

issue four

Thank you for consuming Semtex. If it ever might have happened, while reading this issue, that you were thinking about what we were trying to say here, we already praise ourselves lucky. Keep that in mind. We're just simple people. We won't change the world. But we can change ourselves, can't we? Just dare to say fuck you.

We hope to hear about all of your 'fuck you's' at the next email & snail address: semtexhbk@hotmail.com or Collegelaan 91, B8530 Harelbeke, Belgium.

Consider it. We thank you, really. We love you, definitely. Fuck you, amazingly.

semtex

#4 containing personal (read political) writings and stories, zine profiles, reviews of your favourite band's record and chats with **Emil** (children of fall), **Stef** (vuur), **Teo** (you and me zine) and **Breach!**

Enough persuasion? Enough publicity? (welcome to society) Enough reasons to steal this. There can be revolution only where there is a conscience.



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Introduction)



Hello everybody and *welcome* to the new issue of **semtex**. After issue three and the semtex/yoda split zine (my issue 3 and a half), I got an amazing amount of reactions on the zine in general or on some parts of the zine, something I can definitely feel happy for. Cause as much as this is 'my' publication, it is yours, and therefore I'm happy to call it 'ours'. Feel free to contact me at the address below. I would love it.

'Life goes on,' the guy on the lp is singing. Well, I wouldn't call him a philosopher now, but he's right, we can't question that. I'm getting old. More and more schoolkids are calling me 'mister' instead of 'boy', I'm heading towards my last year in education, I'm pretty satisfied with the things I'm studying for and there's people that support me in it, but I also found out more and more about that thing called 'ageing'. When I reflect on some parts of my life or on some ways of my own thinking, I know I'm getting older and do you know what is worst? The older I get, the more I grow out of some hc-ideas. I feel like I'm losing my revolutionary side and no matter how hard I try, I know it is growing out of me. Hardcore is a youth culture? I hope it isn't, but we have to face it: it is... Off course there's things that will never leave me and there's things I will always keep on fighting for and believing in. Hardcore/punk made an amazing impact on my life and it stamped so hard on me that I will never let it fully go. And I'm glad for that, really, cause I still believe in the positivity of the hcpunk-scene. You know, it's bands and music that make us a scene and that keep us together but it's so much more that makes us hc...

As I'm growing older I came to a critical point in my life, but more specifically in the life of this Semtex. I felt like it came impossible to finish Semtex doing it all on my own and that's when I decided to quit. Semtex was dead, rotten, buried and shit on. Untill one day I got some response from my friends' side. That was about the time we started doing some talking about the future of doing zines and it had to happen: Semtex was alive again. The only difference between now and then is that the zine is now co-done by Bram (Heartwell zine / Sub Fakt Four records) and Koen. I guess you'll notice some change. But I'm glad for that and such is progress...

Another thing that happened in the meantime is the arrival of the official semtex *website*. You can check it out at [http://www.geocities.com/semtex_zine] and find more about semtex zine and other projects as well as interviews, columns, reviews, interesting links,... please take a look at it and let me know how you feel ...

video stills
Peter Land
1998-1999



about it. The internet is an amazingly powerful thing which is accesible for more and more people now and I strongly believe in its possibilities. Communication by means of a mouse-click. How easy can it get? But off course we should also question the b-side. As Nobel invented dynamite for good reasons, it became more and more a word with negative connotations. The internet hasn't gone that far yet, and it hopefully never will, but we have to keep in mind that a LOT of people do not have the possibility of a connection to the world wide web. To be more specific: in '95 and in a 'rich country' only the upper-class had this possibility. By the year '99 it has also become a privilege for the (upper)middle-class, but it looks like the lower classes will never have such privileges. And it looks like more and more things will be arranged through the web, or to say it in other words: the internet helps the rich getting richer and the poor getting poorer. The circle is full again... That could be a reason why it is not my intention to replace the paper version of semtex by the electronical version. I believe that the copy you are holding in your hands right now is also more 'charming' and direct. There is a thing however, that I would love to change and that are the reviews. It could be that (if the website has enough visitors) I will not print reviews in the zine anymore, but only publish them on the website. But nothing is sure yet...

Another thing that is growing now is FiveStar Records. It's a new label that is releasing stuff from Jettison, Neverending..., Alignment, DentalRemoteControl and more. Get in touch to know more or contact [rupsje666 at hotmail dot com] for direct info.

And yet another rising family is FridayDesigns. Did you know punk had a big impact on today's typography and design? Bet you didn't... Contact [askit at fridaydesigns dot com] or surf to [http://www.fridaydesigns.com]

Oh yes, remember previous issues of semtex? The cops must have get a hold on it cause one day they called me up, asking for my name, address and birth date to put me on 'the list'. I never understood why. Why is there even a list. I always thought Belgium had a democracy in which one of the main points was the freedom of press. I still believe there can be revolution only where there is a conscience and the only thing I'm trying to do here is to provide interested people some kind of (what I think is) that necessary conscience (but I know I'm failing big time in that...). Am I therefor a criminal? Or am I a possible threat to their system? *Silence is as much their friend as it is our enemy.* I hope they get a hold on this copy as well- 'Dear policemen and all above you: **fuck you.**'

I'm not trying to sound cheap here, no not at all. I know, in this society as we live in it now, there's a need of policemen. At least there should be some force (although I don't think 'force' is the right word here) that keeps an eye on the 'ethics' of a nation. The thing is however, that right now this 'force' is working together with the majority...

This reminds me of something I saw on the evening news lately, as a result of the stupid Russian government that passively saw that legendary boat ('koersk') sink

with more than hundred people in it. The tv showed us a woman, screaming like hell to the Russian first governor about how inhuman he and his whole system had acted. The quick reaction was a cold injection in the woman's body to silence her. They even tried to make it look like they were caressing her to calm down. Fuck, that's rude. Fuck that's abuse of power. Fuck that's equal to not caring about human lives, but caring about power, prestige and money. And fuck such things make me feel angry but powerless inside...

Back to this zine now; issue three is almost gone, hurry up if you still want some copies. I know there's a stupid Grade interview in it but don't mind about that. It has a long chat with an amazing guy called Marc (Man vs. Humanity and Scorched Earth Policy) that also appeared in the latest issue of *HeartattaCk* zine (yes yes!), further Leah and lots of writings... Issue three and a half, a split zine with Yoda Mag is always in print again so let us know if you want one or more copies of that. The Semtex side has a long interview with world's best emo-avant-punk-whatever band called Neverending... and some experimental stuff...

Anyway, as this is only an introduction to this issue, I will cut it down now and leave you reading. While doing this please keep in mind that this is still an underground punk magazine done by 'us', so there's a big possibility that this zine will suck. I hope you won't kill me/us for that, just let me know your critics / reactions at the following address (do it!): **Thomas Byttebier, Collegelaan 91, 8530 Harelbeke, Belgium** or [semtexhbk@hotmail.com] or [http://www.geocities.com/semtex_zine] (Some say introductions suck, I like 'em. One day I'll write you a zine consisting out of one long introduction...)

About the cover: Allright this issue has a colored cover. Why? Simply because we like it that way. We had the chance to press the cover ourselves in school and we took it with both hands. First of all because we like to do as much as possible ourselves concerning the production process of Semtex. I think it is also charming to know that not one Semtex copy looks the same. It was hand made in different colors (some were even just inkjet printed!). Pressing ourselves also means that there are some slight position differences. Anyway, the thing I really wanted to say is that this colored cover has no other meaning but being something 'extra'. It is definitely NOT meant as a means to be more attractive and to sell more copies of this issue. We have our static number of copies pressed and we came to a point where we decided more or less not to press more copies than now because we want to keep everything under control, and payable for ourselves. So this is not a coca-cola major wannabe thing, definitely NOT! The different colors are not meant to create a 'limited edition'-factor but were just meant experimental and to keep the pressing interesting for us. So please don't buy two copies of this issue four because the cover has different colors! Just wanted to exclude your \$ell-out or major wannabe feelings about Semtex...

Fashion: The same way as we printed the cover, but with another design off course, we are going to press some Semtex T-shirts. These will probably be free to get, so drop us a note if you are interested in receiving one, ok?

Playlist Bram: Atari Teenage Riot / Alec Empire, Mörser, Voorhees, Lifes Halt, Merzbow, Quicksand, Saves the Day, Shelter, The Locust, Seein' Red, Lärm,...

Koen: Cave-In, At the Drive In, Weston, Neverending..., Piebald, Grade, The Pixies, Fugazi,...

Thomas: Bad Astronaut, Orchid, Lagwagon, At the Drive In, Reggie and the Full Effect, Elliott, Enfold, Man vs Humanity, Jr. Ewing, Shora, Brazen, Zegota, Neverending..., Weezer, Breach,... }

{ VINCENT HAUSMAN - LETTER



Next up is a really interesting letter from an amazing guy called Vincent... Vincent is talking about life in American society and about Driven. But I'm sure the driving force behind this letter was something else...

Dear Cluyse Bram,

Vincent from DRIVEN here. I am writing you because you sent me a letter quite a long time ago, and I never wrote you back. I've always been bad at keeping in touch with people, but I don't think my laziness should prevent me from returning people's personal letters and possibly developing friendships. I realize this more than ever now, and so I've decided to write you back. I apologize for not doing so sooner, and for the fact that this is such an impersonal letter. However, for right now, this is my best attempt at reaching out to you and trying to re-establish contact.

I'd like to tell you about what has been going on in my life lately:

As you may or may not know, I moved to the united states in September of 1998 to attend college. My father, who also went to college in the U\$A, introduced me to the idea during my childhood and I grew up expecting to go to college like my Dad. However, when the time actually came, I thought about it carefully and asked myself if I really wanted to go, wanting to be sure that going to school in the U\$A (and for that matter, going to school at all!) was what I wanted, and not what he wanted. I finally decided that I would try it out, to see what new adventures and what new friendships this experience would bring me. For my first year (in the U\$A they call it your "freshman"year) I went to Brandeis University, which is a small college right outside of Boston. I really enjoyed my first year, primarily because I read some amazing books, attended lectures by some incredible professors, and met some very special people. This first year also helped me realize that getting this type of an education is what I want at this point in my life. There were some aspects of Brandeis, however, which I did not enjoy. The campus was located in a small industrial town, and getting into Boston was a lot harder than the fancy college brochures had told me. I didn't have a car, so I was dependent on other people for transportation. This was really annoying, and after a

while I started feeling trapped on campus. The surrounding small town was a real shithole, and so I never really felt compelled to go and hang out downtown. Furthermore, a lot of kids at Brandeis had given up on having fun or didn't know how! I knew Brandeis had a reputation of being somewhat of a serious school, but the lack of action on campus and the lifeless spirit of many students around me was really depressing. I felt like I was in a place with a lot of dead people around me, and that was scary. I didn't want to end up like them; I didn't want to die!

So I decided I would try to get a different school. I worked really hard at my studies, got excellent grades and finally I was admitted to Brown University, which is a slightly bigger school located in Providence, in the state of Rhode Island (right in between Boston and New York). I just spent my first semester there (a schoolyear in the U\$ is divided into two semesters) and I definitely like it better than Brandeis. People seem a bit more alive and surrounding city is pretty cool. My younger sister Nina was also accepted to Brown University and so I have her close to me, which is great.

Living in the U\$A has been a good experience. I've made some dear friends and some dear enemies. I've been uplifted and touched by beauty, and I've been disgusted and horrified by some of the workings of the American dream. The U\$A is truly a backwards country, a land of lies and deceit, a nation based on fear and persecution (if you don't know what I mean, well, then they've got you fooled, too!) and I feel fortunate that I can return home to Amsterdam during the holidays. However, we have to watch our backs out here in Europe, 'cause the imperialist cancer is spreading fast!

One of the most powerful experiences I've had this past year was being part of the great protests against the meetings of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (check out www.a16.org to see for yourself). On april 6th, 1999, thousands gathered in the streets of Washington, DC, to celebrate life and to actively resist the deadening forces of fear, greed and capitalism. Windows were smashed, throats bled from singing and screaming, new love erupted along the protesters, and those embracing life and each other took back the streets. The men in suit and tie, as well as the robots with badges scolded and spit and tried to hurt us with their weapons, but we

fought back, some of us dancing, some of us blocking the meeting centers, some of us just believing. The meetings were eventually shut down and the whole world watched our eyes and tears and heard our demands. It was the most beautiful thing I've ever seen. On January 20th, I'll be going back to DC to protest the start of a new era of corporate fascism led by George W. Bush. Keep an eye out for us.

Besides being part of this new movement and going to school, I've been working on other things and writing music. I won't bombard you with the details, but someday you'll know what I've been up to. DRIVEN has also been given some attention, and slowly but surely a new future for this project is unfolding. I don't know what will happen and when but be assured that DRIVEN is not dead, and that great things are yet to come.


OK, that's it for now... there's too much about me in this letter, and I'm beginning to wonder why I felt the urge to tell you about what I'm doing with my life... why the fuck should you care? Whatever happens, I hope you're happy more times than not, or at least trying to make yourself feel that you're

alive and doing what you want. This world is fucking crazy and a lot of people could use your ass to make themselves rich or famous or worse. So I hope that you've somehow managed to be on your way (and fuck, maybe you're already there!!!) to living a life of turning your dreams and your desires into everyday experiences. I truly am sorry for not writing you sooner.


Forever yours with love,
Vincent R. Hausman,
Brown University,
MB 4624,
Providence,
RI 02912,
U\$A

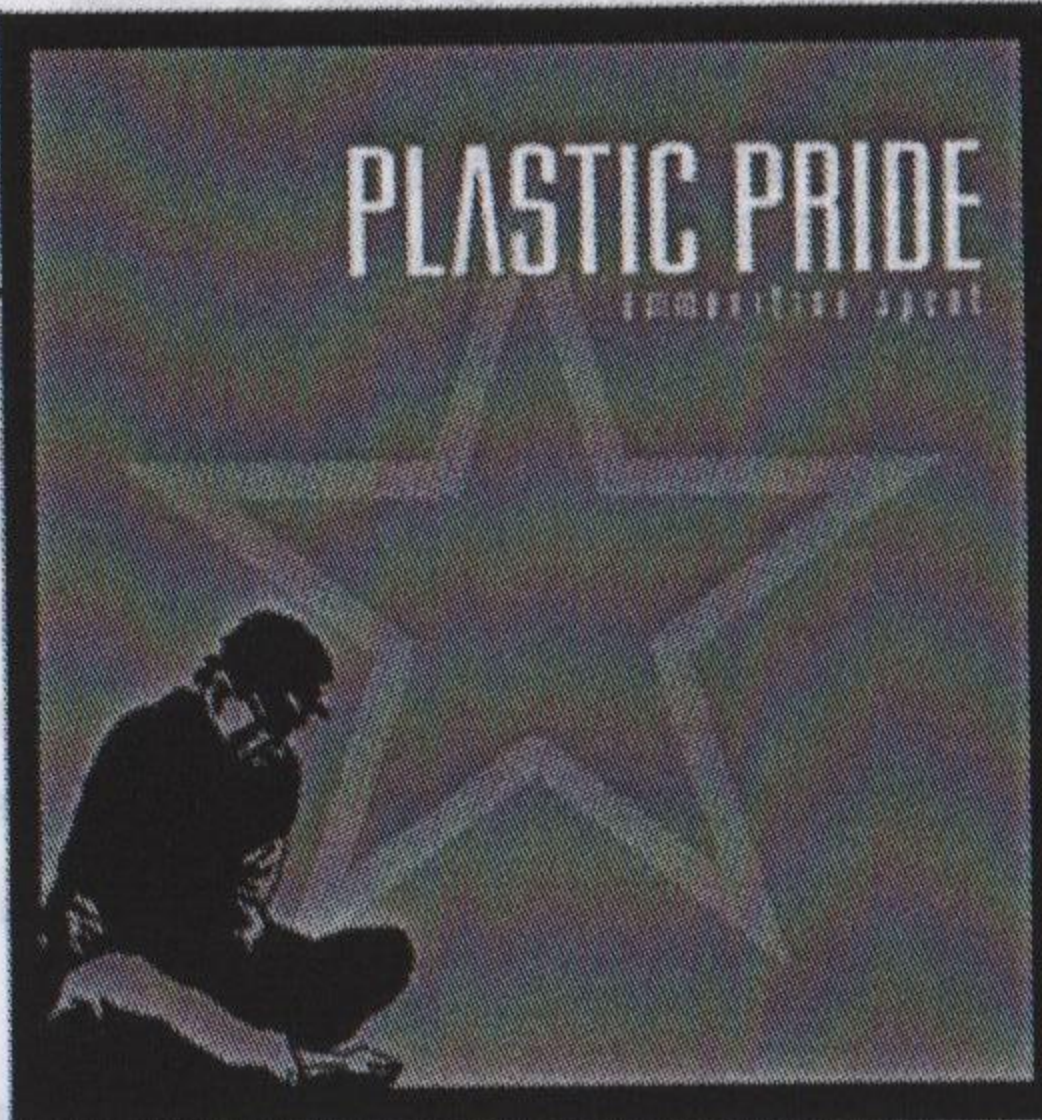


(Installation view pictures by Steven Pippin 1998) }



PLASTIC PRIDE





*ammunition spent

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INTERVIEW

EMIL BJÖRKANDER

{ How did you come in contact with the whole hardcore-thing?

It's simply because the kids from a band that was called Ultimate Concern. Per, a friend of mine that played in that band, really helped me to get mixtapes and zines + other stuff like that, so I listened to a lot of oldschool and metal hc stuff in the beginning. I also have to thank Dennis and REFUSED for sending me letters and records that inspired me. Also in Vänersborg the town where I grew up Hardcore was a new thing that we liked and made a cool scene of. So a lot of kids started to like HC and sxe stuff at the same time as me and that was total fun for me in my youth.

Can you introduce yourself, a little background information about the person Emil.

My name is Emil and i'm a 24 year old boy/man, it sounds like I'm pretty old when I tell people that I'm 24, but I don't think that age should be that important. I think that I am pretty much the same person now as I was when I was 19, Off course I have a lot of more experience of life now, but hell I don't feel at all like the average 24 year old man. If I compare myself with people in my same age it's pretty hard to me to feel that I have anything in common with them at

all. I just don't feel like a grown up or an adult . I'm gonna stay young untill I die! At least I will try my best. I am an Anarchist and try to be involved in so much political activism as I can, I am also straight edge and a vegan. I play in a lot of bands and I also run this small hc/emo label called Black Star foundation. I live in a community with some friends, sometimes (feels like everyday) I work, and I'm also going to school. I really hate days when I have to do both.

Which work do you do?

I work as a mailman, I've done that in periods since I was 15. It's pretty boring so I guess that's it about that it's just pretty boring.

Isn't anarchism dangerous in a certain way?

No, the way I see it anarchism isn't dangerous at all. I guess the view of anarchism you got is the view the upperclass wants people to have, like a bunch of kids in black masks that are out on the streets blowing things up and destroying everything. Like Chaospunkers or something. To me anarchism stands for organisation and unity. You could call me both a syndicalist or a person that beliefs in libertarian socialism, I just simply call myself for an anarchist. I believe that the only chance we have for

a real revolution is that the workers (working class) should unite in Unions and then take control over the production. Off course we shall have democratic forums so everyone have their chance to make once voice heard, and we have to decide everything together. I don't think this will happen in a long while but at least I'm trying. You could call me naive if you want to but what would happen in this society if everyone just thought, oh i'm maybe to naive, oh my beliefs are just an utopia, maybe I should just stop to believe in anything at all and just follow the norms of this society. (To be another cog in the machinery) Anarchism for me is when opression does not exist. Off course there is a lot of people calling themselves anarchists that believe in other things than I do, in other things that I cannot agree with, but that does not mean that I see myself as more anarchist than them. We just have another view of the meaning of the word anarchism. Our community exists of some friends that are living together in a flat. All of us are anarchists and we are also vegans and straigh edge. When we moved together we did not plan that it should be a rule or anything that everyone should be vegan sxe, it just happened, and i'm not the one

complaining about that. Everyone is helping eachother out, we clean, dishwasher, cook, handle the economy together we also have meetings every now and then to decide about things we have to do as a community. I don't know about what we call ourselves, we are just a bunch of kids that like eachother, and now it happens that we are living together in this flat. But yeah we are anarchists and we stand for it, but you can call us for what you want.

