMNATION will do the vinyl. We (PENTACLE) just hope to have "Ancient Death" on vinyl. Not only because it’s a part of our tradition, but also the demand is very big and important, it’s our anniversary release. It’s definitely something special for us after being in PENTACLE for almost 12 years by now. We must celebrate this fact. So right now we’re busy in getting the lay-out for the booklet done, I hope it won’t take too long before it’s going to be released.
Also since last time you also did a split "10 together with brother in arms, DESASTER, as well as the infamous split "7 with REPUGNANT. How do you feel about these two now?"

- Still proud as hell. The split with DESASTER came out very well. All the different versions are great. I'm 100% into the concept of the "10. It's a very honest release and it has been done with style. Unfortunately it seemed to be very popular to release these splits by another label (SEASON OF MIST) as well, but we know this one came directly from our hearts, so there's nothing wrong with that. I still thank Corta for his great work, honesty and dedication. The "10 has become a collector's item and that's cool for sure. The split "7 with REPUGNANT was a bit of a let down... Ha, ha. No just kidding! You did your best and those reactions have been great! It's a true underground release in the TO THE DEATH tradition and I enjoy this. It has been great to be featured with such a cool band as REPUGNANT who did a very fine version of "Mortal Remains". As an old OSCUROSITY head myself I was pleasantly surprised by their contribution. And as PENTACLE wasn't featured on red vinyl "Mil" then we had something more to be proud of. To be honest, the real purpose of the POSSESSED track was to be featured on the "Seven Gates of Horror" tribute and because this didn't work out for whatever reason I feel it didn't achieve it's goal. For the rest I'm very satisfied with the release and you can read in the "Ancient Death" booklet what my feelings are...

Following the last one, isn't it time to see a full length PENTACLE soon?

- That would be great, but don't expect too much. We haven't written one new song after the completion of "Ancient Death", so there's loads of work to do. You know we really need our time to compose our songs, so it's true to say when the next release will come. It's too far away to tell you anything about it.

Do you think you can stay true to "The Ancient Feeling" and still achieve some commercial success?

- It depends on how you define commercial success. I mean, we did gigs with major bands like IMMORTAL, OBSCURA, ANATHEMA, MARDUK, SAMAEL, EMPEROR, CANNIBAL CORPSE and more. This is of course some form of "commercial success" although we're not selling like crazy. If you sell 2500 copies of an album, is that a commercial success? How much does a SADISTIC INTENT sell? Or USURPER, NORDHEIM, MORTUARY DRAPE, NUN SLAUGHTER or MORTEM? I truly don't know any figures. I guess bands like us will never sell very much, because we don't have the right label in our back and because the music is only suitable for a special public. On the other hand, when I was in ASPHYX we "scooped" as well very decent, but ASPHYX has a big status and a wellknown name in the scene. Better promotion and distribution for sure does work. So guess in all it's definitely possible to stay true to your heart and sell lots of records, but that last one didn't work for PENTACLE; VENOM, POSSESSED,

CELTIC FROST, KREATOR and DESTRUCTION sold thousands of copies of their records, but those were other bands and times, of course. Something that's been nagging my mind as: do you think it's possible to see or rather hear, different cultural feelings in bands (like Swedish, Norwegian, American, etc.) and if so, do you have any special Dutch feeling to your music?

- Well, if some band is incorporating their cultural heritage like folk music or the same (...), sure it's recognizable. As far as Metal on its own... I feel bands from South-America have a very distinctive sound. Very aggressive, lots of speed and totally to the bone. Just listen to your ASGARD collective! 90% of those bands truly sound South-American and you know what I mean. Those guys always say they're playing such aggressive music because of the extreme culture they have to battle with. What about the Australian Metal? BESTIAL WARLUST, SADISTIC EXECUTION, DESTROYER 666, VOMITOR, SPEAR OF LONGINUS, ENSLAVED, SLAUGHTER LORD, GOSPEL OF THE HARPERS, ATOMIZER and many more. I haven't heard of any Gothic Doom Metal band from Down Under (I have and it is pretty disappointing) Or the old UK scene with old PARADISE LOST, CATHEDRAL, MY DYING BRIDE and LORDS OF PUTREFACTION. Those bands were very typical for the English scene as well. I read something about depressive weather and surroundings long time ago. I guess it has something to do with the way they express themselves musically. As far as Holland, that's a bit more difficult. I don't think there's something really typical in the sound of Dutch bands. Personally, I thought this Gothic Doom/Death thing was typcal Dutch, but to be honest I don't know why. It just fitted our scene. Someone said the vocals of bands like DELIRIUM, PESTILENCE/ASPHYX, SOMBRE and PENTACLE were typical Dutch. Well, that's easy with me being in three of these bands, so there's only Martin van Drunen and Mark Homersaat left. Is that typical? Maybe you can tell me if we "sounded" Dutch. I'm too involved in the whole matter to be objective towards my own band.

What does the future have to offer concerning PENTACLE?

- The "Ancient Death" M-3 and I seriously hope it won't take too long as usual with all those fuckers who can't do their job the right way! We have got an offer to do a split release with SADISTIC INTENT, but as they have troubles enough to release "The Second Coming", I doubt if it'll work out. But it would definitely be great as SADISTIC INTENT are a killer band with the right attitude! Furthermore some interesting festivals/gigs and new cool merchandise. At last some backing vocals by John De Francesco and a drink - a long with Tom "Warrior" to get everything sorted out, ha! Thanks Cronos for the interview and Metalan for the opportunity to feature Pentacle in the SLAVED MAGAZINE for the 2nd time. Death, the ancient way!

PENTACLE, Prinsen Hoet 17, 5531 TD Bladel, The Netherlands. pentacle@chello.nl
When it comes to Black Metal I always had a soft spot for the more disturbing acts. You know, bands that have more to offer than running around in the forest with plastic swords and so on. So it is safe to say I find that disturbing element in HEMLOCK. HEMLOCK has all you demand from a fucked up Black Metal band, and they are really fucking good. Two full lengths, a mini and some other stuff are released and their last opus "Lust For Fire" is something you must own! UNLEASHED PREVAIL!

First of all, there has been some rumors circulating concerning who owns the rights to the band name or whatever, is that something worth getting into or not?

Yeah well, its something that we laugh at. That individual has some 'reason' to settle on his own.

OK, the sound of HEMLOCK, it is vicious and terrifying at the same time, how much of the sound can be blamed on the fact that you are from New York?

I think it is more of a mental state why our sound is what it is. You have to understand that the four people that make this band are not exactly mentally stable. [laughs] Both of this band would score most "normal" folk of corpse REAL Black Metal is UGLY! How do you view the future of HEMLOCK, with the mental state of the members in mind is it possible to carry on with this band for a long time?

It is impossible to say at this point, I don't look too deep in to the future. You have to understand that things change so often (due to a mental roller coaters will all ride) its ok. But at least we are doing a new 7" and probably another album, that all depends on each member's will to carry on. One thing for sure we are not going to be one of those bands that burn out all the time for ego's sake. It takes too long for an album...

What about other bands from New York are there anything you find of interest?

New York was once chocking full of interesting bands in the late 70s/80s: RIOT, W To WHIRL, S To BANDWAGON, OVERKILL, CITYS, TWISTED SISTER, SLIDELORD, BALTIMORE, THE RODS, ANgefA, WINTER, BANDWAGON, PHANTOM LORD etc. But as far as I knew today's groups well here some cool stuff that I find interesting. Some bands that manage to kick out some good tunes are: THE SUN, DECENDS, TEARSHOF OF THE TREES, TAKHOR, IRON RAINBOW, RHONDE, UNGUMUM, PROFANAFIKI/AVOCHEE. That's what's going on around here so far.

I guess beauty is in the eye of the beholder, but personally I do find some beauty (if you can call it that) in "Lust For Fire" (title track for instance), would you agree?

Yes I do agree. I find beauty in the grotesque. The melodies and arrangements work really well together to give a dramatic touch. Azalim is really into classical music and you could hear that in the arrangements of his songs. Most Scandinavian bands for instance live in very safe surroundings and they really don't get to know that downside of humanity. In HEMLOCK's atmosphere that creates this hostile feeling. But up here everything sound nice even if they don't want to be nice because most bands sound nice even if they don't want to be nice because everything is so safe here. Comments?

- I totally understand what you mean. I'm convinced that all these narsecore bands want to portray this mankind's angle in the music and image but what the hell is so scary about a place like Sarpsborg. This place is hell on earth!! Or man, stop talking good about Sarpsborg. That people Askir? Even Oksen is "Mercy" for family events blah blah etc. That people have smiles and everything organic is bright and happy. That is why I have no respect for 99.9% of these bands. They are pretenders. They are pretenders. It is impossible for HEMLOCK to "fake" what we do. We are totally authentic. It is impossible for HEMLOCK to "fake" what we do. We are totally authentic. It is impossible for HEMLOCK to "fake" what we do. We are totally authentic. It is impossible for HEMLOCK to "fake" what we do. We are totally authentic.

- It says on "Lust For Fire" that it is un-produced by HEMLOCK, still I think the sound is strong. It doesn't sound like anything else. My understanding is that this under-produced thing must be very produced in order to get that certain sound?

- Yeah I got that fucking rough demo sound. But it took us a while to get that sound. It was hard to get the right feeling. The mastering also added some of that "mature" sound to it. I personally think this is the best recording we have ever done. I am proud to say we all worked really hard on the recording, we all engineered it, routed cables shit shit shit. You should have seen the expression on the guy's face that was mastering it. In fact HADES [Classic Metal New Jersey band] was in that studio recording as well. And you could tell what he was doing with our drum slipper in the distance.

Yeah, you must have been like "what the fuck?"

There is some confusion concerning un-named tracks on an "Lust For Fire", tell us about those?

Well that is based on the fact we had little "interludes" (words howling etc.) between certain songs and when it was mastered it linked them as separate tracks, that is what through everybody off... The album itself is just above 24 minutes. A bit too short many might claim but who cares as long as the material devastates your soul. But why was it this shortness? Is it because of lack of quality material. Are you picky when it comes to new stuff or...

- Hell fucking yeah we are picky. But we wanted to make a to the point record and 3 songs is much better to keep the listener on the edge of his/her seat than to put a stupid filler into our album. We will leave that to the narsecore wannabes dishing out product after product after product. Keyboard can still fuck off.

Also the cover/booklet is something out of the ordinary, perhaps a bit hard to swallow for narrow-minded Black Metallers, but it works well, it is very different. Did you try to be different or this just how it is in your world?

- Yeah this how my world works. Visuals are REALLY important to me and I don't pay attention to what Metal records look like in the 90's-00's at all. Art is my blood. I don't spend time over analysing what I create. I just work in the immediate and let chance take me where ever...I'm really into mixed media and now I have been making some small installations...Its something that satisfies me just as quality music, sex, drugs, food.
Your new album "Black As Pitch" and is roughly released around the same time as new SLAYER, a strange thing is that NECRODEATH sounds more like a hungry SLAYER than SLAYER do, what is your comment on this album "God Hates Us All?"

- Do you really think this?? (It certainly kicks ass of new SLAYER/ED) - well, thank you, because I think this is a compliment - anyway, I do like the new SLAYER as well. I was scared about it because I heard a lot of bad things about, but I think it is good, very violent.

"Black As Pitch" is our new masterpiece and as for me I remember it is also a movie, why did you title the album after a movie?

- Well, believe it or not, this title was chosen without knowing about the movie... then I saw on the newspaper a review of this movie, but nobody of us went to the cinema. The title was good for us and we decided to keep it.

Can you tell me a bit about your lyrics? Do you put much work into them?

- Not personally, I usually don't write lyrics, so Peau and Fleigias do all the work. I know Peau spent a lot of time on them and he spent a lot of time in arranging all the vocals. All our lyrics are available on our web site WWW.NECRODEATH.COM

Many of the younger generation might consider your vocals as Black Metal like, what's your comment on that?

- I agree with them that Fleigias style has a lot of black metal: I like this, because I like to think that we play the right mix of thrash and black metal.

You are a old band still you seem to carry on the energy of the youth really good, how do you explain that? Is it the Metal that makes you young?

- Let's hopefull! I don't know really... Metal is our way of throwing out our violence side: there are many occasion of getting angry and doing things... I depends, NECRODEATH usually spends the rest of the night laughing at others [surprise]...

Finally, what is it in life that all humans are after and maybe in yours also? - I live for the ultimate primal bliss: Fucking, creating and eating.

There are too many distractions on this planet that try to destroy the basis of my existence. The rest of humanity is eternally doomed by the hard grip of the western world...
DRACENA have a new demo out as well as their "Demonic Women" demo CD has been released on beautiful red vinyl, reasons enough to see what is going on me think! Mia is answering the questions!

What strikes me as the most odd thing is that you still not have a record deal, what is going on with that? It has been a few years since the release of "Demonic Women" so have you been extremly picky when it comes to offers and so on.

- We have had some labels that has shown interest in DRACENA. I guess they will wait to see what happens with our music. And since we yet haven't released a new demo, due to line-up changes, we haven't gotten any new offers lately. During the last year I have received some requests from a few labels that wonders if we have released anything new. We'll see what will happen after our next demo release.

Do you bother much to go on playing a band without a proper deal? Are you frustrated? Is it hard to get motivated for the future?

