

# UNDER THE OAK

issue 1

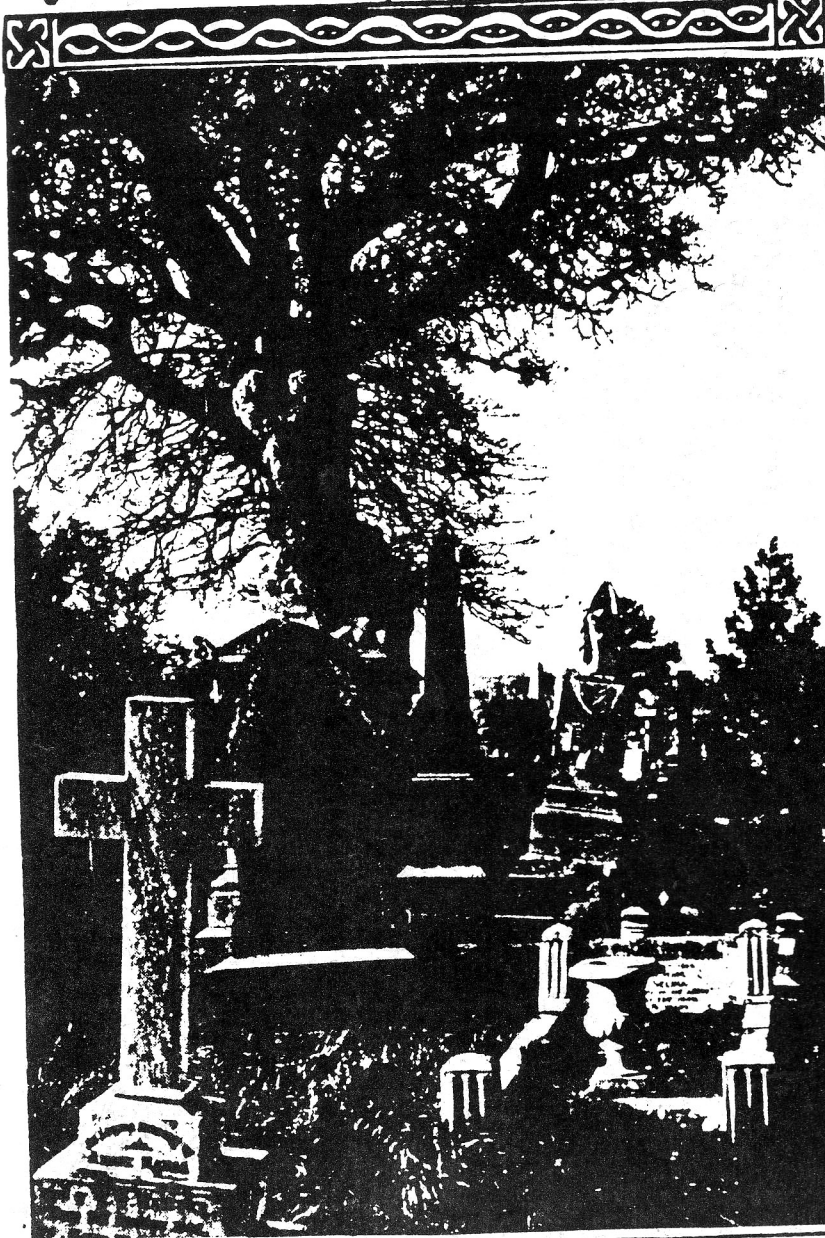
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With, Solitude Aeternus    Destiny    Brocas Helm  
Mercy    Saint Vitus    Hellbastard

# EDITORIAL

## Dooming Blessings To Thee.



The gates are open! I welcome you to the first edition of UNDER THE OAK which I hope and pray will be the first among many.

This issue has taken a few months to appear, longer than first anticipated as starting fresh on a new project is not such an easy task as it may seem. So I hope you can appreciate the time and effort and indeed expense that has bourn UNDER THE OAK into fruition.

The review section is I know is bordering on the archaic and nothing short of a miraculous event could prevent it from being so, for that I can only apologize.

In defence I can only say that due to the time taken to get this together it was inevitable that some features would be slightly aged and in respect some reviews are better than none and reviews are an essential part of any music publication.

In future UNDER THE OAK will with graceful tidings be appearing on a regular basis featuring I can assure you some of the very best Heavy Metal bands around.

UNDER THE OAK as you may have already guessed and considered lays itself firmly beneath the throne of Real Metal and Doom Metal acts and will give definitive features to bands in that category, all material however sent for reviewing purposes will be reviewed, its just that justice must and will be done for Doom and Real Metal bands, many of whom are totally under-estimated because of the tedious trendmongering and publicity given to thrash, glam, whatever type bands who have far too much limelight and publicity within underground and mainstream magazines.

The true spirit of metal lies with Real and Doom bands, intelligence and captivating music and style is a facet that UNDER THE OAK will explore and relate in its tales of woe and misery and enlightenment of heart and mind.

Regardless, if there are any comments or anything to say then feel free to write in. If there is enough response UNDER THE OAK will feature a letters page.

So enjoy the read of this edition and keep your eyes open for number two soon. Keep Heavy music alive!

With many blessings, Doom n'Gloom, GRIFF.

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UNDER THE OAK PLAYLIST: UNDER THE OAK PLAYLIST: UNDER THE  
(not in any particular order)

SAINT VITUS - All, BROCAS HELM - Black Death LP,  
SOLITUDE AETERNUS - Demo's, BLACK JACK - EP,  
REVELATION - Images Of Darkness Demo,  
BLACK SABBATH - Ozzy/Dio/Headless Cross (Praise Iomni!)  
CANDLEMASS - All, MERCY - King Doom LP, TROUBLE - All,  
FOREVER - Forever & Ever LP, DESTINY - Atomic Winter LP  
WAR CRY - Trilogy Of Terror demo, PENTAGRAM - Day Of  
Reckoning LP, DEATHROW - Demo '82, FATES WARNING - All,  
ANGELWITCH - Angelwitch LP, NIGHO MANTIA - Poetry Of  
Subculture Demo, CRIMSON GLORY - Transcendence LP,  
DEAD CAN DANCE - Within the Realm-Spleen & Ideal LP's,  
NEMESIS - Day Of Retribution 12", SAVATAGE - Hall Of  
The Mountain King LP, MEKONG DELTA - The Principle Of  
Doubt LP, I'm sure y'get the general idea! Griff.

UNDER THE OAK ISSUE TWO WILL WITH THE GRACE OF THE  
LORD PERMITTING BE HITTING THE PROVERBIAL STREETS IN  
A FEW MONTHS. IT'LL BE FEATURING COUNT RAVEN, SORCERER,  
REVELATION, CANDLEMASS, WATCHTOWER, & MORE.  
ACCEPT NO IMITATIONS, REAL METAL AND FUCKING DOOOOOOM!

## UNDER THE OAK

c/o 50 Dearnford Avenue Bromborough  
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### u.t.o list.

LOOK OUT SOON FOR  
THE UNDER THE OAK  
DEMO & VINYL LIST.  
REAL/DOOM BANDS  
GET IN TOUCH FOR  
DISTRIBUTION &  
PUBLICITY.



Hush be quiet now for I wish to tell you a little tale....."

Once upon a time in the third century in Eastern Europe there lived a child who insisted upon worshipping the Lord rather than worshipping the king.

Because of this the child was beheaded upon royal command immediately after beheading the child's body was observed twitching and violently jerking for a while & continued after the beheading.

The child was named SAINT VITUS, his death throes aptly named Saint Vitus Dance is now a name for a spastic disease.

However this is not a story of saints or of medical slang this is a true story of California's very own SAINT VITUS a much ignored but a very powerful metal quartet utilising a slow and heavy sound with a devastating use of wah-guitaring.

Anyway our story of SAINT VITUS the band begins in the year of our Lord Nineteen Hundred and Seventy Eight whence they went under the name of TYRANT with Dave Chandler on rhythm guitar, Mark Adams on lead and Armando Acosta on drums with a bassist who didn't stick around too long.

TYRANT's main performances were playing parties and stuff and trying to get club gigs. A few line up changes occurred including Dave Chandler handling the guitar and vocal duties and at another point brought in a lead singer.

Scott Reagers was talked into becoming VITUS's vocalist by Dave Chandler and in AD nineteen hundred and eighty one TYRANT had dropped the TYRANT name and in its place left SAINT VITUS.

'VITUS had played the Los Angeles area for a year and a half when one night they were co-billed with SST metal band OVERKILL.

These two bands both formed a common ground in the respect of music and style both only concentrated on the power of the music and the playing rather than the showmanship and the pose common to most LA bands.

After this OVERKILL righteously introduced VITUS to SST records and the first LP hereldest a black front cover sleeve with a silver SAINT VITUS logo was released in 1984 bearing such classics as 'Saint Vitus' the doomy 'White Magic/Black Magic' and the wonderfully long 'Psychopath'.

# Saint Vitus



## LONG LIVE DISCIPLES OF NIGHT

A history and biography of Vital Saints.....

During '84 VITUS hit the road and toured with hard-core band BLACK FLAG, this mix of modern metal and over the top energy is legendary, both for the bringing together the sub-cultures of thrash and metal and also for sowing the seeds of the speed metal style. Chandler's style of original guitar playing and aggressiveness won many fans for VITUS.

This inevitably helped them along the way when they toured the U.S again to promote their second release that of an LP entitled 'Hallow's Victim' with such monstrous riffing and heavy mid paced and slowish material and with un-forgettable songs such as 'White Stallions', 'War Is Our Destiny' to the Sabbath qualities of 'Prayer For The Masses' a song levelled at the satanical element prevalent in metal.

'White Stallions' also was featured on 'The Walking Dead' 12" a three tracker

born on a UK release on SST to coincide with the U.S tour. 'The Walking Dead' also featured the slow brooding, atmospheric title track of the same name and an intense and incredible track entitled 'Darkness'. This release came out to much critical acclaim.

In late 1985 Scott Reagers came under personal problems and unfortunately decided to leave the band, Scott had an incredible voice that matched the mood of VITUS yet undaunted with the task in hand Dave undertook the vocal duties and the search began for a new vocalist who needed to have 'holes instead of eyes'.

The vacancy was soon to be filled fortunately with Scott Weinrich (Wino) who had previously played in bands including the excellent DC area band called THE OBSESSED. Scott had seen VITUS on tour and had needed to get out of DC so he auditioned and VITUS asked him to join.

The first release for Wino with VITUS was the fourth release which was the aptly titled 'Born Too Late' LP which arrived in 1986.

Wino's vocal talents are well suited to the VITUS sound as 'Born Too Late' shows well, this was a 6 track LP with some classic cuts such as 'Dying Inside', 'Clear Windowpane' and well basically the whole damn LP is classic with some storming drum work from Armando Acosta.

For VITUS's summer national tour in 1987 the 'Thirsty & Miserable' 12" was released featuring a cover version of BLACK FLAG's 'Thirsty & Miserable' and by the Lord that was one hell of a rocking release.

The newest release to date is the 'Mournful Cries' LP which as far as I know is not available in the UK to date. A small UK tour was planned in April '89 but was cancelled until August, till then we will have to wait.

### LONG LIVE DISCIPLES OF NIGHT

It seems the British music press and in particular the mainstream metal press is decidedly ignorant in a band that has over ten years experience behind them and a healthy string of praisable releases to their name.

Maybe this ignorance is due to the overt exposure bands like Metallica, Slayer, Anthrax etc receive which is surely not neccessary.

Maybe this feature will go some way to give VITUS the recognition they deserve & hopefully elevate them into a position of noteriety and give them respect I beleive should exist already.

Such are my complaints but many blessings to VITUS for keeping it heavy through the years!

If anyone out there reading this has any VITUS flyers, demo's, live recordings, press cuttings, or any other shit then get in touch now at the UNDER THE OAK address...thanks!

# Vitus

# DESTINY.

In the beginning there was nothing, then came darkness and with that: DESTINY!



LEFT TO RIGHT: GUNNAR KINDBERG · STEFAN BJÖRNSJÖ  
ZENNY HANSSON · PETER LUNDGREN

After hearing DESTINY's awesome second album release that of 'Atomic Winter' UNDER THE OAK discovers their destiny with bassist Stefan Björnsjö and vocalist Zenny Hansson.