I guess a lot of people don't agree or don't understand that way of living. Aren't there lots of problems with the authority, or other people. I must say I like the thought of organisation and unity but I guess not everybody supports this kind of revolution

Yes I know that most of the people don't agree and don't understand why we are doing the things people like me do. When I first started to activate myself I believed in a more pacifist way of thinking (non-violent) but after a while when I've got beaten up by the nazis (ask the Congress guys about their show in Vänersborg and they'll tell you about when we got beaten up together) and by the police several times for doing nothing I realised that I had to defend myself by using violence in selfdefence. And for all coloured people and homosexual people that are beaten up every once and a while by the nazis I realised that

the only way to get rid of problems like nazis is to confront them and beat them up so they won't show up at all. That is not violence we are using, it's selfdefence. Off course we have a lot of problems with authority, I was in prison last thursday, for just walking with my friends on the sidewalk doing nothing. But in sweden they have this law called PL13 so that they can arrest you for almost everything if they just want to. Our phones are bugged and almost everyone I know is in jail every now and then. I'm not trying to brag about my activist life here, I'm just telling my reality and I guess that our problems are minor problems if I compare them with the shit other people have to live with in their everydaylives. The word revolution for me does not mean that one day there will be a blood stained battle and that all upperclass people will be executed, bla bla bla and after that all people will live together in entirely freedom forever. I believe that people are doing small revolutions every day, it can be to tell people on your work place or school to shut up if they say something rascistic or homophobic, it can be to release a record or demonstrate on the streets. When the word named revolution in my beliefs are full-filled: Men are not worth more than woman, white people are not worth more than black. Humans will not eat animals. There will be no working class no middle class

or no upperclass everyone will be equal and have the same rights.

Can you tell me something more about this law, PL13?

PL 13 is a thingie (police law) that the cops can use to arrest you for almost everything they want to. They just have to suspect that you will do a crime, so they'll take you before you'll commit it. For example: A group of more that 7 people can be arrested. If you look suspicious by your clothes or haircut. If you are wearing buttons or marks for political organisations, etc. I can make the list pretty long, and the truth is that I don't really have a clue of all things that are possible to get arrested by pl13 for.

Is the nazi-problem there in Sweden really so big?

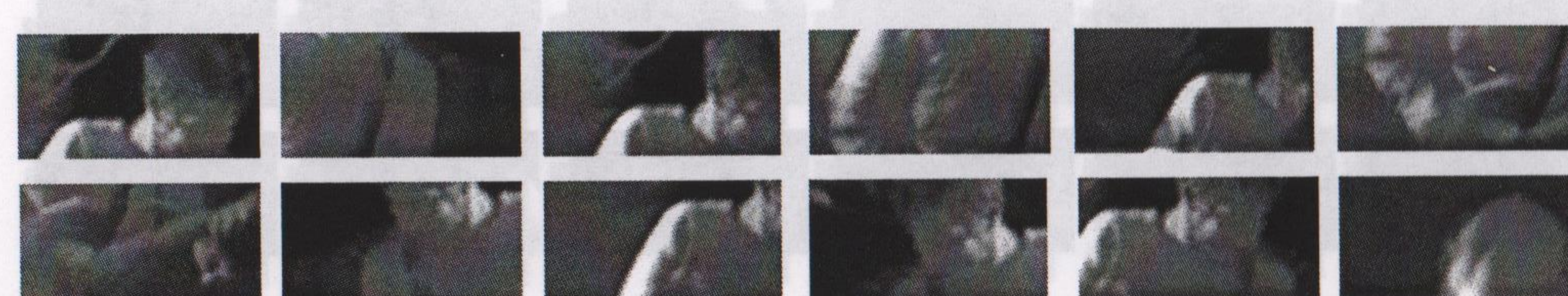
It depends on what you compare it with! I mean that it's not so big here as for example in germany, but it's big enough to do something about it before it grows bigger.

I can agree our society is pretty much fucked up, but is it really worth all those risks? Aren't you afraid to loose friends, people you love, with this use of violence? And aren't you afraid this violence is a fight that's neverending?

I don't think that I'm loosing friends because of this, all of my friends are not at all as political as I am and I think that we get along well anyway. And some of my friends are political, off course there is problems sometimes but not so big that I loose friends because of

INTERVIEW)

EMIL BJÖRKANDER



...

my activism. A lot of people I know have nice theories and they think a lot but they never do anything in their real lives about it, some have their reasons and some are just lazy. I respect my friends otherwise they wouldn't be my friends. I hate violence! what can I say, I hope that this fight isn't neverending, I really hope that people will start to understand what is going to happen if the world is continuing the way as it is ruled today. I'm not afraid of losing my friends because of my activism and political thoughts because if a person really is my friend that person respects me for the person that I am.

Are you still working on a zine? I'm still doing a zine, its ready for the printmachine, but I do not have the money to print it at the moment so I have to wait.

Isn't it very hard to combine all these things: a zine, a label, work, school, bands,... ?

To combine all these things is pretty hard, some days are like a big collapse when I'm so exaused that I can't manage to get up from bed. Today I overslept 4 hours to school because that I folded covers to the Postman/Jettie split the whole night. I guess that my life is music and politics, nothing else than that, I work hard but I don't enjoy doing anything else than this so I'm happy. Well, money is a big problem now, so I try to work as much as possible so that I will get enough money to release the

new Plastic pride LP in January. One thing that's good is that I'm able to use this school for doing a lot of work for the label. I can print stuff here for free and I can layout stuff on school time.

How did you become the new Children Of Fall bass-player?

A couple of months ago when my life was a miserable hell, my girlfriend dumped me and threw me out of the apartment, right when everything was as bad as possible Olle from children of fall called me and asked me if I would like to join them, I've never met them before and I didn't know what they were like as persons, I almost didn't have a clue what they sounded like either. but I thought that it was at least worth a try. I'm totally happy that Olle did that phonecall to me cuz it saved my life at that moment I think. For the first time I'm in a band where I hang out with the people in the band on our spare time,that we are actually friends paying music together. We share a lot of political theories, all in the band exept Linus are SXE and all of us are vegans. It feels great to be a member of that band.

When your life was a miserable hell, did you never have the need to quit all the revolutionary ideas and acts? Because that's what I think when I'm pretty down. Sometimes I ask myself if it's really all worth it!

When I was depressed I think I put everything aside. I physically

collapsed for almost a month, My doctor almost forced me to eat this sleeping pills that made me very ill. I had so much tinnitus in my ears and I couldn't sleep so she said that I had to eat them. well, I slept but it was such an artificial sleep, no dreams and it felt like my body and mind had this on and off button, one day I just collapsed on the floor in a pool hall, I guess I was pretty drugged with sleeping pills then, I've always been sceptical when it comes to eating to much pills. For some people it might work, but for me I will never use such things again. I still went to some demos at this time, but hell! I almost comitted suicide throwing myself out from a window, so I guess that I gave up hope on everything then. **Did your depression changed your life in any way? Do you have another view on life right now?**

Yes I have, actually I have that after every relationship that broke up in my life. After this one I learned a lot of the dark sides inside of myself and that was good to know that these exist. I'm also learning to feel comfortable within myself. This time I have decided to stay single for a long time, really take the time to concentrate on myself. It seems like that Love is a temporary thing, so I guess that I'm one of the happy ones that have felt and experienced real love. I also feel much stronger that I'm a stronger person after this.

Sorry, but I still believe in one true love and I don't see love as a temporary thing. Don't you believe one day, you'll find someone you want to spend the rest of your life with? (or is this really just a movie-thing???)

With all of my relationships I have believed that this is the one, this is my soulmate that I'm going to stay in love with forever, but after one and a half year relationship all of my girlfriends have dumped me. That's pretty sad. I wish that I could believe in eternal love, but after 4 longer relationships that suddenly crashed I'm pretty sceptical, I think it's nice that you believe in that, and I hope that I will too some day soon.

What are the future plans for Children of Fall?

With Children of Fall we have just started to write some new songs, and me and David (I'm the new-bassplayer and David is the new guitar player replacing Pecka) are trying our best to learn the old ones. Our plan is to record a new full-length in early spring and also to tour as much as possible. All of us are working too much so there is not much spare time to make tours possible at the moment. The last week in February we are going to tour Sweden for the first time, and I hope that will be fun. The new COF songs are a little bit more metal than before but I'm 100% that no one will be disappointed on the new material.

How's the label going?

The label is doing pretty well. The Modesty 7" is almost sold out. A new 7" with two sing and song-writerbands called Postman and Jettie is out since a week ago and the plan is to release a LP with the best HC band in sweden called Plastic Pride in January. The Neverending.../ the [jukebox] scenario split 7" will be out this winter too (on five star). After that I don't know. I think it's pretty good for a new label to release 4 records during the first year. It's a lot of work but I enjoy it. I'm always broke because of doing this, but that's ok as long as I'm not starving I'm almost doing that time to time, I'm not a rich kid at all! The label is starting to break through and that's nice.

What do you think of social life in Sweden? Here, a lot of people say that Scandinavian people are boring.

But it's true Swedes are boring cuz we have been thought ever since our childhoods that we should never think that we are better than we are. This is called 'Jante lagen' and you can feel it when you are in Sweden. Everyone is quiet all the time, if you start to talk with someone you don't know people stares at you and think that you are crazy or something. This is nothing genetical off course it's just the Swedish society affecting the people. So when I'm together with people I feel comfortable with, I'm off course a more fun person than if I'm in a bus with strangers

or in my school as now when nobody is talking, we have been here together in this classroom for a whole year and nobody is talking to eachother. That's typical swedish and that's why people think that Swedes are boring I guess. **On the Children of fall-website you can read: "Emil, famous from bands like the John Doe Band and Neverending... This is the first time he is in a good band, though." Do you also see it like that?**

About the website things written about me and David. That's just the other members lying to much. First of all I think that both the John doe band and Neverending... were and still are amazing bands, I really enjoyed to be a member of the jdb and Neverending is also an awesome band. That David has very curly hair is also a lie, it's just the other guys being a little bit too ridiculous. And also: neither the JDB or neverending... is or where famous bands, there's too much of a hype around that, I've always played in small punk/hc bands and I can tell you that none of those bands mentioned has been famous at all.

Which band do you like the most musically? COF, Neverending..., the John doe Band ? And which other bands do you enjoy listening to?

I do not know about that, I guess that I can say like this: I love the JdB for that poppy driving energy that we had, neverend-



ing... for mixing crazy stuff that are not hardcore or emo at all to make our own sound. C.O.F for the anger and frustration mixed with beauty(?) The political lyrics and the members that I love. Otherwise I listen to lots of different music. Deathmetal - to classic stuff.

When you were in Belgium, I saw you did wear a Hindoe/Krishna neclace around your neck! What do you think of religion?

About my neclace, it's an old memory for me, when I was in highschool I was living with the krishnas for a while in their temple just to see how and what they where doing. This experiences I put together and did as a writing for my school exams. I got this neclace from them as a gift, but I've never believed in a religion or a higher force or anything like that. I see myself as an atheist, I'm not against people having a belief in something (religion). I'm against organised religion, institutions as the church wich I think oppress people, and has done this during the history of mankind.

I heard COF didn't want to go on tour together with a revelation-band (elliott?). What's the reason for that?

The reason why we didn't want to tour with a revelation band (elliott) is that we think that Revelation works exactly as a major label. I know that a lot of kids wont agree with me/us on this one, but I will not write 10 pages of text for these kids to find out about this subject.

There's really a lot of info to find I promise you. I like some bands (musically) that are on Revelation, but I wouldn't go on a tour with one of them. Then you will ask me why we are on genet records? because some people think that genet/pyrrhus works the same as REV, but I am not on genet, children of fall (before I played in the band) released a cd on genet but we are not contracted under genet rec. And in the future you will not find any new releases by C.O.F under such label.

Does everybody of the band thinks the same way about the revelation-thing?

Yes everyone in C.O.F thinks the same about this, well not exactly the same, but we all have agreed on that thing, so it's not just me that is against labels as Revelation, epitaph or wathever it can be.

Can you tell me something more about your magazine (when did it started and how did you came up with the idea)

My zine that I'm working on now is a zine called simply black star foundation. It's a zine that I'm going to give away for free. Some news about the label and also interviews and politics. I just thought that it was a good idea, now when I have my own label and all.

In Belgium there seems to be like the everlasting battle between Goodlife and Genet.

I do not know so much about genet; I just think it's wrong when

a label releases bands, they don't even like, just because they sell good. And there was also some shit happening this summer on the C.O.F tour with an American genet band kickboxing linus during a show, I dont like such bands and neither the labels that are releasing their music/message. But off course it's not that genet is the worst label ever, I think it's pretty cool that they have the pyrrhus shop, their label and that they are doing shows. I guess it have ment a lot to the belgian hc-scene that a label like genet exists, there is just a bunch of things that I dislike with them, and it would be hard for me to cooperate. Is there any big difference between Genet and goodlife? I dont know so it's hard for me to answer on that.

Why had Linus been beaten up by this american genet band??

I don't know the whole correct story so I'll ask Linus and Anders for it as soon as possible.

What was the greatest show you ever played.

My favorite shows that I've played is one in south-Germany with the john doe band, people were just awesome there, a lot of friendly skaters that wouldn't let us stop playing, we actually played almost every song in our set twice+ that we played some really old songs from our demo that we almost didn't know how to play anymore. Ghent at club frontline with neverending... everything was just amazing, and our most diehard

fans were there too. Fulda at cafe Panama together with Engrave. Awesome place and the nicest kids, we played brilliant.

Is the hardcore/revolution-spirit really alive there in Malmö? Can you tell me something more about Malmö?

The revolutionary spirit in Malmö isn't that big, we are a bunch of kids trying, but we aren't that big.

In Belgium, we have this right-wing (fascist) party. It's growing everyday and nobody knows how to stop them. How do you think people must stop this: just ignore them, boycott them,...?

With the nazis there is nothing else to do but beat 'em up. Confront them. You can also spread info about them in schools and workplaces, internet, papers and elsewhere. It's also important to get organised, alone they can scare the shit out of you, but together you are always stronger. Men and women, Black and white, boys and girls unite and fight!

How will you spend the last days of the year????

I will spend the last days of 2000 here in Vänersborg (my hometown) and hang out with my old friends and my parents, I arranged a show with Engrave and Yage yesterday evening in Malmö in it was such a great show everybody had a nice time and I was happy that me and anders in COF arranged that show. On new year it's a big party here, but I guess it's going to be a lot of alcohol drinking and since

i'm still sxe I guess it's going to be a little bit weird.

(...Some time later...) Well, we are another year right now, do you think(or hope) anything will change this year? What are your wishes?

I don't really know what to answer on that one. There's a lot of things that I want to happen, both for myself, the label and for the bands. I don't see the new years eve as something that will radically change my life to the better just because christian people came up with the idea of new year and all that. I see everyday as a possible chance of changing bad stuff into the better. For now I wish that a person that I'm very much in love with will be that too. Now we are good friends and it's so hard for me to know the border between friendship and love these days, I guess this realationship (friendship) is the most strange I have ever had with a person, cuz always before in my life I always knew if a person was interested (in love) with me and in wich way, but this person is so difficult for me to understand what she wants. So it just gets me totally confused and nervous when she's around so I haven't dared to ask her yet. So I wish that this year I will simply tell her that I'm in love with her. I'm looking forward for the big demonstration in Gothenburg this summer and I hope that it will turn out good. That my friends and loved ones+ a lot of other people

will be happy. About Gothenburg, there is not that much info about it yet, but it will soon come more I hope. I just dont wanna spread some things that I do not know are 100% sure. So therefore I'll write nothing more than that you can expect alot of people sunshine and fun, comparable to Prague, Nice, and Seattle.

So this is the last one: If you had the chance to interview yourself, which question would you ask yourself and what would be the answer?

Question: Do I really exist, or is this all a part of the Matrix?

Answer: I don't know, but I would definitely prefer the red Medicine!

Any last words...

I just want to say I'm just a HC kid precisely like everyone else, just because I'm playing in bands doesn't make me more interesting than anyone that might be reading this. I'm Emil, 24 years old and these are just my opinions about the stuff Koen asked me about. Always follow your heart. }



**(INTERVIEW
EMIL BJÖRKANDER**

GENETIC ENGINEERING! ARTICLE



Ok, this may seem a bit complicated to read but I suggest you to do an effort because it is a very important topic here. In the beginning I didn't knew about GE foods getting spread in our food supply neither. The situation between Europe and the US is different, the US is the only country where GE Foods or products containing GE supplements are not labeled. That means that people are not made aware of it, they don't even have a choice.

I noticed that some products are labeled in the local supermarkets (for example pop-corn), but other stuff (like Mars, Snickers and many more) are not labeled and are thus getting consumed by unaware people. That's why I decided to write and research an article for Semtex. Because at some point I was tired that people laughed me off with all this idealistic bullshit. It ended up once when they were throwing pop corn at me (hehe...I wonder who that was). The same as for the punk/hardcore scene where topics such as animal liberation/vegetarianism has been discussed in many ways. But I never heard somebody speaking out over this topic, the so called GE foods. Maybe the following quote is something to relate yourself to: 'Vegetarians and followers of religious dietary restrictions face the prospect of unwittingly eating vegetables and fruits that contain genetic material from animals - including humans. And health risks will be discovered only by trial and error - by consumers. USDA oversight is no better. This agency has the conflicting task of both promoting and regulating agriculture, including genetically engineered plants and animals used for food. Indeed, the USDA is a primary sponsor of biotech research on plants and animals.'

I guess the discussion has to begin somewhere. And let us start it right here. Maybe this article can be hard to understand but I suggest you should inform yourself in a better way through reading and researching. There's lots of information to find on the internet, and I'm planning to work on a pamphlet to spread around on punk/hc shows. Take action today and boycott some products + speak about it with the people around you.

★★★

Genetically Engineered Crops and Foods

Genetic engineering is a laboratory technique used by scientists to change the DNA of living organisms. DNA is the blueprint for the individuality of an organism. The organism relies upon the information stored in its DNA for the management of every biochemical process. The life, growth and unique features of the organism depend on its DNA. The segments of DNA which have been associated with specific features or functions of an organism are called genes.

Molecular biologists have discovered many enzymes which change the structure of DNA in living organisms. Some of these enzymes can cut and join strands of DNA. Using such enzymes, scientists learned to cut specific genes from DNA and to build customized DNA using these genes. They also learned about vectors, strands of DNA such as viruses, which can infect a cell and insert themselves into its DNA. With this knowledge, scientists started to build vectors which incorporated genes of their choosing and used the new vectors to insert these genes into the DNA of living organisms. Genetic engineers believe they can improve the foods we eat by doing this. For example, tomatoes are sensitive to frost. This shortens their growing season. Fish, on the other hand, survive in very cold water. Scientists identified a particular gene which enables a flounder to resist cold and used the technology of genetic engineering to insert this 'anti-freeze' gene into a tomato. This makes it possible to extend the growing season of the tomato.

At first glance, this might look exciting to some people. Deeper consideration reveals genetically engineered crops and foods are causing quite a commotion. Why so much concern? In a nutshell, large corporations are

- commercializing genetically altered crops and foods;
- creating unprecedented risks to health, the environment and conventional and organic farmers;

- misleading the public about benefits and safety; and
- getting away with it because of inadequate regulation, entailing the near complete violation of consumers' right-to-know.