- The first 6 months after the "Demonic Women" release it felt a bit frustrated to not get a contract. We did have an offer that we were interested in, but the label didn't have enough money all of a sudden. Later on we have kept writing new material, trying to find a drummer and get some gigs to play. At the moment we have very much attention from both "companies and people who wants to buy our demo. We have plans for a new recording as soon as possible, and are writing brand new material for that one. We also have a re-release of "Demonic Women" on 7" vinyl at NEAR DARK PRODUCTIONS (now), a 7" with material that will be released at REALMS OF DARKNESS (US) sometime next year and a few compilations that will feature DRACENA as well.

It doesn't bother me very much, although it would be nice to get a deal and get the opportunity to record a fulllength album or two. It can sometimes be a bit hard to get motivated, especially when there are line-up problems, but this last 6 months it's been a lot going on with the band and it feels like we have a few things to look forward to this autumn too. Well, it is not all bad news, there is the 7" I already mentioned with the material of the "Demonic Women", tell me about that?

- We were contacted by Kim from Near Dark Productions, who had heard our demo at a party, and he was very interested in releasing it on a 7" vinyl. It's out now. It will feature the tracks "demonic Woman" and "Hounds of Hell". The third song was too long to fit in and we decided to not have it on. There's a brand new cover, cause we felt for doing something different from the cd-demo. We have also added an intro and outro. Further details on our website.

How is the situation with new material then, do you have a much material?

- We write new material right now for our next demo and the new 7". This year we have 3 brand new songs ready, and some yet to be arranged. Between '97 and '00 we have some 4 - 5 tracks that we have not yet decided if we will release or not.

How do you view the creation of songs now, do you think like "this is going to be the first song on the eventually LP" or...

- I mostly think of it will be a good live song, hahah. Although we don't play too often live, it's the part of the playing I like best. In which order the songs will appear on the release is something we decide after the recording, even if there's some ideas before about that too.

So, if I understand you right there is a new demo coming...

- Yes, we are making a new demo, and it will be recorded within a few weeks. Don't know yet how many songs that will be featured, but at the moment at least three. The new songs are a bit different, perhaps because it's some years between the latest release, but also because we have a new drummer, who takes part in arranging the songs. But they will be in the DRACENA vein of Metal hahah.

You also played a few gigs in 2001, one in Gotenburg with SIEBENBURGEN and also at the 2 HEAVY 4 U FESTIVAL. What do you think of playing live, do you feel comfortable on stage?

- I love to play live. But sometimes there are certain things surrounding the gig that brings down the feeling of playing live. Like a lot of problems with equipment before the gig, or bad sound. It's not fun to play when one can't hear anything else but the drums. Even though people haven't heard more than 3 of our songs they usually appreciate the music and we get a few rows of headbangers, hahah. We will try to get more gigs this both in Sweden and out in Europe.
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PHOTO ESSAY - Sonny Barger of Hells Angels is not a short person. This isn't his first interview and he's willing to speak his mind. In the past I've had people tell me that I should pretend to be someone I'm not, but I'm not going to pretend to be someone I'm not. I'm going to be myself. And I'm going to tell you the truth.

I think we should all be honest with each other. We should all be real people. We should all be who we are. And we should all be proud of who we are. We should all be confident in who we are. We should all be strong in who we are. We should all be able to stand up for who we are.

I'm going to be who I am. I'm going to be real. I'm going to be honest. I'm going to be strong. I'm going to be confident. I'm going to be proud.

And I'm going to tell you the truth. I'm going to be real. I'm going to be honest. I'm going to be strong. I'm going to be confident. I'm going to be proud.

I'm going to be who I am. I'm going to be real. I'm going to be honest. I'm going to be strong. I'm going to be confident. I'm going to be proud.

And I'm going to tell you the truth. I'm going to be real. I'm going to be honest. I'm going to be strong. I'm going to be confident. I'm going to be proud.
FROM BEYOND reached issue 6, with professional printing and good bands. This issue is reviewed through RED STREAM and I hope it works out well. Harald is a die hard Metal bastard like me and he knows his stuff. Also besides excellent interviews with NIFELHEIM, the NEGROHAGA, DIABOLIC we also got some serial killer stuff, this time from Mr. Dahms. Featured in this issue is 32 pages of well packed material from FROM BEYOND, P.O. Box 1756, 7416 TRONDHEIM, NORWAY. zombi826@hotmail.com

TOTAL NECRO - An extreme Black Metal tape with extreme views - the only way it should be done in general. This features some bizarre articles like the one on THE UNHOLY SUICIDE CULT or the HOW TO KILL feature! Besides that, interviews with NIFELHEIM, MANTICOR BUTCHER, HEMLOCK, JUDAS ISCARIOT, CLANDESTINE BLAZE and others. This is the debut issue, owned by me. A healthy dose of SLAYER and EXODUS brought to you in a fine manner by this awesome trio. This is going to be released on limited edition 10 vinyl AWESOMELY! Contact through this email address: covitzen@msn.com

VICTIMIZER from Denmark also turned out to be enjoyable. I was surprised to see a band that delivers a kind of old school rock 'n' roll Black Metal with a tad of BATHORY. Pretty fucking cool stuff! Three tracks are served here in the shape of "Hell Revealed," "Vestiges of War" and "Skullfucked." This tape is limited to 15 copies and it says it is a limited edition. I don't know if that's correct or not. Definitely check out this cool tape for what I'm not sure but definitely check it out. VICTIMIZER, Vejby Toffen 100, 6240 RISSOV, DENMARK skullfucked@victimizer.com

OUSBOROS - sick fuck from Kanada Recorded at the infamous Death Church Studio you pretty much know what you are in for. Another case of the audible essence of EVIL! On this "Unleashing the Evil" demo 2000 OUSBOROS present five tracks of misanthropic madness. Just highly disturbing, very effective in the evil sense of the word. I mean, no need to tell you that this tape is a must for the mainstream followers. Some of the songs have some sort of mid-paced features but no matter what - this is in Satanic! If you want something different to spice up your everyday life look no further! Bernard Aepson, 5830-78 Ave., Edmonton, AB, T6E 6N7, CANADA

HORNED is a pretty young band hailing from Sweden. Their "Three Ways to Kill" demo (with four tracks actually) is a Thrash assault in the vein of SLAYER and THE HAUNTED. I guess they are pretty inspired by THE HAUNTED as I get a THE HAUNTED vibe by looking at the cover. But anyway, those Swedish thrashers are pretty cool and worth checking out. Web site: hornedjacket hornedinc.com, Sedro Dammar, Siv, 66333 SFORSHALL, SWEDEN

THE DIVINE LIGHT, another band coming from the pits of New York. Very powerful death metal. Love the death metal scene. "Saguarlado" is a great name. I can only imagine it to be a great band and this old demo to their credit. Can't wait to listen to this one. Check them out. WEB: www.thedivinelight.com
An interview with the Swedish organisation MLO, this is an interview for those who are interested in other things. If you only want to read about Metal I guess you should drop this. I got a lot of shit for featuring stuff like this in SLAYER but what can I say? FUCK OFF perhaps? This IS SLAYER and I feature what want. Remember, the name is SLAYER, not BE NICE TO YOUR MOTHER. I think you, the readers should enjoy this, as it is quite an exclusive thing.

What does it take, personally, to become a Satanist?

Nox: A Satanist is a person who takes on the role as the constant "accuser" and "opponent", and who wholeheartedly struggles against status quo with a view to bring forth the personal development and evolution that only can be reached through Chaos. What it takes from a person who "wants to be a Satanist" is a strong will to power and an even stronger attraction to the unknown, secret and sinister wisdom, that is Lucifer's gift to the few chosen superior humans who venture into the burning path, which is the way of the Transcendental Anti-cosmic Satanism.

Misantropiska and contempt for society are also essential parts of the true Satanism. Because if a sufficient will shall be able to exist to attain the spiritual evolution and bring forth the endless dark ocean, which is the highest goal for the Anti-cosmic Satanist, there must also exist a burning hate against the prevalent order and the human society, that glows underneath the surface of the demigods and the light, pre-cosmic religions. To be able to want to transcend the present cosmic state and become one with the dark gods, who are different aspects of the raging Chaos that reigns outside cosmos and the formed universe, the Satanic Flame of Chaos" burning inside. Hence, the Black Flame is for the most important concept within the Anti-cosmic Satanism.

"The Black Flame" is the ecstatic name of the part of the primal Chaos that still burns inside the dark soul of the strong ones. This Black Flame is the same power that the Sumerians referred to as "The Blood of Kings", the ancient Egyptian Draconic cults called "The Seed of Apep" and the Kliefotc and Anti-Semitic monarchs called "The Flame of Maboel". The Black Flame is also the "pneuma" of the dark Gnostics and was also called "The Divine Spark". It is this divine spark that is the spirit of the Chaos-Gnostics and the Anti-cosmic Satanists. It is their inner driving force that makes them struggle against the cosmic order, life after life, in the end reach the understanding and wisdom that shall completely awakens the black flame of Chaos/the Blood of Kingu and burn the physical and spiritual shackles that keep us imprisoned in this cosmic prison, that the "demigods" (i.e. the foolish creators) created in the beginning of time.

We were created out of Chaos, against our will, but the black flame strengthens our will and gives us the possibility to see beyond the sight of the dark, paradoxical, fearful, beautiful and eternal Chaos, which is the dragon Tiamat. Therefore it is essential for a person who desire to walk on the left and sinister path to have understanding of the inner black flame, which is the reflection of the external and eternal black flame, Lucifer our cruel and proud father, the bringer of light! The black flame shall set the world on fire. HAIL KAO! What does it give you being a Satanist? Do you feel that you're part of a greater concept?

Nox: To an Anti-cosmic Satanist and Chaos-Gnostic is to be the same as following our own true will, leading us to immortal power and eternal freedom in Chaos. We enter into the darkness of the unknown hunting for the forgotten and dreadful treasures. For we know that our own self-made light, the light of Satan/Lucifer, will guide our steps. Satanism is the path leading away from the "creation of god" towards the divinity of one's own soul. Through the practice of the black arts and our studies we know that we're on the right track, through the labyrinth where weaker individuals went astray. This gives us great satisfaction. Satanism is the only thing that makes life worth living. For what should this life, among human sheep, that was forced upon us be without the pleasures, ordeals, dangers, battles and victories as well as the true darkness, "evil", hate, death and infernal wisdom that the dark gods make accessible to the few strong and chosen ones (the elect) who dare to tread the path of the black dragon. Satanism is the salvation for the strong and the annihilation to the weak. We lock up the dark gods that we, when we have reached all our goals, will become one with. We shall break through the cosmic barriers and through the dark portal return into the dragon's womb. Thus, the answer to your question is: Yes, we are a part of the greatest concept. XEPER-I-APEH

What are your rewards when dedicating your life to Satanism?

Nox: We have already answered this question, but might add that we as Satanist as the part of the raging anti-cosmic Chaos that has been described as the "black light", which is the name of the power that counteracts the creator (the demiurge) aiming to crush cosmos and its creator, this way re-establishing the primal state of formless Chaos that ruled before the light and the demiurge came into being.

One of the aims of Satan/Lucifer is to set free the part of the eternal black flame that are being imprisoned within cosmos. Thus, when the Satanist dedicates himself to Satanism he also dedicates himself to his own liberation. The Anti-cosmic Satanist is the guardian of the black flame/the blood of Kingu and the reward for keeping the black flame burning through the past thousands of years is to become elevated to the black thrones of the ancient gods of darkness and chaos. To become the living entities leading to Chaos. But the highest goal and the final reward for the Satanist is to become one with the dragon of Chaos, free from the shackles of cosmos. SITAL-MADU TITAMAT! Some say you're a Satanist since the day you were born. How do you view that?

Nox: Being Anti-cosmic Satanists, as we are, we know that we consist of body, soul/astro body and spirit/the black flame. Every time we die, the body and the astro body is killed and the cosmic prison/life force these two bodies contain is burning back into cosmos being recycled in the cosmic circulation. Some black magicians are able, through the practice of vampirism, to program their astral bodies to feed upon the life-energy of other living creatures in order to attain the death of their own physical body. This way preventing their post-mortem astral bodies from being recycled by the cosmic powers. However, those who practice vampirism and in most cases not Anti-cosmic Satanists and don't carry the black flame in their body. They therefore deny the existence of the spirit/black flame and see the soul/astro body as the deepest essence of their existence. It is therefore the utmost importance for these "vampires" to keep their astral bodies alive to avoid the "second death", i.e. the death of the astro body.

We, on the other hand, who have the black flame burning within us and through the past ages have stood up against the attacks from the gods of light whose objective is to put out our inner chaosfire, this way disconnecting the dark links that bind us to the powers of Chaos, do not care for body and soul/astro body. For we know that as long as the black flame is burning, with the help of a dark mind and a strong will, we will remain alive in life or death. This process is called "being chained to the wheel of life". So if the black flame was burning in your past life it then will be burning inside you this life too. Having this in mind you can say that you're a Satanist since the day you were born. However, it is important to bear in mind that the demigods has the objective to extinguish all black flames, that are burning him and his creation from within, and therefore force us to drink from "Lethis", the river of oblivion, each time we die, making us forget the struggle of Chaos against order and the fight of the inner chaos fire for liberation from cosmos. Because of this we sometime needs to be awakened from this slumber and oblivion, that the demigod puts us in. This awakening is usually called "the bite of the serpent", that awakens the eyes of the elect". To deliver the "bite of the serpent" to awaken those of us who slumber is therefore also one of the missions of the Anti-cosmic Satanist. Consequently, the Satanist don't want to redeem the masses, like the religions of the right hand, but the dark and sinister elite that we ourselves belong to. HELL SATANICES Death to the weak!

You are involved in MLO (Misantropiska Lucifer Orden). Tell us some more concerning this organization. When was it started, how many members etc.?