CAN YOU GIVE A BRIEF HISTORY OF DESTINY FOR THE UN-INITIATED? (S) The first official line up of the band called DESTINY was way back in 1980 when I Stefan on bass, Peter Lund on drums, John Proden on lead guitar rhythm guitar played together. We called ourselves DESTINY but we were only playing for three months or so and it was nothing serious, we were just kids playing around. But that's the first time the band had a name but we went our different ways and in 1982 myself met Magnus Österman on guitars and we formed the new DESTINY and we soon had John Proden the guitarist who re-joined, we decided to have the name DESTINY again, we also had a girl vocalist and another drummer but that didn't last for too long and in 1983 Hakan Ring joined on vocals and in 1984 Peter Lundgren joined the band again & that was the first time we did something serious a demo tape and stuff like that. That's also the line up that recorded the first album 'Beyond All Sense', that line up worked for a year or more, after the album was released Magnus decided he didn't want to do the music business anymore, he had other things to do but we're still good friends. And after a while even John left the band and they were replaced by Floyd Konstantin (S) Formally Of KINGDOM. (S) Yes and after that even Hakan decided that it was too much for him, he didn't want to dedicate himself enough and then we found...

(Z) Then I woke up on stage (S) Yeah, Zenny joined the band, you can tell him about that (Z) Well I went up to Gothenburg to have an audition for a band called MADISON (S) Which you've probably heard of they have two albums so far (Z) And they're playing a soft rock, hard rock it's a soft style of hard rock, but they thought I was screaming their songs in pieces so Stefan & the other guys were looking for a new post in their group, they had heard of it so they phoned me up. (S) I thought that someone who had screamed MADISON to pieces would be perfect for DESTINY so I managed to get his phone number (Z) And I went up to Gothenburg for a second time and since then I went along with the guys. (S) Yes he was working out real fast, he wrote I think he wrote about five lyrics in two weeks or something like that for the 'Atomic Winter' album and after that the history went on that we did some gigs around in Sweden but things were not working out real good and it took time to get a real good record deal because no-body wanted to sign us! (laughs) (Z) The fans liked us, the magazines liked us, the fanzines liked us (S) Everybody told us they liked us... (Z) But record companies didn't like us (S) Finally we signed a deal with US records, Axel Thubeauville which so far has been good to us (Z) Yeah very good (S) It's not the perfect record company but it's very good, anyway we started to record the album 'Atomic Winter' the second album in 1988, things were not going too good in the band so after that record was completed in July or something, Floyd left the band to be replaced by Gunnar Kindberg our present guitarist who actually was the guitarist between 'Beyond All Sense' and 'Atomic Winter' and now he's back in the band and everything's working out real fine, but we're still looking for a fifth member (second guitarist, lead guitarist) & we're gonna try one out just in a couple of days which we believe much in but we won't say too much because we have been trying so many guitarists it's a big problem to get someone to fit the band (Z) Either they don't fit musical or... (S) There's others (laughs). So that's a short history of two albums & lots of line up changes!

The second question you asked us was 'How has 'Atomic Winter' been selling, have you had much response from it, and what is the general feeling amongst the band about it? (S) That's actually three questions so I'll answer first how it's been selling, we don't know (Z) We don't really know (S) We think it's been selling ok but the distribution hasn't worked out real good all over the place because it was released in Europe in December or November then it wasn't released in Scandinavia and the UK until a month ago, or even later May/June so by that time the reviews & articles had already been out so, and people had been trying to get hold of the album and couldn't find it anywhere. Hopefully it will change if we get some more press like yourself. In a way I know the album has sold enough to make it go even for the record company but we haven't received any money yet but hopefully we will soon (Z) Yeah, we hope so.

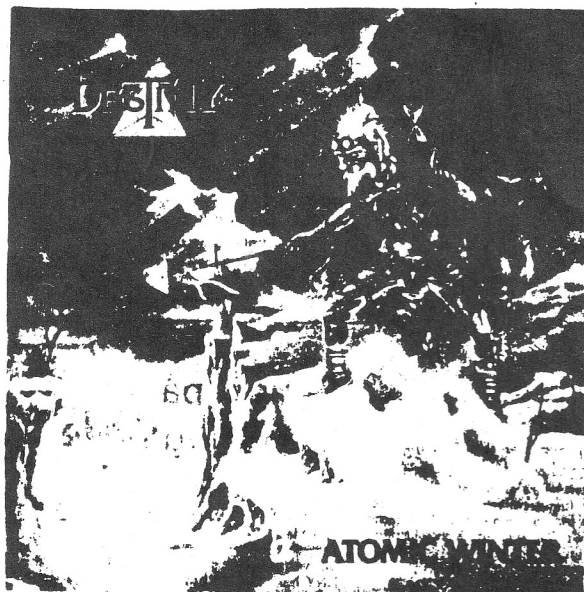
(S) The second part of that question was (Z) Have you had much response from it? (S) I'm not sure what you mean by that, I think we've done lots of promotion, we went to Germany did a promotion tour Zenny and me (Z) We did TV, radio, magazines, interviews. I think people liked the record very, very much but the distribution problem that we can't get it out to everybody who read about it, the record or things like that. But I think everybody who are interested in the band or in the record when they read about it if they could get a copy to listen to it. I think so far we have, could have got a very good response. (S) We have a very good response from magazines, except for the biggest one in Britain actually. Kerrang, Raw and Metal Hammer wrote a review and put out some small things but no article. Kerrang did a review which was also good and they did an interview which was never printed & Metal Hammer didn't even do a review which is real sad, but I'm sure they'll come around (Z) We hope so. (S) But the fans that know the band they like it very much & we have received lots of mail of course from all over the world.

My personal feeling is that I feel very proud, I feel it's very good of course after a while there are some things you know you could've done better, but apart from a couple of guitar solos I like everything on the album. (Z) Yeah! me too (S) OK! (S) and the cover is really good! (Z) We love the cover y'know



'ATOMIC WINTER' IS ONLY YOUR SECOND LP IN ALL THE YEARS YOU'VE BEEN GOING WHY IS THIS?

(S) Its just because nobody wanted to sign us after the first album otherwise we would've done more. I mean before 'Beyond All Sense' we weren't all that serious, we didn't try to become professionals real fast. Not until after the first album was released that we wanted to do that, thats why we had a line up change there also because some people didn't want to do it so we had to bring professionals like Zenny. (Z) Yeah! (S) And Gunnar.



DO YOU FEEL RESTRICTED IN ANY WAY?

I don't know what you mean by that but its been hard for us. When we had a good demo tape out and everybody liked it and we couldn't get a deal for such a long time thats not good for a band. You need that confidence to know that you can have a good album out. It took us some time but now we have good confidence but we didn't at the time. (Z) Sometimes it feels like we're in the wrong place at the wrong time (S) Yes (Z) We have the right stuff, the right songs and everything but we have the wrong place at the wrong time.

THE SLEEVE OF 'ATOMIC WINTER' FEATURED ARTWORK BY DEREK RIGGS HOW DID THIS COME ABOUT?

(S) Thats an interesting story from the beginning (Z) Its a funny story (S) Its a real funny story. From the beginning we wanted a really good album cover cos there's so many bands coming out with albums and to look a little bit different, to stick out a little bit we needed a really good cover. So we were gonna ask a really good famous artist to do it, so I was gonna talk to Rodney Matthews who did the MAGNUM covers and some other ones too. But he didn't want to do the cover of course, he didn't like our lyrics apparently he's a Christian or something like that, he wrote a real nice letter and explained everything so I have no hard feelings against him, its just I don't understand it because he did a cover for DIAMOND HEAD and they've got much worse lyrics than we do (laughs). Anyway so when I was at a friends house I saw an IRON MAIDEN video and there was an interview with Derek Riggs so I thought maybe I should call him up, thats an obvious person to call but you don't really think of it because he's still connected with IRON MAIDEN that you don't really dream of him doing it. But I managed to get his phone number called him up and told him who we were & what we were doing and what we were and I asked him if he wanted to do the cover and he said sure i'll do it for a special price that we agreed on if I like the lyrics and the music, so I sent him the lyrics and demo tape and after a couple of days we had a sketch then he did a cover, so thats how it came about, so he's a really nice person.

WHAT DOES IT PORTRAY?

(S) The person on the cover is destiny and the other things are the nature and everything. Whats really happening on an Atomic Winter, the clouds, the sun can't get through the sky, snow everywhere, bombs exploding, no green leaves or anything. And on the hill is mankind's destiny standing and smiling and laughing thinking 'what did I tell you' or whatever. You can see in his clothes that he has been through the beginning of time and now he's at the end of time. (Z) and he's in the future too (S) Yes, because...well there won't be a future anymore (Z) No, no (S) Well he's got Medieval clothes, stoneage clothes and modern clothes (Z) He's the future from now.

DO YOU THINK YOUR LYRICS HAVE A MESSAGE TO CONVEY SEEING AS HOW YOU STATED YOU SUPPORT GROUPS SUCH AS GREENPEACE, AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL ETC?

(S) Some of them do, like we said before its not that we want to point a finger, but if there's something we feel strongly about we don't go out of our way to write a song about it. And what GREENPEACE and AMNESTY is doing is really important

HOW DEEPLY ARE YOUR FEELINGS ON WORLD PROBLEMS INTERPRETED IN DESTINY'S LYRICS?

(S) We don't have any hidden messages but if there is like we said something that is important we can't go out of our way to write about it because its something that so strongly into our lives, you can't avoid it.

Its there the threat or whatever. It has to come out and sometimes it comes out in Zenny's lyrics.

We have this project coming up we are going to talk to some Swedish bands, nothing is clear yet. Its a project that DESTINY and PAGAN (a band thats gonna come out with an album real soon) have started together its gonna be called 'Songs For The Woods' probably..thats the working name at least. We are gonna talk to some Swedish bands like CANDLEMASS, HEXENHAUS maybe, ICE AGE, NORDEN LIGHTS, AGONY maybe, real heavy bands nothing commercial because when the Swedish Metal Aid came out a couple of years ago it sounded more like Swedish soul Aid..but anyway, we're gonna talk to these people see if they want to sacrifice an original song that has not been on the album, we'll put out a compilation album one song from each band, theres gonna be a cover song that everbodys going to participating on. But at the moment we haven't talked to any bands so we don't know wether they're gonna go for it, hopefully they will.

All the money that this albums gonna make will be sacrificed for the RAIN FOREST FOUNDATION. So we feel really strongly about, if the rain forest isn't saved thats the end of the modern world and thats also something that might pop up in the lyrics on the new album thats like maybe a continuation of the song 'Atomic Winter' its called 'Medieval Rendevous' thats really whats gonna happen if an atomic winter comes and there is a few survivors which there probably won't be, but if there is there is going to be a real medieval again. No technology, starvation, plagues, diseases and everything and this will happen even if

there isn't a nuclear war this will happen if we don't have no rainforests everythings going to become a dessert...not a dessert a desert! (laughs)

Anyway thats one of the projects we want to do and something that we and PAGAN started, we hope we can fulfill it and release it early next year but we don't know yet (Z) We're working on it (Z) I'm sure if they have a soul they'll sacrifice it unless they have a management or a manager puts a stop on it, but the bands themselves i'm sure they'll go for it.

YOU'VE LABELLED YOURSELVES 'DARK METAL/ROCK' DO YOU THINK THIS RESTRICTS YOU AND YOUR AUDIENCE?

(S) I don't think so, we don't really feel there's a need for labels because if you play Hard Rock and that includes everything. Or if you play Rock or Pop or whatever there are so many labels already and we don't feel that we fit into any of those labels. (Z) We like to create our own label (S) Yes so we call ourselves 'Dark' Metal which comes into the second question here 'How do you feel about Doom Metal does DESTINY play any part in that outlook?' and I feel when we first started to call ourselves 'Dark' Metal what we were really after was something like Doom Metal/Dark Metal who cares? Its something that creates (Z) A mood (S) But those

# DESTINY

bands that are going under the name Doom Metal these days I don't think we sound like them, but we have more in common with those bands than speed bands I think.

The first time I heard the label Doom Metal was on the SAVATAGE third album & they don't sound like Doom Metal (Z) CANDLEMASS or something like that (S) But we have something in common & I like some of those bands, cos I think 'Dark' Metal suits us fine.