This presentation provides a brief but comprehensive overview of these far-reaching issues. (Note: This text uses 'GE' to refer to both 'genetic engineering' and 'genetically engineered'.)

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What are GE crops and foods?

GE crops are plants with DNA in which bioengineers have inserted one or more genes. GE foods contain ingredients made from GE crops, or other applications of GE. Genes are templates that cells use to create proteins, which determine many of an organism's characteristics. Changing an organism's genes, therefore, can cause its cells to make new proteins, causing it to exhibit a new trait. For example, a gene that makes a fish resistant to cold, can make a tomato plant create proteins which may similarly give it greater resistance to cold temperatures.

★★★

GE versus traditional breeding

Traditional breeding is another way of getting genes into an organism to cause it to exhibit a new trait. Although the biotechnology industry would have you believe that GE is just like traditional breeding, it is radically different.

In traditional breeding, members of the same or very similar species are crossed to create offspring with some novel trait. This greatly limits the genes that can be combined. Furthermore, when different but similar species are crossed, their offspring are generally infertile -- preventing inter-species gene combinations from propagating in the wild. For example, a donkey and a mare can make a mule, but the mule will be infertile, the end of the line for the combined genes.

★★★

GE smashes these natural barriers!

Using GE, any gene from any plant, animal, bacterium, fungus or virus can be inserted into the DNA in reproductive cells of any other organism. If the resulting organism survives, it generally can pass on its altered DNA, and whatever new traits it causes, through normal reproduction. For example, GE enables scientists to create pigs which have human genes, genes which will be passed on to future generations of GE pigs.

★★★

Inherent danger

Since an organism's genes serve as templates to create proteins, which determine many of the organism's characteristics, new genes are inserted into an organism's DNA so that it produces novel proteins and novel characteristics. The inherent danger in creating crops and foods in this way is that these novel proteins may easily have unforeseeable consequences.

The likelihood of unforeseeable consequences is exacerbated by the fact that gene insertion is actually wildly imprecise. Scientists cannot determine where, or how many, genes end up in a host organism's DNA. The random insertion of genes can create proteins that have never existed before in nature. It can also inactivate existing genes (preventing them from expressing a normal protein) or activate inactive genes (creating proteins that normally are not expressed).

Environmental scientists discovered decades after their introduction that synthetic pesticides such as DDT (which do not exist in nature) caused massive harm to people and the environment. GE foods (which contain proteins that do not exist in nature) may prove to have similar unpredictable impacts. As Richard Lacey, microbiologist, medical doctor, and Professor of Food Safety at Leeds University said: "The fact is, it is virtually impossible to even conceive of a testing procedure to assess the health effects of genetically

engineered foods."

The fundamental uncertainty about creating new genetic combinations that propagate to future generations is raising profound objections. Nobel laureate and Harvard professor emeritus in biology Dr. George Wald put it this way: "Our morality up to now has been to go ahead without restriction to learn all that we can about nature. Restructuring nature was not part of the bargain."

★★★

Fundamental Weaknesses of the Concept Imprecise Technology

-A genetic engineer moves genes from one organism to another. A gene can be cut precisely from the DNA of an organism, but the insertion into the DNA of the target organism is basically random. As a consequence, there is a risk that it may disrupt the functioning of other genes essential to the life of that organism.

-Side Effects-Genetic engineering is like performing heart surgery with a shovel. Scientists do not yet understand living systems completely enough to perform DNA surgery without creating mutations which could be harmful to the environment and our health. They are experimenting with very delicate, yet powerful forces of nature, without full knowledge of the repercussions.

-Widespread Crop Failure-Genetic engineers intend to profit by patenting genetically engineered seeds. This means that, when a farmer plants genetically engineered seeds, all the seeds have identical genetic structure. As a result, if a fungus, a virus, or a pest develops which can attack this particular crop, there could be widespread crop failure.

-Threatens Our Entire Food Supply-Insects, birds, and wind can carry genetically altered seeds into neighboring fields and beyond. Pollen from transgenic plants can cross-pollinate with genetically natural crops and wild relatives. All crops, organic and non-organic, are vulnerable to contamination from cross-pollination.

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Health Hazards. No Long-Term Safety Testing.

Genetic engineering uses material from organisms that have never been part of the human food supply to change the fundamental nature of the food we eat. Without long-term testing no one knows if these foods are safe.

-Toxins: Genetic engineering can cause unexpected mutations in an organism, which can create new and higher levels of toxins in foods.

-Allergic Reactions: Genetic engineering can also produce unforeseen and unknown allergens in foods.

-Decreased Nutritional Value: Transgenic foods may mislead consumers with counterfeit freshness. A luscious-looking, bright red genetically engineered tomato could be several weeks old and of little nutritional worth.

-Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria: Genetic engineers use antibiotic-resistance genes to mark genetically engineered cells. This means that genetically engineered crops contain genes which confer resistance to antibiotics. These genes may be picked up by bacteria which may infect us.

-Problems Cannot Be Traced: Without labels, our public health agencies are powerless to trace problems of any kind back to their source. The potential for tragedy is staggering.

-Side Effects can Kill: 37 people died, 1500 were partially paralyzed, and 5000 more were temporarily disabled by a syndrome that was finally linked to tryptophan made by genetically-engineered bacteria.

★★★

Environmental Hazards

-Increased use of Herbicides: Scientists estimate that plants genetically engineered to be herbicide-resistant will greatly increase the amount of herbicide use. Farmers, knowing that their crops can tolerate the herbicides, will use them more liberally.

-More Pesticides: GE crops often manufacture their own pesticides and may be classified as pesticides by the EPA. This strategy will put more pesticides into our food and fields than ever before.

-Ecology may be damaged: The influence of a genetically engineered organism on the food chain may damage the local ecology. The new organism may compete successfully with wild relatives, causing unforeseen changes in the environment.

-Gene Pollution Cannot Be Cleaned Up: Once genetically engineered organisms, bacteria and viruses are released into the environment it is impossible to contain or recall them. Unlike chemical or nuclear contamination, negative effects are irreversible.

DNA is actually not well understood. 97% of human DNA is called 'junk' because scientists do not know its function. The workings of a single cell are so complex, no one knows the whole of it. Yet the biotech companies have already planted millions of acres with genetically engineered crops, and they intend to engineer every crop in the world.

The concerns above arise from an appreciation of the fundamental role DNA plays in life, the gaps in our understanding of it, and the vast scale of application of the little we do know. Even the scientists in the Food and Drug administration have expressed concerns.

★★★

Impacts!

GE crops and foods pose profound risks to human health and the environment. They also have serious impacts on agriculture, farmers, rural communities and the organic foods movement.

While assessing these potential (and in some cases demonstrated) impacts, it is important to keep in mind that industrial practices are not "innocent until proven guilty." Whereas the biotechnology industry demands that its opponents must provide conclusive proof of serious harm, food safety advocates around the world say the burden of proof should be on the industry to demonstrate conclusively that GE foods are safe. This view maintains that when facing uncertainty about serious harm, let precaution, not profit, rule.

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Claims and Facts

The marketing of genetic engineering inspires visions of perfect health, long life, and miracle foods. The reality is that these claims are often completely unsubstantiated and sometimes simply wrong.

*Claim: Genetic engineering is necessary to feed the world.

Fact: Hunger in the world is caused by poverty, by the simple inability to buy food, not by lack of supply.

*Claim: Genetic engineering will help developing countries.

Fact: Biotech companies patent their seeds. To protect their investment, the farmers that use the seed sign a contract which prohibits saving, reselling, or exchanging seed. The family farms of the poorer nations depend on saved seed for survival. Biotech companies also patent other people's seeds, like basmati rice, neem, and quinoa, taking advantage of indigenous knowledge and centuries of selective breeding by small farmers without giving anything in return. The same companies, backed by the U.S. government, proposed to protect their seed patents through the terminator technology. A terminator seed will grow, but the seeds it produces are sterile. Any nation that buys such seeds will swiftly lose any vestige of agricultural self-sufficiency. Furthermore, genetically engineered seeds are designed for agribusiness farming, not for the capabilities of the small family farms of the developing nations. How are they to buy and distribute the required chemical inputs?

*Claim: Genetic engineering will reduce the use of herbicides.

Fact: Genetic engineering develops crops with resistance to specific herbicides. For example, Roundup Ready(tm) crops survive spraying with RoundUp(tm). On the one hand, this allows the farmer to use more herbicide. On the other hand, this leads to herbicide-resistant weeds.

*Claim: Genetic engineering will reduce the use of pesticides.

Fact: This claim is based on the sowing of crops genetically engineered to produce their own pesticides. Such crops produce the pesticide continuously in every cell. Some of these crops (the Bt potato, for example) are actually classified as pesticides by the EPA. The net outcome of sowing pesticide-producing crops is an vast increase in pesticides.

...
*Claim: Genetic engineering is environmentally friendly.

Fact: The increased quantities of herbicides and pesticides noted above is one strike against this claim. Pollen from genetically engineered crops can be transferred to cultivated and wild relatives over a mile away. This threatens the future of organic crops. It can pass herbicide resistance genes from GE crops to weedy relatives, necessitating the development of more herbicides. Also, the huge areas of genetically identical crops will influence the evolution of local pests and wildlife, and through the food chain, the whole ecology.

*Claim: Genetically engineered foods are just like natural foods.

Fact: There is no natural mechanism for getting insect DNA into potatoes or flounder DNA into tomatoes. Genetically engineered foods are engineered to be different from natural foods. Why else all the patents? This claim is empty sales talk.

*Claim: Genetic engineering is simply an extension of traditional crossbreeding.

Fact: Crossbreeding cannot transfer genes across species barriers. Genetic engineering transfers genes between species that could never be crossbred. Also, crossbreeding lets nature manage the delicate activity of combining the DNA of the parents to form the DNA of the child. Genetic engineering shoots the new gene into the host organism without reference to any holistic principle at all.

*Claim: Genetic engineering is safe.

Fact: Safety comes from accumulated experience. In the case of genetic engineering, there has not been the time or the public debate essential for accumulating sufficient experience to justify any broad claim to safety. There is a vast domain of ignorance at the root of the technology:

-The technique for inserting a DNA fragment is sloppy, unpredictable and imprecise.

-The effect of the insertion on the biochemistry of the host organism is unknown.

-The effect of the genetically engineered organism on the environment is unknown.

-The effect of eating genetically engineered foods is unknown.

-There is no basis for meaningful risk assessment.

-There is no recovery plan in case of disaster.

-It is not even clear who, if anyone, will be legally liable for negative consequences.

There is no consensus among scientists on the safety or on the risks associated with genetic engineering in agriculture. The international community is deeply divided on the issue. The claim to safety is a marketing slogan. It has no scientific basis.

The claims for genetic engineering are overblown and misleading. And the polls show that people are suspicious.

★★★

What to Eat, How to Shop

If you really want to avoid the influence of genetic engineering, buy fresh organic produce. If you want to buy processed foods and avoid genetically engineered ingredients, you will have to read product labels. If the label mentions any of the ingredients listed below without explicitly qualifying it as organic, then the product probably contains genetically engineered ingredients.

Primary Suspects: Ingredients and Products to Check

-Soybeans: Soy flour, soy oil, lecithin, soy protein isolates and concentrates. Products that may contain genetically engineered soy derivatives: vitamin E, tofu dogs, cereals, veggie burgers and sausages, tamari, soy sauce, chips, ice cream, frozen yogurt, infant formula, sauces, protein powder, margarine, soy cheeses, crackers, breads, cookies, chocolates, candies, fried foods, shampoo, bubble bath, cosmetics, enriched flours and pastas.

-Corn: Corn flour, corn starch, corn oil, corn sweeteners, syrups. Products that may contain genetically engineered corn derivatives: vitamin C, tofu dogs, chips, candies, ice cream, infant formula, salad dressings, tomato sauces, breads, cookies, cereals, baking powder, alcohol, vanilla, margarine, soy sauce, tamari, soda, fried foods, powdered sugar, enriched flours and pastas.

-Canola: Oil. Products that may contain genetically engineered canola derivatives: chips, salad dressings,

cookies, margarine, soaps, detergents, soy cheeses, fried foods.

-Cotton: Oil, fabric. Products that may contain genetically engineered cotton or its derivatives: clothes, linens, chips, peanut butter, crackers, cookies.

-Potatoes: Right now the only potato that has been genetically engineered is the Burbank Russet, but you still have to look out for potato starch and flour. Products that may contain genetically engineered potatoes or derivatives: unspecified processed or restaurant potato products (fries, mashed, baked, mixes, etc.), chips, Passover products, vegetable pies, soups. Fast-food chains appear to have responded to consumer concerns and requested genetically natural potatoes.

-Dairy Products: Milk, cheese, butter, buttermilk, sour cream, yogurt, whey. You have to ask several questions when you are looking at dairy products. Have the cows been treated with rBGH? What kind of feed have they been given? If they are not being fed organic grains, chances are quite likely that they will be eating genetically engineered animal feed. What does this do to their milk products? No one knows.

-Animal Products: Because animal feed often contains genetically engineered organisms, all animal products, or by-products may be affected.

-Papaya.

Please note that a food may contain some of these items and yet be free from genetically engineered organisms, but we have no way of knowing without tracking down every brand, every product and every ingredient. Even reading labels is no guarantee that you will be able to avoid genetically engineered ingredients, because manufacturers are not required to list every little ingredient, enzyme or organism used in the manufacturing process. The following products may also be genetically altered, contain or originate from genetically engineered organisms: candies, cookies, breads, cereals, corn syrups, oils, juices, detergents, dough conditioners, yeast, sugar, animal feed, vitamins and enzymes used in the processing of cheese.

For more detailed information on brands and products distributed in Belgium. Visit <http://www.greenpeace.be>

where you can download a very detailed list with all products which are GE free or not. This list gets updated now and often so keep an eye on it. People worldwide should check out the links on the end of this article where foreign organisations have their own lists. Do it now!

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BEUC organisation says

If present trends continue, all the products in supermarket, and many more like them, will soon have ingredients derived from genetically modified (GM) plants - if they do not have already. They all contain soybean derivatives, and industry claim it is getting harder to obtain soybeans which are not genetically modified. If this continues, consumers who do not want to eat GM-ingredients will have to cut out most packaged foods. The main soybean suppliers (in America) mix together GM soy with the traditional equivalent; that is why it is hard to obtain non-GM supplies. We think this is wrong. We think the food industry must try harder to give consumers a non-GM alternative, together with accurate information about food PROFILESEINZ. We are not against GM-food as such but consumers should have the choice not to eat it if they do not want it. Genetic modification is a major new technology which will change all our lives; it should not be imposed on consumers.

BEUC, the European Consumers' Organisation, wants a guaranteed non-GM alternative for consumers, and good labelling, so that consumers can choose for themselves to eat, or not to eat, food containing ingredients derived from genetic modification.

If present trends continue, most packaged foods will soon contain ingredients from genetically modified soya, maize and other crops. Consumers who do not want to eat GM ingredients will soon have to give up most packaged foods. About 60 % of packaged food contains ingredients made from soybeans, most of which come from the US. Most US suppliers mix together genetically modified and traditional soybeans and European food manufacturers and retailers now find it difficult to obtain supplies which do not contain some genetically modified soya. We are not against genetically modified food in principle but we think consumers should be able to choose whether to eat it or not. Consumers are not geese.

The US supplies most of the soybeans used in European food production, and most US suppliers mix together genetically modified and traditional soybeans. This causes problems for European consumers because most packaged foods contain ingredients made from soybeans. European food manufacturers say it is getting harder to find supplies which do not contain some genetically modified soybeans. We think European manufacturers, such as Nestlé, Unilever and Danone have great market power. They must try harder to demand a non-GM supply and continue to guarantee consumers a choice. We are not against genetically modified food but we think consumers should have a choice. This means a guaranteed supply of non-GM ingredients. BEUC: The European Consumers Organisation (www.beuc.org)

★★★
Check this out

GREENPEACE: Check out the list with non and GE products for your next supermarket visit. Belgian people, visit www.greenpeace.be. Other visit www.greenpeace.com

TURNING POINT: They are an organisation which publish adds in major papers to warn the public about engineered foods. They have a few adds for download and you can find lots of organisations contacts. Mostly US related. (www.turningpoint.org)

PUREFOOD: Very good site updated daily, with news from actions that are taking place around the world. Interesting articles for research. You can print down pamphlets and more of such stuff. Even they did publish a book. Worldwide related site. (www.purefood.com)

Get in touch. I will have a contact list available with Belgian organisations, and I will have an article available free to be printed out for everyone. Any interested people can contact or write me:

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ZINE PROFILES

YOU AND ME | SKYSCRAPER | IT'S RAINING TRUTHS



{ To know about ourselves we must first learn about others. Here's this issue's selection of zine profiles. We are pretty much satisfied with the featured zines and hope this idea can go on for next issues. Zine editors, get in touch cause we probably won't contact you for this...

>You and Me zine. Salute! "You & Me" zine is the material reflection of my thoughts and ideas, of that what I am.

My name is Teo. I'm 22 years old, bisexual with undercover crossdressing tensions, unemployed (few months ago I stopped my 15 years long education), and at the moment I am occupy with growing organic vegetables for my own needs and also for my friends.

Few years ago I chose veganism / macrobiotic and unconsuming drugs as a way of healthy and independent life. I also incorporate unconsumerism and boycotting multinational corporations, so the whole story gets the sense which I was trying to find. My life strictly changed, so now I understand what's the joy of life, and not drowning your personality in melancholy and depression. Living that way, I became aware that complete socialisation of society is wrong, so I stopped being part of it (as much as I could and can). That is a reason why some simple things like for example fashion trends, media, bars, cinemas, restaurants, cosmetics, authority, christmas and new year, tourism, commercial art, commercial sport, marriage, unnecessary washing, wearing underwear and many other nonsenses became history. All those things made me conscious that I exist as an independent human being. I have simply reborn my own existence and made a sense of it.

There are also some things/ways/processes in society which have own sense and which I find positive: direct actions, free love, women rights, liberation of life, animal liberation, gender revolution, human sexuality, natural medicine and ecolife are just few of 'movements' which I find right and try to improve with my own abilities (and my zine is the strongest way). The most important for me is that all is done in a diy way in all aspects.

Since human sexuality, gender identity and free

love are at the moment the most intricate for me, and in punk/hardcore areas they don't tell that much about it, I find it right to talk about it in my zine. Until now I made three issues and there are more and more positive reactions. That shows me that people are aware of their own 'repressing knowledge' and they want to change it in root. So I'll help them as much as I can. The reason of my activism is also unsolved problems and injustices in the scene (sexism, homophobia,...). As long as we don't reach equality, my fight won't stop. Life isn't simply, something given by nature, but is something higher. It is a fight in which I with my own participation can change at least my part of the community in which I live. I would like peace, freedom and solidarity and not authority. I could also describe this way of activism as a battle for surviving - something that all beings are trying to get during their life. *(for more information about Teo and the scene overthere check the interview some pages further)*

>Skyscraper is a music publication that has been covering all facets of the underground music scene (art, rock, punk, indie rock, hardcore, rock n' roll, garage) for over two years now. It is published by Peter and Andrew Bottomley, twin brothers, along with the occasional assistance of freelance writers. The publication name actually has no real significance, it was just on a list of names that sounded good. It can actually have various deep meanings or intended metaphors, none of which, however, apply to the actual publication itself. Skyscraper is published regularly on a quarterly basis, and each issue is now an overwhelming 204 pages in length. The majority of coverage is primarily focused on music, although film, art, literature, and other random subjects tend to find a place as well. Regardless of what the subject is, Skyscraper tries to provide the reader with an opportunity to walk away with something new. This includes running long, in-depth interviews with not just bands but important people in the music scene; music reviews that provide a detailed critical analysis of each record; and well-written articles that cover impor-



tant topics both inside and outside the music world. It is always great to get a letter from someone saying things like "I actually use your reviews to make important record consuming decisions" or "it's probably my favorite zine about music out right now." Skyscraper simply hopes to fill in the margins somewhere, covering parts of the underground scene that aren't appreciated or paid close enough attention to. The goal is really to do something original - which means something better, or at least different, than what's out there or what's already been done.

