

# Xenocide

The Electronic Death/Thrash Fanzine

Issue 4 - Printed Edition

\$1 US / \$2 World

## Featuring:

Desultory - The Swedish  
Kings of Death metal

A candid look at  
Nuclear Winter

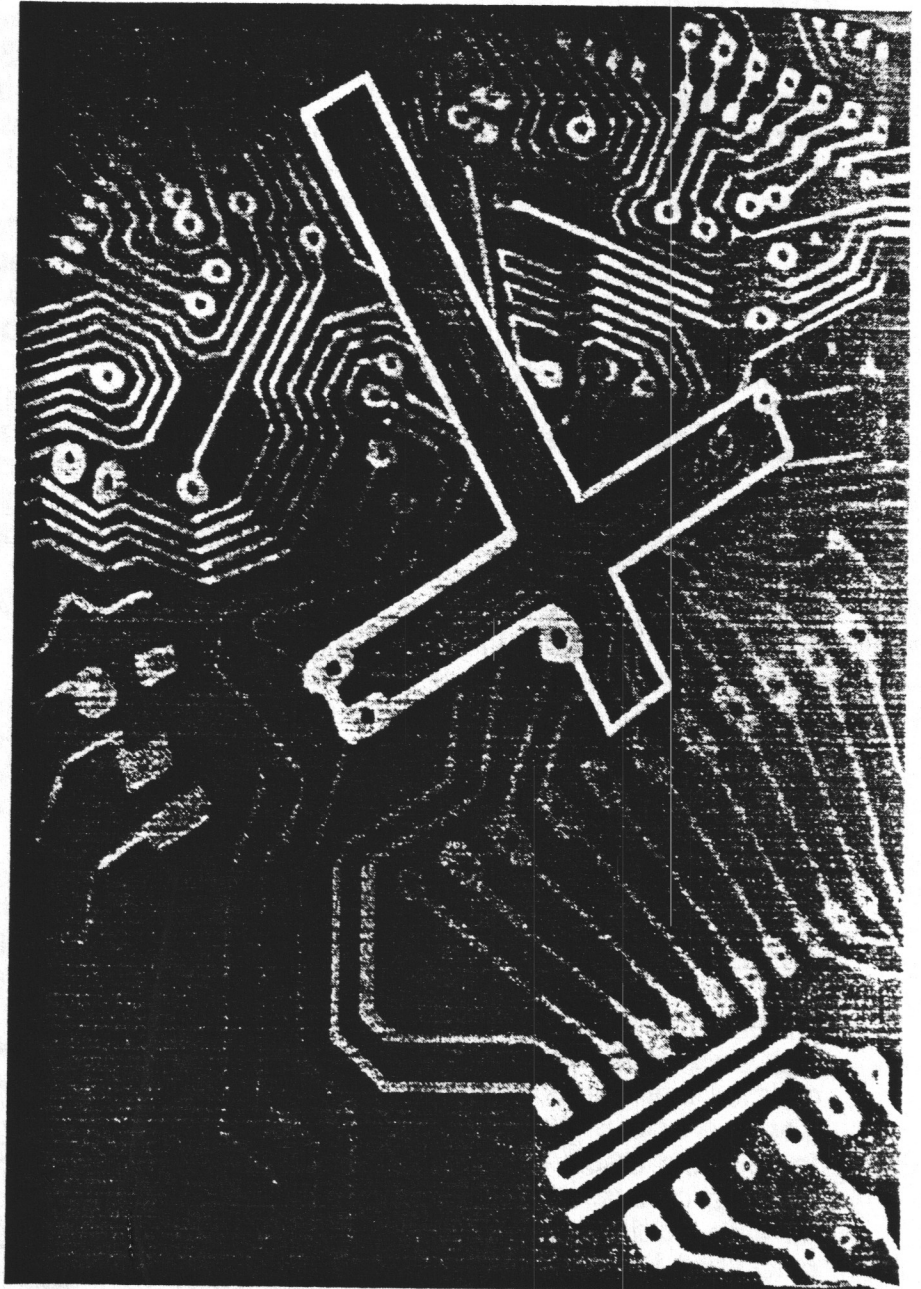
Jon's predictions for  
Metal in 1993

## Reviews of:

Cannibal Corpse  
Brutal Truth  
Asphyx  
Grave  
Comecon  
Biohazard  
...and more

## Demo reviews of:

Bloody Mary  
Medussa  
Adrenalin  
Dogod  
Allegiance  
Sacrificial  
...and more



Plus news and info on the Death metal world

### Xenocide - Issue 4 - January 1993

Happy holidays! Hello and welcome to Xenocide Issue 4! I hope you got everything you asked for from Satan this year...Hopefully this will be the biggest and best issue, since I have had tremendous support from independent bands and major labels alike. Remember bands, send your demo's and bio's: I review anything and in most cases I can even set up an interview.

### Big news about Xenocide

Now Xenocide is available three ways. All three are pretty different, and one is totally new. So, if you are holding one format, there are two more, and you might want to check out another one too.

ONE - The electronic text form. This is the simple ASCII file of the magazine, and is available by e-mailing me at [jkonrath@indiana.edu](mailto:jkonrath@indiana.edu) and asking for it, pulling it from alt.thrash or alt.rock-and-roll.metal.heavy on Usenet, or copying it from a friend.

TWO - The printed form. Send me one dollar (US only) or two dollars (world) and I'll mail you a formatted copy of method one above. Printed copies can be photocopied or whatever.

THREE - The disk form. Yes, there is now a disk available, and its more than just the articles contained here. The disk(s) contain bonus files, which will be a formatted copy of the magazine in word processor format, an updated ad list with addresses and a bunch of info, and (get this) digitized GIF images of album covers, promo photos and color fliers!

### Program requirements:

You need a Macintosh or IBM compatible computer. For both any display should work, but a color display is recommended. A hard drive is required! Also, a 3.5" disk drive is needed. Double density includes 4 disks. High density contains two. Cost is \$5 US, \$7 everywhere else.

Please tell me what kind of computer and what kind of disks you need, I don't want to have to guess. Of course, ask me if you have any questions.

### How to Reach Me

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Xenocide

## In the News

BIOHAZARD recently signed to Roadrunner records, and released a new LP, Urban Discipline. I'll get a review in later...