Nox: Misantropiska Lucifer Orden is an order dedicated to the anti-cosmic powers and to the fortification, liberation and ultimately the reaching of the divinity of the inner black flame. One of our goals is to gather and relay the elect, who has acted as living portals to the Chaos that reigns outside the barriers of cosmos. Those who through the channelling of the diachronic and anti-cosmic energies have contributed to spread the anti-cosmic evolution and the initiation of the endless dark ocean. MLO work by means of uniting and concentrating the black chaoic fires that burn inside these chosen warriors of the left hand path, to burn new holes in the cosmic consciousness and to open new dark portals in the collective unconscious of mankind. This way contributing to the dark gods' invasion of cosmos and the human psyche.
Within our Order we look upon each other as different reflections of the dark gods and assist each other with everything that can facilitate our spiritual progress. But we do also assist each other with the more physical and material sides of our anti-cosmic struggle. For example removing everything and everyone who dares to stand in the way of any of our members. We are Anti-cosmic Satanists and are always prepared to kill and die for each other, for we know that no one else in this strange world (in which we are strangers) deserves our loyalty. By the dark line of the black flame we all serve, the raging Chaos, forever united. HAIL LUCIFER POFOLOCA!

It seems like MLO is overly active looking for and recruiting new members, how can you make a proper judgement of who can join or not? And have you ever contacted or met them?

Newt: - MLO don't seek new members, new members seek MLO. Mankind consist of human cattle that, because of their own weakness and opacity, have allowed the demons to put out their black flames of Chaos, that is the beginning of time and from inside those souls. It is sheer sense that now glidely submit to the cosmic tyranny and the foolish demigure. It is therefore a matter of course that we also have been contacted by some of these fools, thinking that Satanism is some kind of game. However, we usually sort out the wolves from the lambs quite easily. Contacting MLO with non-serious intentions usually carries its own punishment. It is only about one percent of all those who call themselves Satanists that has a value and it is this secret elite that still carries the divine spark of Chaos inside. The dark tree of wisdom must be watered with the blood of the unworthy. Only then can we harvest the fruit of true knowledge. Hall messianopah Hall the elect! Is it possible to be a member of MLO as well as some other Satanic organization?

Newt: - It is possible to be a member of another Satanic organization simultaneously being a member of MLO, only if the philosophy, values and doctrines of the other organization isn't in opposition to what MLO stand for. For MLO strive towards it is impossible being an active member of "LaVeys" church at the same time being a member of MLO. We don't, however, regard "LaVeys" church and its bastard offspring "Temple of Set" as Satanic organizations. Yet, it must be added that in comparison with the activities in Black Livvy, Temple of Set is a far more serious and intelligent organization, but they are still not Satanic. Their first mistake was trying to make Satanism and the ruler of darkness, Set, into something accepted and harmless, this way attempting to become a "loy" religion, accepted and acknowledged by the rest of the Judeo-Christian society. Satanism is not for the apathetic masses, but for the elect that have the will, knowledge and power to transcend the limitations of life and death to become one with the god of Chaos.

The Satanic spit at both the laws of "god" and man and follows the formula of our father Satan/Lucifer: "Chaos ab ordo", which means "Chaos from order", and thus follows his own law, which is the true will of the eternal black flame of Chaos.

When it comes to the late Mr LaVeys and his organization, it is the opinion of no less than every Anti-cosmic and traditional Satanist that LaVeys and his "church" has nothing to do with real Satanism. Their "role-play Satanism" is nothing but ordinary atheism spiced with some pseudo-mysticism and dressed up as a religion. It is not enough to dress up in black clothing wearing a pentagram around your neck to be able to call yourself a Satanist. Satanism is the tool of the sinister elite for reaching the liberation of the spirit and the black flame (making it possible to be defined by the two words: chaos and chaos. True Satanism is about constantly representing and acting like the physical manifestations of the dark gods, and through the way we lead our lives act as dark porters and bringers of change, evolution/revelation and chaos. There hardly exist any other organization proclaiming true Satanism, and the members of MLO have no interest in joining them either.

Do most the members have a Black Metal background?

Newt: - Most of our members don't have a Black Metal background. Yet, there been and still are those in MLO that through music spread our dark messages and the energies that we work with. It is through playing "the dark seed" in the unconscious of the masses that desired changes in the human psyche can be achieved. When the dark seed grows and come out in blossoms that Chaos will flourish. Apparition turna, at geminit chaos. On the whole, MLO has got nothing to do with black Metal.

A lot of people playing in Black Metal bands claim to be Satanists and don't do anything more about it. Do they form a purpose or do you see them as sheep?

Newt: - We and other Anti-cosmic and traditional Satanists have more or less only dark arts to write and speak about. Satanism is the religion of the active. It has sadly enough for too long served the purposes of ignorant, and foremost cowardly, fools. What is dead serious to us, seems to be nothing but "exciting role-play" for others to sell their unearned and worthless records. Still, there has always been a small core of serious Satanists who have been using music in order to spread our message and the disharmonic chaotic energies that they have channelled through their music. Music has always been used by Satanists to open the minds of the masses and by MLO we are doing the same thing using Black Metal as a vehicle. Today, there are bands in Sweden, Norway and Holland who through their music and lyrics channel the anti-cosmic energies that
A lot of Satanic cults deny the existence of a personified Satan. Why do these people call themselves Satanists when they don’t believe in that?

**Nexfear:** I believe the Wiccan was a better choice than the Satanic name. Since they have nothing to do with the Satanic concept, they have nothing to do with Wicca.

**Haller:** As soon as I mentioned “Satan” or “Satanic,” it was clear that I was talking about a reality that seems to contradict the established beliefs. In this context, the question arises: who is Satan? What is a Satanic organization? What constitutes a Satanic practice? These are the questions that we need to address.

**Nexfear:** The question of Satan is, in my opinion, a matter of perspective. To some, he is a mythological figure, to others, a historical person, and to yet others, a symbol of anti-establishment. The term “Satanism” has been used to describe a wide range of beliefs and practices, from esoteric rituals to political extremism. It is up to the individual to decide what Satan means to them.

**Haller:** The Satanic movement is a complex and diverse phenomenon, with members from different backgrounds and beliefs. It is important to recognize that Satanism is not a monolithic entity, but rather a collection of individual interpretations and practices. It is up to each individual to determine their beliefs and actions within the framework of their own personal philosophy.

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**Milo:** As a Satanic organization, we believe in the power of Satan to inspire and guide us in our journey. We believe in the importance of ethical behavior and the rejection of materialism. We believe in the power of Satan to bring about change and transformation. We believe in the power of Satan to help us overcome our fears and doubts. We believe in the power of Satan to help us achieve our goals.

**Nexfear:** We believe in the power of Satan to inspire and guide us in our journey. We believe in the importance of ethical behavior and the rejection of materialism. We believe in the power of Satan to bring about change and transformation. We believe in the power of Satan to help us overcome our fears and doubts. We believe in the power of Satan to help us achieve our goals.

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A lot of Satanic cults deny the existence of a personified Satan. Why do these people call themselves Satanists when they don’t believe in that?
What is the main purpose for MLO and how realistic is that goal?

Novice - The main purpose of MLO is anti-cosmic evolution. Also the fortification, and in some cases the reawakening, of the black flame of Chaos. Our goal is to unite the elect who consciously walk the path of the black dragon (the Transcendental Anti-cosmic Satanism). To concentrate the powers of the eternal black flame and burn further black holes in the world's soul (animus mundi) and the collective unconscious of mankind, to open new dark portals to Chaos, this way contributing to the beginning of the endless dark cosmos and the invasion of cosmos by the dharmonic and sinister energies. Also, one of the most important goals of MLO is Chaos gnostic (wisdom/understanding of Chaos). It is only through interchanges of thoughts and ideas with like-minded people as well as the study of the esoteric dark doctrines and the channelling of the anti-cosmic energies into one's own spirit, that we can reach wisdom and open the eyes of the blind dragon Thanathoserp and see through all cosmic lies, weaknesses and illusions, and in that way transcend order and become one with Chaos. MLO serve the will of the ancient gods and we prepare ourselves, by means of our spiritual work, for the final war when the eleven ones ultimately shall defeat the ten. When the inner darkness is strong enough to defeat both the internal and external light, the parts of the divine spark which are imprisoned inside the demigods' creation will be set free. MLO intend to, by means of our work, strengthen the inner darkness of our members, this way darkening the world's soul. This goal is very realisable! As above, so below!

What kind of rituals do you do? How often is that organized?

Novice - MLO perform both ceremonial and hermetic rituals, with the purpose of bringing about such changes, with the dark, sinister and chaotic energies that are generated, concentrated and directed, that corresponds to the will of our Order and the dark gods. MLO use the power of the worship of the anti-cosmic current to obtain both spiritual and worldly power, and also to remove all obstacles that the forces of the light might place in our way. In general, most of the rituals and ceremonies of MLO derive from the Sumerian chaos gnosticism, the Occasional Satanism and the Kabbalistic black magic.

For example we practice rituals of invocation to become possessed by our demonic gods and acquaint with their wisdom and power. We practice rituals of elevation to call forth and manifest the dark and anti-cosmic energies on the physical plane. We practice rituals of purification to banish the unwanted and weakening energies with which the light attacks us. We practice rituals of initiation to induct different stages of the burning path and to bring us together with different magical currents. We practice power rituals to strengthen the spirit and to awaken the black dragon (the black kundalini). We practice rituals of malediction to weaken, torment, drive insane, vampirize, punish and kill our enemies.

According to ancient tradition, blood rituals are also practiced within the Anti-cosmic Satanism. Vast amounts of energies (i.e. the life-force) can be directed to different purposes. For example: to fly a specific current or to create an energy inside a talisman. Giving away the energy as a gift to one of the dark gods, this way strengthening its manifestation on the physical plane, or using the energy to make new cracks in the astral barriers to open new dark portals. Blood rituals also serve many other purposes. Like for example: building strength of character and a strong identification with the dark powers in those who practice these rituals. Letting them come in true contact with darkness, this way contributing to the eclipse of their souls and the strengthening of their Satanic predator mentality. It is this mentality that separates man from the superhuman and the hunter from the prey. Even lesser blood rituals can be used, and are most often so during these rituals, but then the released energies are not so strong.

We also want to state that all so-called Satanists who deny blood rituals as a part of the true Satanism are fools and ignorant fools who don't have a clue of what they're talking about. Satanism is all about creasing borders and about developing into a god of darkness. To be able to reach this state the Satanist must bath have the ability to create and to destroy.

MLO also practices other kinds of rituals and ceremonies, in accordance to the Satanic will and the black flame, to effect such changes in the world that further support our Order and the anti-cosmic evolution on a large scale. These rituals are held as often as it's necessary, and being Anti-cosmic Satanists we, for example, don't find it necessary to wait for any meaningless pagan feast to hold our black rites, but practice our dark art/science whenever we wish to do so.

Si levi, levi?

What is the story on MLO and The True Satanist Horde, what was the link there?

Tenebris - The True Satanist Horde had, contrary to its name, unfortunately nothing to do with real Satanism and its practice. They of course claimed to be Satanists but just playing black metal, wearing corpse paint and inverted crosses doesn't, however, make a Satanist. It was all just a lot of talk and they had gotten away with that for years. So when MLO had formed back in '95 we asked the guys if they were interested in the real deal. Obviously they were not.
Back in the glory days of German fucking Thrash there was this fucking killer band called EXUMER. EXUMER released two albums in the shape of "Possessed By Fire" and "Rising From The Sea". Both fine examples of Thrash masterpieces, especially the debut "Possessed By Fire" is a true gem. EXUMER was a bit more influenced by the extreme scence of American bands. You can find plenty of both EXODUS and SLAYER in EXUMER. Nothing bad with that I assure you. I got hold of original bass player Mem who played and did vocals on the first LP "Possessed By Fire" only. Mem is also fronting the up and coming Thrash monster SUN DESCENDS. More of that as the interview goes on.

I think we might as well start with EXUMER and then progress towards SUN DESCENDS. OK? First of all, you only appeared on the second LP of the so called "Possessed By Fire" LP by them. Tell me, how did you get involved in this band in the first place?

- In 1985 I was looking to form a band after I had been involved with my first project in 1984. Summer 1985 I was asked to work as part of the local road crew at the first SLAYER show in Frankfurt, this show and the German leg of SLAYER's first European tour were promoted by Matthias Prill (VENOM's LEGIONS - Germany). There at the show I noticed a guy with very long hair - another local crew member - messing around with some guitar racks, Ray Memoch. I asked him if he played guitar and about his favourite bands. He talked for a while and he agreed to come out to the town where I used to live for rehearsals. This is how the band started, I brought in our drummer at the time and Ray brought in Bernie, the second guitarist. Summer 1985 we started rehearsing at my father's junkyard in Weilbach, Germany.

Tell me about the demos the band did before the first LP?

- We only did one demo "A Mortal In Black" end of 1985. I had good contacts to the German metal press because at the time I used to work for magazines, on a freelance basis, conducting interviews with English speaking bands (mainly American/British), therefore we could easily place the demo for reviews. At the time we thought that doing one demo might be enough to score a record deal. It took a little more in the end. We played some gigs and brought in people with connections to finally score. EXUMER signed a deal with a label called DISASTER who besides EXUMER also signed ANGEL DUST. This was a previous punk label we knew.

- DISASTER was an offspring of A.M. MUSIC, it was designed to feature Thrash and Metal acts. You are right though, the main source for A.M. Music were punk/hardcore acts.