IS THERE ANY NEWS OF NEW RECORDINGS OR FUTURE VINYL RELEASES OR ANY NEW SONGS WRITTEN TO BEHOLD?

(S) Well we haven't recorded anything yet but we will go into the studio in September if everything works out real good, to record our third album that is going to be called (S & Z) 'Nothing Left To Fear' (S) and we were actually going to do that in August but as we didn't have any electricity in our rehearsal room for three months, we had to postpone some things, (Z) We had a devil in or electric system (S) Yes we changed our rehearsal room though

We have about six complete new songs apart from some parts of the lyrics. (Z) And we will make at least one more for the album I think and then theres some other plans that i'll get into more later.

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY IS DESTINY ABOUT, WHERE DO YOU DRAW YOUR LYRICS FROM ANY INFLUENCES MUSICALLY AND LYRICALLY?

(S) Well the first part of that question is its all about good music, its all about 'Dark' Metal it is something that we claim we have invented. (Z) As a joke no its not a joke! (S) No thats honest music, you do it because you like it, you don't care if the record companies or whoever likes it you do what you feel is good and you make it as good as possible and you hope that the fans are going to like it and I think that we have acheived that. But you have to be honest, DESTINY is 100% honest, we would never sell out. I mean if you felt like playing commercial or whatever we would've done that too, but at the moment we don't. So we don't do it. It's a special mood that we're after in the songs which I think we didn't capture 100% in the first and second albums, it's getting there and closer, its gonna get better on the third album, but we're probably gonna say the same thing after that!

(Z) Maybe we don't reach what we're aiming for but we're getting closer every record so there's some future, you'll see.

(S) Anybody can come up with a theme but its Zenny who makes it that. (Z) Yeah I put everything together & I think I have either lyrics that mean something, thought behind it, no bullshit, they have a meaning and you can listen to songs on the album for instance 'Religion' or 'Atomic Winter' which is serious songs and then there could be songs 'Bermuda' or something they're telling a story (S) We don't neocarsarily write about important things, but we write about things that interest us, there could be songs that fascinate us like 'Bermuda' (Z) 'Living Dead' (S) Then there could be total fantasy like 'Dark Heros' or 'Beware', 'Extreme Uction' but its always a thought behind, its not something we just write for the sake of lyrics, lyrics are important as everything else. We would never sing 'Rock n'roll all night' or 'She broke my heart and so I broke her face (laughs) (S) Anyway... some things at some times in some songs makes you open your eyes.

INFLUENCES?

(S) Musically we like lots of bands, everybody likes bands, we all have different tastes but we still like bands that everyone likes from the 70's BLACK SABBATH, URIAH HEEP, and maybe DEEP PURPLE and some other styles too. But in Heavy Metal that is. Personally what I love is BUDGIE, no-one else does (laughs) yes Gunnar likes it too. And from the 80's we like GREENSHTCHE, METAL CHURCH and we like (Z & S) SAVATAGE! (S) There's plenty of good bands, we don't get into this speed Metal scene too much, of course we like RUSH too, everyone likes RUSH, there's lots of influences.

Lyrically we're not influenced by someone elses lyrics its impossible I think. But if there's something we get interested in we... Zenny thinks of them him -self or someone else gives him an idea and I actually don't think we copy anyone else in music either.

THERE SEEMS TO BE SO MANY GOOD BANDS COMING FROM SWEDEN WHY DO YOU THINK THIS IS?

(Z) Well why do you think that is? (S) I think its Sweden is a very small country and lots of dedicated musicians, they want to do something, they can see that other bands from other countries do something that they can do just as good or even better so they put their soul into it and work real hard. (Z) So but I think Swedish people are, they think they can do the same as



LEFT TO RIGHT: GUNNAR KINDBERG - Guitars · PETER LUNDGREN - Drums  
STEFAN BJÖRNSJÖ - Bass · ZENNY HANSSON - Vocals



# DESTINY

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the band in England, Europe or the States its just that on the map it feels like we are a little pushed off or something. (S) But thats only a geographical point of view, anyway I think that Swedish people even though Zenny won't agree with me are very americanised in the way that they live, not in their values and therefore we can perhaps incorporate American/British style of music into Swedish style of music and that makes us a little bit different from those other bands outside Sweden but still close enough for the, to relate to it.

Everybody I know in Sweden are good musicians though. (Z) They're very dedicated.

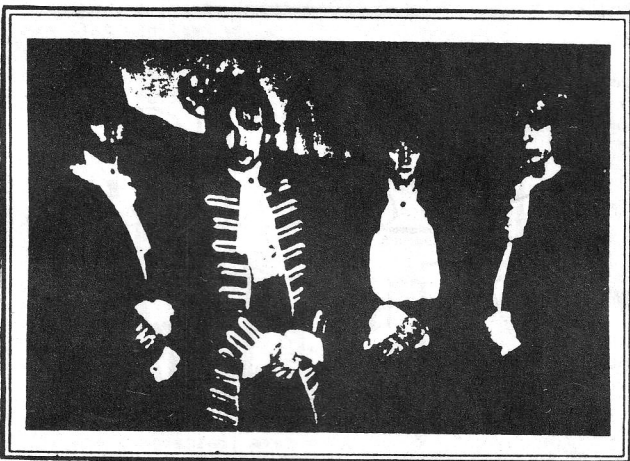
DO YOU GET ON WELL WITH OTHER SWEDISH BANDS?

(S) Well I don't know because I don't really socialise with them myself personally. But the bands I know I don't have any problems with personally I like them very much I like, we know CANDLEMASS, 'HEXANHOUSE, ICE AGE, PAGAN we know some other bands too but I can't remember them all but no problems there as far as I know.

IS THERE A GOOD SWEDISH METAL SCENE TO SPEAK OF?

(S) There's no Metal scene, there's tons of bands, many good bands, good albums but there's no place to play live unless you play real commercial Metal (Z) Like EUROPE (S) Or TREAT or ALIEN, then they can play the (? club...indecipherable tape...sorry Griff) but we couldn't do that we can play there but the people wouldn't understand what the hell we're doing (Z) Another band like EUROPE, No!!

(S) What we probably need like is a real good management or a manager because I have always been taking care of the band, but i'm not good enough for all of that. I want to concentrate as a musician, but we need someone who has the contacts and the relationships outside Sweden because thats where we are most known, We are actually well known outside Sweden than in Sweden. We can't play outside Sweden at the moment and in Sweden they don't care (Z) No thats not true (S) Except for the hardcore, we've only eight million people in Sweden so the hardcore isn't that many.



1989, the year of DARK METAL!

WHAT DO DESTINY HOPE TO ACHIEVE IN THE FUTURE, ANY PLANS TO BEHOLD?

(S) Well we want to be famous, we want to make money so we can concentrate on writing good new songs and become better musicians because at the time we have to work on the side of the music, everybodys got a job on the side which is really restricting the band very much. We could become much better if we could concentrate on the music, we need money to pay the rent.

But hopefully this album and the next album will solve that situation, we'll get some royalties and do some tours and make money so we can concentrate on music and of course we want to develop basically in the songwriting department. We want to continue to have a long career. We have been going for such a long time now that we don't want to stop when the time comes we wanna keep going.

IS THERE ANYTHING I HAVE'NT SAID THAT YOU'D LIKE TO SAY OR ADD AND ANY LAST WORDS OR BLESSINGS TO GIVE?

(S) Well I don't know, we can tell you a few things more

In the future we are going to record a special Lysellia (??) single, you probably don't know what that is, its an Italian saint and for some strange reason in Sweden and some other countries (Z) They are celebrating this year (S) Its the 13th of December, every person, every town has a special Lysellia character its a girl all dressed up in white robes, white candles, candle crown in her hair (Z) A beautiful girl and... (S) Yes and they have an election for it so what we are gonna do and what we've done before is that we're going to organise with a Swedish magazine to do our own Lysellia elections, but we will dress her up in a black robe, black candles and we will crown her on a gig on Lysellia night which is 13th December & we will also release a special single for the real story behind the Lysellia tradition, who she was and why she is. Thats hopefully going to come out later this year, meant to last year we had some problems so we didn't do it. So there's the new LP 'Nothing To Fear' then there will be the Lysellia single which will also feature two other songs, then we have the compilation album. The new LP will feature seven original songs and two short instrumentals and two re-recordings off the old album. Well of course we're planning tours and hopefully we'll come to Britain this Fall, we were supposed to play Marquee and Hippodrome early June, but our tour manager/booking agent he fucked everything up. So we're gonna fire him and hopefully find a British or American manager to take the band more important places. Apart from that I don't know the other musicians Gunnar & Peter aren't here at the moment they are good musicians (Z) They send their regards to you and your readers (S) As we do, and we hope that anybody who reads this article will check out our this album, they will not be disappointed and the more people that buy the album the more chances that we can come over and play there and the bigger chances that we can become professional, real filthy rich! Ok Griff I guess that sums it up.

And so ends the mammoth interview! This certainly won't be the last you'll hear from Steffan and Zenny and the rest of DESTINY and UNDER THE OAK wishes much luck and good tidings for DESTINY's up and coming projects. Extra thanks to Steffan and Zenny for their time doing this interview.

DESTINY can be contacted at the following address, DESTINY MANAGEMENT, Marbackagatan 2, 422 48 Hisings Backa, Sweden.

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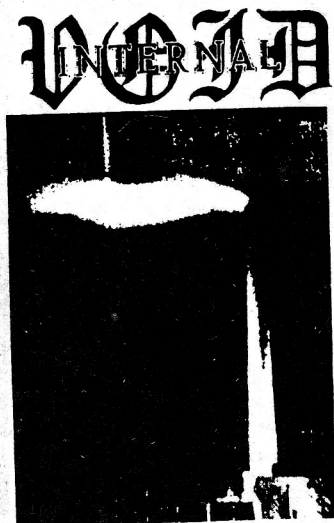
THE LATEST ORGAN FANZINE IS NUMBER 15. It has 44 pages of demo tapes, independent albums, live reviews and interviews with MOURNBLADE, GAY ANIMAL WOMEN, RE-ANIMATOR, SKINNY PIE, CREAMING JESUS and lots more music from beyond mere pigeon holes. ORGAN NUMBER 15 costs 70p inc P&P.

We also have a WIGGLE COMIX, ORGAN COMPILATION TAPES, and on THE ORGAN tape label we have material from STONE COLD, SPONGE, BOLT THROWER, PARADOX, and lots more. We have an Organ video on the way so send SAE for complete list. The next zine has interviews with WOLFSBANE, OROONIES, BROKEN DOLLS, REDJASPER plus millions of demo tapes from all round the world.

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# ROCKIN' OAK REVIEWS

All reviews are by Griff except where stated. UNDER THE OAK welcomes any contributions for reviewing purposes especially vinyl and demo tape releases. Please send to UNDER THE OAK c/o 50 DEARNFORD AVENUE, BROMBOROUGH, WIRRAL, MERSEYSIDE, L62 6DY, ENGLAND. preferably with promo packages, band biographies, graphics and photo's. WITH BLESSINGS.



## INTERNAL VOID-Demo

INTERNAL VOID is a four piece hailing from Maryland USA, (I don't have a bio so I'm going from the tape sleeve).

Internal Void consists of Kelly Carmicheal-guitars, Adam Heinzmann-bass, Eric Little-Drums and J.D Williams-vocals.

Their sound matches their thanks list much like SAINT VITUS, TROUBLE and THE OBSESSED. Very heavy but original.

This particular tape has six songs with a very unique intro played acoustically. The production is superb except for the vocals which sound kind of echoey but overall very good.

So it seems Doom Metal is making a come back. A very good one at that with the likes of INTERNAL VOID.

For info write: Chris Koslowski,

13616 Maidstown Lane, Potomac, MD 20854, USA. I don't know the cost of the tape so you'll have to ask. (Dave Poppie)

**INTERNAL  
VOID**

## BLACK SABBATH-Headless Cross LP (I.R.S)

A very welcome return for SABBATH and this six track release has a very powerful sound close to the 'Heaven and Hell' era.