After some bizarre licensing problems, Century Media has released COMECON's Megatrends In Brutality. Problem was L.G. Petrov was signed to a small Swedish label after he left ENTOMBED, and the album was licensed from this company until Century Media found he was still licensed to Earache. I guess Earache and Century Media duked it out and now 8,000 copies of the disk are out, with no chance of re-distribution or re-release. I'll let ya know what it sounds like a bit later...

Roadrunner Revisited is releasing the MOTORHEAD LP, Another Perfect Day. The release will be available on CD for the first time, and will have the bonus track "Turn You Round Again".

MORGUE, MAIMED and AFTERLIFE have all signed with Olympic records, an up-and-coming Chicago label, which has nationwide distribution through Relativity Entertainment Division. Peaceville also shelled out serious \$\$\$ to get European distribution rights. Haven't heard who is recording what, but I know AFTERLIFE just finished in the studio...

SEPULTURA is doing pre-production work for their next album, and have wrote 2 songs. Look for the release next year.

CROWBAR are now a three-piece; Kevin Noonan, guitars, left recently. The group plans to stay a three-piece, possibly adding a second guitar "if someone comes along". The split was on good terms, Kevin just wanted to go back to school.

BROKEN HOPE's Jeremy Wagner received a human brain from a med-school friend. Since they couldn't get the person's name, he is asking for names for the brain. Send your entries to:

"Name that Brain" c/o Broken Hope

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Winner gets a Broken Hope t-shirt!

IMPALER and BOLT THROWER are touring the UK.

CYNIC's next release will be hampered due to damage to Jason Globel's house by Hurricane Andrew. The house, which also housed the band's practice space was totally destroyed. The band was going to enter the studio with Scott Burns in October, but all plans are postponed for an indefinite period.

CANNIBAL CORPSE have released their new album Tomb of the Mutilated but beware : there are two versions! Check if yours has the song titles on the outside, you



## In the News (cont.)

have the real McCoy. If you look above the PMRC warning label and see it labeled as the censored version, you have the shopping mall product. Canadian customs has apparently stopped several shipments of ..Tomb.. from entering Canada...

SEA OF TRANQUILITY, featuring ex-SHADES OF GREY member Pete Clemens, is nearing completion of their first demo. MEAT GRINDER also announced completion of a demo.

PARALYSIS has signed to Grindcore International, and recently recorded Patrons of the Dark at Studio 53 for a January release.

### Xenocide - on disk!

Get your copy of issue 4 on disk for your Macintosh or IBM clone. Each disk contains a text version of the magazine, plus an address list full of 'zine, demo, and distributor names, and color digitized GIF picture files, of cover art, photos and fliers! A GIF viewing program is also included. There are 4 disks for double density drives, if you have a high density disk drive, two disks are included.

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## DESULTORY

I've been writing back and forth with these Swedish kings of death for a few months now, and here's what Stefan had to say in a mail interview shortly after recording their new release.

J: What's up with your first release on Metal Blade?

S: We finished the recording one week ago. We were in Sunlight studio for 2 weeks, and we recorded 9 tracks for the album, 4 brand new and 5 tracks from the 3rd and 2nd demo. The album will be entitled Into Eternity. The album will probably be released in January 93, so look out for it.

J: Was Sunlight your obvious choice for the album?

S: We chose Sunlight, cause we've done 3 demos there, and we're pleased with the sound we get there. So, I don't think there's the choice of trying another studio, not yet. It was Tomas Skogsberg who produced the album, he was a great guy.

J: I saw all of your demos were recorded at Sunlight, how did you manage that?

S: There was no problem, cause it's so cheap to record in Sunlight. The demos took about 3 days each and we paid about \$1000 for 3 days in Sunlight.

J: Will you tour in support of the new album?

S: Yeah, I really hope so. Hopefully Metal Blade will put us together with some groups, so we could make a tour. We really hope to tour the States, and I think we've got a bigger chance now that we're signed with Metal Blade than we would have if we signed to a European label.

J: Any problems with censorship yet?

S: No, not at all. We'll see when the album is out, but I don't see why there would be any problem.

J: Tell me about your East European dates. Do you plan to go back?

S: It was great to play Eastern Europe, even though we only played 2 shows there. It was two festivals, one in Poland in front of 2000 maniacs and one in Moscow/Russia, in front of 7000 people. The whole trip was real cool and we did get good response. PARADISE LOST should have headlined, but they never showed up. I think we will go back very soon. There has been some talk about a mini-tour there in the end of this year, so we'll see. We released our 2nd and 3rd demos on one tape with full-color cover, lyrics and all that stuff in Poland. The tape is printed in 4000 copies so I'm sure we'll go down to promote that one.

## **Desultory (Cont.)**

J: What about influences?

S: I don't think that we have any special influences. Maybe we get influenced by all the music we listen to, like PARADISE LOST, CARCASS, OBITUARY, DEATH, DEICIDE, and more.

J: How has Metal Blade been?

S: Well at this point we haven't signed to them yet, we're waiting for them to send over a new contract. I think it will take one or two weeks then we will sign it. So far they've treated us well.

J: Who have you toured with? Who would you like to tour with?

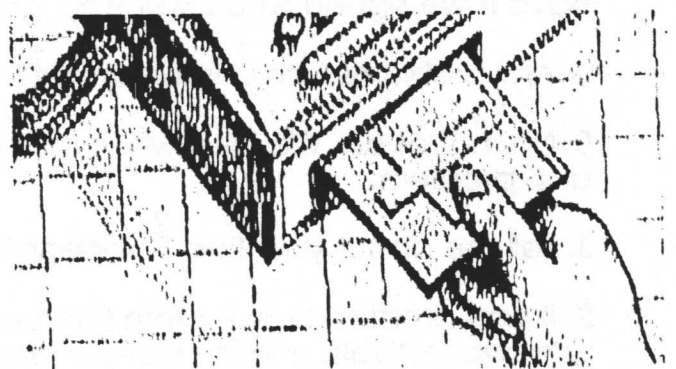
S: Well, we haven't done any "real" tours yet, only the trip to Poland and Russia, and there we played with a great band called VADER, who will release an album with Earache soon. If we would make a real tour, I would like to tour with DISMEMBER, cause they're great guys and good friends. I would also like to tour with PARADISE LOST.

J: Any last words to the readers?