Contact info: Skyscraper, P.O. Box 4432, Boulder, CO 80306, skyscraperzine@hotmail.com, www.skyscrapermagazine.com

>It's Raining Truths zine. What can I tell you about my zine? Maybe I should start at the beginning. The first issue came out in the summer of 1997. My one and only goal back then was to make a zine. Because I enjoyed doing it a lot and because I got a lot of encouraging reactions I decided to continue the project.

In the mean time 3 other issues saw daylight. The last one was twice as fat as the first one and I am afraid the next one will be bigger again. I have to many plans...

I have always thought that zines are an important forum for the hardcore and punk scene. Therefore I try to reserve a large amount of space in my zine for the voices of others. I do that in different ways, having guest reviewers, columnists, guestwriters and off course in the interviews I do people speak out about a lot of different issues. Doing interviews is one of the most difficult, but also most fun things to do when you do a zine. A good interview is always a kind of special conversation in my opinion. Another important function zines have is spreading independent information, therefore I try to have some well researched and argued articles in every issue and interview people that have worthwhile things to say. I think zines are the most constructive way of communication and cohesion in our worldwide punk community and contributing to that has become my main motive to write zines.

ZiNE
PROFILES

So far things have been going well for It's Raining Truths. I have no plans in quitting it or changing it much. I think it will develop in the direction it has taken. There might be a webpage added in the future. I'd like to make the old stuff available again, since people keep on asking for it and I don't have time/money to reprint stuff. It's very nice, but I can't get used to the idea that people are so much into something I created. Still I hope they keep liking it because next issue's print run will be increased quite a bit.

For all your statistic freaks I'll close this profile-like-something with some facts & figures:
IRT #1: August 1997. 175 printed. Coalition records, Gotterdammerung, feminism, legalization of drugs, columns reviews.

IRT #2: April 1998. 450 printed. Palatka, 97a, Driven, Reaching Forward, religion, far out part 1, columns, reviews.

IRT #3: March 1999. 500 printed. Seein'Red, Reflections zine, Guiding Line, more religion, sexual freedom, far out part 2, columns, reviews.
IRT #4: January 2000. 500 printed. Avail, Main-strike, E-150, Commitment records, eating disorders, new age, far out part 3 and 4, more columns, reviews.

IRT #5: In the works. none printed yet. Point Of No Return, Point Of Few, belief, collegeyears, far out part 5, even more columns, reviews.

I also run a zine distribution The Strife & Joy Machinery. Get in touch for a list or possible distribution of your zine. The Strife & Joy Machinery also published To Carry The Burden Together and Streetdreams. Check out their new issues soon. Besides all this I also co-edit the free zine [RE]fuse. If you want a copy or help distro write to refuse_fanzine@hotmail.com. The first issue just came out and contains: life in Serbia, DiY ethics, columns, Marc McCoy (Charles Bronson etc.), Guyana Punch Line, Reaching Forward, Synthesis zine, graphs & pics.

The Strife & Joy Machinery/It's Raining Truths, c/o Pytrik, Uilenstede 423-5102, 1183 AE Amstelveen, Nederland, pytrik_sjm@hotmail.com }

{ Could you first introduce yourself as a person, could you also tell us something about your country (politically)?

My name is Teo, I'm 21 years old, not virgin anymore. Right now I live in Zagreb, capital city of Croatia, where I study architecture (before that I was studying geology) and I'm about to become second year at university. I don't like what I study but I study it so I don't have to go to the army and because I can have enough time for things I like - music, letters and other things I do every day.

I'm vegan one year now, before that I was 2 years vegetarian. Being vegan here in Croatia is very hard, because vegan products are very expensive and they are sold just in special stores (in Zagreb is just 8-9 of them and all are very, very expensive). I don't like to watch TV anymore, I watch just some documentary films or something like that, I don't listen to a radio. All information about what's going on in the world I get from my friends and from local papers which I buy one copy or so in one week. I really like to travel, especially in nature, but all my activities limit me very much, so I go on the mountains or on the ride with the bicycle just 1-2 times in a month. I don't smoke, I don't drink alcohol or any products with CO² and I don't use any drugs. I try to avoid using products manufactured by multinational companies and I definitely avoid all products manufactured by compa-

nies that test their products on animals. That's, I think, all I can say about me.

Considering my country I'm going here to mention just a few facts which have been written by my friend Domagoj, because I'm not so good in these "historical" things. Croatia is meditarian/panonian country, partly on Balkan, partly in middle Europe so it's under influence of few pretty different cultures. 900 years ago croatian territory lost its independence so it was under many European powers like the Habsburg's monarchy. At the beginning of this century people from all south slavenian nations have found a way to solve their problems by uniting their countries in one state. After WWI they create Monarchy of Serbs Croats and Slovenians. It lasted till WWII when it was attacked by nazi Germany.

During the war people created Yugoslavia. It was dictatorship, not as the ones in the eastern Europe, and it wasn't rotten capitalistic prison like the states on the west or like America.

I dare to say it was a great idea, with many people who truly believed in it. But the problem was in people who thought only how to take some use of it.

That's how the hate between nations started, few nationalistic lidars in 1971. Tried to start fight for croatian independence, it all ended with blood, tears, and a lot of nationalists ended up in jail. After that "croation spring" croa-

tian nationalists started to fight for their "freedom". Communist leaders created UDBA- secret service who searches and killed every enemy of the state. Communists started to loose the power and they became desperate. They became killers. In 1989. Hate between Croats and Serbs were enormous.

Soon the so-called democrat party won the elections and Croatia declared it independence which was great lost for the rest of Yugoslavia. Soon the croatian Serbs declared their own independence which the croatian government didn't accept. Croatian police conflicted few times with Serb rebellions and day by day we watched the arrival of one of the bloodiest wars in Europe.

After a few years of fighting the war was ended. On croatian side there were 20 000 dead people, few hundred thousands refugees, and millions of angry hateful people. I suppose that serbian side had even more victims. After this war, war in Bosnia started and took over 300 000 lives, millions of people stayed without their homes and ones peaceful beautiful Bosnia became mine field of hate.

You can say that this war was one of the most useless and one of the most stupid wars ever. Nobody accepted this war, but few war leaders who made their bloody money were staisfied. Everyone feels like shit and full of anger. Patriotism from the beginning of Croatian state turned into sense-

less hate against other nations. This horrible mistake shows what propaganda can do, who are state/nation leaders and how people can be stupid.

How did you get involved in the punk/hardcore scene?

Well that was before 6 years or something like that, when some friends in gymnasium brought me some tapes with some punk bands on it (I think it were bands from ex-Yugoslavia territory) and I remember I really liked that kind of stuff. Before that I listened to death metal and similar noise muisc, but soon this sort of "entertainment" was very boring for me. Then I ask my friends for more tapes, zines and addresses and start to correspondence with people in the HC/punk scene. By time I began to realise that 80% of "scene" is commercial, so I start focusing my views only on true DIY HC/punk, and that's the 'place' where I'm right now and where I'll stay for the rest of my life.

Can you give me a brief history of your local scene? How did it all develop into and how are the local kids and in which are they interested?

I can't talk about the history of the croatian scene, because before 9 years there was a big scene in Yugoslavia, which had at the beginning of war get seperated (but only because of borders, the spirit is still the same). The second reason why I can't talk about that is that I'm just 6 years connected with the scene. I only know that

in Yugoslavia, Ljubljana and Beograd had very big scenes, which had gone after the beginning of the war, especially in Ljubljana. Very important thing what's going on last years a project called "over the walls of nationalism and war". This whole project is thought of as some kind of a communication between the people of good will and as a proof that, where mutual intolerance rules, dialogue isn't only possible, but also necessary. Reesults are two 7"s, first was a compilation "over the walls of..." with bands from all Yugoslavia: Wasserdicht (Slovenia), Totalni Promasaj (Serbia), Hocu Necu! (Serbia), Brigade O.D. (Macedonia), Nula (Croatia), Bijes "Zdravog Razuma (Croatia) and Überzeitung (Macedonia). The other was a split 7" with Bad Justice (Croatia) and Totalni Promasaj. Both 7" brings a very strong anti-war message, the whole atmosphere made by people involved in this project take a stand against the war. They have alot of ideas which they want to come true, so watch out for more crazy people banging their heads against the walls of nationalism and war.

Here in Croatia are just 30-40 people active and connected with the scene. Many punks are people who want to look different and though, and get drunk every day. Lots of them stop "being punx" with the stop of their teenage period. And after that they start to be normal as every person. Considering gigs, we travel alot on

many festivals and gigs in Slovenia, because gigs in Croatia are too rare. There are few festivals in Croatia like "Monte Paradiso" in Pula, it's one week (because people came few days before and go home few days after the gig) of swimming in the sea, meeting hundreds of people, listening to tons of bands and having fun. Sadly, but poser punx fight every year. There is also "Zivjeti kvalitetnije" in Pozega, and unfortunately this are all DIY punx festivals.

There are also a few good tours of some bands, but that's almost nothing. Here in Croatia theatre scene is really big and recently they had FAKI festival of alternative theatres, but just some of theatres are political. There are no squats- there are few attempts in Zagreb, Pozega and Zadar but it didn't last too long.

We don't have many organisations, there are just ZAP and Zelena Akcija. ZAP is Zagreb anarchist movement which is the only anarchist group in Croatia, it has it's newsletter "Nécemo I nedamo" (Eng. Version Zaginflacht), it's a magazine Comunitas, and it works on making some pamphlets, leaflets and books. Zap is part of a net of many organisations connected by croatian Anti-War Campaign (they work on human rights and on similar things). You can contact ZAP/ERK on this adress: Gajeva 55, 10000 Zagreb. From ecological groups there is only Zelena Akcija (Green Action) which works a lot on protests against thermos ...

INTERVIEW) TEO YOU AND ME



... power plant on coal which should be built on coast on Adriatic sea and by that they will destroy that part of coast and many animal and plant species will extinct. They also work on protest against genetic engineering and vivisection (here are many vegetarians and a few vegans who are pretty active in liberation of animals). They organised many events, like for the Day of planet Earth. They are a good ecological but sadly not too political focused.

Contact: Zelena Akcija, Ozaljska 93/2, 10000 Zagreb. Those are only organisations and if you'd like to contact this kind of groups write me for more info.

I can only just say that there was a little demonstration against McDonalds and against death penalty for children in the USA, nothing more. Considering sex kids I don't know much about them, most of them are just fuckin' posers.

Can you talk about your local scene and name bands, zines, distros. With sort of description and possible contact info?

Well, this is going to be easy, because there are just a few DIY bands/zines/distros others are poser/commercial shit. I'll begin with Spiridon Mekas Crust, excellent crust ala Hiatus, they putted out a split tape with Krvavi mandat and a split tape with Desinence Mortification. The guy who plays drums in SMC also organises Monte Paradiso festival so get in touch with him: Mladen Rabota, M. Oreskovica 68, 52100 Pula. SPK

is anarcho punk band from Split and they putted out a split tape with Demant (they play very good crust, they also putted out a split tape with Bad Justice and a demo tape) Contact is: Mario Dijanus, Gunduliceva 118, 48260 Krizevci. They all are very active in their town, they organised a few gigs. Razlog Za is one of the best HC bands in Croatia, they are excellent people, you can get their 7" "Nas bijes nasa snaga" and tape "sutra" which are very good produced and sounds great, real old school hardcore. They also help you with some gigs in Kutina in their Baraka place: Ivan Barbic, R. Boskovic 46, 44320 Kutina. Another great band is Bad Justice, very political hardcore crust with two female vocals. They putted out a few demos and split tapes plus 7" together with Totalni promasaj (Serbia), as I mentioned before. Olive Sertic, A.G. Matosa 16, 34000 Pozega. Dislike and Senseless are great HC/crust bands, Dislike just put out a split tape with Martha Bodoucnost (Czech), and Senseless already had two split tapes out with Mastic Scum (Austria) and Twisted Truth (Czech), and a tape called "In God we Crust". Their addresses are: Marko Smolic, Jakova Gotovca 15, 34000 Pozega and Denis Treskanica, Vladimir Nazora 1, 34000 Pozega. Krvavi Mandat is crust/grind band and as I already mentioned, they putted out a split tape with SMC. They are one of the best people in Croatia, they're also active in

ZAP, contact them for possible gigs: Davor Bilic Maksimirska 100, 10000 Zagreb and Domagoj Pintaric, Marticeva 32, 10000 Zagreb (you can contact him for Anarchist Black Cross). You all have heard about Nula, excellent anarcho punk band, they have released tape "pobjedimo laz", split LP with Bijes Zdravog Razuma (they broke up) and split all bands (there are also Apatridi but their singer live in Slovenia, so I think that she/he who had done that scene report will mentioned them) which I think are worth to say something about them.

There are like 150 other bands, which I don't support or don't know enough about them. From zines I must mention Sharp Attack, HC/punk zine, 4 issues out till now, the guy who runs this zine also did some other actions in Split and some festival/gig, he needs for opening infoshop, so contact him: Ozren Culic, Vukovarska 132, 21000 Split. In Kutina there is one very good zine, it's called Unmasked Creeper, it's HC zine with many great non-music texts, it's made by two great girls, they are a necessary contact for all sincere people: Ana Malacic, H. Branitelja 13, 44320 Kutina and Nikolina Majdak, I.G. Kovacica 26, 44320 Kutina. Fecal Forces is made by one of the oldest people in the scene. I think you all heard something about this zine, it's basically punk/crust zine but there's also tons of great texts about sex, pornography, satanism, fetish-

ism, bondage and anarchism....7 issues till now, he's also the contact for Anarchist Peace Front: Boris Milakovic-Kukatz, Svetog Duha 39, 34000 Pozega. There are two more zines I think are worth to support. That's Lifeline, hardcore zine with lotsa interesting reading, the 4th issue came out right now. Contact: Peter Pavlic, I. Zajca 20, 20000 Cakovec. And In Medias Res, one of the best zines in Croatia written in Croatian language but it has also its English version and mostly talks about problems on scene and similar stuff: Marko Strpic, Rakustina 3, 10000 Zagreb.

All of them have distros... They care mostly political DIY stuff, they have lots of ex-Yu bands and zines. Except them, there's also a zine distro in Zapresic, so if you want him to distribute your stuff contact is: Peter Gabud, Trg Zrtava Fasizma 8/10, 10290 Zapresic.

From labels I must mention Humanita Nova which had put out until now 10 or more records, they are very active in ZAP and they organised some gigs and happenings, they also have a very big distribution with lots of vinyl and tapes. Contact: Marko Vukovic, Bolnicka 96, 10000 Zagreb. All others I have mentioned before, so here is just a short list of them: Monte Paradiso, Fecal Forces, Bloody Murderer, In Medias Res and Lifeline. Write to them for their lists. Oh, I forgot to mention two distros. First is AK 47, label distro run by two good guys, they do some benefit stuff for Underground Resis-

tance direct action group, they have great stuff on their distro. Contact: Robert Fistic, Dosenova 32, 10000 Zagreb. Another distro with patches, t-shirts and cosmetics not tested on animals is run by a vegan punk girl, very active in many organisations, she also plays bass in Bad Justice. Write: Ivana Kesic, Selcinska 16, 10360 Sesvete.

The last thing I want to mention is Schmrzt Teatar, musical political theatre, they're doing some great shows, I think they have also some videos and tapes so write to: Mario Kovac, Fazanova 17/b, 10000 Zagreb.

Can you tell something in which your involvement in the scene is...introduce your zine or any other activities....

When I involved in HC/punk, I started to do a music zine called "Tzscha?" with my friend, but just one issue was realised. After that I was doing a radio show for one year, I have put out tapes from local bands and I organized with my friends lots of shows in my area. I also organized 3 festivals, but after I move to Zagreb on university I stopped doing everything in my hometown. In Zagreb I met some good people and I started from the "beginning". I decided to do a political/personal zine called "You and Me" and until now I've been putting out two issues. First issue is sold out, in the second issue you find interviews with Kafka, Ember and Brob, info about some woman's group, interesting inquiry with different people in the

scene about sex and pornography, columns, stories.... (single copy: 2\$ ppd+1\$ airmail). I also run label and distro where I put out a tape from a one man project called D.N.S. which is 40 minutes of fuckin' experimental noise (3\$ ppd+1\$ airmail) and a cd by Directed Crew (they broke up), which is female and male harsh hardcore. Right now I have put out "Poetry Collection" which is 24 pages full of great poetry about SF/love/identity from two awesome writers called Steve Sneyd and Anja Moskon. Price is 1,5\$ ppd+1\$ airmail. Now I save the money to put out a 7" but I still don't know which band it is going to be. I also organise gigs so if anyone wants to play here in Croatia just ask. Recently I have done a benefit tour for Food Not Bombs here in Zagreb. This was with Man In the Shadow, my friends and I will start Food Not Bombs here in Zagreb soon. But we have so many problems with police and nazis skinheads, so we don't know yet how it all will work out.

Do you have anything to add? Or to say to close this interview/scene report?