Slow, brooding and emotional in all places it should only lead SABBATH back to the top where they belong. Granted its only Tony Iommi that remains from the original line up and ultimately it has the Iommi style and riffs for which he is famed for but you can't deny the input of vocalist Tony Martin and the obvious professionalism of Cozy Powell to make this a SABBATH of the 90's and which make this LP remarkable.

Cuts include 'Headless Cross, Devil and Daughter, the brooding When Death Calls, Call Of The Wild, Kill In The Spirit World, Black Moon and Nightwing. 'Headless Cross' is full of dark and morbid lyrics and make this a praiseworthy release one to which I hope SABBATH continue to build on for a long while.

## CANDLEMASS-Ancient Dreams LP (Active)

Surely by now everyone has heard of and more specifically heard of CANDLEMASS and their awesome sound.

They then need no introductions from me. Ancient Dreams LP will remain solidly welded to your turntable for aeons to come with its eight tracks of sheer wonderment!

This is how real metal should be played with epicness, emotion and style.

Not one track on 'Ancient Dreams' fails to entertain even the totally miserable 'Epistle No 81' will have you weeping. Enjoyable dreariness which adds that beauty of sadness.

CANDLEMASS have class and style and I'm sure you don't need to read this to know it already.

Hail 'Ancient Dreams' and bless the glories of DOOOOM!

## CELTIC FROST-Cold Lake LP (Noise)

'FROST certainly have brought all the critics out from the woodwork with the release of Cold Lake with cries of 'betrayal' and 'sold out' ringing from here to eternity.

Yet despite their cheesy glammy image and pink lip-stick and pouting I still reckon there is life in the 'FROST yet. They still retain a heavy and distinct feel and still produce some fine songs. Take 'Once Upon A Time' They were Eagles and Roses Without Thorns that's hardly Poison or Motley Spew is it?

It's a hard one to review this yet I'll fly into the winds of opposition and say it's an interesting release and give FROST another chance to produce fine music and to get rid of their poodle haircuts and cheesy makeup.

## MORBID ANGEL-Altars Of Madness LP (Earache)

A thoroughly gnarling techno' death number 'tis this one.

Some ridiculous Satanic lyrics it may possess and the cover art could do with improving but the sheer ferocity of the music stands up for itself.

Past, heavy technical song structures with loads of whining tremlo arm frenzy coupled together with speeding riffs and solid drum work make classic songs such as 'Blasphemy Of The Holy Ghost' come to light (maybe I've used the wrong phrase there seeing how totally terrifying the lyrics are!)



## FLAMING ANGER-Fall Of Pnom Penh (Demo)

An excellent 24 track recorded demo from this four piece West German techno-trash unit.

'Fall Of Pnom Penh' consists of four storming, tight and variable tracks and an acoustic opener intro.

FLAMING ANGER are an undoubtedly talented act & this tape shows some deployment of technical variety in its time changes. Franks vocals are well suited to this band's sound, quite different!

Lyrical FLAMING ANGER's songs are deep and meaningful. The title track is about the revolution of year zero instigated by Pol Pot which ultimately led to the deaths en masse for the sake of political ideology. A lesson to be learnt by everyone.

FLAMING ANGER deliver the goods with talent and progressiveness. And will do, you no wrong to check them out.

Fall Of Pnom Penh available for 10 DM or 6 US Dollars. Write: c/o Kuchenthal, Mardeweg 4, 4600 Dortmund 30, West Germany.





#### VALLECRUCIS-Neolithic Tales (Demo)

VALLECRUCIS are a recently formed band hailing locally from Liverpool. 'Neolithic Tales' is then their first demo recording and i'm afraid it shows only too well 'Neolithic Tales' offers three long tracks each one over eight minutes long. In slight parts its reminiscent of TROUBLE without a great slab of Doom to keep it moving.

The main problem is in the vocal department which needs a drastic re-think or some singing lessons to improve the flat and lame whine present here.

However not to be overtly critical 'Neolithic Tales'

consisting of 'Journey', 'Horizon' and 'Alixir Of Time' does possess good musicianship and potential

VALLECRUCIS will i'm sure improve on this in the future. Hopefully they'll also improve on their stage presence as well, as frilly shirts, silly dancing and setting fire to an old bass guitar with lighter fluid is best left in the pantomime with Bad News and dross like Spinal Tap.

'Neolithic Tales' demo is available from Ian Daulby, 60 Devonfield Rd, Oriol Park, Liverpool 9, L9 3BQ. Its priced at £1.50 plus SAE. This is also the contact address for the Valley Of The Cross or VALLECRUCIS latin speaking.

#### PENDEMIA-Widespread Epidemic (Demo)

What we have here is a four track demo release consisting of Malignant Decay, Faith Or Fear, The Drowning and Fallen Angel.

PENDEMIA have the basic ingredients of the thrash metal sound with also an undercurrent of hardcore. In my opinion bands of this ilk are complacent, over done and un-original.

Now, I don't want this review to sound like i'm using PENDEMIA for a scapegoat for how I feel about the majority of the UKHC thing when there are far worse bands than PENDEMIA boring us to death.

PENDEMIA will obviously appeal to fans of that style.

I have to add that PENDEMIA neither convince or impress me one iota and are only just one band in a whole host of thrash acts.

Expect a vinyl offering from them and for info etc drop a line to PENDEMIA c/o

#### PENDEMIA continued

Johnathon Sharp, Grassmoor, Crosby, Ma ryport  
Johnathon Sharp, Grassmoor, Crosby, Maryport, Cumbria, CA15 6RP, England.

#### SOLITUDE - Mirror Of Sorrow (Demo)

Dooooom, with a capital D!

This is SOLITUDE's second demo release following the '...Justice For All' Demo.

For the new SOLITUDE news see the OAKNEWS page but anyway major changes in SOLITUDE has altered the band dramatically.

The last demo had many over-tones of CANDLEMASS.

'Mirror Of Sorrow' still has some overtones but is much more unique. The new vocalist gives the band an emotional boost. The musicianship is phenomenal. SOLITUDE are picking up where CANDLEMASS left off on 'Epicus...'

(especially the song 'Solitude Doom is back with a vengeance and it is spelled

S-O-L-I-T-U-D-E !

Record companies: sign these guys now.

Write: SOLITUDE, 1009 Bert, Arlington, Texas, USA.

(Dave Poppie)

#### SAMAEI-Medieval Prophecy EP

SAMAEI are a two piece band trying to recreate the formula of early BATHORY meets early 'FROST' only completely slowed down.

Now in practice this sound sounds like a band to be further investigated, however this EP is a basic failure. There is no depth, heaviness, talent or power to keep it moving only a vacant drone with some bestial groans thrown on the top for good measure, because after all they are Satanic. If you'd like to enter unto a pact with SAMAEI to see if they can

use their curses, pentagram and Black Magic rituals to convince you to like their band then drop a line to SAMAEI c/o Lise Delaloys, Rue De Collonges, CH-1957, Ardon (US), Switzerland.... God Bless.

#### REPULSION-Horrified LP (Necrosis)

REPULSION have seemingly been around for aeons & so for some time now they have been favourites within the underground tape trading circles and therefore I do believe command a healthy following from those who enjoy their Metal in a more severe, brutal and extreme way.

'Horrified' is an 18 track affair consisting of such songs of notoriety as 'Maggots in your Coffin', 'The Stench Of Burning Death', 'Splattered Cadavers and other such pleasantries.

With lyrics obviously gore inspired REPULSION however only read like an infant school version of CARCASS's insane literal dirges.

OK so REPULSION aren't prime U.T.O material but 'Horrified' does have its slight moments. Basically its a barrage of thrashing, tuned down and grinding mayhem. The sort of stuff that inspired (for want of a better word) tripe like MAPALM DEATH and bands of such ilk. This is sure buy for thrash and noise heads out there.

Footnote:- NECROSIS is a newish record label set up by Jeff and Bill from CARCASS so keep an eye out for any releases from those quarters. I pass on my blessings to 'em for the best o'British luck for the future and to Jeff's Jackel.



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**SABBAT-Dreamweaver**  
(Reflections Of Our  
Yesterdays) (Noise)

It's been a while since the last outing in the shape of 'History Of A Time To Come' LP but SABBAT on the 'Metal' map and I think with this latest venture there has been a hell of a lot of improvements. 'Dreamweaver' being based on a book entitled 'The Way Of The Wyrd' so this is a self confessed concept LP which works well with some fine lyrics nearly book length in their entirety!

Mainly SABBAT are a thrash Metal outfit delivering some hefty fine riffs and power in their sound, but just check out 'Advent Of Insanity' for a completely different approach, radically different from SABBAT's abrasive style of organized cacophony! SABBAT have proved with the release of 'Dreamweaver' that they are a force to be reckoned with, and are personally one of the healthiest 'thrash' metal acts of the present day.

**SACRILEGE- Turn Back**  
Trilobite LP  
(Under One Flag)

Admittedly at first listen. I thought 'Turn Back...' LP was really lame and Tams vocals seemed just to get on my nerves. Now after a few objective listens I find that this is over all a pleasing release.

'Turn Back...' sees the style of SACRILEGE completely slowing down & gone are the shouted/ screamed vocals of previous releases and gone also is the thundering and at times over indulgence of Daimians guitar style.

'Turn Back...' isn't exactly perfect by any means I can't understand the production on Tam's vocals which sound too loud for the listener to get to grips with the music behind it. Of which I'll say that this LP is relaxing to listen to and has a hell of a lot of excellent guitar in a TROUBLE kind of way. If you can get used to Tams new singing style then I recommend this to you!

**DESTINY-Atomic Winter LP**  
(US Metal Records)

For some reason Sweden seems to breed some entirely wicked sounding bands and DESTINY have proved themselves to be no exception to that with the release of the superb 'Atomic Winter' LP.

'Atomic Winter' is a strong heavy and well produced LP in parts DESTINY seems to capture the Doom sound well yet can not be so easily categorised as such due to the mid paced and up tempo numbers such as 'The Extreme Unction'.

At times DESTINY's sound seems to portray quite a SAVATAGE influence but really there's such a variety here that it should keep most folk happy (and makes my job of reviewing that bit harder!)

The nine tracks on offer here show DESTINY are a solid unit with some great musicianship. There's some hot riffs and impressive solo work from Floyd Konstantin and some marvels from the man in the vocal dept. Zenny Hasson with some fine harmonic edges that match well with the atmosphere of DESTINY's sound.

Get to hear DESTINY now.

**SOLITUDE-Sickness (Demo)**

Right hold on there! Before you start having palpitation -s this is not another demo by Texan Doom gods SOLITUDE but a different band of the same name utilising a different formula of Metal.

SOLITUDE have a sound in the style of 'South Of Heaven' style SLAYER and ever so slight tinges of METALLICA but not so much as to proclaim SOLITUDE as un-original.

In fact this four track demo possess some fine and heavy song structures which stand up in their own right.

SOLITUDE should be having a vinyl release anytime now so I suggest you check it

out with Arena Records, PO Box 4164, Osbornville, New Jersey, 08723, USA.

**OUT  
NOW!** **DON'T GO TO  
YOUR GRAVE  
WITHOUT IT!**



SEND \$10.00 in US / 15.00 us dollars outside of US  
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**BROCAS HELM**  
1455-A MARKET ST.  
SUITE 212  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA. 94103

**BROCAS HELM-Black Death LP**  
(Gargoyle Records)

Let me tell you this right now, BROCAS HELM are one 'classy band and with their 'Black Death' LP release they simply ooze heavy and rocking sounds to hurl you to the other side of the room.

Full-out attacks of instrumental warfare cressendo and fall in one hell of a pounding way.

Drummer Jack Hays has just got to be heard for the fury and style of his drumming. Much equal credit has got to be given to the rest of the 'HELMish unit who build up songs with such finesse and carry them off with such ease demanding to be listened to

BROCAS HELM is the real stuff, no mindless thrash or weakening pop-rock just heavy, stylish well thought out Metal.

BROCAS HELM introduce a variety of musical styles tinges of 70's inspiration are apparant and Medieval structures are evident which fully come to light in the wee ditty of 'The Chemist' which makes a pleasant(ish) contrast to the pounding content of the rest of 'black Death'

All in all there are nine tracks from this truly classic band. They run as follows: Black Death Overture (the intro), Black Death, Prepare For Battle, Hell's Whip, Satan's Prophets, Fly High Prophets Scream, The Chemist and Fall Of The Curtain. Which believe you me will have you spellbound, screaming and drooling for more.