S: Well thanks for this very interesting interview. Thanks also for your support. I would also like to thank all who've read this, written to us, and you who will write, don't hesitate, write us immediately for info or for ordering our stuff, all letters answered. Look for our debut LP Into Eternity released in January 93 on Metal Blade records. For info enclose an IRC. Stay deadly!

You can contact Desultory at this address:  
DESULTORY c/o Stefan Poge  
Hovdingevagen 3  
15153 Sodertalje  
Sweden

**Xenocide** - plug into death...  
414 South Mitchell Suite 13  
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Email: jkonrath@indiana.edu  
Bands - send us your demos for an honest  
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## EXCRUCIATING PAIN

We got a few words in with Ronnie Byrd of EXCRUCIATING PAIN. Here's what he had to say about the Nashville, TN metal band. Thanks to Whiplash for the questions and thanks to Ray for letting me use the interview.

W: So Ronnie, tell us a little about the band from the start to the present.

R: Well, the first lineup of EXCRUCIATING PAIN was in 1989. Sean (drums) and I were in the band with Chris (vocals) and Todd (bass). At that time, we were more of a thrash band. In 1990, Chris and Todd's musical interests changed and the band broke up. Sean and I were getting into Death metal pretty heavily. We decided to continue EXCRUCIATING PAIN as a Death metal act. We recruited our present bass player, Scott, in 1990 and I took over the vocals. We recorded a couple of demos and now have an album coming out.

W: What do you think of the thrash scene as it is and now compared to say 5 years back?

R: I really think that thrash has died down quite a bit. I mean, there will always be METALLICA, and SLAYER, but to me it seems that Death Metal is taking over where thrash left off. We just hope the Death metal scene continues to grow.

W: What bands do you listen to?

R: The bands that we are listening to right now are DEICIDE, SUFFOCATION, NAPALM DEATH, CARCASS and OBITUARY. There are quite a few more but those are the main ones right now.

W: What holds for the band for the rest of 1992 and the start of 1993?

R: Well, the album is being released in September. It will be distributed by Caroline Records, so it should be pretty easy to find. Towards the end of the fall, we did some stuff out west, and we're trying to see if we can work something out with a booking agency in the future so we can do a full US tour.

W: Anything else you'd like to tell our readers?

R: We want to say hi and thanks to Keith from our record label for all his help, and thank you for taking the time to find out more about us.

for information on EXCRUCIATING PAIN contact:  
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## NUCLEAR WINTER

I recently visited Necro Warlord and L. Swastikkko of NUCLEAR WINTER and had a rather interesting conversation with the band. Here's what happened.

J: Ok, I'm a little unsure of who is who. Can you briefly tell me your roles are in the band?

L: I'm L. Swastikkko and I do all of the screaming, vomiting and other poetic interpretation on the demo.

N: I'm Necro Warlord and I play all guitars, bass and cello on the demo.

J: There was cello on the demo? I didn't hear any.

N: No, but if there was, I'd be playing it.

L: Also Toke played all drums, and "Little" Johnny Cumstain handled engineering and production of the demo. He did some backup vocals and I think he sacrificed a cat during "Orgasmatron" but I couldn't tell after the mixdown.

J: I understand your 'Superglue' demo has just started distribution on Cursed Productions in early 93 and at Bung International in late 1992, yet some of the recording on the demo dates as far back as 1988. What was the deal with that?

L: Well, basically we formed in '88, and started cutting demo tracks and writing material at Auschwitz studios in Elkhart, IN. But, since our innovative sound required extensive engineering and overdubs, we were stuck as to how to play out.

N: We went through rhythm guitarists like Jim Jones went through parish members. I remember having 4 different guitarists during one Friday night session. Swastikkko kept pissing them off, or they got scared of Toke.

L: Anyway, we found a new guitarist who we affectionately call "Judas" now. Necro concentrated on bass, and we started working on mutilating cover tunes.

J: So, what happened to Judas? Why don't we hear of him?

L: Judas was basically a Van-Halen-jerkoff-protege. When we beat him repeatedly, we got him to play IRON MAIDEN solos, but he was just a jerkoff.

N: First name Jerk, last name Off. We let Johnny kill him.

L: After a new year's gig in 1989, he got all whiny and left the band. Not too long after that, Toke left too. He's in Japan now, they won't let him back in the country.

J: So, what happened at this point?

7

FUCK YOU, fuck you  
Jerk  
-Necro Warlord  
Xenocide

N: Well, we all kindof drifted. We used the name PREYING MANTIM for a while, and started auditioning drummers.

L: Then I left Indiana for a while...

N: Yeah, then Johnny started playing guitar for a while, and we went back to the NUCLEAR WINTER name. Things just kindof dwindled, Johnny and I occasionally practice, but he keeps forgetting to take his medication and then he freaks out and thinks he's Jesus Christ.

J: What about influences?

L: We are an influence. People don't realize we were pioneers. When GG Allen was still working his day job, we were cranking out songs like "Hot Dog Dick" and "I Hate You (You Fucking Dick)" at a rate of like ten per day. We were the stepping stone between crap like ANTHRAX and stuff like DEATH. People just don't credit it.

N: I based a lot of my riffs on playing old ABBA records at 78 speed.

L: Yeah, I'd probably say Neil Diamond is my big vocal influence.

J: What about touring? Any future plans?

L: Well, Johnny was talking about getting us a giant pyrotechnics setup, or maybe a fake cat to kill on stage and spray the front row with blood.

N: I think he's still trying to find a good way to hide 10 gallons of blood in a jacket or something.

L: Yeah, but anyway, the NUCLEAR WINTER concept would be hard to duplicate on the road. I don't know if we could do it on our limited budget.

J: What about video? Didn't you guys shoot a video of an old METALLICA song or something?

N: No, that was CYANIDE (Ed note: NO RELATION to CIANIDE of the Chicago area!) which consisted of Johnny and I on guitars, Toke on bass, and an old friend 'Junior' on drums. The video was a project for a producer friend of Johnny's; it was live footage at a few places mixed with World War two footage for the song 'Fight Fire With Fire'.

J: What is the involvement or relationship between NUCLEAR WINTER and CYANIDE?

N: Well, Johnny made the mess, he had to sleep in it. It was a side project before NUCLEAR WINTER, he wrote a bunch of crap and sat in the studio for days playing with the EQ even though he couldn't play a minor chord at the time. I guess the

whole band was a spin-off from a studio comedy thing Johnny was involved with.