Be careful when you contact people here in Croatia. Lots of them are "businessmen", posers and they're destroying the true DIY scene. Please, first contact people whom I have mentioned and then ask them about other people they know. I think it's the safest way that somebody doesn't rip you off. Just be careful. Love and Revolution! }



(INTERVIEW TEO YOU AND ME

DIARRHEA

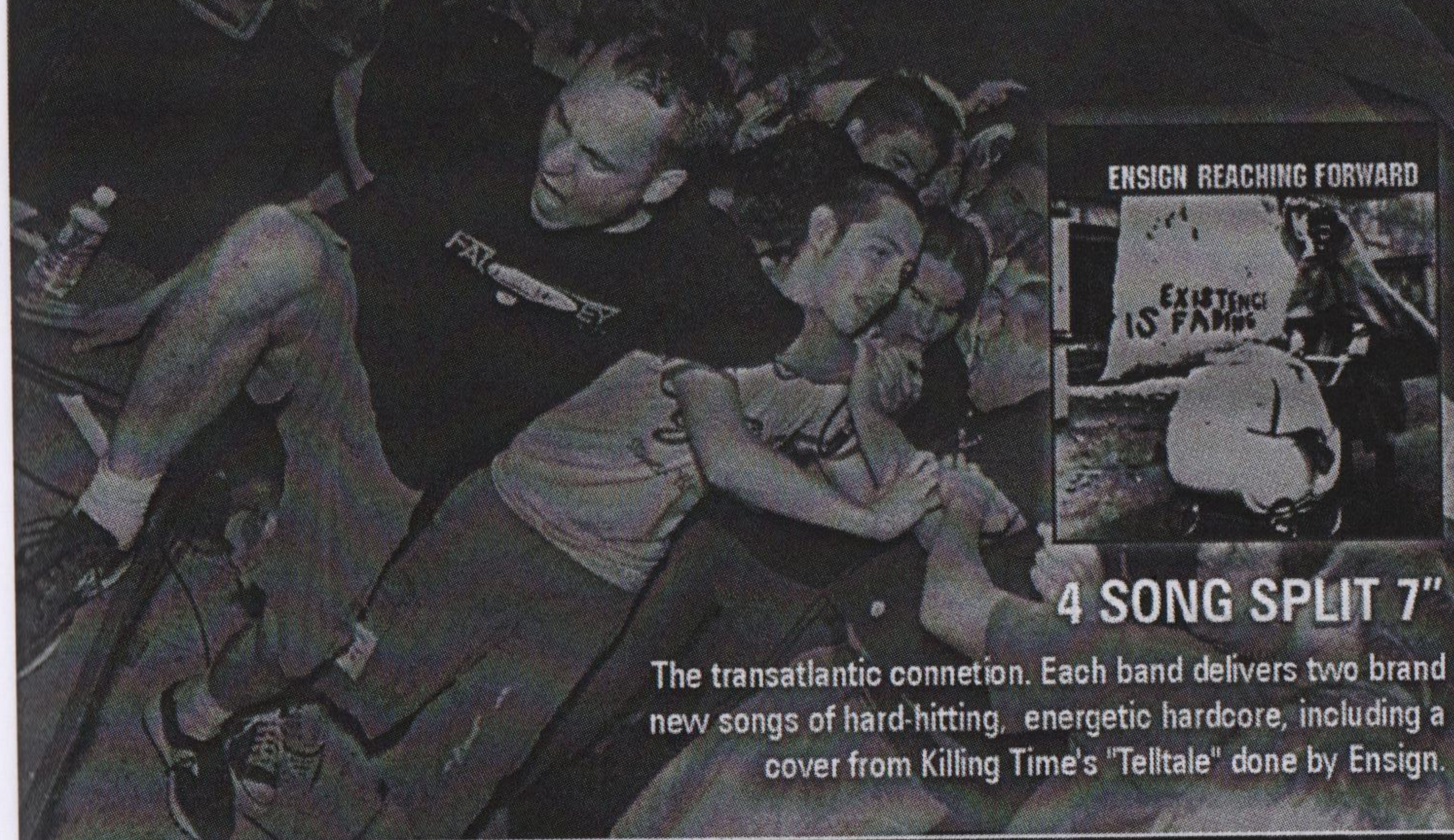
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an advertisement with no pictures? damn you! hêhê so we do things our way, and we're here to please. now what's up with five star? well we're extremely busy with that jettison 7", that's taking a lot more time than we thought it would, but it's coming (or if you get this a little too late; it's already here....?). next to that we're busy on a whole lotta projects, one of them being a part of the financing of the yoda zine/cd. but that's not what we wanted to talk about here, we just want to promote some new things we will be doing. projects, bands, music, words, noise, images. if you think you have material worth the contribute send a demo or anything. a dream would be to realize a real picture book with nice/good hardcore photography (being hardcore live shots, promo pictures, experimental pictures, or just good pictures shot by hardcore kids). but that's a project in the waiting row, let's talk about music. we've been talking to, and we've been approached by several bands, two of them we really wanna do are neverending... from sweden and sabeth from germany, but those are still in the oven. more for the future is an alignment 7" (direct link to five star). already busy for a while but very underrated is this four piece, just recently lost their singer so it will be a hard job. now what exactly is alignment? a heavy band that brings spastic, slow, fast, noisy shit along with (more than) words... star 001, (yeep first release will only come like third) star 002, the dentalremotecontrol noise sessions are also coming some day. will the kids be ready for this? i don't know, pulverizing noise guided by powerviolence musical tunes and lots of words. think men's recovery project to the extreme meets reversal of man... star 005 might be the split 10" fight between 5day getaway and wilson, now don't ask us how these bands sound, just try to check them for yourself, it will rock that's for sure!!! star 004? well that's still a questionmark for us as well.... what will the future bring? but that's not really important what's more important is the answer to the next question: "why the fuck should i buy music i never heard before from five star?"
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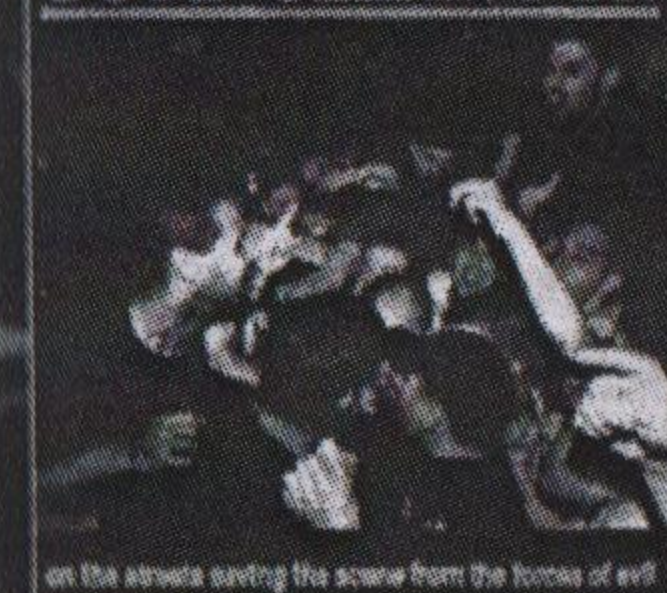
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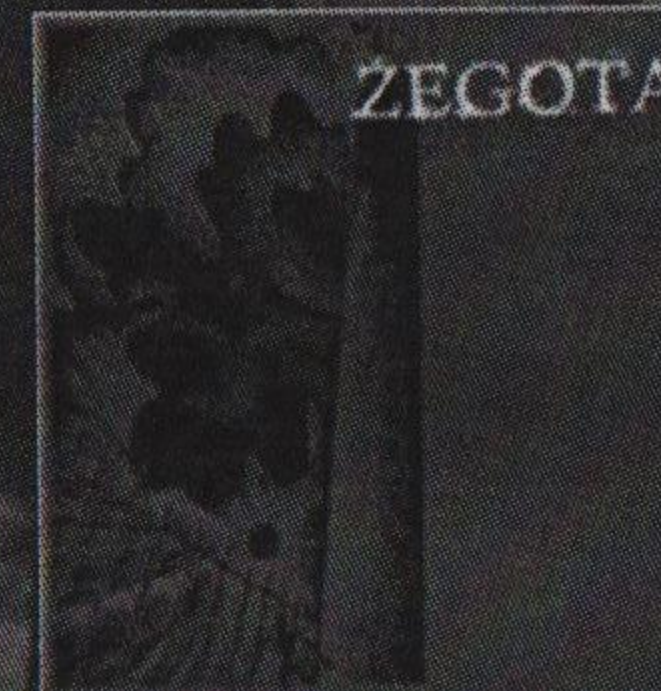
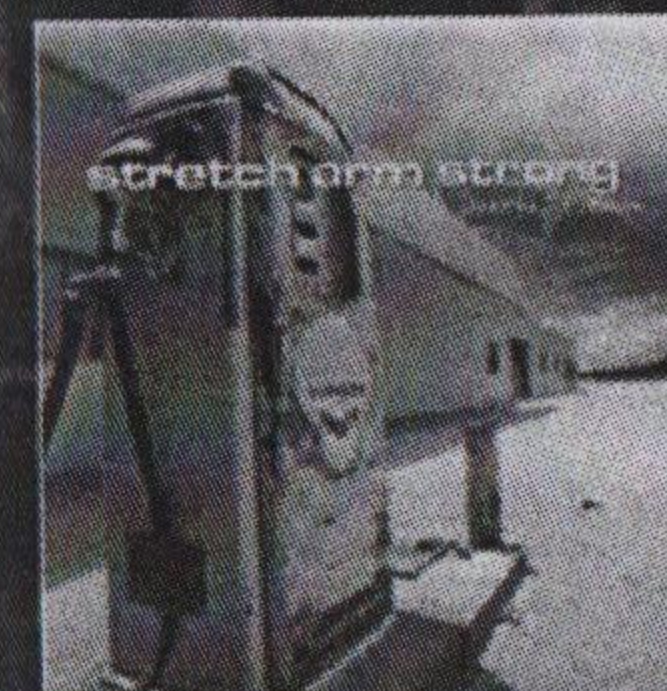
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COLUMNS THOUGHTS WRITINGS

{ I'm having this immense egocentric attack again. I know it. But what can I do? I feel it happen and it's eating me. There's fire around me. Please don't come any closer now. Sometimes I think the only revolution we need is 'getting happier'. Fuck it all here come some writings, columns, diary stuff or whatever... please react and help me!

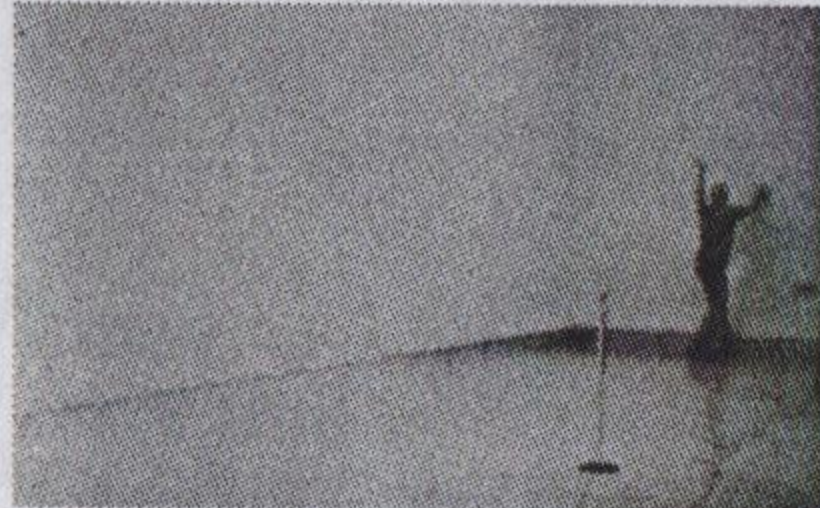
Working class heroes. Today I came to two final conclusions; talking about guitars sucks and taking a 100% stand in topics you can't know a thing about is nothing but thinking that you know what you cannot know and therefor it is just thinking yourself wise without being wise. But in fact this has nothing to do with the things I wanted to tell...

I'm working this student job kinda thing and the confrontation with the working-life is having its effects on me once again. I think it's pathetic to say that work sucks (definitely for me, being there only for some weeks) but still I can not deny that working 8 hours a day in fabric, doing the same thing over and over and over again really bores and sucks. Doing this you have two solutions: thinking about what you are doing the whole fucking day and the role you have in the making process of your company's product, or literally switch your brains off and put on the automatic pilot and count until it is five o'clock.

When you opt for the first solution, you'll die mentally. You'll face you're just some 'stupid machine' and you will enerve yourself the whole day and try to speak up against the system and sooner or later have a nervous breakdown and go over to the second solution. Because you will notice that you have no say at all in their imperialist system and that the only thing they want is to keep it that way. And they will most likely succeed (unless the revolution gets on time...). Why? Because you fucking need your job! Because you can't afford to be workless. And whenever you start making trouble in the fabric, you will most likely get fired. Taste it.

When you chose the second solution however, you'll notice one day that you'll be fifty-five tomorrow and that you can retire (and most likely die physically too...). You will count till it is five o'clock every day and then count until it is weekend, and then count until summer holidays are there, and count and count until you'll notice that you are fifty-five without having done a thing with your life. Taste it.

The most striking thing however, is that in both of forementioned cases, whether you'll be counting your life away, or



you'll be enervating your life away, you will be so happy to be at home in the evening and be tired as hell. Most likely you'll end up in your couch in front of the television and swallow the "American Coca-Cola (please never mention Pepsi!) way of life" through advertisements and series, and then go to sleep. Because you will not have the courage to act and speak up against this. And do you know what? They like it that way. Their imperialist system will adore you

this way. Their capitalist system will label you 'normal' and 'good'; a revolution or class struggle will never happen. Taste it.

And then I suddenly understood what a working class hero is. I am just a silly student worker and I've worked for several companies and every time again I say that I will never do this again, but every time again I also say that I am glad that I experienced these 'working' things. And now I think I know what it is to be a working bee. Cause everywhere I worked, it all came down to the same thing. And now I think these guys are heroes, definitely. Or maybe we'd better replace 'working class heroes' by 'working class martyrs'? (thank you Andy Dvorak for being so enlightening last year) [01-09-00]

More is better! Today I read this article in which is stated that Mc Donald's is using child labor. It didn't even surprise me. Children, all younger than 14 have to make the little toys that accompany the 'food' at Mc Donald's. These south-Indian kids have to work 16(!) hours a day, seven days in a week for less than half a dollar a day! Mc Donald's has always denied this, but yesterday a labour union of China unexpectedly visited the fabrics where these kids

Performance art by Barry Le Va

have to work and sleep. And you know what? It's sad, but I wasn't even really interested at first. I felt like I knew this all before and I felt like I was already doing enough by boycotting Mc Donald's. But in fact, I am *not* doing enough. And then I started making these anti-fascistic flyers to prevent the people from voting extreme right. Because in my eyes, everything is related. Mc Donald's is with no doubt fascistic, Coca-Cola supports this mega-capitalist company and millions of (western) people are attracted by the red color of their restaurants. And I'm pretty sure that an extreme right party wouldn't do anything at all to prevent this bullshit. Did you see the new advertisement of Mc Donald's, or was it Quick? Well, in font size 2000 there's: 'More is better' printed. Fuck this slogan makes me sick, it's so typical for this system! Get away!! [02-09-00]

Tomorrow there's At the drive-in, Grade, As Friends Rust and more. I'm curious. **Labour vs. prostitution:** Yes, you guessed it... I'm really impressed by my job. You still remember what I wrote above about the 'working class heroes'? Now I will try to relate that with prostitution. This is basically not about the fact whether prostitution is a morally right thing or an immoral job, but it's just some questioning. I do not have a problem with prostitution, but I do find it a rather cheap and unattractive way of getting your thing. Besides there's still a lot of criminality and human 'slavery' involved. But basically that's not the point here.

I still remember this christian woman beating up a hooker for not doing a 'normal' job. It must have looked like the most natural thing ever, cause no one was really taking notion of these two women getting wild in the red shining streets. Still it attracted me and drew my attention. I got



Performance art by Charles Ray

closer and saw the cold-blinking iron cross around her neck. She was insulting and spitting at the prostitute for sleeping with her husband. 'You filthy immoral bitch, you were just selling your body and killing my happy life!'. I guess that was the reason why nobody seemed to care, it looked like a 'cliché-type of woman-thing' or however these macho-men like to call it. Still I was shocked. So many families seem to end in this way and that's a sad thing. Yet I'm not blaming prostitutes here...

'You sell your body and that's an immoral thing to do!' is a frequently uttered insult towards prostitutes. Well, maybe that sentence has some truth in it, especially if you think of things like self-respect. But then you can think of the fact that most of these woman go home after their job and live a normal life. That may sound like a contradiction but in fact, how does it differ from a normal worker's day? Alright, the women are selling their body, but what about the laborers? Aren't they in a way selling their soul? As you could read in the writing above, I really had this experience and sometimes I wonder what is worse; selling your body or selling your soul? Especially if you look at the fact that most laborers end up in their bed at 50 having a broken and stressed back. Maybe they have sold their body to their bosses doing extremely tough jobs for 30 years?

But, as I said before, this is just some reflection. Basically, I'm not talking about the ethical way of prostitution, I guess I'm just talking about the ethical way of labor. But maybe I had better not talked at all...

Train: It's amazing how strange a place like a train or a bus can be. It's like the most horrible place ever. People avoiding each other as if it were poisoned statues, but at the same time silently searching for unwanted contact and judging each others behaviour. I guess it's a part of the animal instinct of the human nature.

E-Motion: I had this amazingly bad feeling yesterday. I knew I was losing a friend the last weeks and all I did was avoiding and trying to ignore a confrontation. Yesterday, I heard some things and it collapsed. I was shaking, really! Never thought I could act like this, but I was really shaking, and I couldn't stop it at all. Frightening! So I ended up doing the only thing that can really calm me down, writing. I e-wrote to my friend and I felt better right away. It took me more than an hour to complete the letter but it felt great, really. Some time later I had a response. And yes, I think things are going better now...

Tonight there's the show and tomorrow I have to get up early to work at the mirror company... yes!!! [03-09-00]

Instead of us bying Grade cd's, Grade bought

us...: The show was pretty good. I was astonished by At The Drive In, really. I love that band. I love their performance on stage and I like the way they seem to be in some kind of 'outer space' when playing live, but still keeping contacts with the audience. Grade was good, better than on the leper fest, but somehow blown away by At The Drive In. I really like Grade musically, but I'm afraid I can't support their ideas anymore. I don't know whether you know the video-clip they've done? Well, whenever people ask them to play that song live, they resist. 'It's our worst song ever', they say.

'So, why did you make that video-clip then?' 'To make money and sell cd's...' This says enough. I only hope Boy Sets Fire won't end up the same way (if they haven't yet anyway... I'm referring to the bsf review somewhere in this zine). And I'm losing my faith again. [04-09-00]

Did you know the belgian band Sad Origin bring their own fight club on gigs? It's amazing how ridiculous some tough guy bands are over here. As a fight is breaking out in their 'crew' while they play and windmill, Sad Origin's singer is screaming 'show me who is Mike Tyson'... Some minutes before they were talking about respect. Ha! They'd better screamed 'I want to be in New York!' (and I want to get stoned)

Remember where you came from: My life is a mess. Is there a possibility that I should morally raise my parents? The morals they used to dislike, they're handling now it seems... That's pretty sucky...

English - You just realise how hard it is to express you opinion in another language than you're used to speak by doing so. So first of all: sorry for my bad use of the English language. I hope you all can understand me anyway. It would be lot easier to write all this piece of shit crossing my mind in my own mother language, but I guess you wouldn't be reading this if I did so...

Le Corbusier: Today in school, I had a lesson about the theories of Le Corbusier. Le Corbusier was (in my eyes) a very interesting architect with a very beautiful idea behind his projects. Le Corbusier wanted to solve the problem of 'overpopulation' by creating a so-called 'clear-city'. The city existed of a huge square traversed by some big roads. In the centre of the city, there were the places to work like bureaus, administration-centra,... who were surrounded by some enormous blocks to live in. Near these 'blocks' le Corbusier wanted a lot of nature. (a proportion of 88% green 12% buildings) The elementary conditions of the city were: sun, space and nature. There were some more interesting ideas that I didn't mentioned here but be sure to check them out yourself. What I like about the theory of le Corbusier is the idea of being equal. Every person gets the



same place to live in (you just have to fit it up yourself) that's surrounded by squares, trees,... I guess the world would be a lot more social this way. People would come out a lot more I think: houses would become just places to sleep, to relax or to do the daily hygiene. Anyway that's my idea... But I guess

it's just an utopia.

Fuck the right-winged society: I wondered why this fucking right-winged party gets so much votes in Belgium and I came to this conclusion: it's clear things have changed, we don't live in a society where it's that obvious what's good and what's bad. In the past, people had a certain hold, they knew exactly what was right and what was wrong. In present-day society, this hold disappeared, you have to decide for yourself what is right and what's wrong. The positive thing about this is that you're able and you've the right to be who you are, you can be yourself. On the other hand, there are some people who have the need of this hold. Some people do not have this strong personality to decide what's wrong and what's right. These people who can't stand the "anarchistic" society some people are striving for are looking for a strong handhold of rules and a strong person who can give this to them. (Like Hitler, De Winter,...) That's the reason, I think, why this country is turning into a right-winged society (which I hate). I guess it's very difficult to stop this advance of this nazi-crap. The problem is just there's a lack of great personalities in this country and that's something you can't solve this just like that. The only possibility to solve this major problem is to show these people they can find this hold they need somewhere else and letting them know voting for this nazi-scum isn't the solution.

Video Stills by Pipelotti Rist

What a strange name is vuur? You love the dutch language? What's the meaning behind vuur ethically?

As you might have understood, "Vuur" is Dutch and means "fire". It's mainly a name we picked. We wanted something short, and a word that had a meaning in Dutch. No, we are not in love with the Dutch language, but when Vuur first started, we also had some lyrics which were written in Dutch. It's something we tried & something we might do again in the future. Personally, I think lyrics in your own language makes some songs more powerful and convincing.