Get it now and remember if you don't like it.... we'll kick your bloody ass!!!



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# OAK REVIEWS rocking metal reviews continued



RAVING MAD

**RAVING MAD-Mastermind (Demo)**  
This tape is the newest release from RAVING MAD.

RAVING MAD were born in September of '84 with Stefan Johansson-solo guitar, Denn Dennis Enarsson-drums, Peter Andersson-vocals and rhythm guitar.

Later in '86 Ake Moller joined in on bass guitar. Also that year they taped 'Swords and Sorceries' and 'Experience Two'. In Feb '88 RAVING MAD hit the studio and recorded a 7" entitled 'Dazzling Display', which was quite heavy. Earlier in '89 they taped this demo tape which was to be released as a 12" but was not due to difficulties.

**CRIMSON GLORY-Transcendence LP**

(Roadrunner)  
Just to prove that UNDER THE OAK isn't all Doom n' Gloom CRIMSON GLORY's 'Transcendence' LP is a most welcome and worthy addition to these hallowed Oak Review pages.

CRIMSON GLORY prove very easily that they can produce some epic and emotional songs as every track on 'Transcendence' is impressive from the up-tempo 'Red Sharks' and the frenzied guitar work from Jon Denning on the title track 'Transcendence' to the slow, brooding, epicly tearful tracks such as 'Painted Skies', 'Lonely', and 'Burning Bridges'.

CRIMSON GLORY have the mastership to build up a song to epic sorrowful proportions with layered choruses, haunting emotion

This time round they have changed their style a bit tending to a METALLICA 'Master Of Puppets' sound.

I was a little disappointed from the 7" release which wasn't as heavy but was more original. Lyric wise they seem to have faltered especially on 'Plague Of An Era' (Senseless!).

If you like METALLICA you should like RAVING MAD.

I don't know the cost of the tape but you can write to them: RAVING MAD, c/o Ake Moller, Esplanaden 22 E, 5-593 31 Vaster Vik, Sweden. (Dave Poppie)

and classy melodic metal.

The vocals employed by Midnight are at times beautiful with such a dynamic range that it fits with such ease with the imaginative guitar work and rhythm sections, this band have talent!

I'll end by saying that if you like your metal packed with emotion and feeling then check out CRIMSON GLORY and their 'Transcendence' offering immediately. If songs like 'Burning Bridges' don't have you feeling despair and sorrow filled then you'd better turn off and get back to your Guns n' Jovies pap (to coin a phrase!)

"No feeling remains, like a restless heart. Naked in the frozen winds of sorrow" .....say no more, CRIMSON GLORY are hopefully here to stay.

**MERCY-King Doom LP (Mercy)**  
...King Doom has come to judge the earth folks! MERCY have spawned one hell of a dooming release to unleash gloom upon us all. MERCY are a long standing Swedish Metal band that used to have CANDLEMASS front man Messiah as vocal -ist.

'King Doom' is MERCY's fourth LP release and what do they give us? I'll tell you...nine tracks of absolute pure Dooming excellence, Sabbathesque tuned down heaven with some wonderful wah guitar to entice the shivers down the spine.

Rick Wine's vocals are real neat, high pitched and provide a good touch to the MERCY sound.

Not all of 'King Doom' is 'slow, not that there's anything wrong with slowness anyway but the up-tempo riffs add lethal injections of depression.

The tracks are enlightened with some fine classical guitar and piano playing which also add to the listening appeal.

This is pure and un-refined DOOM. MERCY have shown the way and I revel in every aspect of this bands depressing sound...Godly!

**CANDLEMASS-Samaritan 12" (AXIS)**

Samaritan is taken from the mind melting dooming 'Nightfall' LP while the totally despairing and emotional 'Solitude' and heavy 'Crystal Ball' are both from the 'Epicus...' LP both re-recorded with that new CANDLEMASS sound and of course the vocalist -ic talents of Messiah providing yet another incredible and spine tingling release from one of the best sounding bands of this millenium.

**DEADLY BLESSING-Limited Edition EP**  
(New Renaissance)

Three scorching tracks on this 12" and not one is disappointing.

DEADLY BLESSING employ a mixture of Slayeresque melodiousness with an Angelwitchy vocal style.

A good well working blend of trad metal and that new(ish) thrash sound basically sums up the feel of this DEADLY BLESSING opus. Listen out for more releases from this lot in the future.

**MEKONG DELTA-The Principle Of Doubt LP**  
(AAARRG)

For those amongst us who appreciate intelligent Metal without traces of inane childish rock n'roll cliches then this is for you! MEKONG DELTA boast a totally unique complex sound a thrash Metal wonderland of technical structuring with classical orchestrated parts to behold.

It took a few listens to get gripped by 'The Principle Of Doubt' due to its complex nature but now I crave more. Sure a lot of people won't appreciate MEKONG DELTA and a few complaints are levelled at the vocals, but I believe they have an integral part in MEKONG DELTA so who's to scoff at perfection when it's played as intelligently as this is?

More words fail to describe MEKONG DELTA's sound, hunt out 'The Principle Of Doubt' and you'll catch my drift. Hail Deltas of Mekong!!



**REVELATION - Illusions Of Progress (Demo)**

'Illusions Of Progress' is REVELATION's fourth release

This time offering five new tunes to sink your teeth into.

With 'Illusions...' REVELATION makes a few changes: Adding a bass player and putting out a more progressive sound, not commercial mind you but a more distinct sound.

On their previous demos a heavy SABBATH sound prevailed along with John's emotion laden lyrics and singing. Now they have entirely developed their very own style, very heavy with many changes and very emotional lyrics. The only setback is the production I don't know what it was recorded on but the vocals are sort of drowned out, the production isn't terrible but could be improved.

If you haven't heard REVELATION yet buy this Demo! If you have heard them buy it, you won't be disappointed.

'Illusions Of Progress' costs 5 USA dollars. Write in US to John Brenner, 3107 Fleet St, Baltimore, MD, 21224, USA.

In Europe: Helmut Metzner Schlesienstr 10, Richach, West Germany.

**DOOM OR BE DOOMED!**

(Dave Poppie)

**AXEGRINDER-Rise Of The  
Serpent Men LP  
(Peaceville)**

This is about the only Peaceville label release I can just about handle so far yet this has no originality in it whatsoever. Basically its a total and utter copy of the style of AMEBIX I kid ye not. I think they should pay the affore-mentioned band a nominal copyright fee But I must admit the last time I witnessed them live they were more impressive than this LP portrays. Maybe the next LP will see them acquiring a not so blatant similarity. Here's hoping.

**METAL MESSIAH-Metal Messiah  
(demo)**

You should all now be familiar with METAL MESSIAH as they recorded a brilliant session for the F.R.S a while back.

Its not surprising at all to discover that the band members are all seasoned players originating from Metal, Punk and hardcore bands.

This five track demo is excellent, great production (32 track studio recording) and great playing.

The tape begins with 'intro' then 'Metal Messiah' which sets the superb standard throughout the set. Pierce, speedy yet imaginative riffing leaping out of the speakers harking the rise of the new MESSIAH.

Britains best thrash band since the wonderful SABBAT.

Here's hoping they follow ONSLAUGHT and SLAMMER's footsteps and secure a major deal very soon.

(OWY)

**more OAK reviews**



**SOLITUDE-And Justice For  
All (Demo)**

An absolutly wonderful demo release! Five tracks (Sojourner, Transcending Sentinals, Where Angels Dare To Tread, It came about One Night and Into Battle) heralding SOLITUDE into the fields of dooming metal. And arrive they do in a totally heavy way.

SOLITUDE's sound is not unlike the sound of Swedish Lords CANDLEMASS but there is differences in their song structures to give it that unique SOLITUDE sound.

Obviously 'And Justice.. is for lovers of real metal so I hastily advise all who have not heard this to check SOLITUDE out this instance. The

only complaint I have with this particular demo is in the vocal department which sounds a bit flat at times. However latest SOLITUDE news is that they have a new vocalist so maybe things will be rectified there!

Since the recording of this demo SOLITUDE have also recorded a new one song demo and are expecting a record deal from the Metalother label sometime this year, more dooming goodies to listen out for.

To contact SOLITUDE write to 1009 Bert, Arlington, Texas, USA. 'And Justice For All' is available for six dollars. Make sure you catch the SOLITUDE interview in this here edition of 'UNDER THE OAK'.

**HELLBASTARD-Heading For  
Internal Darkness  
LP (Meantime)**

This is HELLBASTARD's first full length LP and so its not representative of what they're brewing up these days.

Anyhow there's lots of FROST and AMEBIX grinding and chugging riffs of the H.B of old. Two tracks from the seemingly dated 'Ripper Crust' Demo are also re-done to give a monument to what H.B were like with old members.

**SAINT VITUS-Mournful Cries  
LP (SST)**

Blessed is the Lord above for this offering!

I eventually and I must say after much despair managed to receive a copy of the latest holy VITUS vinyl recordings. A tape copy I must add because this release is absolutly and downright impossible to find throughout the UK and I guess everywhere else. Come on SST get your act together your distribution is pitiful, there's people out there who want VITUS (and in my case need and crave for it) so what are the people at SST doing wrong? Get your finger out, provide us with what we need and promote SAINT VITUS properly ok!

Or alternatively VITUS get yourselves a better record deal...you deserve the best.

Right, now my sermon has finished i'll get onto what 'Mournful Cries' has to offer us all Doom addicts.

As you can imagine its yet another classic, taking off from where 'Born Too Late' (their previous full length LP) left off, with what seems a better production sound.

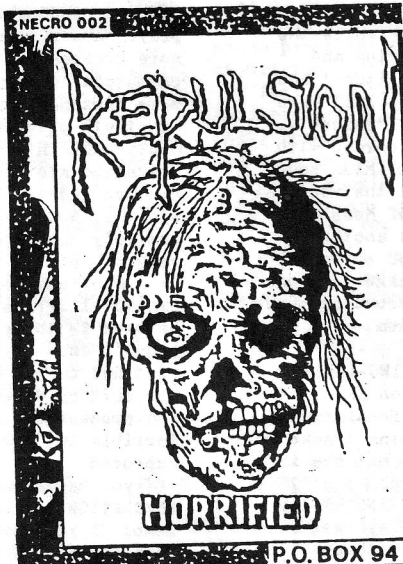
'The Creeps' kicks off 'Mournful Cries' and from there onwards folks its blissful slowness and depressive despair laden heaviness. Showing VITUS's excellent mood creating atmosphere of heavy sounds.

Lots of Sabbethesque riffs emanate from Dave Chandlers guitar and there is some improved solo guitaring to behold. Added to that the dooming rhythm section and Wino's unique 'pissed off' vocals make 'Mournful Cries' fucking godly!

All in all there are six killers of tracks, nurse yourself into a depression with The Creeps, Dragon Time, Shooting Gallery, Bitter Truth, The Troll, and Looking Glass, this is VITUS at their slow mournful best.

If and I stress if you can get hold of 'Mournful Cries' then do it immediately.

I bless solidly the VITUS sound....TOTAL DOOOM!



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# MERCY



PREPARE TO DIE

To say that the latest MERCY offering in the shape of the 'King Doom' LP had me transfixed in awe with their totally dooming sound could definately well be an understatement. MERCY are a band that ooze with class and it will do you no wrong whatsoever to check out this act immediatly.

MERCY are perhaps the most ignored yet influential band hailing from the proverbial 'hot-bed' of Metal Land Sweden who since their formation many years ago in 1980 were pioneers in the Swedish Metal scene and you could even say were the forerunners of the Doom Metal style (SABBATH excepted!) influencing bands such as the now well known & admired CANDLEMASS.

Since 1980 MERCY have released four LP's which are 'Swedish Metal' released in '82, 'Mercy' released in '84 'witchburner' released in '86 and now most recently the aforementioned excellence of 'King Doom' LP which for your literal pleasure is reviewed in the 'OAK review section elsewhere in this 'mag.