L: It was like a Cheech and Chong skit on steroids.

J: Any future plans for NUCLEAR WINTER?

N: Getting laid.

L: We plan on selling 400,000,000 copies of the demo and retiring. If that doesn't work, we'll probably cut another demo. I probably won't have a lot of future involvement.

N: Yeah, its pretty much just me carrying the flame now. I just got a new studio though, Jonestown studios. I might lay down the guitars and bass, and then get a drum machine and do some GODFLESH kindof shit.

J: Any closing words?

N: Write us. Send us pictures of your sister. Buy the demo.

L: Yeah, buy the demo and support us. We're sick of our day jobs.

So that was my moment of fame in my journalistic career; a nice meeting with Necro and Swastikkko, reunited for the first time in a while. Keep in touch with the band through Cursed Productions at the address below:

Nuclear Winter c/o Cursed Productions  
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## Jon's Predictions

As 1992 draws to a close, and 1993 is approaching faster than a NOCTURNUS guitar riff, I thought I'd have a bit of fun with the tabloid-news predictions of the new year. Here are my predictions for the coming year in metal....

All of the members of DEF LEPPARD are killed on the second wing of their European tour for the Adrenalize LP, in a mysterious bus accident. There are still plans to continue work on the next LP.

ALICE COOPER, AC/DC, KISS and BLACK SABBATH all step forward with Elektra on a revolutionary album distribution system where albums are never available in the store and go straight to convenience store \$4 tape racks.

WARRANT releases an environmentally aware album, in an effort to appear more intelligent to the Greenpeace crowd. the LP, entitled Lets Get Green includes hits like "plant my tree", "The Ozone Funky" and "Recycling dude". Many buyers discover the cassette shell is made from 100% edible wheat-based plastic.

THE CC DEVILLE EXPERIENCE records a 3-album LP but its quickly ignored.

AXL ROSE enters the Dave Mustaine clinic for drug and alcohol abuse after assault and battery of a Hare Krishna in a Kansas airport.

VINCE NEIL places fourth in the Indianapolis 500, and Motley Crue briefly does a reunion tour, that coincides with Neil's Pennzoil Endorsement. ('Don't let your engine run on the wild side')

Members that had been booted from both DEATH and YNGWIE MALMSTEEN's band collaborate on a work under the name THE RISING DEATH FORCE EXPERIENCE. The work is unnoteworthy, but their first news attention was when the entire band canned each other after the third tour date. It was rumored for a bit that Billy Milano would try to re-form the group.

METALLICA releases their new album, which consists of 48 minutes of dead air. The CD has 2 bonus tracks, also blank. The release coincides with the new METALLICA/Pepsi-cola advertising campaign.

ANTHRAX and PETER GABRIEL match up for an LP bringing down the Metal/African tribal barrier. The 80 minute work is loosely used as the soundtrack for The Last Temptation of Christ II: The Wrath of Khan.

AXL ROSE once again goes public, and says he has found the word of God, and plans to release a spiritual hymnal and spoken word album.

GENE SIMMONS' voice appears on The Simpsons.

AXL ROSE admits maybe he was a little loopy when he was talking about all that religion stuff. what he really meant was that he was God.

KIP WINGER is arrested for robbing a video store in Mesa, Arizona.

Heavy rumors abound that METALLICA lip-synched the dead silence on their last album. Lars Ulrich is killed in a plane crash; Rod Morgenstein of WINGER quickly replaces them before their headlining spring tour with SHADOWFAX and THE ALLMAN BROTHERS BAND.

AXL ROSE checks back into drug rehab for heroin dependency problems.

THE DEF LEPPARD EXPERIENCE releases an album; STEVE VAI plays guitars 'only because i need the bread, man..'

After a bizarre triple-lawsuit and TV trial, THE GUNS AND L.A. GEAR ROSES release a 12 record LP. band conductor AXL ROSE has over 200 minutes of spoken word and in an all new record, the entire top 10 is taken by 9 versions of "Don't Cry" and a remake of "Layla". The boxed set also sports an inflatable pump jacket.

STEVEN TYLER admits that he never really did drugs, he just had a really messed up childhood.

ALICE COOPER places 5th in the Nabisco-Bob Hope golf open.

MEGADETH appears on an episode of 'Doogie Howser, MD'

THE ACE FREHLEY SPOKEN WORD ALBUM ships platinum for radio stations stocking up for 'what ever happened to...' shows.

CHARLES MANSON is released from prison. Bung International gives him a 6-album deal.

KING DIAMOND signs a promotional deal for personal appearances for MCDONALD's restaurants, but commits suicide soon after.

AXL ROSE checks into the Hospital for the Scientific Examination of Claims of the Paranormal in Buffalo, NY, after supposedly seeing a vending machine talk in Salt Lake City, Utah.

GEORGE LYNCH tries to assassinate a Senator from Maine in an attempt to impress Jodi Foster.

The first reported CLIFF BURTON sightings start. Rumor has it he's pissed.

WHITESNAKE reunites and is featured in the soundtrack for 'Home Alone 3: Return of

the Jedi'

AXL ROSE admits most of his problems come from his drug addiction and infatuation with cartoons as a child. He announces his secret marriage to Yoko Ono.

MEGADETH admits DAVE MUSTAINE really drowned in a pool of his own vomit in 1992, but they didn't have the financial ability to tell anyone until now. Two ex-DEATH members join and the band changes their name to MEGADEATH.

ANTHRAX announces plans to record Gustav Mahler tone poems and tour with the Boston Philharmonic orchestra and PUBLIC ENEMY, closing the metal-classical-rap gap.

And as the year ends...

Ray Miller of METAL CURSE magazine, finishes issue 7, featuring a phone interview with Randy Rhodes, a demo from an up-and-coming unsigned band from Florida called MORBID ANGEL, and a Dear Death column making fun of the recent shooting death of John Lennon, and President Carter's taste in clothing.....