So how came you signed with this somehow small label? Wasn't there any interest from NOIZE or STEAMHAMMER or even BONNEDRIVER who released so many of the classic albums back then?

- We had relatively little response from other labels after the demo. Thomas Ziegler, head of A.M. MUSIC, came and checked us out at our 2nd show ever in Frankfurt. We opened for WARPAKE from the UK and another DISASTER RECORDS act at the time. He loved the band, its energy, look, power and so he made an offer.

Tell me about the recordings of this first LP, were you an inexperienced band who felt or did the studio work fine?

- We were very inexperienced. We had no idea how different it would be to record in a professional studio, for two weeks with a well-known Thrash producer. Those two weeks were an intense learning process for the band and a quite turbulent. After all, we came out of those two weeks as much better musicians.

How was it to record this LP in the studio, was it like you imagined it to be or was it different? What surprised you most by being in the studio?

- It was quite different from what we had imagined. Harris Johns was totally in command and that was good. He knew what to do and how to put our songs on tape. The most surprising thing was that we thought we would have some knowledge about our own music but came to find out that we only knew the half about the songs. The real deal was discovered during the recording and mixing process.

How big were EXUMER exactly after the release of this "Possessed By Fire" LP?

- The band definitely made a big impression on the Thrash world at the time. Our sound was very much oriented at North American acts and the press and everyone else was making comparisons with EXODUS and other Thrash bands.

For me you had the same sort of status like DARKNESS, ASSASSIN, IRON ANGEL and so on, do you agree with this?

- I kind of disagree, because of several reasons but most importantly we differed in sound. Our sound was completely rooted in the U.S. tradition of song writing and guitar riffing. The bands you mentioned were all great bands in their own right but I think we created a sound that was very appealing internationally. People from all over the globe did not really know where we actually came from. That was because of our sound.

Well, I wasn't really saying you sounded like those American bands but I was thinking more of the status of the band. Anyway, how do you view "Possessed By Fire" these days, do you see it as a classic yourself?

- As a musician who was involved creating the record it is always difficult to actually view the album. I know that at the time we were very young, totally into doing just this band and that we felt every note on this album was important to us and meaningful. This feeling of honest, real emotion, may it be aggression or any other feeling, still exists. Whereas the band to the record these days, I know that it was a true expression of what we felt at the time. So therefore I understand that it can mean a lot of those same feelings to other people who picked it up back then.

You left EXUMER around the release of "Possessed By Fire", what was the reason for that? Did you ever regret that you left the band?

- I only played the first three shows with the band and shortly before the release of "Possessed By Fire" I left the group. We were all very young at the time and since I had started the band I was proud and not aware that I was petty. Instead of pulling our team together as a combined effort, I only saw myself in the centre. It was a very exciting time, I thought I was in love, I used to party a lot and not really practice my skills as a musician. Then it all came to an end and I simply left. I do not regret leaving the band but if I have some regrets I truly believe we could have left a bigger mark in thrash history.

What do you think of the 2nd LP "Rising From The Sea"?

- I like some of the songs from the second album but I think the biggest problem is the sound. There wasn't enough time to record this album and therefore a lot of the material did not turn out as well. It is another feel than the first record and I think many people felt they were ready for something else.

After this there were so many rumors about EXUMER as maybe you can finally tell me exactly what happened after the 2nd LP? We heard about suicides and so on as can you please tell me what was going on?

- There were no suicides or anything remotely like that. I left the band and shortly after that I moved to the states for the first time. I continued with the new singer, Paul A. and released the second album. Paul is a Hawaiian born U.S. citizen and he was also a family member of an U.S. forces military family, his father's time was up in Germany and because of his cleanliness to his parents he decided to move back to the states, which left EXUMER without a vocalist for the 2nd time. They found another one, John Cadden, but they failed to score a new deal after recording two demos with John. The tour with NASTY SAVAGE and ATOMICMBOT was financially a disaster and our only manager, Matthias Prill, left Germany with some debt and moved to Brazil. So the band slowly dissolved.

So this brings us to the current situation, you have re-formed EXUMER to play some festivals, tell me about this happened?

- Last year on my summer vacation I was invited by some of my old ROCK HARD friends to join them for the Wacken show. I accepted the invitation and went there to hang out. As the festival unfolded all kinds of people from record companies and magazines heard that I was EXUMER front man was visiting the show. I was hanging out with the METAL BLADE guys and numerous magazine people and everyone was asking if I would consider putting the band together for a reunion show in Wacken. At that time I was and still am living in New York and I thought if we do this thing it would have to be a one-time deal. So I agreed to think about it but I also felt that everyone was really into the old band, especially the "Possessed By Fire" period and no one had ever seen the band in the original line up, remember? I left after only three shows. Ray, Bernie and my self were still friends and had another band together during the '90s. So there was no problem there, I called up the guys after the Wacken show and we decided to do it one more time. Why do you want to bring back EXUMER now - what do you want to prove with this re-union?

- There is nothing to prove, it is a thank you to all the people who like the old stuff and it is for everyone to have FUN!!!
So give us your impressions of performing at the Wacken festival.

I thought it was an excellent event even though I heard a few people complain about the size (it has got bigger than ever). I thought it was very cool. It was an honour for us to play there and I thought it went down quite well. The fact that THE HAUNTED played before us and that SAXON were on while we played was a challenge but I think we pulled it off ok. Our stage concept was that the band stays kind of stationary while we deliver the show. Since with this line-up, contrary to SUN DESCENDS where I play bass and sing, I have more freedom to really deliver a full physical show. Some people told me that the rest of the band does not look very Metal at all, but I can say that the two guitarists are over 30 years old and I do not tell people what to wear. I'm in a Thrash Metal band (SUN DESCENDS) and I listen to Extreme Metal music. The other guys are into lighter, other stuff and therefore they might not look a certain way. But they love playing the old material and that is what counts the most. Wacken was important for me because it also was my official return to the Metal world and it gave me a lot of opportunity to connect with people and push SUN DESCENDS. We will be performing our first show with SUN DESCENDS around Halloween with our friends HEMLOCK. I think that will go down in New Jersey.

Would you consider releasing some new material under the EXUMER name?

- I do not believe in rushing the band under the pretext for one show and then to turn around and cash in. I guess it could work but I do believe that my full time project in New York will satisfy everyone who is into old school Thrash Metal. So no new material coming your way from the EXUMER camp!

It seems like the band was always pretty big in Brazil and it was planned for you to do a gig there with DESTRUCTION, tell me more about this?

- The band was big in Brazil because "Pioneered By Fire" was one of the first albums that was regularly released over there in the 80s. The kids did not have to pay any extra import prices to purchase the album. DESTRUCTION will not be playing with us this time around. I spoke with Scherir at the FULL FORCE show and he explained to me the whole situation. They are about to release their new album and they want to promote it over there with a complete South American tour. We will be playing one or two shows in Brazil and that's that, too few for DESTRUCTION. They are very cool guys and friends - old school pioneers.

I have a CD from WOODSTOCK RECORDS in Brazil with both the EXUMER albums on one CD. Is that an official release?

- Our old manager, who lives in Brazil, who asked me if he could release the albums. We said yes and therefore you received that copy. It was a semi official release, without our input in terms of presentation. My old friend,vfs, HIGH VAULTAGE RECORDS, will be re-releasing the two records separately in July and August of this year. They will look incredible and will include bonus material and liner notes.

Well, you have a new band now, SUN DESCENDS. Tell me more about that.

- I moved to New York at the end of 1998 to study there, I also have a lot of family there. My uncle, great uncle, aunt, great aunt and cousins are all from there. Shortly after I moved I met John Almeida, our guitarist in Sun Descends, in a record store. We became friends and played around with the idea to form a Thrash band because of all the stuff we love from back in the days. It took us a good while to realize the project because when you live in a place like New York you have to deal with another 8 million people everyday.

It is a bit strange with you bringing back EXUMER and unleash SUN DESCENDS at the same time. Why do you do that at the same time?

- The time factor was just a coincidence, we found our drummer almost a year after we made our decision to form a band. It also had to leave Germany for almost two months of EXUMER rehearsals and we thought it would be a good thing to have some promo material ready before I leave. Well, there was a pretty long time from the split from EXUMER to you formed SUN DESCENDS. I heard you were also involved in a rap Metal band, is that true?

- The first time I moved to the states was around 1987/88 and I was introduced to hard rap/hip hop like N.W.A. and PUBLIC ENEMY, who were at their prime at the time. I played in a Thrash band called DIABOLOS in New York (upstate N.Y) and then upon my return to Germany I was starting a band called PHOBIC INSTINCT. That project melted into a band called OFF RYTED and finally me and Ray and Barrie (as EXUMER guitarist) formed HUMUNGUS FUNGI! All along I was listening to hardcore Rap and when we decided to form HUMUNGUS FUNGI, I was so into the whole rap thing (5 years deep) that I decided to lean toward a rap influenced and dominated vocal style. It was something that I had to try and we produced one album for NOISE RECORDS and one for EPIC/DRAVENET (SONY). This was something that I needed to go through so that I eventually could go back to my thrash roots and totally find my self as a THRASH MUSICIAN. This might sound like a form of betrayal to some people but you have to remember that I grew up as a person among three different cultures: Turkish, American and German. I am someone who is not ashamed of whom he is not nor do I feel sorry for any form of expression I used at some point in time. The most important thing is that I am, and always be a real person. Just remember, I bought the first VENOM album when it came out and I listened to METALLICA and HELHAMMER demos before they had any album releases.
I was for sure very positively surprised by the quality of the SUN DESCRENDS demo! KICK ASS THRASH METAL!!! How do you view the future for SUN DESCRENDS? How far do you want to take this project?

The future of SUN DESCRENDS depends on all those people who say that they are old school and who believe in pure Thrash Metal music. There is no way for us to pull this one off by ourselves. We need the help and support of all the true Metal heads who still check out for real stuff. Back when we were growing up and got into this Metal movement, we had a feeling of revolution, of something really big. We need that feeling to return. Not in the meaning of stagnation or nostalgic ideology, but of the spirit and energy. The soul is what is missing nowadays. I think we could take SUN DESCRENDS very far, not in a commercial sense, but as a band that can prove that the aggression and fury of the 80ies was no joke.

The band is a trip, do you feel that is the best format for an aggressive Metal outfit?

The trip thing is a classic line-up and it is very compact as a unit. Think of all the great bands from way back when, they were almost all tripes. There is another reason for this as well: a shortage of people who are into the same sound and ideas as we are in New York City.
When I was putting this issue together I found out I had whole bunch of Arne Babb leftovers. As you should know Arne is no leftover material so I put them in this free page. What was supposed to be here was only an advert from a label that backed out anyway. ALL HAIL ARNE!! Await Arne in "De Mysteris Dom Arne Babb"!
WACKEN 2001

THE RETURN OF THE METAL TYRANTS!

A never-ending tale of booze, drugs and fukking Metal worship!

IN THE NAME OF HEAVY FUCKING METAL, I’LL BRING YOU THE FUCKING WACKEN FESTIVAL 2001 REVIEW. I’M NOT FUCKING RIGHT!

Many nights think it is stupid to feature a review of the WACKEN 2001 festival in SLAYER as stuff like that get old fast. Well, I don’t care about that. Personally the Wacken festival have become a really important thing in MY personal life and since this is MY magazine and it is all about MY impressions I think it is ok to do so, also it is a good thing to look back on and remember all the fun you once might had.

Wacken is a event that is pretty much alive all the year. Like the first six months after it you always talk about how cool it was and then the next six months you are preparing yourself for the next festival when you start to know about some of the bands playing next time. No matter what Wacken is always there. So on to the current event as far as Wacken goes WACKEN 2001, for the fifth time in my miserable Metal life (and 18th all together) it was time to visit those normally quiet small places situated in Northern Germany. Wacken has easily become the most cool and right place to be for every Metal head either if you worship Black, Speed or Heavy Metal. As long as it is F***ing Wacken Metal it is the right place for you. This year the festival had a pre-party on Thursday with W.A.S.P. headlining. During that time I was still on in the middle of my 16 hour bus trip on the way to Wacken so I kinda passed out on that. I think this is a sign that Wacken is more and more leaning towards becoming a three day full festival as opposed to two as it has been earlier years. So as I approached the festival city early Friday the sight which greeted me was just amazing Hordes and hordes of Metal worshippers roaming the streets and the camping area. Ahhhhhhhh –beautifully!!!

Sick Thrash fuckers DECEASE was to open the festival early Friday morning at 10:00 and that was something I was looking forward to. I have been a long time supporter of this awesome (and under-rated) act for many, many years so it was going to rock. Anyway, as I had a green pass I had to pick up my ticket at the opposite side as the main entrance. That was a pretty fucking long walk according to my feet and it took some time. It was a pretty amazing thing to be struck outside the main entrance seeing DECEASE in a very far distance doing their job as a diehard Metal act. BUMMER!!! Finally I got my ticket and was able to reach in this haven of Metal.

My first highlight was then going to be the mighty HOLY MOSES which started around 14:00. So that was a couple of hours to kill mainly spend at the Metal market and also some alcohol intakes. Even if I hadn’t slept one single second on the 16 hour bus trip I wasn’t feeling bad at all.