After these Oakish ears were swayed with much appreciation for MERCY immediate contact was made with MERCY main man Witchking Andrija Veijaca to check up on all the offerings MERCY have to give. Unfortunately Andrija is not so hot when it comes down to masterminding the English language and my Swedish is even worse (ie non existant) but never the less I hope i've given MERCY the exposure and enough justice here. **FUCKING DOOM!!**

CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT YOUR LATEST RELEASE 'KING DOOM'?  
Andrija) To record we took six days and mixed too. It was too expensive and other things, food & cover and cover price.

THERE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE MUCH KNOWLEDGE OF MERCY IN G.B, WHY DO YOU THINK THIS IS?

Andrija) Too many fucking mad brains working on newspapers in England, they don't have personal attitude. Too many record companies are involved in this economics and shit. I don't know.

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE ARISING OF THE MANY DOOM BANDS IN EXISTANCE TODAY? WHO HAS INFLUENCED MERCY THE GREATEST?

Andrija) Time is coming to Doom metal bands in 1990. I like it, BLACK SABBATH, TROUBLE, SAVATAGE, FATES WARNING and of course CANDLEMASS.

IT SEEMS THAT CANDLEMASS HAVE HAD THE MOST ACCLAIM FOR THE DOOM METAL STYLE. HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THIS CONSIDERING THE YEARS MERCY HAVE BEHIND THEM?

Andrija) MERCY was the first band in Sweden with the doom sound and had the first LP out three years before CANDLEMASS so all people know that CANDLEMASS were always a MERCY copy in Sweden. CANDLEMASS take too many things and riffs from MERCY. I'm only happy for that.

WHAT LYRICALLY DO MERCY COVER. WHAT INFLUENCES THE MERCY LYRICS?

Andrija) It's mystery and history on the world.

CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT YOUR NEW RECORD COMPANY 'EURO RECORDS'. ANY NEWS ABOUT ANY RELEASES?

Andrija) Euro Records selling these records on Euro List for 1989, MERCY- Mercy, Witchburner, King Doom LP, MERCY- new MERCY for worldwide compilations album, 5 new songs. GLAM SLAM- song cassette (fucking Doom, American sound). GLAM SLAM-LP release Jan 1990. 2 LP compilations album-scandinavian royal trash. All distribution of U.S.A Wild Rags records. I am working with MERCY distribution in Europe, U.S.A and Australia.

CAN WE EXPECT TO SEE ANY MERCY LIVE SHOWS?

Andrija) From 1989 MERCY are only a studio band. (A big dissapointment there folks..Griff)

LAST QUESTION HERE ANY LAST WORDS OR BLESSINGS YOU'D LIKE TO GIVE TO UNIER THE OAK READERS?

Andrija) Don't play false Doom Metal and write about Doom bands more,more,**MORE,MORE.**

Contact MERCY or Euro Records for merchandise, information etc by writing c/o Andrija Veijaca, Tivolivagen 17, 294 00 Solvesborg, Sweden, Europe.



# BROCAS HELM BROCAS HELM

BROCAS HELM



BROCAS HELM

# WTJH SΛCQYR WTJH SΛCQYR

**BROCAS HELM** hailing from San Francisco, are one hot ass kicking unit. Man at the helm is guitar & vocalist **Bobbie R.Wright**.

FIRSTLY CAN YOU GIVE US AN INTRODUCTION TO THE LIFE OF BROCAS HELM ON EARTH AND ALL ITS MYSTERY AND HISTORY.

(B.R.W) BROCAS HELM was born of the same stuff all great bands are made of. Long cold nights in abandoned warehouses and wet cellars. Undying devotion to an art form that can communicate our dreams and ideals to the masses. The need to express our Medieval and modern day thoughts in tone.

CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT YOUR BLACK DEATH LP, ARE YOU HAPPY WITH ITS RECORDING AND HOW SUCCESSFUL HAS IT BEEN TO DATE?

(B.R.W) The 'Black Death' LP was produced in our studio. We had many small offers from small independent companies but none of them were worth giving up our rights for. Instead of wait and die we were inspired by the many letters that our fans from around the world wrote to us and continue to write asking for more BROCAS HELM (UNDER THE OAK demands more HELM...Griff)

We knew that we could not compete with large companies and studios that produce state of the art records but instead of give up we decided to do what everyone said we couldn't and do it ourselves. Of course it would have been nice to spend \$160,000 on the record but the response from the fans and the press has been so good that we feel we have done the right thing and our biggest problem right now is keeping up with the demand for our LP. With very little advertising we are very close to breaking even and should make a nice profit which will be used to launch a world wide campaign.

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY INFLUENCES THE HELM'S MUSIC THE GREATEST?

(B.R.W) Life in general. We all enjoy the history of Medieval times and use the basic good versus evil to tell our stories which in general reflect events and struggles that affect all of us on the planet.

CAN YOU TELL US OF THE S.F SCENE, HOW WELL KNOWN AND SUPPORTED ARE BROCAS HELM AND SHOWS. ANY BANDS YOU RATE, TELL US ALL!

(B.R.W) The clubs in S.F are dying. The Stone still exists but I hear it is up for sale, who knows what will happen under new ownership. The Omni is still happening in Oakland and we do shows at these clubs.

Wolfgangs burned down and even the eternal last resort of Musicians Mabuhay Gardens is gone. Things look grim for small middle size bands.

BROCAS HELM does limited shows and are well respected in S.F but as always the further away from S.F we go the more blood the fans want and the more popular BROCAS HELM is.

Our crowds are pretty damn diverse, you'll see old and people raging up front and others sitting at tables sipping drinks. We don't have much slamming or diving but the front rows really get into it. The most violence at our shows comes from us. We played a show in Monterey a guy jumped on stage behind Jim the Wizard and he jumped right into a swinging bass head and split his head open and their was blood all over, instead of leaving he stayed up front for the rest of the show and loved every minute of it. After the show this guy and a bunch of his friends took us down to the beach for an all night party. This was one of our favourite shows but it should have been the worst. The sound system didn't show up so we had no vocals. We played on pure BROCAS HELM power alone. Marshall power. Most bands couldn't do that like the other band scheduled to play with us LIZZY BORDEN they just packed their shit and got the hell out but we saw all these disappointed fans hanging around and we told the promoter the show must go on. We gained a lot of respect that night and they still talk about that show.



## Tales of Brocas helm

DOES MEDIEVAL MUSIC PLAY A PART IN THE HELM SOUND?

THERE ARE SOME UNUSUAL SONG STRUCTURES THERE,  
(B.R.W) BROCAS HELM originated our sound that we call Medieval Metal. It was influenced by various styles of music including Medieval music. Medieval music influenced BROCAS HELM more as a state of mind than a strict adherence to Medieval song structures. This can be heard on most of our songs including Into Battle, Dark Ryder, The Chemist, Fly High.

IS ANYTHING ELSE PENNED OR PLANNED FOR BROCAS HELM?  
ANY NEW SONGS, SHOWS OR RECORDINGS BEEN MASTERMINDED YET?

(B.R.W) BROCAS HELM has spent most of its time in the studio where we have recorded countless songs and we are preparing for the next album. However we are now spending our time answering letters and looking at possible offers from interested parties. We hope to record the next album in a big room on state of the art equipment using other peoples money. I am sure the next album will be great but for now we might release an EP of especially hard dark songs called 'Skull Fuckher' we are too busy with Black Death to make any sure plans but rest assured you aint heard nothing yet!

YOU SEEM RELATIVELY OBSCURE IN BRITAIN TO MY KNOWLEDGE, WHY DO YOU THINK THIS IS? DO YOU FEEL THAT THRASH TENDS TO SWAMP THE METAL SCENE IN GENERAL? WHERE WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE THE BAND HEADING? THOUGHTS AND FEELINGS PLEASE.

(B.R.W) As I recall our first LP 'Into Battle' made the independant chart in Sounds number ten was our highest mark and we lasted for a few weeks. Into Battle has recently been released on CD in Europe and I hope there are copies available in Britain. Maybe your article will help us become less obscure. Black Death is the kind of LP that once people hear it and see it they tend to love it.

Yes thrash swamps the metal scene because so few thrash bands are original any doped up high school kid can steal a guitar, swindle an amp and with his little brother and drinking buddies can bang out three chord slam to his friends who only listen to the primal dance rhythm of the noise. They can be popular for a minute but then good-bye.

BROCAS HELM beleives it is better to continue our slow steady rise than to sky rocket and burn out in a short span, when we were kids we played thrash and didn't even know it, it was fun but there is not much room for musicianship or song styling.

IN SOME WAYS BROCAS HELM seems to capture a 70'S INFLUENCE IN THE SOUND, TO WHAT EXTENT IS THIS TRUE?

WHAT STUFF DO THE BAND MEMBERS LISTEN TO PAST AND PRESENT?

(B.R.W) Most of the members of BROCAS HELM are influenced somewhat by the 70's because that is the decade we all really got into rock after the crazy



# BROCAS HELM

## BROCAS helm

(continued)



anything goes of the sixties, the 70's bands really sorted it all out and came up with some ass kicking music also the technological advances of the 70's made recordings sound so much better than before.

Our influences are so varied it is hard to answer this question. Me and Jim grew up on DEEP PURPLE and BLACK SABBATH, that sort of stuff. Jack was rolling along with MAHAVISHNU ORCHESTRA and the like (accounts for his complex drumming). I still favour bands like SCORPIONS, SCHENKER, AC/DC and the like...bands with good guitar work in them. T-Bone is along the same lines. Jim likes TANK, ANGELWITCH, SILVER MOUNTAIN. FINAL QUESTION NOW, IS THERE ANY LAST WORDS, MESSAGES AND BLESSINGS YOU'D LIKE TO RELAY TO THE READERS?

A well intentioned reviewer once wrote, "BROCAS HELM! It's a term from the middle ages, a term depicting barbaric power... HEAVY METAL POWER!!" Yes, the BROCAS HELM was invented in the middle ages, and yes, the BROCAS HELM was "Heavy Metal," but no, the BROCAS HELM was not barbaric in any way. Contrary to popular belief, men didn't fight constantly throughout the Middle Ages. However, the threat was always there. In 15th century England, men stayed sharp at jousting. Two men, equipped in full armor, would each ride a horse and try to dismount the other from his steed. This was great practice, and unfortunately, grew very deadly. Full armor was very heavy. The blow from the joust might bruise, but the fall from the horse, in full armor, would kill. A light weight body armor was invented, but the head piece could not be light weight. As a solution to this problem, a magnificent helm was forged. Named for armor collector Bernard Brocas, weighing 22.5 lbs, this "tilting" or jousting helm is on display in the Tower of London Armories. This fine piece of metal work inspired Brocas Helm to compose it's own Metal Work worthy of the men who wore the Brocas Helm. Their music, often described as "Medieval Metal", is undeniably hard and heavy, with more emphasis on good musicianship and lyrical content than is usual in a typical metal band.

(B.R.W) Ok if any of this makes your readers the least bit curious about BROCAS HELM tell them don't be a tight ass, wear the button, wear the T-shirt, buy the record its worth it and who knows what records will be collectors items. Live the BROCAS HELM life for ye know the Lord of thy salvation. Beware the Dark Ryder who wears the BROCAS HELM.

All that remains for me to say is check out BROCAS HELM's 'Black Death' LP immediately you're going to miss a classic if you don't.

Contact BROCAS HELM at 1455-A Market St, Suite 212, San Francisco, CA. 94103, USA.

## OAK NEWS



### OMINOUS CRUSHING DOOM METAL FROM DFW A DESCENT INTO APOCALYPTIC MAYHEM!

Latest news from Texan Doom gods SOLITUDE.

Under The Oak rapidly seems to be turning into the SOLITUDE fan magazine with all their features in here but regardless...their doom sound is nothing short of superb and so will be continuously featured within the pages of the mighty Oak.

SOLITUDE are now newly named SOLITUDE AETERNUS (Aeternus being the latin word for eternal) this name change came about due to the other SOLITUDE who claimed the rights to the name.

Tom Martinez has left the band and his replacement is guitar-wizz Edgar Rivera, UNDER THE OAK wishes him the best of luck in SOLITUDE AETERNUS.

An LP entitled 'Into The Depths Of Sorrow' is planned and will contain mostly new material such as the following tracks, Opaque Divinity, Destiny Falls To Rain, White Ship, Dawn Of Antiquity and the recent demo track Mirror Of Sorrow. All tracks will contain the heavy Doom element, so lets prey for SOLITUDE AETERNUS to negotiate the deal for a good heavy slab of vinyl!