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## Reviews

### FEAR FACTORY - Soul of a New Machine (Roadrunner)

I haven't really been overly impressed by any of this industrial-death crossover stuff that has become so popular lately, but this release by FEAR FACTORY really grabbed me. This album really has balls! It isn't overly industrial and automated, but has a real high tech feel to it and works in some rather bizarre samples. There is some good death-style stuff implemented within also, but the big thing is there is a mix of both and they are mixed smoothly. Burton Bell goes from singing very thrash-like, to the typical industrial/grind distorted screaming, then back to a death-like growl. And Raymond Herrera's drumming goes from a near-automated quick and simple beat to a tearing low end double bass attack. There's 17 tracks, and it isn't really the 15 second song thing, the whole album is heavily produced in a good way. Highly recommended!

Rating: 9.0

### BRUTAL TRUTH - Extreme Conditions Demand Extreme Responses (Earache)

I read the info on this when I first got it..New York band, formed by NUCLEAR ASSAULT bassist Dan Liker, and all the usual "get it before it gets you" was there. I first thought "Ohboy, another lame metal crossover project". It sat for 2 days, then I put it in my player...HOLY SHIT! THIS IS FUCKING BRUTAL! This shit makes GRAVE look like Neil Diamond...I mean the intro track "P.S.P.I." starts out

with a little bit of synth and voice and then starts with a slow, death-type beat, and a tearing death bellow from vocalist Kevin Sharp. Double bass from hell starts from Scott Lewis, then Dan and Brent McCarty double the speed as the second song starts and Sharp sings the lyrics to "Birth of Ignorance" in a Barney-like screaming. Some subtle samples here and there..the album is way political and is actually fairly intelligent, not like "lets go fuck up everyone" type stuff, but they have an anti-homophobe song, a lot of songs about the evils of capitalism, and of course anti-war stuff. The cover even has some cool photos along the same lines. There's a lot of variety within songs, the vocals don't settle on either a noise or a Death fashion, and the music has some faster points but has some slow grinding stuff too. It is definitely worth it only to hear the first track. To cop a phrase, get it before it gets you!!

Rating: 8.25

### CANNIBAL CORPSE - Tomb of the Mutilated (Metal Blade)

I'm driving in my car, listening to a SEPULTURA tape passively, and stop at a light. Up next to me creeps a vehicle, a large Cadillac, with tinted windows, the stereo thumping Sir Mixalot at an annoying rate. I know the light will be long, so I reach for the most lethal weapon I can find. TYPE O NEGATIVE? no....DEICIDE?...no..then, a smile creeps across my face as I put my stereo on 11 and grab my newest tape..tomorrow's headlines read "3 dead, 2 seriously

injured in traffic disaster"....

OK, maybe this didn't really happen, but it could. Tomb of the Mutilated has more shock value than being at ground zero during a nuclear testing project. This album is fucking sick in every aspect, these guys really outdid themselves. A lot of versions come without the outside cover, just because the song titles, let alone the artwork, are far too artistic for the PMRC to see. The songs? Well, this isn't The White Album, don't look for musical depth and brevity. The album is well produced, the bass is killer, Scott Burns did a good job with this. This is definitely improved over their previous work, it's still pretty much fast noise-ish gore-metal, with screamings of sex with the dead and mutilation (and some awesome samples!) It's worth checking out just for the artwork, but not for the squeamish.

Rating: 9.0

ASPHYX - Last One on Earth (Century Media)

They're back, and it ain't no EP this time. Harrow studios from the Netherlands unleashed this work of terror to us, 8 new tracks of death. This album is actually a concept album, talking about the end of the world, and the musical talent on this album is really improved. Every aspect has improved from The Rack, the lyrics, the drums, the guitars, the production, they have really honed themselves. There is a song called "The Krusher" but it is totally re-mastered. The album flows pretty good, and the production is really up-front. This album really shows their direction is getting better, and for a second LP, this is a hell of an effort.

Xenocide

Rating: 8.25

GRUNTRUCK - Push (Roadrunner)

I promised I'd review anything, but I never promised it would be good. GRUNTRUCK is just a clone of ALICE IN CHAINS. They're cashing in on the kind of grindy, mostly poppish sound that is very MTV these days. It's called 'The Seattle Sound' as if it's deserving of a special name. I didn't find anything noteworthy of the album, and if you're a big Death/thrash fan, you probably won't either. I shouldn't bitch, I mean copping a sound from someone else to get signed has been going on since the days of Elvis. Maybe GRUNTRUCK will become The Next Big Thing. But then, so was Madonna...she wouldn't get a 9 in a Death mag, and neither will these guys.

Rating: 5

MALHAVOC - Premeditated Murder (Metal Blade Records)

This is yet another MINISTRY-like X-over band, but it seems to be a step ahead. Most industri-death bands that are coming out seem to be more industrial-influenced, with Death added in. This sounds neat, but it seems too mechanical, too automated to be as powerful as Death metal. Well, this album has more of a human influence to it, the raw energy that defined metal as a whole is more evident in the layout of the album, but the new twist of industrial is still strong. It's neat how some tracks go off on a tangent that almost sounds like dance music, or sub-pop. But then it veers off into a screaming, thrashing riff-laden tangent. The album is basically based on singer James Cavalluzzo's twisted mind, describing how evil life is in

tracks like "Languish", "Beginning the End" and "Kill (Dislocated)". The album's recording has the obligatory overproduction and surgically clean sound, you can't complain there. The album seems a bit repetitive in parts, and it's really disorienting if you've never listened to this kind of stuff. If you're a tried-and-true Death metal fan with no desire to veer off the left hand path, I wouldn't recommend it. But if your musical tastes wander to the bizarre, you'll love this.

Rating: 8.75

GRAVE - You'll Never See (Century Media)

Wow. Thaws all I can say to summarize this. From the first few seconds when J0rgen Sandstrom screams "You will never see..." to the last throes of "Christi(ns)anity", this album has unsurpassed power and drive. This is Swedish death at its best, with Sunlight and Skogsberg right behind them, making for flawless production, with very clear separation, very crisp sounds, the perfect guitar distortion and enough low end to break all the lightbulbs in the house. I know there are a billion bands coming out of Sunlight with basically the same setup and the same sound. But these guys aren't clones, they are the cloned. If I had to name original Swedish bands, these guys would be second only to ENTOMBED, and this album comes damn close to beating out Clandestine for my favorite pick of European stuff this year. This release easily surpasses earlier Grave stuff, but I can't point out any one major difference. It's just maturity. If you consider yourself a fan of Death metal, this is a requirement, it is probably one of the first 10 albums I'd tell

someone to buy..and I tell you the same...