Just getting really excited to see HOLY MOSES. And HOLY MOSES didn’t disappoint me. They fucking rocked. Doing a killer mix of the old classics of course as well as some stuff from their new “Master Of Disaster” EP. I had the time of my life!!! It was really great seeing them live! HOLY MOSES above all just presenting music. I dare say of all metal out of Germany is fucking THRASH METAL!!! (Something also SODOM confirmed totally as the ending band) As a special bonus none other than Duran Peach entered the stage to do a duet with Sabina of the DEAD KENNEDYS “Too Drunk To Fuck” classic – for sure the first highlight was in box and I was very happy!!! It was not going to be long for the next highlight as EXCITER was soon to enter the same stage just about an hour later. I had been a huge EXCITER fan and I remember their killer set at Wacken a few years ago as the adrenaline was running high. It was the Canadian Thrash pioneers can still deliver. Not do they only have one of the strongest back catalogues ever their material kicks serious ass too. So just as in the case with HOLY MOSES we got a healthy mix of old and new stuff. Fit like a von fast in a Metal glo!!! So now it was time for another highlight as far as Wacken (or any other proper festival) goes, the socialising. At very few occasions you can run into the same amount of Metal heads as Wacken, there are always old friends - and if not there is always some sick fuckers you can share some beers with. And there is always the unexpected surprises. Like the sick fucker from COLPRED (Whatever drug he was on – I want some!!!) and even running into Mike from DESTRUCTION and hearing his impression of the Black Metal events that happened in Norway. And even see the mighty Mike sporting a DESTRUCTION shirt was really damn cool THRASH TIL DEATH!!! Then and some.

At festivals you always get mixed up with odd things and stuff like that make me miss DESTRUCTION. I also have some strange memory of standing in some wood area smoking pot hearing OVERKILL in the background do a killer version of “In Union We Stand”, that was a pretty bizarre situation. Another cool thing was to meet some old boys Paul Di’anno, he was just sitting there chatting with all and everyone. No fucking rockers I was there and he was telling all those bizarre stories about IRON MAIDEN, WEST HAM or whatever else. Maybe it wasn’t all truth what he said but it was some entertaining!!! And he even got a cigarette from me when I had to leave Paul or we had to witness another British Metal legend.

SAXON was about to play and their eagle was not to be missed. SAXON was the first of the major bands I saw with a really great sound, it was great. And even hearing with a brand new track from their then new album “Killing Ground” was a good gesture. SAXON did well and it was great seeing the eagle but during ‘Crusader’ it was time to move on.

EXUMER was getting ready to blast some classics from Thrash on the main stage and since it is every day EXUMER do a re-union show my priorities went in that direction. And I did not regret that for a second. EXUMER took me to Thrash hell!!! It was a fucking killer gig the line-up of the “Possessed By Fire” album from ‘86 (dick!!!) Speak about tight and energetic Metal!!! It rocked!!! Many was maybe a bit surprised by EXUMER (vocals) frenetic stage acting, I thought it was really cool. It is pretty interesting to see something else and for sure it was highly amusing!!! You can say that his hip hop route really come true as far as stage acting go!!! MOSH CORE THRASH!!! Sadly enough there will not be another EXUMER album but Men is taking part in the highly promising Thrash band SUN DESCENDS (see interview) so look out for that!!! Also both EXUMER albums have been re-released in cool CD editions so check that out as well. And for those who missed EXUMER you are not very likely to see them again as they only play one more show in Brazil or so. But watch out for SUN DESCENDS!!! For me seeing EXUMER, this was one of the festival highlights for sure! After their set I started looking track of time and was really fucking tired, and as I found myself passing out here and there I decided it was a good idea to try to venture to find the tent. Remembering last year very well where I spend the night in some farmers field (attacked by wild cows) I wasn’t really looking forward to this. But anyway, much to my surprise I found the tent to be very much where I remembered it to be - strange but true. I thought (hoped) that on
on stage with Angel Ripper and co. Of course we were to witness a lot of the classic SODOM stuff. SODOM rocked and what a perfect way to end a almost perfect festival. And as DEATH EN JUNE perfectly said ‘Festival ends, like festival do’ but what a perfect ending. I knew I had the terrible bus trip in front of me but it didn’t matter at all. I seen SODOM - life can end now!!! THANK YOU WACKEN!!! I will be back!!! And on a different note: another thing that was better this year was the security, in the last years certain members of the security stuff seemed to take their work a tad too seriously and being busy being assholes, but as far as I could see that was not a problem this year. They run smoothly and no major delays or problems to get in and out. So a short conclusion: Best bands: HOLY MOSES, EXCITER, EXUMER and SODOM. Biggest disappointment: Missing ARTCH, DESTRÖYER 666, DESASTER, WARHAMMER and not buying the KREATOR picture disc. Biggest new musical highlight: Tyranus’ blue tongue (it was a you have to be there kind of thing) Strange but cool experience: Smocking pot in the woods and hearing OVERKILL do ‘In Union We Stand’ in the distance. Rumors are already circulating with NEFELHEIM at Wacken 2002 and DÄRKEN-BONE 2003. There are still plenty of activities to look forward to as far as Wacken goes!!! Thanks to all who made this such a killer event for me, to mention some: Vive & Paulo at STATIC AGE with friends, HellaBuchar and Tyranus of NEFELHEIM, Matt of EXUMER, Sashka de Lard, Adam Ripper of SODOM, that suitcase singer from CULTRET, King & Mike of DECEASED (where the hell did you disappear to anyway?), Sabina Classen of HOLY MOSES, everyone on the editorial staff of the Norwegian SCREAM MAGAZINE, Paul Dione, Milla Pettersen of BREATHE, Keith of DESTRÖYER 666, David at IN AETERNUM, Mia of DRACENA, Sova of BARATHRUM and all the other Swedish metal bastards, Johan of SOLA REAPER, the organizers of Wacken of course for doing such a splendid event, HAIL, FUCKING HAIL! various members of DÄRKEN-BONE, BLOOD THORN, WARHAMMER, DESASTER, ARTCH, Gro Norvested, Ann Frezdal, HELIONIC RECORDS, ANCIENT ARTS and all other fucked up metal heads I had the pleasure of meeting. Also members of BLASPHEMY (who running smock at the festival but sadly enough I did not catch up with them! But how fucking cool isn’t that anyway? Get ready - WACKEN 2002 here I come!!! THANK YOU!! Since I pretty much missed out on all the D bands (DECEASED, DESTRÖYER 666 and DESASTER) I got metal warrior Blizzard Beackt to give you a quick rundown of these acts. (Actually, he wrote a review of the whole festival but with his permission I edited out the other stuff and concentrated on those three killer acts)

Wacken pictures © Håkon Grav Scream magazine!
Left: Sabina Classen of HOLY MOSES
Above: Angel Ripper & Mille backstage
Friday - DECEASED
The beginning of the festival! We woke up in a drunken stupor and stumbled down to the festival area and the main stage to watch the true old school Thrash Attack from Virginia, USA. Being that I'm friends with the band, I wanted to get down there at around 9AM, but they went on at 10AM and I was surprised to see King and the guys already onstage setting up. This was the first time the band had ever used a drummer and had King Fowley be a front man vocalist, so anticipation was high. Things got underway pretty much on schedule and they opened the festival promptly at 10:00 with the song “Night Of The Deceased”. The crowd was fucking great for DECEASED, which was killer considering the early time slot. They played for a little over 45 minutes and playing something from every corner of their long career. Mike Smith (the guitarist) even stole the microphone away from King at one point and pointed directly to me and yelled “Blizzard Beast” (my internet user name), it was pretty fucking cool. They performed two covers in their set. "Voids" by VOIVOD and KREATOR's "Tormentor" (the finale) and that was when a full on slam pit erupted at 10:39 at Wacken Open Air! I looked behind me and saw a sea of headbangers and crazed Metal heads just going crazy for DECEASED. It was something I won't soon forget. I can assure you.

DEESTER
...we headed back to the festival area to check out the Black/Death band DEESTER from Germany! One of the main reasons I ventured to Wacken this year. I was very excited to see DEESTER play live. (Me too! But I was busy doing other things! Heheheheheheheheh) They were great live and had perfect sound. It was dark out and when the lights shined of the stage to the crowd, you could see tons of spiked arms and fans pumping in the air, along with rows of headbangers. DEESTER's music just does that to you! It has the old school SODOM/KREATOR vibe going on. DEESTER played two new songs from their newest album as well as a great mix of songs from their two previous albums. They ended their set with a blistering version of “Metalized Blood” which I felt was a killer song to end with.

Saturday - DESTROYER 666
Up at the very UN-Metal hour of 10:00 A.M. we got our shit together, cracked our beers and stumbled down to the festival area for another day of Chaos & Metal. Heading for the party stage to see DESTROYER 666 from Melbourne, Australia. They were just about to take the stage as we arrived. Another band I was very excited to see! They pounded out song after song of dirty Death/Thrash, thank God they had crystal clear sound. "Australian & Antichrist", "The Eternal Glory Of War", "Phoenix Rising" were just some of the songs they did in their set. They had a pretty good crowd, but it was so early in the morning (11:00) it looked like a majority of the festival was still waking up in their tent... (fauxy or charged?) A shame because DESTROYER 666 were a killer 'alarm clock' and they got my blood pumping and energy flowing. KK Wansel (guitar/sax) led the rest of the band into battle for 45 minutes and I was there to witness it! Yet another high point for me.

Cheers and strong German beer!
Scott "Blizzard Beast" Cameron
(Bluntly edited by Metaloid: Thanks for this Blizzy!)
Interview with Sethians of ABORYM performed by Bård Fausa

Thank you

Sethians; you visited Norway early in 2001. Could you share with us your experiences and also expectations prior to the journey? What people did you meet and what is the sole impression you were left with after returning to Italy?

That was a long, weird trip. It was from a long time that I was planning this journey towards North... I came for different reasons, among the others to meet some individuals I was in contact with. I was pretty excited before coming up there, a lot of thoughts flowing in my mind. It was cool that also Attila was there in the same days (he is always hanging out with Necro Butcher), since we planned to meet halfway (since he lives in Budapest and in Rome). It was really great to finally meet with you, Mr. Eithun. Great individuals such as R. Nettefroet (CARPATHIAN FOREST), Prorai (SATYRICON/133999), Soman, Dirge Rep. They all behaved like brothers with me so here I take the occasion to hail them all. The sole impression is that the war is ever and a platoon of brave soldiers remained. But now wars will rage, hopefully! And anyway the North is the uppermost darkness forever!

Most of those who have followed Aborym from the "Kali Yuga Bizarre" album to the recently released "Fire Walk With Us", have remarked a certain change of musical approach. Whereas "Kali Yuga Bizarre" was somewhat a classic Black Metal release with brutality mixed with melodic, slower parts, the "Fire Walk..." was more of a sterile and sonic, non-melodic album. Exactly what made you step towards this direction and what has the reactions been to it?

I think your analysis is close to the truth contained in those sounds. The second album turned out this way, cause that's exactly how we felt like when we were composing it. Filled with anger, vengeance and searching the escacity through unhuman feelings. It was the Negative emotions of our spirits that made the album turn out that way. That was a really negative period of our existence. A descending in Daath/Death. So that's why "Fire Walk With Us" is basically different from the previous ("Kali Yuga Bizarre"), which anyway was a pure expression of Chaos.

Furthermore, in which period did your next album proceed?

I prefer not to talk about the next album yet. We are working on it and I can tell you it will be a surprise to a lot of people. ABORYM is in continuous movement, we don't want to repeat what has already been done. It will check people for sure. And there will be three lyrics written by Yal! We are all pretty excited, since we returned from a successful first gig in Marseille (France), and a couple of days at the Draham castle, which was a great experience (hall Nekthulhu Meyrnith). We are probably going to play a mini tour with other two bands (most likely the French MULTILLATION and DEABOLICUM from Sweden, which are among the few Black Metal bands I respect nowadays). Then in October/November we will start working on the new album in the studio.

Some people are surprised that your vocalist is none other than Attila Calimer from cult bands like TORMENTOR and MAYHEM.

How did you come in contact with him and do you think his underground fame has helped you in any way?

- Originally it was thanks to a common friend of ours, named Luigi Goppo, a weird and really cool friend which was running H.U.K records, an Italian cult label which released the PLASMA POOL first album "I" (PLASMA POOL is the psychedelic black techno band Attila was involved in the early nineties) and the first TORMENTOR demo "The Seventh Day Of Dooms". We recruited a sort of pre-album rehearsal and asked Luigi to bring it with him in Budapest and to give it to Attila. Well, the guy liked it very much, we entered in contact and he agreed to be the singer on three tracks on the "Kali Yuga Bizarre" album. Then, to make it short (a lot of shitty events after the release of the album, inside and outside the band) the other singer was out of the band and Attila decided to join us permanently. Yes, I am sure a lot of people were surprised by that fact, that he is our singer. But honestly I don't give a shit. He is the best vocalist according to me. And he is a brother for us all so. Well, as for the help he gave us for the fact of being already well known in the underground. In a way that's true, but we never put stickers on the CD's saying "...with Attila from TORMENTOR/THE TRUE MAYHEM!" Anyway, people knows it by now, that Attila is singing with the Italians ABORYM.

Your Z record-deal with SCARLET is now finished. What are you next planning to do label-wise? Would you consider to re-sign with SCARLET if they gave you a proper deal or would you rather try out other alternatives? What label would be the most perfect for Aborym?

- Yes, the contract with SCARLET is now over. There will be big news soon about our next label. Let's say we found the perfect label for us at the moment. We just need a good budget to work with. A fucking good promotion. And a tour to spread the poison of Chaos. If a label doesn't grant that to a band then it's a bit difficult for everyone. The "underground"-scene is so diverse and pluralistic these days. Do you reckon this as a good thing or anything else would be a limitation of one artistic freedom or do you feel that the world of extreme music should stick to a certain codex of behavioral and value-defined set of regulations?