I don't know whether you could call the meaning behind the word "vuur" ("fire") ethical. I would think it sorta speaks for itself.

Convincing you say. what exactly do you want people to convince with vuur?

I mean convincing in that way that I think people most of the time expect bands to turn towards the english language. therefore the name, & some of the lyrics (although most lyrics are in English now). but the language-thing is not a real issue for us. in a way, we also thought it was something refrshing to do to make a use of the Dutch language. it's one of the tools we used & still use. so why not put a tool like one's own language to work as well? we think it does the job just fine and offers extra possibilities.

but as I said - it's not an issue. **Is there a specific political message you believe in and you try to spread through the band?**

it's not easy to summarize an answer to this question. no, I don't think the band has a specific unified political message. we are a few individuals saying & screaming things on stage as a band, but we remain individuals. I basically do not believe in the concept of a truly "political" bands. a band can address political issues, yes, but there's always a differentiation in opinion. I guess the main thing we try to carry out is that it is very possible to make a good use of your own resources. there's more than merely sitting back & swallowing what is coming your way. look at it as preaching, as telling a story, putting out a message, or merely expressing emotions,... does that really matter? all 4 of us put ourselves behind what we do, & we try to do it without passion. that means a lot to me: if you do something, do it with passion. and you CAN do it, you CAN make it work, you CAN be a part of what is out there. look at yourself doing a zine. that's the best proof there is.

I heard of your split with Seein' Red, an outspoken political hardcore band. Do you agree with their ideas?

what I just said also goes for this

question. I think the people in the band have mixed up opinions about the things Seein'Red speak about. when I say "mixed up" I do not mean that we dislike what they say, but the good thing about a band like Seein'Red is that they are able to offer food for discussion. besides the fact that they are nice people who are so passionate about what they are doing, they are able to release a lot of energy & share this with people.

what is more important: I do not think it's a matter of agreeing with them or not. should this keep us from working together with them, like putting out a split-7", setting up shows, ... ? I don't think so. it is important things like that are possible. should every cooperation be based on sheer agreement, then it would be a really lonely scene & planet, wouldn't it?

So you don't believe in a thing as a punk revolution? With revolution I mean a mass-thing that goes further than some hundreds of people. I mean punk and hardcore made me go through a severe personal revolution, which I think is important, but still people like to speak of punk being the tool for a class struggle or political revolution if you know what I mean...

I think punk is in the first place a cultural something. it is about people trying to find their accents

INTERVIEW) STEF VUUR



... and limits of self-expression. so yes, I believe in a punk-revolution, as long as it is not captured by the Monster of business. however, if someone wants to link punk to a political concept of some kind, then I have no problem with that either. but it would be sort of too naive to say or think that punk is a political thing in the first place. it can carry a lot of positive or thoughtprovoking messages along, and so it does. and that is something I can support. but it can not instigate a real political class revolution, as it is in the first place a cultural event. also, remember that in the end the so-called punk-scene is merely a blueprint of society we live in. perhaps the form and wrapping-paper is a bit different, but in the end there is no main difference. and we should stay aware of that too, not just the things happening outside this scene. for example - the fact that quite some people are making money out of punk.

and yes, it can change someone's life quite a lot. it made me get into vegetarianism, straight edge, got me in touch with a lot of interesting people, and so on. so actually, the revolution has already happened, is still happening and will continue to happen. it is what you make of it **Yeah, you're right. punk is just a reflection of society. I think that's a sad thing. may I ask you, how old are you? how**

long have you been into punk and hardcore?

i am 30 years old, i'll be 31 in just a few months from now. when did I get into punk/hardcore? I think that must have been like 15 years ago or something.

30 years, 15 years into punk, that's a long time! did you never have the feeling like the older you get the more you get involved in 'real society' with its un-punk ideals, and the harder it gets to connect with punk and hardcore? In fact I'm refering here to hc being a youth culture...

is that really so? I think that when you get older, you get more opportunities to connect hardcore & punk into what you do. at the age of 16, it's... let's face it... nothing but a youth-culture-thing. I have been there too. when you get older, get a job & stuff, it would seem like it is harder to keep involved in punk/hardcore and especially some of the ideas behind it. and actually it is. but is is also the chance to actually try and insert some parts of it in society, in daily life. and that is not always about revolution or radical change or whatever, but it is also to be found in smaller issues. like the way you communicate with people, what you eat, and so on. and when you are a bit older, and you can prove that it is up to some part possible to maintain some hardcore/punk-ideas in your daily life, then

I think that says lots more than having the biggest mouth or the coolest record-collection at the age of 16. furthermore, it is a fact that in what one would call "real society", there's more people to be found than you would think, who have the same punk/hardcore-feeling, without ever having heard one punkband in their lives. I am not saying it is all that easy, but it is basically a matter of making choices. I hope this makes any sense?

It does, it really does...

You seem to be a very busy hc person. There's a distro, one or two zines, a band... Tell us something about them. How do you manage to keep on doing all this, combined with a job?

Well, I think you have a part of your information mixed up or at least outdated. I am no longer running my distribution/maillorder. although I still have a bunch of zines available, so people who want a list can always get in touch. although I am a bit tempted lately to get the distribution going again, because so many people keep on offering me their zines for distribution & some of them are really good. I love zines a lot, so... what I am still doing, besides playing in *Vuur* is my free newsletter called Splinter. I do a few issues every year, & it's still for free with a print run of about 1.500 copies each time. I put together a small

list of punk/hardcore shows in Belgium & Holland. plus we are trying to set up shows every now & then, to give some interesting bands a chance to play. we have done that before in the past, but have picked up doing that again. I guess I also do most communications as far as Vuur is concerned, especially through e-mail. we are also making plans to make a full-sized website for Day One Records (our bassplayer's label, on which the 7" with Seein'Red & Vuur will appear), which should also have tons of scene-info, gigs, dates, ... and I am involved in NewLand-zine, which is a collective zine of which we have done 2 successful issues so far, & the 3rd issue is coming together as we speak. so yes, it seems like it's all pretty hard to get everything sorted out, but I do whatever I can, one thing at a time. as far as I am concerned, there is no urgency with for instance getting a new issue of Splinter out or whatever. I do it when I have the time & the right spirit. and that has worked out fine so far.

It's christmas time again, a lot of people hang around with their Families and friends. Is family and christmas time something important to you?
to be honest, I don't care that much about christmas. for starters, I am not christian at all. secondly, I do think the whole commercial setup for christmas & generally this time of year is

pretty funny at times. I mean - I should be supposed to buy something some companies say I should buy, at times when they tell me to buy it, in a way/spirit they tell me to do so. I mean - I just can not cope with that, to be honest. on the other hand, I can see that it can mean a lot to other people. I mean - I can just see what is good for myself, not for others. you should make up your own mind about it. but get the facts straight first.

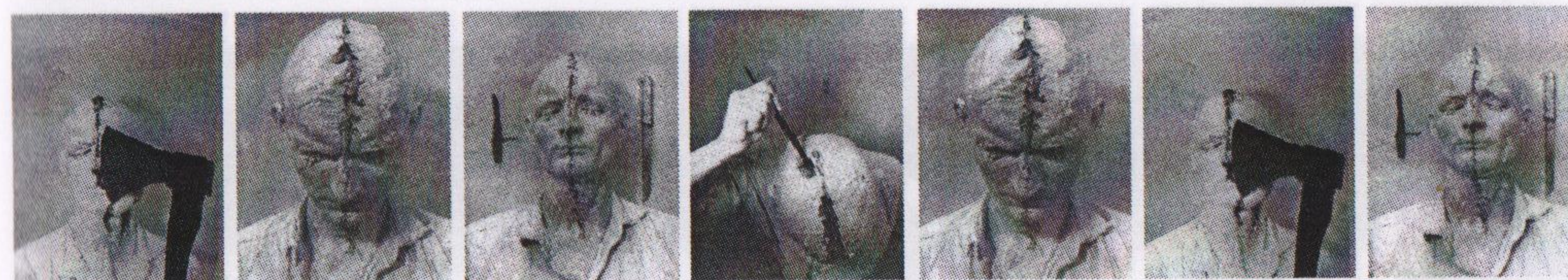
so, except for a sweaty band-practice on the day before christmas, I spent the rest of the past few days pretty much on my own. it gave me the chance to catch up on a lot of stuff like mail, finally finish my newsletter, getting some things sorted out for a few shows & so on. I guess that has been the good thing about christmas for me - doing some things in peace & quiet. I will be attending a few small family-gatherings, as it was the case the other years, because I don't see all of my family (and off course they are pretty important - it would be strange if it were different) that often during the other days of the year. but to me, there is no real connection with the "spirit" of christmas. also, being a veggie around these days is always pretty much the same deal - lots of explanations to do (to which most people never really pay attention anyway), and the same old jokes & remarks

as last year. oh well, I guess you could say I am looking forward to next hear again, haha!

Yeah, don't tell me about these jokes. but I guess that's understandable. The Romans used to say: give them bread and games... I'm not the one to blame others anyway. So, you're not Christian? Then what are you? Some people say that it is impossible to believe in nothing. Did you know about the pope inviting fascist Haider to the Vatican?

no, I am not christian. what am i then? that is a good question. although, come to think of it - does it really matter to stick a label or something on it, on my in this case as far as this topic is concerned? well, I guess you could say I am not out of it myself. putting a label on myself, I mean. I guess I am some sort of atheist, in a way that this question really does not keep me awake. socio-politically, I dislike organized religion, especially when it has a hierarchic structure. as for myself, I was baptized when I was a kid, and so now I am actually considering un-baptizing myself. actually, one can not undo this, but you can send an official letter to the church & they will take note of your wish and remove your name from their official "list". yes, I guess something like that would make me feel better.

yes, I knew about the pope's "hospitality". I guess the next step



... would be to see them play badminton or something. seriously, I see how this again confirms the "brown" backgrounds as far as the connection between the political ultra-right & the religious ultra-right is concerned. and that is pretty old news, isn't it? I just fail to see how the "love thy neighbour"-thing can be interfaced with the obvious destructive policies of every right-wing organ on the face of this planet. and I know that this has been said before, but because of his viewpoint and actions against using condoms, I think the pope is on his way of being the biggest "smooth & distant" mass-murderer on this planet. and then I am still keeping my mouth shut about his views on homosexuality, involvement in politics, the roles that women play, ... & so on.

Couldn't have said this better I guess. So what's your view on homosexuality?

This might sound like a strange answer to this question, but in a way I do not have a view on homosexuality. it is not a matter of being pro or contra or whatever. it is not a matter of having a view. it is not a matter to be discussed. it is something that is for real, it is something that involves true feelings, it is about people loving eachother and feeling attracted to eachother. nothing more, nothing less. especially nothing less. it is a very valu-

able thing, whatever the gender is. one's sexuality does not make one a better or worse person. it does not harm or hurt other people, just like heterosexuality does not harm or hurt. it does come accross like people who do have a problem with homosexuality have in some way a problem with themselves. most reactions towards homosexuality are based on fear. and that is such a bad thing, because I simply can not see what is so bad about people who feel love or attraction for one another. now, being a heterosexual myself, I have always considered it a difficult thing to give my feelings concerning homosexuality. not because I think is is weird or whatever, but for the simple reason that I am not able to put myself in the place of someone who is homosexual. I guess it puts some other kind of "stress" on one's life (public opinion, family, friends, personal identity, ...), obviously. and in a way, we all play a role in that whole situation, as we are all a part of a social system that can kill or let live.

We all play a role in that whole situation, as we are all a part of a social system that can kill or let live." I think in a way, that's true, but in an other way that's unfair. I mean, I decided for myself not to participate in the social system we are born in. I know I am part of it glob-

ally seen, and I do have a LOT of things in common with it. But if you look more in detail, you'll see I'm not having the ideas most people have eg concerning homosexuality. If I had the choice in this matter, I would say 'let live'. And I hope that part at least makes me a difference to that social system you talk about. I know this speaks for a lot of people, still a huge minority however... To come back to your statement, off course we all play a role in that situation, but it's hard to keep the individual from drifting away towards the mud. But I hope it's that 'trying'-part that makes us punk-rock kids.

Today I found this little booklet I was given on a gig of Vuur. There's a lyric in it of one of your songs that really struck me. It is the lyric of 'artxx'. As an explation of the text you write about the book '1984' by George Orwell and state: 'the obscure power of control is silently crushing and smashing our minds and bodies'. What exactly do you mean with that and what is the meaning of the title of that song?

The words to the song 'art.xx' were originally written by our bassplayer & singer. it is one of the 4 songs we recorded in the studio recently, & is supposed to be used for some compilation-CD. the words go like this:

"today politically active - tomorrow arrested - today socially concerned - tomorrow guilty - guilty of being human - what will it be in the future? - reading a book - and labelled as a criminal - vandaag politiek actief - morgen crimineel georganiseerd - morgen gearresteerd - vandaag sociaal bezorgd - morgen schuldig aan menselijkheid. - wat wordt het in de toekomst? - een boek lezen - en bestempeld worden als een crimineel". the words are both in dutch & english & they mean the same thing. we sings both translations at the same time when playing the song. about the contents... seen from a "legal" point of view, it does not seem that hard to put someone's creative or personal outputs or concerns in an illegal context. I mean, as far as I am concerned, laws can seem like a perfect tool to break something down, to outlaw people who are trying to get organized. even when trying to do something social or humanitarian. I mean - see the example of Food Not Bombs in the states, who often get hassled by the police because they serve free food & stuff. so many aspects of our lives are ruled & cornered by so many little rules & laws. don't get me wrong however - I think there should be laws to some extent. I am not into chaos or anything at all. so, laws are useful, yet in the long run they can be used as

a weapon, not as a way to protect people. do you see where I am going? on the other hand, the funny thing is also that there are so many laws & regulations around, it seems like a maze to walk through. every citizen is supposed to know the law, as they say. pretty complicated, right? but anyway - that is not criticism from my side, just a remark.

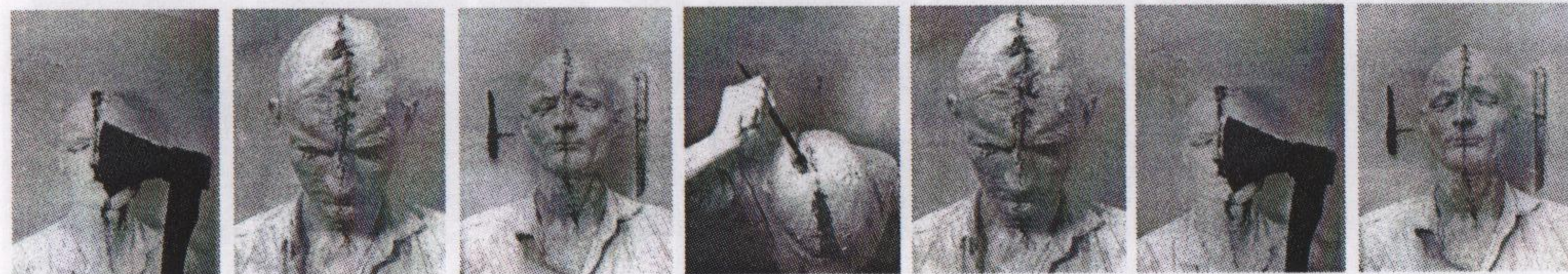
So, tell us something about the demo-tape you released. What are the other lyrics about and what are Vuur's biggest influences? Is there a chance we could see Vuur play with a band like Earth Crisis?

the tape we are selling is not really a demo-tape or anything. it's merely a rehearsal-tape we recorded back in april. it has 7 songs, recorded on a radio. the sound quality is not that bad & reflects what the band is about. we sell it for like 50 bef (including cover & booklet), or we are willing to tape it for anyone who gives me a tape. no problem. we're trying to spread the music & words as cheap & easy as we can. the lyrics cover different topics. people who want to read them, can always get in touch for free lyric-booklets. the things with the lyrics is that some of the lyrics can have like 2 or 3 meanings, like there are lyrics which have been written by me, but our Yannick builds & sings & explains them the way he tends

to find himself in those words. and that's very okay.

basically, the words are about what makes us think, emotional, and react. In whatever way. some lyrics are pretty political but in a direct way. I don't know about playing with Earth Crisis. it depends on the exact conditions & circumstances, I guess. we sometimes talk about possibilities like that & we are quite eager to try & reach other people besides the "already converted". I think playing with bands like that offers possibilities. I mean therefore not exactly Earth Crisis, but I guess there's people who would not expect us to play with this or that band, or play in this or that venue because of some ideas we try to advocate. I think reaching people is just a bit more important than disagreeing with some band & therefore not stepping on the same stage as them. but it also depends on the exact situation. plus people who have seen us play know it's not just about getting on stage to play a few songs & that's it. Some people have a problem with that. we don't.

Alright, but isn't that what bands like Green Day and the Offspring, Rage Against the Machine (discussable) and more also use 'as a way to save their punkrock asses'? Does it have any sense to sing 'I don't need no authority' (as Green Day does), or 'Fuck ...



... you I won't do what you tell me' (ratm) on a (mtv-)level like that?

The question is not - does it have any sense? The question is - what sense or what goal does it serve? Once the actual goal has been determined, it is up to everyone to see for themselves whether this agrees with what they hold inside of themselves. I feel nothing for bands like Green Day or so also because they are so boring musically. And there is really no connection with the punk-movement whatsoever. I don't care what they say in interviews or what they look like. There's quite a few differences. One of the things that bother me the most is the fact that everything they say or do gets so commercialized. And let's face it - they do not give a fuck about that. So to them the whole setup makes a lot of sense, in that perspective. Furthermore, for us it's not as simple as just stepping on stage with this or that band. For instance, we would not play a show for which the doorprice is 500 BEF for like 3 bands or something. We would not make t-shirts & sell them for like 500 BEF or so. We would not play shows set up by some agency. See what I mean? I know these are pretty stupid examples. And these things seems pretty futile, as these things are so easy to do. And get away with. But we are just not into that. We are not

the product on the glossy advertisement of some stupid hardcore-label that wants to be the coolest in town. It is not difficult to plant the seed of a flower. It is difficult to make it grow, and keep its beautiful original color. But it can be done. Despite so many attempts of the growing crowd of businessmen to invade what hardcore and punk is all about: the reflection of yourself. Not its commercialization.

If you would compare Vuur with an artist or an art movement, which one would it be, apart from the punk aesthetic?

Definitely the a-team: a bunch of mixed weirdo's, but don't make them angry. And on a serious note: i'd say sort of a Question Tarantino-touch. I mean - there's an honest and concrete message or feeling inside, but it might still scare the fuck out of you. If you know what I mean.

Thank you Stef, really. We wish you and Vuur the best. Keep in touch, will you?

It was a pleasure. If anyone is interested in getting in touch for whatever reason, they can always write me: Stef - Kuypen-evijver 8 - 2431 Laakdal - Belgium or vuur@vt4.net

I recently heard Seein' Red are recording for that split 7" in March, so I guess the seveninch will be out pretty shortly after that, I hope. We have already received quite a bunch of orders

from distro's all over, so I guess that is a good thing already. Also tons of luck with the zine. I personally think zines are the most underestimated force within a general information-network. People should try to check out more zines once in a while. There's so many really good ones out there. Thanks again and we'll definitely keep in touch. }

(INTERVIEW STEF VUUR

Performance art by Günther Brus



'Zine reviews)

Well here we go again. Not so many zine reviews this time. I'm terribly sorry but we can only review what we get or get asked for. While reading these zine reviews you should be aware of three things, the first one being reviews are just personal feelings and only reflect what we think is valuable or not and the second one is that Semtex zine is definitely NOT THE BEST ZINE AT ALL! The last thing you should keep an eye on is that we support every sincere individual doing a sincere zine. And we really mean that.