Rating: 9.5

SARKOMA - Completely Different (Grind Core International)

I sound like a broken record in saying almost every damn thing I review has a unique sound. But listen to me one more time! SARKOMA is a band that I'd describe as a kind of thrashy hardcore band that writes songs about really off the wall stuff. The drums are incredible, they aren't your generic clone double bass crap, they have a lot of off-time stuff, a lot of quick changes, a lot of spark to them. The guitarwork is pretty straightforward, and the lyrics are pretty interweaved into the production. It isn't a really thick sound like most Death, it's more of a clean yet deep sound. The songs are about stuff from seasonal depression to oppression. If you caught JOHN CONNELLY'S THEORY a couple years back, you'd really like this. Like I always say, it's pretty unique...

Rating: 8.5

IMPALER - Charnel Deity (Grind Core International)

Well, they SOUND Swedish..actually IMPALER is one of the UK's oldest death bands. This ISN'T the same band that was from Minnesota who did a couple releases for Combat/Relativity, however! These guys are touring gods, making rounds with acts like CARCASS, BOLT THROWER, CANCER, PESTILENCE, MASTER and AUTOPSY. This 11-song release is pure Death, the sound is thick, the detail is clear and the beat is precise. The songs are pure evil, going from midrange evil grinding to blistering



speed, and its hard to find a dead spot on the whole album. This was recorded at Mables Hut and is incredible, this easily rivals work at Sunlight. I can't say there's anything groundbreaking about this group, but they have the formula for evil Death down to a science.

Rating: 8.5

COMECON - Megatrends in Brutality  
(Century Media)

If you see this in a store, immediately buy it or steal it before you even think twice. Not only will this album be an ultimate collectors item 15 seconds after its released, but it is an ultra-powerful example of the perfection of Swedish Death metal. This band was formed in 1990 by ex-OMNITRON members Rasmus Ekman and Pelle Strom, and they grabbed Anders Green on drums. After L.G. Petrov left ENTOMBED, they invited him too. This recording was made in May 1991 in Sunlight with Tomas Skogsberg at the board, and is once again another European production masterpiece. Very very clear recording, great levels and tone, there's a lot of power behind the production. The songs kick ass too, there are tracks like "Dog Days" and "The Future Belongs To Us" that are just sheer brutality, and stuff like "Armed Solution" that's a good showing of the Swedish style. Maybe I'm just partial because I really like Swedish bands, but it seems Sunlight has put out a lot of good shit in the last couple years, and this is high on the list for me. Too bad this is a one-time project we won't hear from again and the licensing bullshit doesn't make this more accessible to everyone....

Rating: 9.0

KING DIAMOND/MERCYFUL FATE - A

Dangerous Meeting (Roadrunner)

This is the last of 3 albums looking back at King's 10 years with Roadrunner. The album is just a 'Best of', featuring 7 MERCYFUL FATE tracks, 9 KING DIAMOND tracks, and a bonus 'FATE track ("Into the Coven"). There's not a lot to be said about this, its all old stuff. Cool if you're into Diamond, otherwise not really worth the cash.

Rating: 6

CIANIDE - The Dying Truth (Grind Core International)

"Fate of mankind, Realize, time to die." What can I say about these guys? CIANIDE is a three piece reigning from Chicago, and their new release on GCI is an awesome 45 minutes of terror. Its kindof grungy, the lyrics are very raw and grinding, and the drums are really clear in the mix. This disk doesn't fall by the wayside like a lot of death/thrash stuff does these days; the chords tear at you, and really make it stand out. Plus these guys are cool as hell (see last issue for an interview) Its worth the cash, a definite addition to anybody's collection.

Rating: 8.75

BIOHAZARD - Urban Discipline  
(Roadrunner)

Wow, this is pretty cool! BIOHAZARD is a Brooklyn-based hardcore band that just signed with Roadrunner, after their brief stint with Maze records. The lyrics are pretty aggressive social issue stuff ("Urban Discipline", "Chamber Spins Three", "Tears of Blood") and their sound is very clean, with a thrash-like quick vocals, a speedy drum beat and good

guitars. This band didn't seem too hardcore; their mix and arrangement are really aimed toward the metal crowd, and the punk crowd. This is really worth checking out.

Rating: 8.25

#### TIAMAT - Clouds (Century Media)

These guys have progressed pretty fast. This release from the Swedish underground is sounding a lot less like the standard run-of-the-mill European band, and really adding a dimension to their stuff. The 8-song disk covers a lot of ground, from fairly straightforward death, to more experimental stuff, to progressive stuff. They recorded at Woodhouse which might be why some of the guitar work sounds like PARADISE LOST's latest release. The album flows good, has a good low end, and a lot of balls. But it adds a real twist, I can't really name it. If you could imagine how HELLOWEEN varied from other groups in their time, that's kind of how these guys step out. Progressive, but not so much that they lose their edge. I like that, maybe you will too.

Rating: 8.5

#### OPTIMUM WOUND PROFILE - Lowest Common Denominator (Roadrunner)

This band is another example of how Sub-pop industrial and metal are slowly merging. The music has the features of metal such as a good drummer, and fast guitar; it takes sampling and lyrics from its MINISTRY roots. You're looking at things from "Responsibility", a simple pop song, to "Crave", an 11 minute soundscape. This isn't too bad, but didn't take that extra push to the metal side that I need to

survive. Still good, especially if you're into industrial.

Rating: 7.75

#### THERION - Of Darkness (Grindcore)

Sunlight. Need I say more? For those of you who caught these guys' Time Shall Tell 7", this album consists of those 4 songs re-recorded plus 4 new songs. For those who haven't, this stuff is pretty brutal, it tends to lean slightly faster side of Death...they seem to have a good ENTOMBED influence in their mix, and DISMEMBER is thought of when listening to some tracks. They aren't groundbreaking, I'd even say they are middle-of-the-road if you're into variety. But if you really dig Swedish metal, this is a product of the capitol, and worthy of the honor.

Rating: 8.0

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## Demos

### BLOODY MARY - Bitch Needs Psychotherapy (demo)

I thought thrash was worn to the bone and dead, but every once in a while I hear a thrash tape that really sounds out. This is one of them - this North Carolina band has one of the most professional demos I have seen in a while. This 4-song classic has a nice color foldout, with lyrics and all the shit you ever need to know inside. This five-piece produces some serious thrash - their style is pretty innovative and the mix on the demo is excellent. The style isn't Death, but if you're into great thrash without all of the commercial bullshit that took over the genre, get ahold of this one.