- That's hard to answer a question like this. It depends on what we consider for "underground". If I was in Norway with you in the old days I would have probably stick to the rules we talked about, if you remember, but today I don't give a shit about others, I just think what's right for me, for ABORYM, for my few brothers, that's all. But some of the bands today should be really put up against the wall and brutally executed. I also think one should always think of and pay respect and honour to the originators of a movement, pretty simple - the discipline of hell.

How would you characterise the Italian Extreme Metal scene? If one looks at bands like MORTUARY DRAPE, NECRODEATH, SINOATH, MONUMENTUM, SCHIZO and DEATH SS what comes to my mind is that each one of these have their own peculiar thing and are very original in essence. Doesn't Italy have a commercialised and trend-filled scene like any other country?

- You asked this to the wrong person, cause I fucking hate Italian metal. Forget about this plastic powerwahhhpagenotmetal (ok, they are good musicians, but who the fuck cares?) which is infesting the whole world. I think in the past, in the eighties there were great bands like RIBBON CORPORATION, NECRODEATH and the others you mentioned. Yes, everyone has a different sound and style, that's true. In Rome there was a great Black Metal band once: BRIGEN (ex DUNBREC). Hail to them wherever they are. Also OCCULUM MALIGNIZATUM and ABORTUS REX are Black Metal bands that I respect very much here in Rome. The rest is just to kill. As for the commercialised trend filled scene just think about power metal, that's it! That's the only Italian metal product which is making a lot of money. I don't hate them cause they sell a lot of copies, but just because their music express happiness and positive values. In Italy we are hated by a lot of people because of what we are saying, that our message is negative, that we are evil. Never forget that Italy and especially Rome are the cradle of Fucking Christian bigotry. Almost everyone here is a Christian shit deep in his heart, even if they don't know, it's in their genetic code, it's in their blood. This country smells of Christianity, and I'm lucky enough of not having been even baptised! Another cool thing about Norway is that I felt the total absence of Christianity, no churches, no single crucifix to be found anywhere.

How important is music and related topics to you and your comrades in ABORYM? Do you see music as a concept where one has to reach for the inner esoteric levels in order to be able to fully understand and appreciate the wholeness and complexities of music?

- Yes, and that's the case with ABORYM. I don't think you can separate the topics and the concepts from the music, especially in the extreme music field (be it Extreme Metal or electronic music or whatever). When one starts to divide the music from the ideas and concepts you have the ALICE COOPER kind of things, like: "I'm a normal person in real life, I'm just ALICE on stage...", which I don't really like. But probably that's a phenomenon which occurs when one gets older. And since we'll never be old for one reason or another there's no problem with that.

At the end; what would you like to see achieved with ABORYM?

- The killing of Cosmo! The triumph of Ghoul Thar or a lot for this chat. Bård. Hailed hails to Metallid Devillish hails to Saron of DEABOLICUM (we have a Black Metal division together and a 7" will be soon released by the Italian WARLORD RECORDS). Also, Luciferian hails to Mr. Necro! I can't wait for the Return...! Hail the Coming of Seth! SLAYER do the work of the AntiFest! Neitotelektrokut! The Road Of Excess leads To the Palace Of WiGidom!
MORTIS - "The Smell Of Rain" CD (EARACHE) (5)

Enough keyboard dominated dungeon music from Mr. Mortis. Mortis probably knew that he made a mistake mixing the rather limited genre of dungeon metal with other similar genres. This album is rather different from his early work and I’d say it’s a step in the right direction. It’s not as catchy as his previous releases but it’s still a good album overall.

DARK FUNERAL - "Diabolical Interlude" CD (NO FASHION) (1)

Well, DARK FUNERAL can now re-capture their throne as far as extreme Black Metal goes. I must admit I was pretty skeptical after I heard the EP last year, but DARK FUNERAL really did come through on this album. Full speed ahead Satan worship!!! If you still like violent Black Metal I think there’s a lot more to be explored.

HOLD - "Masterpiece Of Pain" CD (NO ENOUGH)

DARKTHRONE has its roots in the band TILUL and they bring on the trademark cavalier Black Metal style to their new album. This album seems to come out of nowhere but it’s a really good album overall.

DARKTHRONE - "Plaguebringer" CD (MOON Records)

This is probably the best DARKTHRONE album in a long time. It’s much more melodic and accessible than their previous albums but it still has the same Black Metal feel. I must admit I was a bit skeptical when I first heard this album but I’m glad I gave it a chance.

DOOMSTONE - "Sonatoed" CD (TRASH RECORDS)

I just want to call this the new breed of Black Metal that has emerged in recent years. It’s a bit more melodic and accessible than the old school stuff but it still has the same Black Metal feel. I must admit I was a bit skeptical when I first heard this album but I’m glad I gave it a chance.

SADISTIC EXCISION - "The Dark Realms Of The Unlawful" CD (AMATEUR) (2)

SADISTIC EXCISION has a lot of promise but I’m afraid they let me down this time. It’s a bit too derivative and it’s a bit too long. I think they should stick to their guns next time and do something more exciting.

DIABOLIC - "The Descent Into Infamy" CD (EARTH Records)

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DIABOLIC has a lot of promise but I’m afraid they let me down this time. It’s a bit too derivative and it’s a bit too long. I think they should stick to their guns next time and do something more exciting.
TWIN OBSCENITY - "Bloodstains" CD (CENTURY MEDIA)

Well, this is the third album here from the twins. Pretty standard stuff, having the BATHORY-oriented Viking era well interpreted in their Grim Black Metal. Not really bad, but those female vocals are bad. Slightly better than useless close to a bit below average!(2)

SOLEFALD - "Pills Against The Ageless Ill" CD (CENTURY MEDIA)

A wacky band that is formed is allowed to be used. I'm not really into this, it disturbs me in one way. Especially the clean vocals, I don't know what it is, it just annoys me. They are certainly not bad, they just are annoying. This is an roller coaster of an extreme Metal band taking you in all different directions, especially the vocals. For me it is not very convincing. For those of you who prefer something "intelligent" - not me!(1)

MORBID - "Sketch Of A Supposed Murder" CD (CENTURY MEDIA)

There are a few good ideas on this avant-garde Black Metal album, heavily influenced by every Black Metallers new much-loved band DEVILS DOLL. If I'm not much mistaken. But I feel most of this is weird for the sake of being weird, not any real feeling behind it. Not like SIGUR for instance.(0)

SIGURD - "Imaginary Sonarwave" CD (CENTURY MEDIA)

SIGURD never ceases to puzzle my mind. In their hybrid of avant-garde music filled with a lot of inspiration from Metal, progressive rock or whatever they also insert a lot of catchiness in the music. Too strange for many but in my ears it is just splendid. Many have accused SIGURD for being too weird for their own good. But in all honesty, it isn't that weird, it is just that narrow minded Metal heads are not used to an outside influence. Not me, I just love this unique orchestral(4)

KRISSUUN - "Ageless Venomous" CD (CENTURY MEDIA)

I do like this Brazilian death band and it is far a sure a killer Death Metal album for the new generation. The only thing that I'm a bit uncomfortable with is the fucking strange drum sound. Hmmmm.(3)

DRAGONLORD - "Gentleman's Guide" CD (SPITFIRE)

It is amazing how far this Black Metal thing has gone. Who'd have expected a TESTAMENT guitarist ending up in a Black Metal band?! It is really fucking freaking hearing this with much hints of OLD MAN'S CHILD and DIMMU BORGIR. The better aspect of that you can hear the typical TESTAMENT guitar style here and there, and like the total through chaos of "Wolf Hunt". But I'd prefer a new TESTAMENT album. All this keyboard nonsense just don't work! We didn't need this album, we need a new TESTAMENT album you are not feeling me you Black Metal wannabe.(1)

TRISTANIA - "World Of Glass" CD (NAPOLEM)

This is not very good either, for some reason TRISTANIA is considered to be one of the biggest in this Goth/Death scene. Good for me I'm not a part of that scene. So go away arsty-fartsy bastards of stupidity.(0)

BLACK SYMPHONY - "Tears Of Blood" CD (RIISING SUN)

I do like Metal, and I like a lot of it. However, I do not like this Metal band at all. They sound just horrible.(0)

MACBETH - "Vansoo" CD (DRAGONHEART)

Yeah, right fucking idiotic. Lower hybrid of Goth and Metal with gurttural vocals which makes this so stupid and laid BURNE.(0)

GUARDIANS OF TIME - "Edge Of Tomorrow" CD (SHARK)

Norwegian true Metal. Not really there yet but... Certainly much better than the new defunct PHOENIX RISING but still a long way to go.(1)

SCARED OATH - "A Crystal Vision" CD (SENTINEL STEEL)

Another US Metal band that has been buried by time and dust. There must be an everlasting supply of US "fast" Heavy Metal bands. Denmark's SENTINEL STEEL dug this and he did a good job as for layout and information goes. Pretty heavy stuff with an occult theme. Also a very high pitched singer at times so I guess this lot used to worship MERCYFUL FATE. Pretty interesting.(3)

GORELORD/WURDLAK - "Feast Of肉 Creatures" split CD EP (RED STREAM)

GORELORD is the horrifying new Death Metal sensation from Norway. Quite pleased to hear such a deathly Death Metal band from Norway I must say. WURDLAK is another all star band featuring Killjoy, Maniac and a bunch of other. Not that distant sounding from EBISON. Two tracks each only. I await full length.(1)

PENTACLE - "Ancient Death" CD (MADMAN)

Fucking Gods PENTACLE must be considered as Pure underground warriors!! It is a bit strange to think that PENTACLE only released one full length album, but there has been a bunch of EPs and splits also. Now we have a mini album again, same sort of celebration release. Featuring some cover versions of DEATH & MANTAS, something re-recorded and something new. PENTACLE stands true with their ancient Death Metal, one band I can compare to are PENTAGRAM from Chile. I find the same feeling in their music. And I do still think there is a OBITUARY feel over the vocal(4)

URIN - "666 Magatons" CD (DMADMAN)

URIN is a fucking killer Black Metal band from Finland. Yeah, DMADMAN is going out of business but at least they are going out with style. URIN is rock & roll holocaust Black Metal Finland Rules!!(4)

EVENSONG - "Mysterium" CD (DISPLEASURES)

Let's be funny now. I'm very "displeased" with this and it is a big "mystery" they are allowed to release records. Show some respect people. I put my garbage in the trash can, don't release it to the world. Amazingly bad vocals, stupid drum patterns. Very horrible and bad.(0)

DIABOLIC - "Subterranean Magnitude" CD (SHAMINGHER)

The 2nd slaughterhouse album from DIABOLIC. Pretty good Death stuff still in the vein of earlier MORBID ANGEL but still original to stand on its own merits.(3)

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PRESENTS

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THE REAL UNDERGROUND CULT ACT URGEHAL IS BACK WITH THEIR THIRD ALBUM "ATOMKINDER". JUST AS OLD STYLED, HARD, BRUTAL AND BLACK AS ALWAYS WITH A SOUND AND MOOD THAT TOTALLY OUTRAGE THEIR PREVIOUS RELEASES! WITH ATOMKINDER, URGEHAL CLAIM THE GROUND AND THEIR RIGHTEOUS PLACE AMONG THE TOP OF THE NORWEGIAN BLACK METAL GODS! INCLUDING SUPERB COVER VERSIONS OF BOTH SEPULTURA AND REATOR...

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ATOMKINDER
REBILLIUM - "Annihilation" CD (HAMMERHEART)

After ANGEL CORPS broked up the Death Metal throne was open, seems like REBILLIUM was pretty quick to re-capture it. If you miss ANGEL CORPS, REBILLIUM is here for you. Full speed Death Metal. (3)

ALTERNUM - "Ascension Of Terror" CD (HAMMERHEART)

When I got their comp CD I was really blown away by the new track "Burning The Shroud" and I was certainly looking forward to this opus. They Don't disappoint. They battle on with their Deathish Metal with links to Black Metal. Especially the vocals are very gutteral. It's very heavy and projections of stuff we get here. (3)

EXORTEM - "Berzerker/Legions" CD (HAMMERHEART)

EXORTEM was what we needed as for Death Metal goes in 2001. I haven't paid that much notice to the earlier releases of these Danish madmen. But now everything seems right. Fucking brutalizing Death Metal. Fuck all those. SIX FEET UNDER and CANNIBAL CORPSES. EXORTEM fucking smokes all of them. And they have Viking lyrics too! (4)

SINISTER - "Creative Killing" CD (HAMMERHEART)

This is another album I was really looking forward to hear, the new assault from Dutch Death Metal veterans SINISTER. It has been a few years since the SINISTER comp but they seemed to have been using them well. For those who went with them 1997 is a year you definitely have stories to tell SINISTER DESTROYERS. This is a fucking masterpiece of manic Death Metal. Not really your standard Death Metal stuff stuff. I'm much impressed by the twist and turns of the guitar work, bloody hell, this band stays. And to be no different than other reviewers I have to mention the guitar work of new singer Rachael - awesome! (4)

EM SINFONIA - "Infinite Portrait" CD (HAMMERHEART)

Some guy from BROKEN HOPE joins up with some chick (with the suitable name Bunny) and tries to make moody Death Metal. Please note I did say TRY. Because this is pretty bouncy material. (3)

ALAS - "Absolute Purity" CD (HAMMERHEART)

Eric Rutan plays on a lot of strings, not only is he butchering the axe in MORBID ANGEL and HATE ETERNAL. Now he also released his atmospheric project. The man has some soft spots. The main difference between this and other female fronted 'atmospheric' bands is Eric's guitar playing. Not as heavy as we are used to but it is still Eric. So what can I say? Atmospheric Metal is not for everyone and mightly more interesting than other bands alike. But seriously, who cares? (4)