The paper #6

(PO BOX 114, 8500 Kortrijk, Belgium)

>First of all, let me tell you this: I see zines as a form of meaningful resistance. They're bound together by critical striving for their ideals. An ideal that tells us what culture and society might be ... or at least ought to be. Off course, there are no rules for making a hardcore-punk zine, but zines have in common that they are an alternative to and a strike against commercial culture and consumer capitalism. And that's the point where the shoe pinches with this zine. Instead of a critical zine offering an alternative to this commercial culture and consumer capitalism, this zine promotes it. It contains a twenty-pages long price-list and more ads than contents. Sorry, but the only positive thing about the paper is that it's for free!

Fashion freak #4

(Briskevn. 11, 1712 Gralum, Norway)

>This is a very thin music-zine, so don't expect columns. This zine consists of an interview with Braid, two short band-introduces of Ice nine and Jaded and some record reviews and zine reviews. Very small like mentioned before but that's understandable 'cause it's for free. Not very personal but that's OK, after all it's a music fanzine and like the editor says: "there are no rules how to do a hardcore fanzine"!

Kérosène #10

(BP 3701, 54097 Nancy Cedex, France)

>Shit, another zine in French and I must admit I don't like reading French. The interviewed bands like the get up kids, grade, jimmy eat world, envy,... and even the almighty fugazi are all bands I really can appreciate. The lay-out seems also OK. I can't say much about this one 'cause I must admit I couldn't force myself to read this... Sorry guys

Funtime #18

(Beukepleinlaan 30, 3111 Wezemaal, Belgium)

>In dutch! I don't have to introduce this zine to the Belgian people, do I? What I like about funtime is that they're one of the rare magazines that actually still cares about PUNK-music. Although the price

isn't that punk I must say 'funtime' is and 'll stay for a while a settled zine in the Belgian hardcore/punk scene. I just can't understand why one issue costs 80BEF and a subscription for five issues costs 600BEF. Where's the logic?

Soilentzine #1

(Haringhoek 50, 8620 Nieuwpoort, Belgium)

>Waaw, this really is a very great zine. I couldn't hardly believe this was the first issue of soilentzine (if I compare it with the first one of semtex...) Soilentzine contains lots of personal stuff, lots of critics, lots of information,... in short: this is a magazine worth reading from the beginning to the end. The editors are clearly very PUNK in mind and I really enjoyed reading this one. Go on this way, I'd say!

New Direction #4

(Caputsteenstraat 3, 2800 Mechelen, Belgium)

>New Direction is a zine which improves every time again and gets more and more of an own thought about issues. This last thing is very present in this number four. Johan spends more and more time writing and lets us share his personal feelings and thoughts, something I've always liked about hardcore zines in general. New Direction makes us aware of interesting information, personal reading material, guest columns, lots of profound (zine) reviews, an interview with Trial and one with a band called the Freak Show. This is an increasingly essential belgian zine.

Yoda #12 / #12,5

(Elfde Julilaan 114, 8500 Kortrijk, Belgium)

>It's been a while since issue twelve was released on the streets. Brother in everything (law?) Kristof keeps on doing his thing and so far it seems like there's no end in sight. Issue twelve brought us the well-known Yoda feeling again. Lots of interviews (The Lapse, Grade, The Judas Factor (rip), The Swarm, By a Thread), tons of reviews, a section dedicated to Kvium, and quite some interesting writings as well as guest columns. I could have talked about the (too) big music and advertising part of this zine and the rather small personal part of it but issue 12,5 made up with this. It brings us an interview and more interesting writing stuff in a semi Yoda size and in a split with world's leading lecture called Semtex... (I hope you noticed this last statement was a mere joke, really)

Coexistence #14

(4, Rue Julien Dubois, 90300 Cravanche, France)

>Another small zine twice as interesting as it is thick. Although in the French language it reads quite easy and I like that. Information / Interviews about Molaire Industries, Kuwanlelenta, Emergence distro, Red Kedge and some zine and music reviews. A great document!

Nocturnal Dominion #4

(24, Rue Vandriessche, 1050 Bruxelles, Belgium)
>As this is the last issue of Nocturnal Dominion, and Laurent seems to collect his writings for his new zine called 'I'm gonna be my own hero', this is just a thin newsletter kind of zine. It has some previews of the hero zine which are cool writings. Further there's these well-known Nocturnal Dominion mini-writings. The rest is just basic information about distro's, labels, zines, addresses and stuff like that. There's also a OneXMore interview. Not Bad, though we're used to be more satisfied with Laurent's stuff...

Uprising! #8

(PO Box 2251, Monroe, MI, 48161)

>I never understood why I really got this (well, obviously for reviewing) because this copy of Uprising! was sent to me by mail to an address pretty much nobody knows. There was absolutely no letter or something like that with it. Anyway this is a punk-rock music zine with lots of interests in the scene and the kids related to it. It has interviews with all punk bands like the Automatics, MTX and Softball and some mere writings. To be honest I didn't really read all through it cause this 'old' punk stuff is not really my cup of tea and the scene of Monroe isn't that interesting to me :-). It's free, so get it if you're interested.

Diarrhea #6

(Roskildevej 282 E2TV, 2610 Roedovre, DK)

>As the cover states this is a diy punk and hardcore zine with a focus on animal rights. And yes, somewhere we can find an article on the Animal Liberation Front, we find lots of punk and lots of hardcore. Diarrhea is probably the only Danish zine I know so in that context this is cool. Inside the booklet there's quite some interesting stuff too. Great writings about a trip to Prague, stardom and punkrock, so called 'traumatic post punk experiences' and more of that. Otherwise lots of basic interviews and some (dull) recipe... support Denmark punks!

Heartattack #27

(PO Box 848, Goleta, CA 93116, US of A)

>Mmm, with a press run of 10000 copies 'sold' worldwide this must be the best known underground hardcore zine. I don't think HaC needs any introduction at all. You get quite some views on very diverse topics in the guest column/letters section, and a really big section with scene reviews of many countries (a part which I nevertheless always skip..) The most interesting thing in here is probably the article about Activism (an interview with Dave McClure). I really advise everyone to read this, it's a little difficult to follow in the beginning but is worth it! Further the so many reviews all the time and off course the interviews (one being Semtex' own Man vs Humanity interview!).

Mourning Star #1

(Kloosterveld 22, 8200 Brugge, Belgium)

>I guess this is one of the best new zines coming out of Belgium (together with Soilent zine). Mourning Star still needs some arrangements but I'm sure this will grow out really good. I won't remember you of Semtex' first issue... You get a good and honest view on Jonas and his hardcore life without getting to narrow-emo. A good article about Coca Colonisation which I suggest you to take serious. Wasn't it Coca-Cola that knocked on Hitler's door a while ago? Wasn't it Coca-Cola that could not be associated with the American black civilisation? And this little list could go on and on but that'll be for next time I guess. Mourning Star is the main thing here with good interviews with great bands (Jr. Ewing, Glasseater and Severance) a label and himself. Check this out!

Walked in line #19

(BP 04 60840 Breuil le Sec. France)

>Damn, another good-looking zine in French. Comes with cool CD with tracks of the interviewed bands (By a thread, no grace, the apers, spit, romeo is bleeding,...).

The lay-out 'll certainly be appreciated by the fans of comics. This zine contains i.a. a great column about the disaster of the boat "Erika" and lots of interviews (they are sometimes rather short, but that's ok). It's clear: this is already #19 of walked in line and that's something you can see!

Evil #2

(mail us for address)

>Well, this is a completely French written zine. Although I'm not that good anymore in French I was pretty surprised about this zine. First of all an interview with Costes. I'm not sure if many of you know that collective. But they're a French underground collective doing sexual / liberating theatrical performances. When I say sexual it is without any taboo. You can find them on the internet for more info. Pretty interesting. Further interviews with At the Drive In, Cave In, Rubbish Heap, Orchid, Dälek (hip hop underground with a punk/hc message), Join the Team Player records and much more like the usual reviews and writings. Get yourself a good read!

Hanging like a Hex #12

(mail us for address)

>Well, comes in a slick colored sleeve. Interviews with Neurosis, Kid Dynamite, The Swarm, Slowdime Records, Burning Airlines, Ire and some more. It seems a pretty outdated issue I'm holding here in my hands. I'm not an interview fan, but I love the columns and writings in here. Even the joke with a dollar in a dog shit. Hilarious and funny fashion stuff and much more. Not as good as zines such as Slave, but kept me reading through everything.

Music reviews)

Music review time again. To save space and to stay fair to labels and individuals, we only review what we get as promo material. Address for review material can be found in the introduction. To keep this a little easier for you, the things that are really good in our eyes are marked with a star (). This does not mean the others are boring. Who are we to judge anyway?*

After Taste, Beyond my Dreams, Fall, Stroke of Grace:

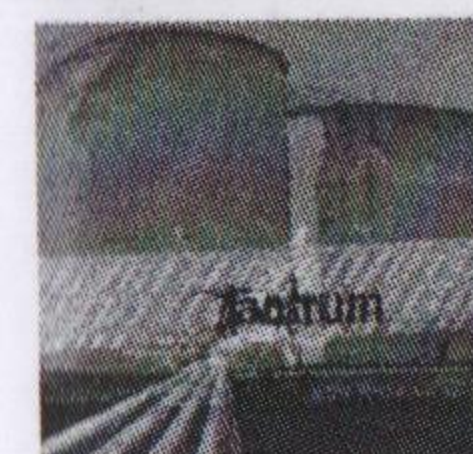
[split cd on Stick to the Core]

>In a nice packaging comes this split called 'when dreams start to hurt'. There's all pretty young bands on it and it's cool to discover some new Belgian bands. After Taste is the first band to appear and it's musically calm and pretty emotional music that mostly reminds me of Reiziger. Also the voice has this Reiziger atmosphere. Still there's some pieces in it that you would never hear on a Reiziger album and I suggest this band to spend some more time on these parts and grow more into it's own style... I'm sure we'll hear more about them pretty soon! Beyond My Dreams is more distorted, and fronted by a female and a male singer. They bring pretty diversified music that's more Exit 19-and-the-likes oriented. Throw away the male voice and try to keep some more coherence in the songs and this could be it... Then there's f.a.l.l., with again some harder and even moshier music that's pretty much Kindred-Spirit of Youth styled, maybe a little slower and less diverse. I'm sure I would have loved this some years ago but now it sounds a little outdated to me. Check it out if you love forementioned bands, really! Finally there's Stroke of Grace bringing us some more up-tempo music, still pretty emotional and sometimes reminding me of Refused, but don't take this band as a reference. It can't keep my attention for three songs. Just check it out and decide for yourself. My choice is After Taste...

Meridian: Daydream in the postdementia millenium [cdep on Holy Noise productions]

>In the essential green layout comes this metallic (don't know whether it's black or doom, guess it's both) record of a band called Meridian. It's pretty sophisticated and long moody stuff in the veins of The Year of our Lord, with less fast parts and less extreme, but with more keyboards and atmospheric feelings. I guess I like this band. It's not something really original, I mean, I heard it before but still it's enjoyable. Not for the whole cd however, it could get a little boring after a while...

Tantrum: Into thin air [cd on Supine Records] *



>This is a good one! Honestly, I never heard of this band and that's a pity. Tantrum from France plays really good semi-slow, semi-metallic and semi-chaotic music that has the emphasis on strange riffing and weird broken rhythms, that want to explode in some kind of a plain and full musical feeling. The thing is however that this hardly ever happens and that's what I like about it. They always play with your mind by never letting you presume what riffing will be next. And I like this kind of bands, really! Sometimes this reminds me of Mile-marker mixed by a little Johnny Angel maybe, and it's in a nice packaging...

Impure Wilhelmina: Afraid [cd diy released]

>A little frightened by this band's name and this rather ugly layout, still I gave it an honest try and I was pretty much delighted. This Swiss band brings us some slow, heavy and distorted music that sometimes balances on the edge of Buzzov*en with some more emotional riffing. I was blown away by the lyrics of the first song. I don't know why I could love this text: 'sweetie please don't cry we'll paint the sky in red one bullet in your mouth another in my head we are not close enough'. I think it's pretty much explaining true love with an 'on the first sight' everything but love-lyrics. I like it, but it's pretty heavy emotional stuff for tough winter-days...

The Movie Life: this time next year [cd on Rev Rec] *

>How hard can it be? Playing poppy catchy emo-poppunk songs and mixing up the best of Saves The Day, Shelter and Fastbreak? Put some cool red stars on the cover and you get a killer catchy album from the Movie Life. As summer is over and fall is preparing its first steps, this is an amazing melancholic and sing-along cd... I almost instantly knew the songs by heart... shake it up and go!

Gameface: Always on [cd on Revelation Records]

>I think the best way to describe this new Gameface album is described by their amazing catchy-melancholic-wanna-scream-and-laugh-together song 'everyone can write a song'. It goes like: 'Anyone can write a song, anyone can sing along and this one's for everyone who hasn't got a song today, (...) I write them all down and it makes me feel better everybody wants to feel better.' This is lyric-and musicwise an amazing poetic band that always makes you think about life and feelings and that's what I goddamn like about them... in the vein of their last album on Revelation this is (again) great! The only thing that lacks this time is the graphic designing... Jeff?

The Explosion: Steal this [cd on Revelation Records]

>Appearing courtesy of Jadetree this is a mini with real punkrock songs reminding me of The New Bomb Turks and early punkbands like Stiff Little Fingers, maybe the Clash and more of that. This is good rocking punk music that has no compromises! I was also amazed by the really good graphic layout of this cd. It's like mixing up the early (late 70's) punk-graphics and their clichés with an own computerized touch, great. I won't listen to this everyday but it will definitely be in my cd player more than once!

Drowningman: Rock and roll killing machine [cd on Revelation Records] *

>If you liked their mini, you'll like this, definitely! Ground-breaking, semi-noisy, chaotic, rocking and emotional music played in a few seconds, that's what you can expect from Drowningman. Maybe their music became some more chaotic and less emotional than it used to be, and there's also some 'dillinger' riffs to be found but overall you'll like this if you like this kind of what I call 'hydrahead' music... Bloody and cool layout!

Nothing More: absurdities of our times [cd on Walked In Line Records]

>Well, this is a skaty punkrock album in the likes of Five Days Off and other Funtime bands, maybe some Satanic Surfers too. The singer is singing and the band is playing, what else can I say? Nice effort, but this doesn't really move me. It's too typical maybe and a little too outdated I guess. Anyway, it's coming from a creative and supportive label that has a good french zine!

Convinced: the way of life [7" on Stick to the Core]

>Well, plain hardcore-core let's say! On top of that there's

a woman singing in the style of Anouk. These two things seem to combine fine cause this seveninch really made me say 'yes' when I listened to it the first time. Still personally I'm glad this is just a seveninch and two songs of this kind is enough, some more would made me put on my stretch pants... Think of bands like Iron Maiden or Firestone maybe for the riffing and obviously to Anouk for the voice. Check it out!

Shora: shaping the random [cd on grave romance] **

>Wow, I was impressed! This is great! Full of energy and full of anger and emotion Shora gives me that impression of anarchy and distortion. It's true that this German band is playing the nowadays popular stuff in the vein of Botch and the other nervoso-alikes, but definitely taken all of this further. Here and there I hear that Old Man Gloom touch and even some Stifled Cries styled guitar riffs, but cleaner produced. If you're looking for something beautifully designed and amazingly destroying all habits...buy Shora! (www.graveromance.de)

The Nerve Agents: days of the white owl [cd on rev rec]

>Well, looking at the inside of the booklet, I was expecting something in the vein of The Misfits or even The Cure. Now, after listening to the cd a few times I have to admit I was wrong, but if I had to choose, this definitely leans more to the Misfits than to the cure. It's fucking punk music! But don't expect any real melodic stuff, just fast-forward punkrock music. Leave it or like it! Not my style...

Drexler: real estate [mcd on Kérosène records]*

>Drexler, I never heard of that band. This mini makes me think of Reiziger, definitely, but played more clean. I mean the Reiziger distortion parts are left out. I like this mini, although I think it has to grow on you, but off course that's no bad thing. Just check it out if you like bands like Reiziger, or maybe even Metroschifter sometimes... The first song is definitely the best one and the voice really reminds me of Piebald. Well, got you enough information? Get it now you emo-kid!!!

Garrison: a mile in cold water [cd on revelation rec] *

>I was already surprised by this band when I heard them on the rev sampler, and this cd is definitely good too. It's true that these rocksongs have to grow on you, but the more you listen to them, the more melody and emotion you'll find in them. Garrison's songs acknowledge good and strong guitar riffs that lead you to nostalgia and leave you thinking about 'that good old time'. You get twelve strong songs with smart words and lyrics full of knowledge. Just take some time to read them. Garrison follows that popular road between rock and (emo)hardcore, but knows very well how to walk away from that too, which gives this a surplus... I tried, but I couldn't really find any comparisons but Garrison (maybe a little touch of Piebald...). Decide for yourself, you won't be disappointed! (www.revelationrecords.com)

Boy Sets Fire: after the eulogy [cd on victory records] **

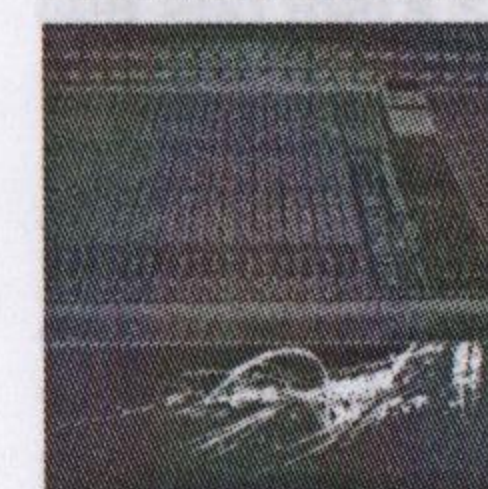
>Well, Boy Sets Fire is a good band, definitely. I really like their leftish/political touch and I really like their live performances and music. Apart from that it are really nice people that know what to say on shows and that make you think. This cd isn't different neither, it has very good songs and has lyrics that are sung like a bomb. That's the positive side. Now comes the other side. I don't know if you remember, but in Semtex issue two, they talked shit about Veil being on Century Media. Well, Boy Sets Fire is back with their new cd on (controversial) Victory; point

one. Point two: Boy Sets Fire cooperated with a track on a compilation album on, you guess it: Century Media. I don't know what you think, but such things really make me question this band and all they say. However, I definitely can't deny that this cd is strong and I can't deny that I really like to listen to it. The songs are so full of emotion (not excluding anger) and compassion, and the lyrics are so full of truths about 'the working class' ("on the face of every American worker is the constant fear that their job won't remain"), rapists ("he will never think he's wrong, she will never feel quite right,..."), the oppression of the masses,... but sometimes it's difficult for me to understand how such a down-to-earth and true punk/hardcore band could change their ideals so much in such a short time. And like that it's also difficult to believe them and what they stand for. Anyway -if there's an anyway- this cd has some really great songs that you should really check (just listen to 'rookie'...fuck, this is great!!!) (glad they left victory now!)

GreyArea: fanbelt algebra [cd on victory records] *

>I shouldn't tell you this band has members from war-zone and other ny-legends cause that would really misplace your thoughts concerning GreyArea. This is not your average ny old-school band, definitely not. This disc makes us taste hardcore as it was (or would have been) before metal made its entry. It's really emotional and shaking poppy and punky melodic music that makes you sing along in no time! This is excellent music for sunny days!! The lyrics however aren't always that sunny and deal with personal emotions and situations. You get a Stiff Little Fingers cover on top of that... get it! (www.victoryrecords.com)

Old Man Gloom: meditations in B [cd on tortuga rec] **



>Woow! This is good! Old Man Gloom mixes real heavy, screaming and noisy, a little nervosa music with real harsh and long noises between the songs. I can really appreciate their strange deconstructive riffs and their noise feeling and be sure Old Man Gloom convinced me! At least they try to bring something refreshing and entertaining. Still one can hear the 'hydra head' influence again. But that should be no surprise since mr. a. turner himself is in the band... This is food for all of you... (www.hydrahead.com/tortuga)

Not That Straight: low profile [cd on funtime records]

>Not That Straight is a Belgian band that makes the mix between punkrock and hardcore. Although this cd can't keep my attention for half an hour long, they have some cool riffs and some cool songs and also good positive hardcore lyrics. Still it's not really my cup of tea. Think of bands like Nations on Fire (they even do their 'dedication' song), Concrete Cell, maybe some Sick of it All, and even some Hageland bands like Circle and the likes... Well, if you're into these bands, give it a try!