Rating: 7.75

Bloody Mary  
POB 560938  
Charlotte, NC 28256 USA

### INDUSTRICORE - Sanity's Shore (demo)

Hmm, I guess this REALLY proves industrial and metal are crossing over. I've been seeing a lot of glamorous studio-project bands, but this is the first x-over demo band. Jesse Nelson is the sole member, and does all of the writing, arrangement, programming, and performance. This isn't any MINISTRY, but then it isn't STEINBOCK either. The quality is so-so, but it's unique. And demos are available FREE at a first-come, first-served basis. A few bucks and a lot of electronics would make this the next GODFLESH..and you gotta start somewhere..

Rating: 6

## Xenocide

IndustriCore c/o Jesse Nelson  
2a AnnCourt Apt.  
Luzerne, PA 18709

### MEDUSSA - Convulsions (demo)

When I got this demo, I was told not to directly refer to this band as any given genre; now I know why! They are sort of thrash, sort of Death. Sort of x-over. But not. But sort of grind. But not really. From song to song they change their styles, and go from almost straightforward thrash to pretty much Death to slower stuff to faster stuff.. and its not just speed changes, its the style. Its pretty cool. This demo is very professionally recorded and packaged, and well worth it. Check these guys out!

Rating: 8.5

MEDUSSA  
POB 11892  
Alex, VA 22312 USA

### NUCLEAR WINTER - I Hate You More Than Superglue (Demo)

At last, after several years of legal difficulties, the works of the four masters of hate have been released! I first saw NUCLEAR WINTER years ago, honing their skills on cover tunes; this is captured by a cover of MOTORHEAD's "Orgasmatron" played live at the very show I saw in 1988. But these evil artists are much more than salty old biker tunes. This 4 song demo, plus two bonus tracks, covers a lot of ground. From the beginning of the tape, the shredding guitars of Necro Warlord, leads right into L. Swastikkko's screams and chants of terror, bursting into their classic hit "(You're a) Fuckin' Asshole".



Nothing can capture the terror of Swastikkko evilly proclaiming "Kill your brother, stab your mom...I fucked the stab wounds!" The classic Phil Spector 'wall of sound' recording approach is superbly mastered by their producer and backup singer Johnny Cumstain, and the complex jazz background of drummer Toke keeps the intricate soundscape in perfect harmonic convergence. The album has great underlying meaning, and is somewhat of a concept album, outlying the underpinning violence and tension amidst the world today. The song "Riot" made me feel like I was at Ground Zero, Los Angeles "There's five million troops roamin' the city / now they've all got rifles aimed at you / you're gonna die" The timeliness of the album even after sitting stagnant for years is uncanny, the deep thought Warlord and Swastikkko put into the lyrics is tremendous. The short political commentary between members was integrated by Cumstain when he mastered the work, and the same brutal sonic attack is kept on the song "Hot Dog Dick" as Warlord adds concussive bass tracks. This song was penned to stage the complex intertwining of sexual deviance. And no young adult can deny the negative aspect of the song "Mommy", a definite tailspin back to the conclusion of the concept story. The extreme vocal ability of Swastikkko is tested, showing his ability to sing both male and female lines in the same dialog, much like King Diamond's work. Even the packaging shows the genius behind this group; the simplistic black on white j-card is something only the Beatles' White Album could match in complexity. Its a tragedy that the split of the members and the resulting legal difficulties only leaves us with these six short songs as their dying legacy. But, some of us still have the bootlegged Shit

a Brick EP and the surrounding studio footage. So fans, we may see a release of digitally remastered post-mortem work, much like Hendrix and Lennon produced. This recording is not only a stirring in the metal world paralleled only to the birth of Christ in the religious world, but it also brings forth a vision, a vision for all of humanity to behold and understand. I never thought I'd see the day I'd give an album this rating, but after the first five notes, you'll see why. Don't even bother mailing away, drive straight to Cursed Productions and buy a copy, no human should wait the purgatory in mail shipping. Listen to the prophecy proclaimed by Swastikkko, Toke, Warlord and Cumstain and realize the world is no longer the same place.

Rating: 10

\$3 US/ \$4 World payable to Ray Miller  
Nuclear Winter c/o Cursed Productions  
POB 302  
Elkhart, IN 46515-0302 USA

#### ADRENALIN - Cause and Effect (Demo)

ADRENALIN is a Canadian thrash band that really has their shit together. This 4 song demo is very professionally laid out, with a very nice color j-card and pro-copied cassettes. But the music is what is impressive. The five-man group has a decent thrash style to them, although the influence of a lot of unsigned bands gives them a raw edge. The recording is very tight, decently produced without being overproduced like some thrash bands are today. If you're looking for new thrash, check these guys out, they're worth the time.

Rating: 7.75



\$6

ADRENALIN c/o Todd Zannie  
POB 3265  
Dartmouth East Postal Station  
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia  
Canada B2W 5G2

#### DOGOD - The Other Gods (Demo)

"What's the matter fine lady, you wanna know how it feels to be with a man who killed two men and a woman with an axe, don't ya?" This demo wins the 1992 "Most inspiring soundbite use" award. Anyway, DOGOD (that's dog-god) is a Chicago based Death band, and is a pretty good example of what Death from the Chicago area is like. The four piece even recorded in studio 56, where a lot of GCI bands like CIANIDE and BROKEN HOPE cut their LP's. The 4-song demo is fairly tight musically; Bill Thurman has the death-vocals down pretty well, and the drumwork by Hugo Ayalya is pretty sophisticated. The guitars by Tom Knizner and bass by Victor Rios is pretty straightforward, it holds everything together really well. I was slightly disappointed with the quality of sound on the guitars, the distortion wasn't quite thick enough or something. The demo isn't the greatest recording in the world, but it beats the hell out of any 4-track demo. For a first demo, this is pretty impressive, and I'm hoping to see these guys live, I know it'd be a good show. Another demo is in the works, and the agenda is to play out a lot more, so keep your eyes peeled for these guys!