ANCIENT RITES - "Dim Carcass" CD (HAMMERHEART)

ANCIENT RITES is of course very well known in the Death/Black underground. They have always been there, they always do quality stuff but still they seem to be the underrated. Now they signed with ever-growing HAMMERHEART so maybe that will help them? Well, no matter what label they are on they need to have class material. And they do, they really have a lot of killer stuff, a healthy mix of Thrash, Black and Heavy Metal. My problem with this is that it is a bit too nice and a little too over polished for my taste. I want ANCIENT RITES to be heavier! But still, a quality product for sure. (3)

BLOOD RED THRONE - "Monument Of Death" CD (HAMMERHEART)

Norwegian Death Metal is not that common, BLOOD RED THRONE is new hopes and do this old school Death Metal pretty good. I was actually expecting more and it is not really the monster I wanted it to be. (3)

UBREHAL - "Atombomber" CD (FLESH FOR BLAST)

There has been a rather silent on the UBREHAL front lately so this third release from this underestared Black Metal band should come as a great surprise. I'm pleased to announce that Black Metal has not lost its touch. UBREHAL has without doubt released their best album so far. Their destructor Norwegian quality Black Metal fucking shredding their throat roots also shines through on cover versions of SEPULTURA and CANDO. Great production too, I love that wall of crashing guitars. A bit to short (28 minutes including two covers) but what the fuck? (4)

GRAVE DIGGER - "The Grave Digger" CD (NUCLEAR BLAST)

GRAVE DIGGER is the last hope for Teutonic Heavy Metal? I think so, after bands like RUNNING WILD, RAGE, GAMA RAY, HELLOWEEN etc. release material for below par it is good to see some German still pumping out aggressive Metal instead of all this lollotesque Metal. GRAVE DIGGER have even gone darker on this release. The new recruit - Nanni Schumann (guitar) seems to put new life into GRAVE DIGGER, his riffs are extremely good. Age ago I thought of them as a heavier ACCEPT, that still seems to be the truth. (4)

TIDFALL - "Incest Gote" CD (NUCLEAR BLAST)

The fuck is wrong with people?? This is the new Black Metal sensation? Come on!! Of course it will sell millions but TIDFALL is at least a very average and boring Black Metal band of the new generation. Far too polished and without any own ideals of quality or originality. (0)

SLAUGHTER - "Screwpool" CD (NUCLEAR BLAST)

Get this classic of ugly trash from SLAUGHTER! One of the best albums ever!! REALLY!! Now let's have some PROTECTOR re-release! (6)

THERION - "Secret Of The Runes" CD (NUCLEAR BLAST)

For me the last few THERION albums have sounded just the same. One orchestral Metal with more choirs instead of lead vocals. Because of the lack of a real singer it gets boring in the long run. Well, it gets boring in the short run too. (1)

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CARPATHIAN FOREST - "Morbid Fascination Of Death" CS (AVANTGARDE MUSIC) This is truly old school Norwegian Black Metal. No sophisticated shit, just in your face primitive Black Metal. CARPATHIAN FOREST hates you, it as easy as that! Their sound is a heavy, CZECH/CETINIST influence in here at times too. There is a certain nerve in this album that won’t let you go. Also the band do experiment on certain occasions. Stuff like that really convinces me that this band is a fucked up bunch of people - and you get to love that. Maybe the sound is not as nocc as you expect but this is just awesome HELL (2)
PRIME EVIL - "Uneretch'd" CD (BATTLEZONE)
PRIME EVIL hauling from New York is one of those bands that never quite made it; I think it was because this is one of the anti trendiest bands ever. PRIME EVIL had their musical peak in the middle of the early Death Metal explosion and perhaps because they played BRUTAL THRASH instead of BRUTAL DEATH things never went in their direction (They were close of getting a deal at some point but sadly enough it did not happen) So after quite some time (the label originally planned to release this chocked out) we at last can take pleasure of this fine disc. Here we have a gathering of demos (my personal favourite is the 2nd demo) industry recordings etc. I personally always loved this band, and to have this on CD - it is simply amazing I love that BRUTAL THRASH WITH EXTREME CLASS (5)
ENTHROED - "Armoured Ceceless Hell" CD (BLACKENED)
I think ENTHROED is cool for what they do, they always done this manic Black Metal. It’s ok but nothing really exciting, and perhaps they have stagnated slightly? (2)
BATHORY - "Destroyer Of Worlds" CD (BLACK MARK)
Quorthon - from now on also known as "Destroyer of owncredibility" it took him this with this one. Over 5 years to come up with - this bloody hell, what have you been smoking Quorthon boy? Now, in all seriousness, it is not all bad. Some of the material here has this overwrought BATHORY feeling over it, it’s not so bad after those past days. Not really lousy but the best is the title track which makes me think of the "Hell Awaits " introduction for some reason. But it is when Quorthon gets all aggro on us it is not funny anymore. It’s like those "Orogeny" or "Requiem" albums but worse. His voice is really fucked it sounds pretty bad, he sounds really strained. All in all, not really a total shitgale album, but this is BATHORY, not Johnny came lately Metal. I wasn’t expecting Quorthon to return to his glory days of course but I was expecting more than this. When I listen to tracks like "Liberty & Justice" just want to cry, horrible, horrible! I bet a lot of youngsters are wondering what the fuck we oldies are talking about when we praise old BATHORY? Quorthon, please realize, your time is up! (0)
PENTAGRAM - "The CD"
This is yet another salute to the tape tradars of the '80s PENTAGRAM from Chile RULED those days and finally after so many years and worn out tapes it is a CD to replace all this. PENTAGRAM played some fucked up Death Metal rooted in the Possessed school. Sadly enough they never made it bigger than the KILLER BANDH! Up there with some classics like INCUBUS (Florida), MORBID ANGEL, MUTILATION, NECROVORE etc. (5)
ABORTED - "Engineering The Dead" CD (LISTENABLE)
"ABORTED nowadays stand as one of the most forceful death bands in Europe - ERROR! This is Death Metal, rather on the generic side. Heard it a million times, nothing exciting or interesting here. Even with "Hellrazor" samples intact! Wow, how original. Check out the next band instead They are soooo much better! (2)
DERANGED - "Deranged" CD (LISTENABLE)
Swedish sick fuck grind hell Death Metal. (3)
CENTURION - "Liber Zar Zo" CD (LISTENABLE)
Well, it’s pretty hard to come up with a constructive review of this, I make it simple. This is Death Metal, this is good Death Metal. CENTURION is a fucking killer Dutch Death Metal band going on their insane chaos wave!! (4)
LULLACRY - "Be My God" CS (SPINEFARM)
"Lullacry" is a female fronted band from Finland, and luckily this is no operatic NIGHTWISH wannabe band. This is something simple as a heavy rock band!! In all Finnish bands it is always easy to find a SENTENCED influence, so it is in this case also. But every case is different, sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn’t. In this case it works. But still something own is created on this - it fucking rocks!! Sometimes it is as simple as that PAMELA METAL(3.5)
SHADOW "I" CD (SPINEFARM)
Fairly average Swedish styled death melodic Death Metal done by a Japanese band, fairly interesting and not really bad. Heard worse, heard better. Bands like that is easily heading for anonymity as far as I’m concerned. (2)
You cannot make a band like this anymore. It is amazing listening to their groove for a few minutes, just as it was fun listening to Storm ages ago. In-between their troll folk metal they even have time for some discomforting Blackened Metal. If you try this and honestly like it you're in a sick place. I'm just not in it (0) 1349 - "1349" M-CD (HOLYCAUST)

This is a promising release from a Norwegian Black Metal band. The quality of this release is a bit mixed and they do have an awful CELTIC FROST cover on here, which didn't really thrill me. Giving the right amount of time in the studio the future holds. I'm sure they can come up with a Norwegian Black Metal classic, or at least an average CD. (-) SCEPTIC - "Pathetic Beauty" CD (LAST EPODE)

Well, as the title of his album says, well, that would be the easy way out, huh? But, it is not that bad, kind of technical Death Metal with some intriguing parts. To be on LAST EPODE this is a work of genius. (2) 'DUNKELGÄRFEN' - 'Triumph Des Fleischesh' CD (LAST EPODE)

I'm not even going there. (Sorry Markus) (0)

GRAVEWORM - "Scour Of Malice" CD (SERENADES)

Now that I got your attention, what do I do with it? Well, I'm not wasting it on this hideous band, that's for sure. (0)

EVIL INCARNATION - "Blasphemous Hymns Of Diogenes" CD (DEATHHAUS)

A full on assault on Athens Christian Death Metal. You can call this DEICIDE worship or DEICIDE cloning. You choose! But I can tell you Evil Mike & Co. Are hell bent on exterminating Christianity from the face of the earth. Man, I love music like that! (-) CARNAGE IN THE GALAXY - CD (DIAMOND WILLY MUSIC)

Fuck this, a mix of MR. BUNGLE and MORBED ANGEL, their last album had some funny stuff, this is not even close. Boring. (0)

VIXING CROWN - "Bonsheïd Rhythmic Hate" CD (SEASON OF MIST)

I know it's a bit of a stretch of people dislike the ancient Greeks but this has to be better than this. To me this is just shit. All invoked members have better bands to spend their time. I think you do that! (0)

NECROPHAGIA - "Ganocia Holocaust" CD (EPIC SEASON OF MIST)

A pretty ok EP if you ask me - and I think you did as you bought my magazine! This is the new NECROPHAGIA now featuring Norwegian guitarist and keyboardist Holmen, who used to play in NECROAGMA, a track that works well. Some other tracks here as well, demos and unreleased versions or whatever. How interesting this is depends on how big NECROPHAGIA fan you are. But having the Euronymous dedication in "Chomans Lust" is good for me. Cool video clip too! (1)

JUNGLER ROT - "Dead And Buried" CD (SEASON OF MIST)

I remember in 94 or so I got a demo with this band, I remember I thought that the name of this band was pretty fucking unintelligible. Besides that they played infested standard US Death Metal. I never thought they would go anywhere. Well, they are still here polluting the human race with their stupid Death Metal. Steer clear of this fast-food garbage Death Metal. (0)

EVIL EYES - "Evil-Hehl CD (BLACK SUN)

This is not what I expected at all. I was really delighted to see there was a new EYES BONES album in the mail but the more I listen to the more disappoint my I get. Some are the trademark melodic Death style of the previous album, some really promising and the early stuff is really a mess. Which is bad news - at least for me when you consider how great their early material was. (0)

BLOOD STORM - "Ancient Wrath Of X" CD (METAL WAR)

BLOOD STORM has returned third album and I think this is their best one too. A relentless slaughter attack of Metal. There is for sure a old school CELTIC FROST influence lurking in there. Pretty twisted and obscure guitar work also, not necessarily technical but twisted. (4)

ACIDROCKS - "Stripes" CD [BEAT-CASTEL]

This is the new English hope for extreme music it seems. Gone are the days of CRASS, classic NAPALM DEATH, and classic BOLT THROWER and so here is some new blood. Personally I don't find much exciting activities going on in England nowadays. I can't say they are dull ACIDROCKS but not much else of interest. ACIDROCKS is supposed to change that - I think. Listening to this album I'm not really that convinced, it is ok at best but barely hell... To me it sounds like an early version of CRADLE OF FILTH is in your back pocket and that's all. The Death Metal influence is also vast, a decent album, less than average, but not really a black uprising. The music is going in all poles aoprt direction, blasting Death Metal a lot DEICIDE to more atmospheric stuff. Not really too much to handle, rather too much to bother. Also they seem to try to give CRADLE OF FILTH a run for their money as far as 'extreme' T-shirt designs go.