For more information and T-shirts, demo's etc write to John Peres 1009 Bert, Arlington, Texas, 76012, USA. I'm sure you all know the address by now!

#### SAD NEWS FOR VITUS FANS.....

Scott Weinrich otherwise known as Wino has reportedly left the SAINT VITUS flock. This will undoubtedly come as a great shame to all of us who appreciate the wondrous sound of VITUS. His vocal duties for VITUS will be well and truly missed and UNDER THE OAK wishes him luck for any further career he may undertake (as long as its slow n'doomy!). I've heard of no other news of replacements or whether this spells the end of the end of SAINT VITUS (i'm sure it won't) but long may they continue if thats their chosen path.

Check out Wino on 'Born Too Late' LP, 'Thirsty & Miserable' 12" and the goddamned excellence of the most recent vinyl release 'Mournful Cries' LP.

Local gorish fiends and forensic pathologists' CARCASS spent five days at the appropriately named Slaughterhouse studios in early July recording their latest pile of noise and insanity, more studip time and re-mixes will be mutilated to get their beautiful sound right.

Expect an LP on Earache in the not-too distant future with yet another graphic disclosure of the wonderments of human corpses.

Also keep your eyes out for Necrosis record releases and the up and coming MORBID ANCEL LP from Earache.

Since the HELLBASTARD interview featured within these hallowed pages their have been some major changes in their line up. A new bass pounder named Drew has taken Scotties place and in Scruff's own words they have a replacement for Crow on guitar who is the old BANGKOK/SECULAR guitarist and is 'cool, mega excellent, professional as fuck guitarist' I suppose by that praise he's quite handy on the axe!

Hopefully the new look line up of HELLBASTARD will be getting it together soon and some new material may well be imminent. Write to HELLBASTARD c/o Scruff, 96 Abbot Court, Chandless Estate, Gateshead, Tyne & Wear, NE8 3LA, England.

CANDLEMASS have been in the studios recording their long awaited 'Tales Of Creation' opus. Its hopefully going to be released in the Autumn with obvious praise from UNDER THE OAK! Doom or be Doomed....



**S**OLITUDE are probably best described in their own words as one of a few bands that retain a truly heavy sound adding a touch of class & melody while still keeping a strong sense of heaviness in their songs.

SOLITUDE are beyond doubt a pure Doom/Power Metal based band.

Without further ado, except to tell you that SOLITUDE hail from Texas here is a postal interview answered by John & Lyle.

I'd advise you to check this band out as I'm sure you'll be hearing a lot more of them in the not too distant future.

**CAN YOU GIVE US THE HISTORY BEHIND SOLITUDE.**

Lyle)The band was formed by our guitarist John on a bleak and gloomy day in the Summer of 1987. After several months of searching John formed the first line up consisting of Brad Kane -drums, Tom Martinez-guitar, Chris Hardin-bass, and Kristoff Gabehart-vocals. They recorded a demo in the Spring of '88 before I joined the band. Due to some personal & geographical reasons, Brad & Kristoff were replaced by me, Lyle Steadhamon-drums and Robert Lowe on vocals.

Robert & I fit the band better than the previous members so SOLITUDE has definitely been strengthened by the change. Robert has a better vocal range and is overall a more dynamic vocalist than Kristoff.

Before SOLITUDE, John was in a thrash band called ROTTING CORPSE and Robert & I were in a Punk/Hardcore band called THE HOLY & a Gothic band by the name of GRAVEN IMAGE.

**SOLITUDE PORTRAY A CANDLE-MASS INFLUENCE, TO WHAT EXTENT IS THIS TRUE AND WHAT OTHER BANDS INFLUENCE SOLITUDE?**

John)Well, I have to say that CANDLEMASS has shown us that heavy doom type metal can be played with melody & class & to that extent they have influenced us. I think our songs are very different from CANDLEMASS but we do play in the same genre of metal -doom!

Musically we're into different types of stuff BLACK SABBATH, DEAD CAN DANCE, old PRIEST, old URIAH HEEP, LUCIFERS FRIEND 1st LP, ANGELWITCH, Eastern music (RAVI SHANKER, EDDIE "The Sheik" KOCHAK!). I like a lot of the doom bands but I'm not necessarily influenced by them. Some cool doom bands are REVELATION, DREAM DEATH, TROUBLE, BLACK HOLE, WAR CRY, PENTAGRAM.

# Solitude



**WHAT'S THE LOCAL TEXAS AREA LIKE FOR ROCKIN' METAL?**

John)Texas has always been good for metal! We had the original SLAYER from San Antonio who were great! HELSTAR is one of the best Texas bands right now.

There's some good bands from where we're from; GAMMACIDE, ARCAN, TALON. Not too many doom or real heavy bands but Texas does have a healthy metal scene.

**WHO IN SOLITUDE IS THE MAIN LYRICIST & WHAT INFLUENCES YOUR LYRICAL CONTENT? ALSO WHAT SUBJECTS WILL YOU COVER IN FUTURE SOLITUDE PROJECTS?**

Lyle)Kristoff wrote most of the lyrics for the older material like the songs on the demo (...and Justice For All). His lyrics were influenced by the book of Revelations, stuff like the coming of Christ. He wrote some good apocalyptic lyrics that fit in well with the SOLITUDE music.

Being a man of the pen as well as the skins, I have taken over the task of writing lyrics. In the near future I will be writing some lyrics pertaining to how man is destroying the Earth. Man's life comes from the Earth so mankind must take care of what we are given or we certainly will meet doom at the end of the road! My lyrics will also be dealing with dreams and other mysterious occurrences that mankind may encounter.

These subjects of course compliment the SOLITUDE style music.

As far as songwriting goes, sometimes we write the song around the lyrics and sometimes vice-versa. Often I give John some lyrics he reads them and comes up with some riffs that fit the atmosphere given off by the lyrics. We show them to the other guys, they put in their ideas and the song falls into existence.

We're also influenced by cold rainy weather with black clouds hanging over us. That sounds funny but it's true, gloomy weather has an influence in our songwriting.

**ON "...AND JUSTICE FOR ALL" THERE SEEMS TO BE A LOT OF CHRISTIAN IMAGERY WITHIN THE LYRICS, WHAT DO YOU FEEL ABOUT WHITE-CHRISTIAN METAL?**

Lyle)White metal is cool as long as the bands stand behind their message. I have a lot of respect for bands like TROUBLE. The lyrics on the demo which were written by Kristoff tended to be Christian lyrics, but now that I'm writing the lyrics we will be veering away from those types of lyrics.

My lyrics are more grey neither black nor white, only a neutral look at some things which affect mankind. We certainly will not deal with any satanic type material, you can still be heavy without singing about Satan.

SOLITUDE doesn't really have one particular message but many, as you will see upon reading more of our lyrics.

**WHAT HAVE SOLITUDE BEEN UP TO RECENTLY?**

John)Well we've got the two new members in the band so right now we're rehearsing the old material & also working on new material.

The new stuff will be more like DOKKEN (just kidding!) Really our stuff is heavier & doomier as well as being complex.

We're starting to play some gigs around here & we hope to secure a record deal by the end of the year.

Right now we're just trying to get exposure in the underground press.

**HOW HAS THE RESPONSE BEEN TOWARDS SOLITUDE BOTH LOCALLY & INTERNATIONALLY? AND IS THERE ANY CHANCE OF SOME HEAVY VINYL FROM YOU LOT IN THE NEAR FUTURE?**  
John)Locally, we've played a few shows with our friends GAMMACIDE we've also played in Oklahoma a couple of times. The response has been surprisingly good. I think there's a need for our style of music and we're doing our part to fill in that void. So far we've recieved a lot of mail from Europe!

It looks like there are a lot more people getting into real metal. Europe is great! America is slowly catching on but I think our style is catching on. We hope to get some vinyl out real soon. We haven't secured any record deal yet but it's only a matter of time.

**CAN YOU IMAGINE ANY PROBLEMS FOR A BAND SUCH AS SOLITUDE WHO 'PLAIN AGAINST THE GRAIN' OF THE THRASH FILLED MENTALITY METAL SEEMS TO HAVE THESE DAYS?**

Lyle)Of course, there's problems for any band, but there's certainly more problems for a band which goes against the masses.

When the first metal thrash bands like SLAYER and METALLICA came out they had plenty of problems because they were so radical. People are slow to make their first step to change, but once a few people start getting into something new it's not long until others follow.

This same principle will of course apply to SOLITUDE who may at present be going against the grain. Soon enough people will swing our way & then hopefully things will be easier for us.

Well that just about wraps it up doesn't it? SOLITUDE have these final words to add.... Keep supporting underground metal, open your eyes to all styles of metal especially the ultra heavy kind.

Eat Apple Jacks! Long Live Eddie 'The Sheik' Kochak!!

Blessings to John & Lyle & the rest of SOLITUDE good luck to y'all.

"AND JUSTICE FOR ALL" demo cassette available for six USA dollars, see review elsewhere in this 'mag.

Remember for correspondence send 2 IRC's.

Check SOLITUDE out now!

**Solitude**

c/o JOHN PEREZ  
1009 BERT,  
ARLINGTON, TEXAS,  
76012, U.S.A.

# HAIL! THEE BASTARDS....

**H**AVE ANY NEW SONGS BEEN WRITTEN? TELL ME ALL THE GRINDING DETAILS!  
Scruff) Ok, some new titles are as follows, I beg in Blood, Natural Order, Brainwashed, Neon Storms, Suffocation, Enforcer.

And of course others are planned for our second LP but all the above will definatly be on it. Theses songs arn't all that grinding some are more mainstream(ish) thrash with slow, technical, heavy bits. Typical HELLBASTARD with more finess and style. Due to progression of course. (Yeah! the new songs have progressed a hell of a lot and are killers, very technical in parts but never losing that H'BASTARD sound...Griff)

**HOW WELL RECIEVED WAS 'THEY BROUGHT DEATH' AND WHAT ARE YOUR PERSONAL THOUGHTS OF IT?**

Scruff) The E.P 'They Brought Death' was well recieved by all who heard it, naturally Kerrang slagged it but what do they know about the underground? Some people accused us of 'wimping out to mainstream thrash'. So fuck knows what people will make of our 2nd LP, it's a pity the actual 7" is of lowish quality because my master tape (not the Ampex, the cassette copy) is amazing quality. None of us like it that much now as it's too old and boring, but it marks our space in that period of time.

**WHY DID YOU GO FOR AN E.P RELEASE?**

Scruff) Well Griff me old sunbeam, y'see Tyman the West German chap in charge of T.O.L (Temple Of Love Records) really was into doing a coloured 7" so we did. Simple as that, easy as pie. He still owes 150 copies so I hope I don't smell a rip off somewhere.

I think 7"s are boring 'cos they don't last that long but well I just bring it down to another release in the history of HELLBASTARD.

**CAN YOU TELL US THE MESSAGE CONTAINED IN 'THEY BROUGHT DEATH, HOW MUCH DO YOUR LYRICS PLAY A PART IN THE BAND AND WILL YOU BE INTRODUCING NEW THEMES INTO YOUR LYRICS AS OPPOSED TO THE POLITICAL-MORAL ISSUES YOU CURRENTLY CONCENTRATE ON?**

Scruff) Basically its about multinationals, war, governments and unjust bigotry crazed systems and their lust for power.

Anti-war? I didn't want it to be so easily

dismissed as such a song even though thats what it is at least it doesn't say 'war' anywhere in the lyrics.

Lyrics are a vital point to us, I mean it would be so easy to start singing sword & sorcery, fantasy, gore lyrics but it isn't really in us. I/we prefer positive lyrics, they don't nescessarily have to be political just so long as they mean something positive.

In time our lyrics may change but that doesn't mean for something pompous. Things will happen when they do I guess.