Rating: 8.0

DOGOD c/o Tom Knizner  
5401 S. Komensky  
Chicago, IL 60632 USA

#### ASTAROTH - Drowning In Blood (Demo)

The Tampa area keeps turning out more and more quality Death and this is another example. ASTAROTH is a 4-piece that has a very evil sound, very powerful and heavy. It isn't all slow stuff, it really picks up speed in places. This has the really raw feel of something like GRAVE or DEATH, but it has the real evil mystical intertwining that something like DEICIDE or NOCTURNUS is based upon. I'm not going to say this recording is great. Its a 4-track and at best could be called adequate, but if they had the cash and went into Morrisound, I could see a real lethal recording coming out of it. I really liked the complex structure in some of the songs, but the 5 song demo and minimal recording really left me hungry for more, which can be a pisser. I hope these guys do record professionally, I'd really like to hear more.

Rating: 7.5

ASTAROTH  
POB 8552  
Tampa, FL 33674-8552 USA

#### HARMS WAY - Fear No More (demo)

HARMS WAY is a power trio from the Detroit area with a pretty decent sound to them. This isn't a demo as much as its a single; there is only one song on it. However, the song is pretty decent, its a thrash-based song, not really speedy, but it has a really sharp and refined sound to it. Bands they've played with like ATHIEST, CANDLEMASS, and Flotsam and Jetsam are good benchmarks for what kind of thing they're shooting for here. Its pretty developed stuff, energetic but not overly raw. These guys are playing out a lot and keeping

in the studio with a side project called "Bones Garage". If you want to hear something new, check out this tape.

Rating: 7.25

HARMS WAY  
1567 Crestland  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

#### BUTCHERY - Demo #2 (demo)

This is a fairly new band, having just formed in January 1992, but it looks like they have advanced quickly and are well on their way to becoming another very reputable death metal act in the underground. The 4 song recording is pretty clear, although the levels seem a little strange in places - I'm sure with a record label-sized budget that would clear up fast. The songs are gore-oriented death, with titles like "Scrotal Amputation" and "Baptized in Excrement", and the kind of shock value style lyrics of something like CANNIBAL CORPSE is intertwined with a slower, heavy death sound, like a lot of Swedish death metal now. The production, like I mentioned, is a bit awkward in places. But in general this is a cool demo, it has a good feel to it and the lyrics are pretty cool too.

Rating: 7.75

Butchery  
3100 Hillary Hill Rd.  
Dothan, AL 36303

#### MULE SKINNER - Stripped of Flesh (demo)

This is a pretty aggressive death band from the Louisiana area. The Stripped of flesh demo is a 5 song effort...the songs themselves are very brutal, but the

production takes away from it. Its pretty uneven, and makes the album not as powerful as it could be. These guys do have some potential, and Michael of MULE SKINNER told me they have a 7" called Seraphic Decay that blows away the tape. Might be worth checking out..

Rating: 6.75

Mule Skinner  
901 Happywoods Rd. #12  
Hammond, LA 70403 USA

#### SACRIFICIAL - Lords of Torment (demo)

This band hails from Denmark, and is a pretty good European metal band. From the first note, this really takes off; its a pretty speedy demo, although in places it stops and really smashes in some low-end power. It is very well planned musically, there were some really cool riffs and progressions that really stood out through the whole album. This was all recorded on an 8 track, and the production isn't the best in the world. But, it is still a pretty decent demo.

Rating: 7.00

Sacrificial c/o Kraen Meier  
0. Vedstedvej 118  
6760 Ribe  
Denmark

#### ALLEGIANCE - Torn Between Two Worlds (demo)

This is an Australian band that really has their shit together; they were the first metal band to get to the final rounds of Yamaha's Rock competition, and have had pretty good reviews from Kerrang! to Metal Maniacs...and for good reason! This is an incredibly tight 24 track demo,

with pretty decent production and fairly advanced songwriting. I'd classify their style as the Australian version of SEPULTURA. They have a decent amount of power, but they are smoother and a bit deeper in their song structure than their Brazilian cousin. The sound has got the catch it takes to rise a band out of the mainstream of generic music in the genre, and the demo is a good example of this. Drop a line for a quick line, and check out one of the better demos I've received in a while.

Rating: 8.75

\$6 US/\$8 Aust.  
 Allegiance  
 POB 97  
 Armdale, W.A. 6112  
 Australia

## CARNAL LEFTOVERS

Yet again, the end of another issue. First of all, I hope you enjoyed the miscellaneous articles in this issue. I was getting bored of reviews-demos-reviews-demos-reviews-demos... I should confess though, Ray Miller of Metal Curse and I pulled a bit of a blatant prank. The review and interview with NUCLEAR WINTER were a parody, and a bit of a sick inside joke. NUCLEAR WINTER does exist though, it is a joke band that Ray and I had a few years ago, along with a couple of other guys. And the demo is really out, that's not a ripoff. Well, maybe the recording quality...but actually it's a pretty funny tape. Well, I'd like to first off thank everyone who has helped me, especially all of the labels who have been cool enough to provide service. Thanks to Roadrunner, Lorraine and Grindcore International, all at Relativity/Earache, Marco and the gang at Metal Blade, Ed at Rage records, A&M Records and especially everyone at Century Media. Thanks to my psycho twin Ray for helping me draw my powers from the fourth plane of hell, even if I did spend my vacation answering YOUR \*&^%(^\* mail. Thanks to the gang at CD Exchange in Bloomington for being THE place for imports, also thank you to Disc Jockey for actually having the balls to carry uncensored CANNIBAL CORPSE and PUNGENT STENCH in a mall chain store. Thanks to all of the band who gave me demos. Thanks to Mike of CIANIDE for being cool in general, extend that to Stefan of Desultory for being way cool too. And I want to thank EVERYONE who had anything to do with the 'zine. In 1992, we put out 4 issues, even though we started in February, and without everyone out there to push me and help me, I would have given up after issue 1....Also one last thank you to Jello Biafra: because of listening to Blow Minds For a Living a thousand times, I've opened my eyes to a lot of issues in the media industry I never realized. I erroneously reported the death of local underground radio station WQAX; shortly before their lease was done and over with, they received a generous donation of 4 months of rent! Oh a last second generous thanks to John Woods and Rock Out Censorship for the ads, the papers and for helping spread the word that free speech is a necessity! Well, expect even more next time - see you then!

En Modem Sumus,  
 Jon

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