SUI BURGAN - "Spectral Transition - Dimension Sirius" CD (NOCTURNAL ART)

Yeah, they do have great guests on this CD, they do play well symphonic Black Metal. But besides that this is nothing out of the ordinary. It is a reasonable album by all means for people into this certain ENSRANNING style but it remains rather uneven in my ear. (2)

SIX FEET UNDER - "True Carnage" CD (METAL BLADE)

It is a sad day in Metal history when the highlight of one album is the part featuring some fucking ICE T rapper. Stale and boring Death Metal. (0)

ANCIENT - "Progress-Century Of Misery" CD (METAL BLADE)

On this release they have at least proper sound, doesn't matter much when it is so boring and non exciting. Black Metal for those who demands absolutely nothing in terms of interesting songs. (0)

AUKON AMARTH - "The Cruel Fate Of Metal" CD (METAL BLADE)

Another cost of ISH, heard this Swedish style so numerous times before I'm not really counting anymore. It is typical and mind numbing. Sorry! (1)

BOLT THROWER - "Honour - Valour - Pride" CD (METAL BLADE)

BOLT THROWER. They are not BOLT THROWER. They say like they always hold, - I thought that was until I decided to bring out 'Realm Of Chaos' again. Then I found out that this BOLT THROWER is not as interesting as the old one. It's pretty boring actually if you compare it to the classics. But they are the true originators. Not so much and I'm still out. (3)

WIZARD - "Black Heavy Metal" CD (GUTTED RECORDS)

Original Finland's finest now centered in Germany. I think the title of the album says it all. WIZARD is by far the best band associated with the MASSACRE sub label GUTTED. 'Black Heavy Metal', that's what we get. Being from Finland there is a sort of SENTINEL influence to be found, still so here, but a more rebellious Metal approach are offered here. Great band! A strange is the cover which looks far too high-tech for this sort of album. (4)

WIZARD - "Head Of The Deceiver" CD (LMP)

The German WIZARD this time, this is their fourth album already and their quest for true Metal continues! It is nothing original about this band but I find WIZARD to be much more 'real' than many others. Total fucking Metal to the bone! Like THE CRUNCHING WIND and so some. (2)

ARTHEMIESA - "Demon-Instinct" CD (NATIVE NORTH RECORDS)

May not be the best symphonic/melodic Black Metal band in the world we got here. In my book this is just average Black Metal from Finland. I think some might find value in this. Not personally, I think it is as good as it can be good at times it is not interesting enough to keep the attention. Seems like they are basing getting 'cool' band photos than right music. (2)

EVEREVE - "E-Words" CD (MASSACRE)

MASSACRE is a band that I have some bones about but seems to fail miserably with their bands. When they do Black Metal, they chose the worst bands, same with Heavy Metal. All they seem to be are sub par. So in this way that fucking repetitve 6th form band fits right in. They do try to be like THE COVENANT or something. And even if that is the case to clone a band is fucking stupid, the story gets worse as they fail so miserably it is not even funny. (0)

VIXING BLACK - "Sombre Romantic" CD (MASSACRE)

AUS-GUTTED-GERMANY 6th invasion continues, this time from Australia. While I'm extremely fond of what this country has given us in Metal extremity (SAD X, GOSPEL OF THE HORNS, BESTIAL WASTLUST, DESTROYER 666...etc.) I can't say the same about this pompous overdriven Metal band. (0)

TÖTENMORD - "Auf Dem Mond Ein Feuer" CD (MASSACRE)

Do we really need a German band doing a lot of crap covers of German punk bands no one ever heard of? Also in an extremely boring and not very convincing style at all Well, I didn't like it all.

RAPSODY - "Ritual Of A Thousand Flames" CD (LMP)

A band that becomes more and more boring to me. This is the fourth release I get by them and it sound exactly the same as before. The same pompous chains, the same production, even the same songs it looks like. In their defence can say this is not an official album, just a teaser as we await the next one. Well, after this I ain't expecting much. There is enough power in Metal already. Anyhow... JR (3)

Mystic Circle - "The Great Beast" CD (MASSACRE)

Mystic Circle. It's not the second 2nd Black Metal band MASSACRE 'style' from LAST EPISODE! Quite an accomplishment I must say! These German clans are pretty well known and this is actually their fourth album! Anyway. MYSTIC CIRCLE have always been a shit band. I seen them live making fools of themselves opening for CANNIBAL CORPSE (so pathetic), I heard their preceding shit albums and when I see they are labelled as Germany's biggest selling extreme Metal band there is apparently something going on in Germany. Anyway, the production is better and so on, but as the old saying goes you can't polish a piece of crap. When all comes to all this is just shit! (0)

Night In GALES - "NecroDynamic" CD (MASSACRE)

Well, at least there is one person on MASSACRE (WIZARD is on GUTTED RECORDS, a sub label of MASSACRE in case you were wondering). German veteran NIGHT IN GALES have a total TRASH approach on this disc. I remember they had a more Swedish Death Metal feeling before, so this new approach fit better. Vicious and biter mixed, the sound is a bit more hard at the end. They might compare to is RAISE HELL on their 2nd CD. They might have a stupid name but for sure they are pretty kick ass TRASH LIVES. (3)
NECRODEATH - "Black As Pitch" CD (ISCARLOT)

WOW! What can a poor Metal bastard say? If you thought "Master Of Evil" was brilliant you just have to experience the immense power of this bastard's of a Metal album! This is the 2nd album after their reunion and just as DESTRUCTION they have proved that old bastards still can Thrash fucking hard! I like how many of the songs are linked together making it sound like a new concept album. The SLAYER influences are still here, especially in the opening track but certainly a great monster of Metal godlike! Many of the youngsters out there might say the vocals are Black Metal but, that's bollocks! This is fucking brutal Thrash Metal! I love days like these when good Metal rules!! HAIL(5) NIGHTSHADE - "Wielding The Scythe Of Chaos" CD (SCARLET)

Will it ever end? More Swedish melodic Death/Black (7) Metal, Stealing something from MUNA BORIS here and CHILDREN OF BODOM there doesn't make a good concept. Just too happy and boring (3).

JUDAS ISCARIOT - "Heaven In Flames" CD (RED STREAM)

JUDAS ISCARIOT is a prime example of how certain things will never change. JUDAS ISCARIOT has always performed ugly one-dimensional Black Metal. This is just ugly American Black Metal. This is for the few who still understand primitive techniques. And I like it (3).

BLOODTHORN - "Under The Reign Of Terror" CD (RED STREAM)

I never cared much about the earlier BLOODTHORN albums so when I got this, I just put it on. Something bizarre has happened! BLOODTHORN now performs good music. No, let me rephrase: BLOODTHORN performs very good music. Much more brutality can be found in their music now; it has an old school Death Metal feeling. Vicious brutality. There are still keyboard parts but they certainly are not dominating. Also the female vocals are gone. (4).

Kreator - "Violent Revolution" CD (STREAMHAMMER)

Pardon me KREATOR, but I actually give this a 4! After a few miserable albums (at least in my book) I wasn't really interested about a new KREATOR album anymore. Not until the word was out concerning this album, some people had mentioned it to be really good and as I handed a copy by Håkan Grev (SCREAM MAGAZINE) I knew too KREATOR was back! Many might question why KREATOR head with the Thrash Again high again but... Who cares? It's for money! Very, very doubtful, throat bands don't sell millions of records I think. Anyway - doesn't matter what reason KREATOR have for this - they done a great album. Not as savage as an "Endless Pain" or "Pleasure To Kill" (my personal favorite) but more like a mix of "Extreme Aggression" and "Conci Of Souls" which is perfect too with some later day influences as well. So there are a few modern sounding parts but nothing really to worry about. A killer production, and it really does sound very KREATOR like with Miller's great vocals and great Thrash!!! Not so pleased with the coloring of the cover but that's a different story. (4)

Vit Arcano - "Inner Deathscapes" CD (WARLORD)

Italian Warlords of melodic Death Metal Thrash mayhem prevail here. Pretty cool stuff I must say, they tend to rely a bit on the Swedish AT THE GATES sounds and since most of these Swedish bands are not any of their usual standards we can take some comfort in these Italians. It's pretty funny that a Italian band do this style much better than most Swedish bands these days. Another highlight is the strong, powerful vocals. (4)

Manipulated Slaves - "The Legendary Black Jade" CD (WORLDWOMAN PRODUCTIONS)

This could have been a great album but it is that drum sound killing me, it is really annoying. But they are pretty cool in the melodic Death/Thrash vein. Very well executed but with annoying drum sound. (2)

Daeonia - "Orescendo" CD (CANDLELIGHT)

Doesn't the inebriated idiot singing in this band grab you like a 2nd class Goth impersonator? What a wasted talents, wastes of time band. (0)

Emperor - "Prometheus - The Discipline Of Fire & Demise" CD (CANDLELIGHT)

I don't know what to say? The story of EMPEROR is over and this is what they offer to us as a swan song. Some of the problem might be just there, as this was written EMPEROR knew they were going to lay this to rest, thus they choose to include parts of all periods of EMPEROR. So some of the problems with this album stays within those realms, its to varied, going in all kinds of weird directions. Its impossible to keep focused, there is no red thread here. For me this is a very difficult album, it is a very diverse and intricate. Maybe a bit to sophisticated for me (and for its own good). Another problem for me is that this is no band effort, everything is written and arranged by Ihsahn, therefore, to me it sounds more like his side projects than EMPEROR. You know what I think of that, right? (right?) For me it would have been better if the album had been written together as a band instead of being Ihsahn solo product. I mean, this album could have used a "Corse You All Men" or "Warriors Of Modern Death". Some Smooth violence would have been nice. But for sure a album you have to expect some changes with. Anyway EMPEROR fanewal and good luck on further projects, not counting PECATUM of course (And I bet the next ZYRON will be an angry motherfucker) (I chose not to rate this as respect to - well - whatever).

Sodom - "Ensiferum" CD (STEAMHAMMER)

The worck they called SODOM is rising again, its been a few years since my last "Code Red" album and a new SODOM album is always anticipated! SODOM was here in the calendar but nothing changed in the SODOM world, We are dealing with a concept album about good thing with SODOM is that they never really changed much. Over the last ten years (there was some obvious changes in the beginning but...) over all SODOM have always produced the ugly branch of Metal. SODOM never grunted that some of their albums have not always been classic but it has as many as of their 90's albums. This is not the same, this is no 80's album. This is the same old ugly Thrash Metal. I don't need to say anything else, just do and get it sodominal! (5)

Witchery - "Symphony For The Devil" CD (NECROPOLIS)

A band like WITCHERY can never change the world, a band like lack of originality in their music. However, WITCHERY is a good band, supposed to be. WITCHERY is like a soundtrack to alcoholica no party. For that purpose WITCHERY works well (3).

In aeternum - "Past And Present Sins" CD (NECROPOLIS)

A comp. CD featuring a lot of stuff, most interesting is the brand new track featuring Schmier of DESTRUCTION of course on guest vocals! Very fast and brutal deathlike stuff, its called a "Curled Legions" and is the great release of this release. Another good thing is the version where the VENOM one is ok and DEICIDE DIAMOND is not that good to see that they are in their prime now doing their superior Metal of Death. (At least the new track is obvious) (4)

And this concludes the votes of the Norwegian jury!
THE GRAND FINALE!

Well, here are a few more reviews and other information. Get to fill in the blanks. As you might know, I decided to quit the record label HEAD NOT FOUND, it was becoming more annoying than pleasurable so I decided to leave. The label is still alive and being run by VOICES MEDIA ENTERTAINMENT. So please don't address me any requests concerning HEAD NOT FOUND anymore, see the advert to the right for contact information.

A few more albums...

FLESHCRAWL - "Soulkisser" CD (METAL BLADE)

German veterans of Death Metal strikes back, this might be their best effort so far. They have a pretty Swedish old school sound (recorded in Sweden by the way). The only thing I didn't like much here is the JUDAS PRIEST cover "Metal Gods". FLESHCRAWL might be (Death) Metal gods but this cover I could lived without. But anyway, a storm of a old school Death Metal holocaust! (4)

GRAVE - "Into The Grave"/"Tremendous Pain" + demo tracks CD (CENTURY MEDIA) The debut album from GRAVE is one of the essential albums in the Swedish history of Death Metal. No, the world-wide history of Death Metal when I think of it. This is pure art!!! And now it has been re-released with a bunch of bonus tracks, it makes this release very fucking worthy! The rawness and sheer brutality of this album has not been captured by many!!! Fucking classic Death Metal perfection! (6)

UNLEASHED - "Where No Life Dwells"/"And The Laughing Has Died..." + demo tracks CD (CENTURY MEDIA) Another re-release of Swedish Death Metal supremacy. UNLEASHED had its roots in NILFISIST (PRE-ENTOMBED), where Johnny (aka in NILFISIST) decided to form his own barbarian Death Metal horde. Its for sure a classic along with the above mentioned album, not that godly as GRAVE but pretty fucking close. (5)

NOVEMBRE - "November"/"Waltz" CD (CENTURY MEDIA)

As many might know I'm not usually a fan of this genre but when it done as surprisingly good as on this album I must give it. NOVEMBRE offers something unique here on their fourth album. At least they have something special that separates them from the usual bunch of wannabes. It can be compared to stuff like OPETH (in their better days), their music is never boring and there is a special aura capturing this album. Also their KATE BUSH cover "Clouds" and "with Ann Mari Edvardsen must be mentioned. It ruled! I personally find this album more interesting than new releases by SOULFLY and BORKNAGAR on the same label, hopefully they will not be ignored. (4)

THE FUTURE!

Well, to disappoint you I will go on with this crusade. SLAYER 17 will reach you sometime during 2002 (the earlier the better) to feature an extensive KREATOR/SODOM/DESTRUCTION tour report, interviews with SPIRITUS, WITCHES HAMMER, BLASPHEMY, IRON ANGEL, etc. the foundations are being build. Keep in touch! NEVER SURRENDER! FOR THE SAKE OF METAL!!!!

WINDIR - "1184" CD

Third album from Windir, the norwegian exponents of supreme viking/black metal! "Already album of the year" (Power Black, Germany)
The INEFFABLE KINGS OF DARKNESS have returned with 8 tracks of black metal supremacy!

Produced by Peter Tägtgren, recorded in Abyss Studio.

OUT SEPTEMBER 24th!

DIABOLIS INTERIUM

"Diabolis Interium" is an absolute MUST for every serious metal-collector, not only black metal fanatics!

Nr 1 in Soundcheck - "Album of the Month" - LEGACY (Nr. 14)
9,5 / 10 Points - ROCK HARD 09/01
9 / 10 Points - METAL HEART 09/01
10 / 12 Points - HEAVY, ODER WAS 09/01
5 / 7 Points - HAMMER 09/01

...should DIABOLIS INTERIUM be the soundtrack of Armageddon, then I would have complimentary tickets please... (Robert Popper, Rockhard)

...with DIABOLIS INTERIUM, DARK FUNERAL have recorded the black metal highlight of the year. BUY OR DIE!!! (Amin Schiti)

...and DARK FUNERAL can hardly be stopped on their way to conquer the universe... (Anders Rathsman, Heavy, Oder Was?)

DIABOLIS INTERIUM is the best album of these dark comedians. (Markus Eick, Sonic Seducer)