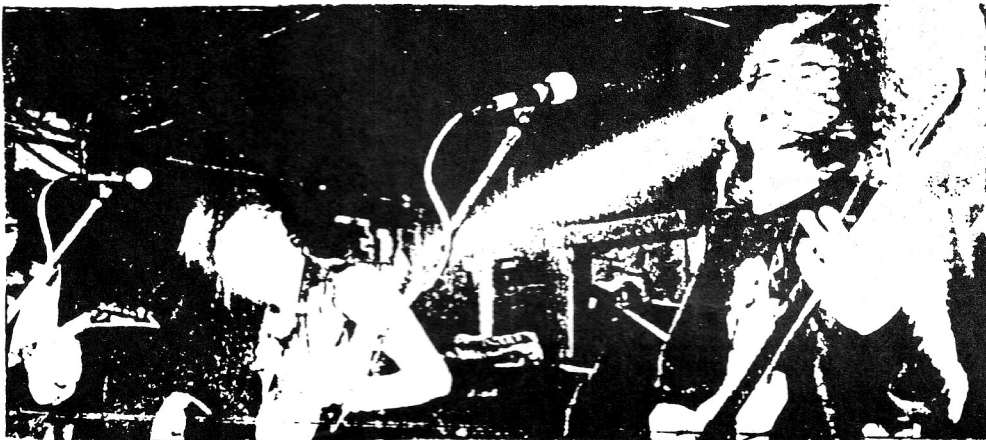
**HOW DO YOU LOOK BACK ON THE EARLY PARTS OF HELLBASTARD, AND IN PARTICULAR YOUR TWO DEMO'S. DO YOU FEEL THEY HAVE ANY PART IN THE BAND NOW? ALSO WHAT PLANS DO YOU HAVE FOR THE FUTURE OF HELLBASTARD?**

Scruff) I suppose me and Scotty would like to think so, but everyone knows that progression has to take place. My new riffs as a whole are better, in the bands opinion (U.T.O bless those riffs as well Scruff)

Everyone agrees with this, somepeople would like us to stay how we were, sometimes

I wish we were in '86 again 'cos those 'Ripper-Crust' days were good. But every-one progresses and 'fans' of music must accept this or things would become extremely boring.

**RIGHT THEN....CAN YOU TELL US WHATS HAPPENED TO THE SAINT VITUS COVER YOU PROMISED US? AND WHY THE INCLUSION OF SLAYER'S 'DIE BY THE SWORD' IN YOUR SET?**  
Scruff)well, the VITUS cover 'White Magic-Black Magic' will come about its just a matter of getting our other guitarist and Bri (drums) to. Both of whom detest the sort of music SAINT VITUS play, sad but true. I think i'm the only one in HELLBASTARD who loves stuff like VITUS although Scotty loves VITUS, MELVINS, IREAM DEATH, TROUBLE, J.JONES & KOOL AID KIDS etc. Oh well, all I can say is it's not entirely my fault if it doesn't appear by us this year.



**AS HELLBASTARD ARE STILL MAINLY AN UNDERGROUND BAND IS THEIR ANY POSSIBILITY OF YOU BRANCHING OUT FOR THE MORE MAINSTREAM MARKET OR WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE HELLBASTARD STAYING RELATIVELY SMALL?**

Scruff) Well, many people ask this and the answer is this, we do want to branch out but me and Scotty desperately want to stay in touch with the people who put us where we are today

all those magazines, people, tape traders, radio stations etc etc all put us here and we thank everyone for that. A lot of people have already accused us of 'selling out' but how the hell could we possibly do that. Fuck these people who say that, they make us sick to the very core. We will go where we go and do what we want and if people are too narrow minded then thats their own stupid fucking fault.

Future plans, well after this european mini-tour in 2 days time from now (early May) we're contemplating signing a management contract lasting 3 years, for 'Beardawn' Productions A.K.A Eric Cook (Venom Manager) and Tony (Venom).

Also a lot of labels have shown interest right now so we've got to go for the best for our sake and the band. At a point in time we surely would like to be on a wage from a label so we don't have to sign on anymore. At the moment there's a few clashes between me and the person I asked to play rhythm guitar for us, attitude clashes and differences in backgrounds, oh well time will tell.

We do 'Die By The Sword' plainly because its a good heavy, technical(ish) song to do live plus it gets the audience going too. It's also a message to the things we hate.

**LAST WORDS AND BLESSINGS PLEASE.**

Scruff) Ok Griff thanks for thinking of us for your 1st issue of U.T.O much appreciated. Tonight we leave for Italy, 2 weeks in Europe gawd!

Our blessing to you & your readers. Peace, Freedom & Death Metal. Take Care.

Contact HELLBASTARD at 453 Stoneleigh Ave, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE 12 or 30 Howling Lane, Alnwick Northumberland, NE 66 IDL, England.

## HAIL! BASTARDS





# SORCERER



adventure that follows a rough story, its about dark & depressing things, foreboding and mysterious and is typical Doom subject matter.

The mystery of the history of SORCERER goes somewhat like the following tale.

In 1984 Peter Furulid and Tommy Karlsson formed SORCERER and soon Johnny Hagel joined the band. At the first rehearsal they found that it worked out very well and they had the same thoughts of how to make music.

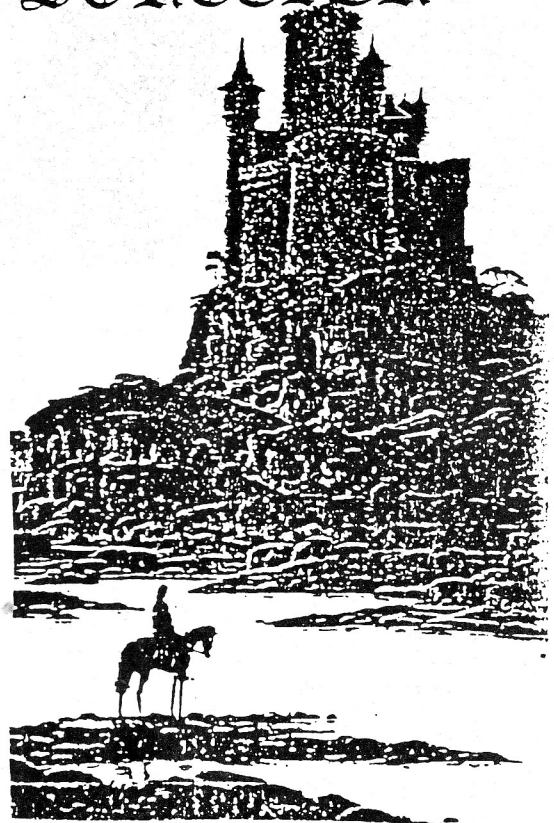
Anders Engberg joined the flock and his voice gave the band a great touch which you can lament with on SORCERERS demo. In the early part of 1988 SORCERER started work on the material for a demo tape and recorded this in the Spring of 1989, during this time Mats Liedholm joined and then there where five, SORCERER were then complete working hard on their music and doing gigs around Stockholm.

For now I urge Y'all to purchase the excellent SORCERER demo and listen out for their sound you can't ignore it!

Its available from Peter Furulid, Svartvikslingan 31, 161 29 Bromma, Sweden for £3 or 6 USA Dollars.

Record companies wake up to this band and take note.

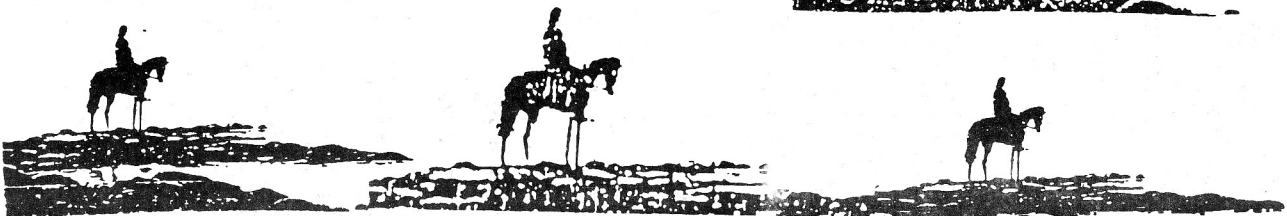
## SORCERER



There is actually going to be an interview with SORCERER IN UNDER THE OAK issue two but I thought that they deserved a feature here due to how much their demo impressed me and it'll also give you the chance to check out yet another impressive up and coming band hailing from Sweden.

SORCERER have come blasting out of Stockholm to leave a lasting impression on the rest of the world with their excellently slow and dooming six track demo which I can assure you is absolute prime UNDER THE OAK material. The demo features tracks as follows Anno 1503, Born With Fear, Dark Ages, Far Beyond, The Battle and Visions its slightly reminiscent of fellow Swedes CANDLEMASS but let me add definatly not a rip off of their style. However SORCERER employ some huge chopping riffs, wonderful slowness that grasps totally the Doom Metal feel in their musicianship and a strong and original vocalist that is a pleasure to listen to. The lead guitaring stands out in its own right and adds a good touch to the captivating and epicness of the SORCERER sound. Lyrically this demo is all about a knights

## SORCERER



# +COUNT+RAVEN+



COUNT RAVEN present line up (from L - R)  
Tommy 'Wilbur' Eriksson - bass, Dan Fondelius - guitar,  
Christer Pettersson - drums, Christian Linderson - vocals.

All praises yet again to be passed onto Sweden! Here's another brilliant sounding band under the moniker of COUNT RAVEN who herald a sound and style like the illuminaries of old BLACK SABBATH and WITCHFINDER GENERAL, direct inspiration maybe but no plagiarising or rip offs I must add. Their four track demo is intense on all accounts so what better way to close the first edition of UNDER THE OAK than to let COUNT RAVEN grace its last page with a feature on 'em.

Dan Fondelius and Tommy 'Wilbur' Eriksson started a band together back in 1980 called STORMWARNING.

Together with the drummer at that time, Michael Nilsson, they managed to put one track on vinyl in late '83 it was on a compilation album called 'Forortsrock' including other bands locally. It was pressed (and sold out) in 1000 copies. STORMWARNING's track on the album was called 'The only true rock song on the album' by the local press. Danny handled both guitar and vocals then.

I started out with a couple of local bands in '82, when ex-CANDLEMASS drummer Mats Ekstroem left the band just after the release of 'Epicus...' we joined forces with two other musicians from the Stockholm area and formed a band called EDGAR GREY. The music was a bit like 'Epicus...' but with more faster parts. Due to the lack of dedication from the guitarist we split up in late '86.

I had known the guys in STORMWARNING for quite a while and I joined them in March/April '87. When the drummer Michael left the band in '88 I called Mats up and asked him if he'd be interested in joining us, and he was.

It was never likely that he should become a permanent member though because our music wasn't really the stuff that he wanted to play. He stated that he is more of a Metal drummer and so he left after two months of rehearsing, on very friendly terms.

I met our current drummer, Christer Pettersson on a subway station (!!!) and I just walked up to this guy and asked him if he could play the drums! He said yes and we decided to give it a try. After a month of rehearsing we decided to change our name to COUNT RAVEN.

well the rest is as they say...er, hum...history.

Concerning the demo, you should know that this is not COUNT RAVEN at their best (well that's debateable seems mighty fine to me chaps...Griff). The new material is slower, rawer and powerful. I'd say that we are going into a kinda WITCHFINDER GENERAL groove, but more heavier and with a personal touch to it. NO RIP OFFS!

The trouble with STORMWARNING/COUNT RAVEN in the past has always been accused of being SABBATH clones. Not that we mind being compared with the best band in the world (original line up!). we are proud of our influences

But the thing is, we DON'T sit around in our rehearsal studio saying, 'Oh, let's make Master of Reality' backwards', it's just that we play it as it comes out y'know. Rest assured brother, we'll never do any Poison covers on stage that's for sure!

The most recent COUNT RAVEN demo consists of four heavy tracks, in the name of Rock n'Roll, Social warfare, Inam Naudemina and High Beliefs and you're going to love COUNT RAVEN if you're into excellence like old SABBATH, WITCHFINDER GENERAL, SAINT VITUS etc.

COUNT RAVEN tell me they're planning to enter the studio again in November/December to record a new demo consisting of a 5 to 6 track affair which I'm assured (and believe!) with all new head splitting material.

Oak readers will be delighted to know that there will be a full COUNT RAVEN interview in number two but for now I urge you to contact COUNT RAVEN and inundate them with orders for their demo,

For COUNT RAVEN correspondence write to  
COUNT RAVEN c/o Linderson, Frihetsvagen 40,  
175 32 Jarfalla, Sweden.

Remembering of course to include an SASE or IRC.

# COUNT+RAVEN

# +COUNT+RAVEN+