Shutdown: something to prove [cd on victory records]

>I really don't know... sometimes I like cheesy hardcore, but this goes too far. I mostly can predict what's going to happen and I don't like that at all. This hits off rather positive and in the likes of GreyArea, but from the moment the singer starts to do his thing this gets heavier and ny influenced. I don't like it. Shutdown is full of clichés and gives me that well-known hardcore-to-the-bone-don't-touch-me-or-I'll-break-your-neck-tough-guy-feeling.

The logo on the cover is a total Madball rip-off and I think you could easily match this somewhere between that kind of Madball-styled hardcore. Well, you get the point... just listen to the title, 'something to prove'... Too cliché, shut down!! (www.victoryrecords.com)

Gameface / Errortype:11: what's up bro? [split cd/ep on revelation records] *

>Gameface is definitely one of my favourite bands and with this split this won't change, no not at all! They're back better than ever and prove once again to be excellent melodic emo-poppunkers with a great sense of songwriting and an amazing taste of lyrical expression. This is great and needs no references. They do a 'Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers' cover as well, excellent!

Errortype:11 is the other band on the split and they play Gameface styled pop-rock emo music that has a strong melodic feeling to it. It's good and catchy, and has a Split Enz cover on top of that (which is their best song...). Still, doing a split with Gameface is difficult...

Milemarker: future isms [cd on the company with the golden arm] *

>Milemarker is great! On this cd, they bring us good experiencing rock music with entertaining and well-written lyrics that surely manage to bring you in a certain atmosphere and emotion. The Milemarker music consists of drums, guitar, bass, synthesisers, piano and computers, which gives them the opportunity to bring us something that mixes plain rock music with screamy and nervous breaks that sometimes last too long to be interesting, but they always manage to make it up with the next exploding part, be it a melodic piano part, or a driving drum rhythm. Yes, it's hard to give references again, but try it out if you like bands like Fugazi or The International Noise Conspiracy (without comparing Milemarker with one of them!!!) This cd can feature as a cd-rom too with entertaining stuff and great columns... this is the anti-music...

Y2K-Proof: Big Wheel Recreation sampler

>Well, samplers are always great to taste some new bands and this isn't different neither. "What about Jejune, Lazycain, The Ivory Coast, AM/FM, Fastbreak, Piebald, In My Eyes, Jimmy Eat World,...?" they thought at Big Wheel. "Just make this sampler", was the plain cold answer...

The Judas Factor: kiss suicide [cd on revelation rec] *

>'Sad songs never felt so real'. Right. In fact this is entertaining music in the line of their 'ballads in blue china' cd, but maybe a bit more experimental. Outspoken nervous and energetic emotional hard metallic guitar music that has a sense for social themes like hate crimes and such. You should check it out. It is like hydra head stuff, but less real chaotic. Yes, yes, yes...

Nostromo: 'a:gju: [cd on snuff records]

>I never heard of this band before and to be honest, it didn't really surprise me. You don't really hear something very original or refreshing. I don't like the graphics and layout neither but musicwise this could be your thing, why not? It's hard hitting music that reminds me of Johnny Angel (why?), but more aggressive and tight. I guess it fits perfect in the Snuff tradition and with that you directly know whether this is going to be your thing or not. A minus point is the ugly sharp bassdrum sound and the lyrics which are not included... anyway, check it out!!!

Slide Chorus: first round sampler cd

>Another label sampler, this time it's from Spain and released by Slide Chorus. This label focuses on fast and

melodic punkrock music. You get songs by the HardUps, the G.A.S. drummers, P.P.M, Stolen Wallet and some more bands. The best band on this cd is PPM, I really like their melodic, still Sex Pistols influenced punkrock music, enriched by some trumpets and such, cool! There's definitely talent in Spain but I guess most bands still need to grow, I don't know. This sampler doesn't appeal to me that much. Musicwise it is ok, but the voices mostly screw things up... I don't know, check it out yourself and prove me wrong...

Leihotikan: lur [cd on Gor records]

>Another punkrock album out of Spain. And what can I say? It's good music, clean and talented, but it's again the voice that screws it up I guess. I really don't like the way things are sung, or maybe it's just the Spanish language in which the lyrics are sung??? I don't know, check it out. I won't tell you too much but that you should contact Gor records on www.gordiscos.com

PN: our pitiful paradise [cd on Funtime records]

>Another PN release and this time it's better, definitely. PN is getting more diverse and starts to mix up more styles than just plain metalcore music. Think of songs in the vein of the 4 band split cd with Circle, Exit 19 and Reply. I think Pn is also getting influenced by other Hageland bands like they appear on that split cd. It's too bad I hear some cliché-already-heard-a-thousand-times-before hardcore riffs... lyrics are reflecting personal thoughts as well as social themes. Something for you?

Drowningman: how they light... [cd on revelation recs] *



>Revelation has noticed that Hydra-Head released some very good bands and Drowningman made the switch to Revelation. Well, this is amazingly good and top notch music with all ingredients an average HC-kid like me wants to hear... screaming, emotion, singing, hard

music, nervous breaks, great lyrics,... you name it they have it! Comparisons could be made with, I don't know, think the Judas Factor in accident with Cable or such? Make sure you check this out cause it won't disappoint you in no way. The Drowningman cd comes in a great designed concept, something which gives this a surplus again...

Romeo is Bleeding: demo cd *

>This is screaming-singing metal music that makes a good turn after the first song. I don't like that first song, especially not the sung parts. The second song is more spastic and chaotic and definitely better, the same goes for the third song. References could be a more brutal and noisier Drowningman maybe. I'd say leave away those singing pieces and hit things more straight and forward. Check it out, cause for a demo this is good!!

G.A.S. Drummers: proud to be nothing [cd on Slide Chorus]

>Well, the gasdrummers were also on the slide chorus sampler and I could say the same about this one, it's ok, cheesy, but that's all. There's no real 'yes, that's it!!!'-feeling, nor is there a 'fuck, this sucks!!!'-feeling, so I could end this review by saying this is basic punkrock music which should appeal to every punkrockkid. But not really to a hardcore kid that appreciates some punkrock music now and then... if you know what I mean with that. Anyway, give it a try, I hear some Satanic Surfers, some NOFX, ...

Indecision: release the cure [cd on Overcome / Mia recs]



>Eagerly listening to this cd, I was a bit let down. Still I gave it a second and a third try and the more and more you listen to this, the better it comes, really. It's heavy pounding hardcore music that reminds me of bands like Eyelid, maybe a bit tougher... Not really my style but still I can appreciate it. Positive is the real 'hardcore' attitude of this band, they really insist on communication and try to give explanations on every song and theme. And maybe that's something that lack most bands nowadays? Well, you know enough don't you? Give it a try and support it. Too bad they split up...

Children: impedimenta [cd on Overcome Records]

>Looking at the layout -which is well done in its style- you could expect something in the vein of The Year of Our Lord and maybe this could be a reference if you played this disc twice or thrice as fast. Children is best on its slow and heavy hardcore rhythms. Still they mix it up with some faster parts and leave some space for some solo guitar stuff. It's entertaining for like five minutes but then it starts to get rather monotonous and drowns in the growing mud of hardcore/metal music. References? I don't know, the info sheet talks about Neglect and even Converge. Well, have the first one in mind and definitely don't think about that last one, you get Children from France...

Fragment: answers [cd on Voice of Life records]

>Heavy and screaming hardcore /metal music which could fit in the infamous H8000 style, but then you get those 'emotionally sung' pieces and guitar tunes which make this record more diverse. It's not bad, it's not that good neither, still it has something which makes this rather cliché and cheesy hardcore/metal music original in its kind. Don't know what. Anyway, this fits in most metalcore collections, I'm sure, so if you are into this kind of music then get it now! Sometimes I think of PN, sometimes I hear some more chaotic Liar, sometimes I hear some more Liferforce style...

Right For Life: give us light... [cd on the Age of Venus]

>Well, this music on this mini has definitely convinced me of the possibility and capacity of Right For Life. I had their seveninch in mind when I listened to this and I have to say that they have improved very much. The songwriting as well as the singing improved and arrived in a perfect mix between new and oldschool hardcore with here and there some complexe spastic rhythms. I thought of Thumbs Down at first, but I was wrong, this is more a meltpot of Thumbs Down, Madball, Battery and Vitality. Phew, that's a strange thing, but I can appreciate it! I'm sure it's something for your real hardcore collection.

Circle: radiostation infiltration [cd on Funtime records]

>This is one of the best Funtime releases so far. Circle brings us diverse and good sounding hardcore which reminds me off course of their songs on their split record. Maybe a full-length record is a bit too long to listen to, not everything is that good, but still this remains interesting for a long while. They manage to mix up some metal, some hardcore, some more emotional stuff, yes, this is good and surprised me. Definitely underrated here in Belgium. Check it out!

5 Days Off: ripping the field [cd on Funtime records]

>What should I say? It's not really my thing. It's not really

good and it is not really bad so let's talk of basic punkrock music that has links with bands like Concrete Cell and more of that. I won't tell you too much, it could turn out bad and boring...

Kevlar: the deadly dozen [cd on Bcore disc] *

>Great sound. Great band. Great layout. Great musicians. You should buy this!! This is good rock music combined with out of touch guitar chords and unsteadily risky balancing melodies and harmonies. Long entertaining and interesting songs from this Swedish band with Oberg from emo rockers Starmarket in the rangs. Well, check it out and enjoy these emopop tunes! I'm gonna shut up, I could only fuck things up about this band, and that would be wrong, definitely. Not everything has to be American...

Straight Up Records sampler 1&2

>Two label samplers and this time they are from the Japanese label Straight Up. This label has teamed up some bands that mostly bring us a mix between punkrock and (old school) hardcore. Most bands balance between bad and good but some really manage to stand apart. Well, there's mostly not that much to say about label samplers except for the fact that this cd is filled with bands I hardly ever heard of or even never heard of so this is a good opportunity to be updated about Japanese hardcore and beyond (there's also Right For Life eg on this cd)... get in touch with Straight Up at www.ypp.co.jp/~yyoshika/

Stifled Cries [7" on Conspiracy Records] **

>This is definitely the best Belgian band at this moment. This is hard-hitting screaming emoviolence with great vocals and amazing noisy guitartunes. Although I think Stifled Cries is way better live than on this seveninch, you really have to buy this. The seveninch comes in a top-notch layout, complete with lyrics and info... get it!!!

As I Bleed / Denied Reality [split 7" on Voice of Life]

>Being both hard metallic hardcore, Denied Reality easily wins it from As I Bleed. DR makes fastforward good noisy songs. Too bad they last some riffs too long which makes the second song monotone after a while. Still the first song is good, check it out. As I Bleed is more diverse in its song structures and musicwise, they mix more styles and they bring us metallic riffs, clean pieces, some the year of our lord riffs,...you get it. Well, not a bad split at all.

Modesty: thank you... [7" on Black Star Foundation] *

>Wow, this is great! These Swedish people always know how to surprise me. I got this seveninch on the Neverending tour from their bass-player Emil. It is released on his label and he then told me this sounded like Radiohead. Well, I don't know if Radiohead is the most fitting band to make a link, but anyway, this is great rock-pop-emo which has a very cool 'sound' on its own and which makes me smile in no time. Great melodies, great tunes! Open your heart and play this loud!!! I'm sure this will grow big one day! Contact Emil (do it!) at crushmail@yahoo.com

Brazen s/t [7" through Conspiracy Records] *

>It took me a while to fully appreciate this Brazen record, but I'm glad I finally did because this is good. It's rather slow and melodic rock-emo-hardcore that reminds me of some Metroschifter, but more of the Italian Cornucopia. It's good, it's music that keeps hanging around you the rest of the day. It's sad and melancholic and strange, it has a touch of despair but leaves you behind with thoughts like 'why don't I kill myself listening to this seveninch?' Off course that's going a little bit too far, maybe I'd better turn this seveninch off... (and go out to buy their

teninch) Yes, it leaves a deep impact, definitely, get it!!!

Catch 22: Alone in a Crowd [cd on Victory Records] *



>Catch 22. I had heard of that name before, but I couldn't really label it musicwise. Still this appears to be one of the biggest ska/punk bands in the States. And it is good, really. I never thought a ska band could do to me what Catch 22 does to me every time again. This makes you move in no time. Catchy melodic songs, great lyrics, sometimes funny, sometimes really emotional, but always true (and very difficult to pronounce them as fast as the singer does)! For all your sad winter nights! I really really hope to see them live soon...

Elliott: false cathedrals [cd on revelation records] **

>This is really beautiful music. It is moody and melancholic. It is swinging and it is rocking. It is top notch emotional, immense heavy arty stuff for the mind but very subtle rock music. I think the best comparison with a band is Radiohead. Off course this earns more respect than forementioned band... Fuck this is great great great!!

Dragbody: Flip the Kill Switch [cd on Overcome Recs] *

>This is definitely one of the best cds coming from Overcome! I was a bit sceptic when listening to it for the first time, but by now this band has totally convinced me! Mixed by the legendary Steve Albini (The Pixies, Nirvana, Bush,...) this disc sounds really intense and offers us good fast hard metallic music with a great dissonant feeling to it on the right moment. Sometimes this reminds me of Converge, sometimes it reminds me of Slayer. Make your choice, you'll love it!!! A great design accompanies the great music...

Discipline: Love Thy Neighbor [cd on I Scream Recs]

>Hell I scream. Old school with melodic parts. Still tough guy bad music trying to be as American as possible... I never believed in I scream anyway. Bad me... I shouldn't blame a band by the label they're on...

Mörser: 10000 bad guys dead [cd on Chrome Saint Magnus]

>I was waiting with a lot of expectation for Mörser's new full length cd. Hard and heavy, but less noisy and less chaotic is what you can expect. More metal(core) than ever. And that's the reason why I won't listen that much to this cd I guess. Mörser has become more of a live-band for me. I guess the ironic feeling this band had for me has disappeared and that's a pity. Just take a look at their lyrics, they've become pretty much serious and sincere. Still I would have bought this album. It's the exact music to listen to when you're about to shoot ten thousand bad guys dead (still this doesn't happen that much in my case). You'll never expect these football-guys to make such music, amazing...

Reaching Forward / Ensign: [split 7" on Reflections Res]

>Okay...another fine Reflections release. Pretty good and catchy old school hardcore. Ensign as one of the best hardcore bands today hits again real hard even doing a cover from Raw Deal. Reaching Forward as I heard becoming more and more political and even also playing energetic hardcore. This is HARDCORE nothing more nothing less. The music is good, the lyrics are good, and hell....even the lay-out is good. So what are you waiting for? Destined to become a classic.

Morning Before: cd

This is a good band. This definitely has the heart on the right place, but however, I can't get away of this feeling as if I miss something in here. Everything fits fine together but still sometimes I feel like it doesn't. Strange. Anyway, you

should check this out for yourself. I think this was my worst review ever but sorry. It's like I'm not fitting this band. It's just a personal feeling. However sometimes, I use to listen to this, I think I experienced some problems similar to the woman singing on this cd. I'm a loser. Got to kill myself.

Nilghai: As losers of a game demo cd

>This new band from Antwerp, Belgium plays quite well-structured music as it fits good in the new breed of Antwerp bands. Influenced for a big part by glorious Facedown and in the line of bands like Reply and Exit Nineteen, Nilghai offers us metalcore with some space for so-called emotion represented by voice and guitars. I don't really know what the lyrics are about, these were not included in this demo but there's somewhere written they deal with their personal problems... Well, a good band, definitely, but I'd say try to do something more personal and try to look beyond forementioned bands, I think that will lift up your music and credibility, cause this cd lacks surprises. But (!), for a demo (if we might state so) this is really good!

Zegota: movement in the music [tape on Youth Culture, prev rel on Crimethinc/Reflections] **

>A great tape, really. Zegota knows how to bring a lot of variety in their songs during this record what makes it very interesting to keep on listening to. I don't know, it's pretty hard political metallic music sometimes reminding me of Catharsis or even Nostromo. There's a lot of time spent on lyrics and expanations which is great sensefull reading material. I couldn't say anything but check it out. Great music, great lyrics, great design... One of the best bands out of this review section!

Sommerset, Costa's Cake House and Heartside [get up and go records promo tape]

>Sommerset 'more songs' cd is cool up tempo emo music reminding me of a faster version of Hot Water Music, maybe of later Fastbreak. It's cool stuff, definitely, catchy and poppy without being too poppy. I don't really know what their lyrics are about since I don't have a lyric sheet here, but check it out, won't say much!

Then there's Costa's Cake House and Heartside, well pretty screamy hardcore as you can expect from a country like Germany. Fast and hard noisy but still I miss something. Costa's really sound like Mörser's early stuff, good!

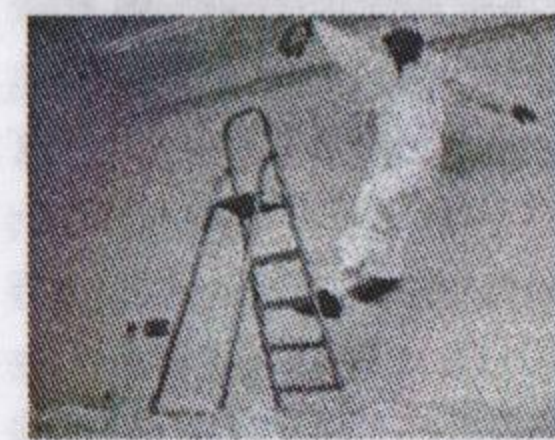
Symbiosis demo tape

>Cool band from the UK. Not renewing, just metal hc as we hear it, sometimes a cool emotional touch in the vein of the first Shield release which deletes the tough part. Maybe a little more variety and inventivity in riffs would be welcome, I have the feeling like every song is build in the same form, but all in all this is a band to look out for...

108: curse of instinct: 108's final tour [video on Reflections records / Anhedonia films]

>This is the first time I got a video tape for review. It's a documentary on the final tour (ending at cbgb's) by the legendary New York Hare Krishna band 108. It has won a golden Orb somewhere, so apparently it should be quality stuff. As only a small part of the tape is live performances, this video really lets you share the ideas and lifestyle of alternative people as 108. The interviewer constantly lets us share parts of their tour-chats. Somehow I think this would have had more impact on people that don't really know a thing about hardcore and krishna. So in that case, I could recommend you this document. Also if you're fond about 108, you should get this. But in my case, this wasn't really such a big deal...

Outroduction)



Well, we've made it again. Reading this means you've probably made it too so **thank you** for letting us share our thoughts. Please contact us for any reason. If you're interested in writing stuff for Semtex, please let us know. If anyone of you would feel attacked or misplaced in one or another way, we suggest you to contact us and preferably show us we're wrong. We're always looking for people with different visions and thoughts about life...

The next issue should be out sooner than it took us to get this number four out. If all goes well, you'll be able to read about us and your favourite hardcore people by this year's leper festival. We hope to see you there. It will contain more than likely an article about world's most sold soda-company, we're working on it, and probably one about punk/hardcore and its relation with art / graphic design / typography and aesthetic, we're busy with that one too. Hereby we're trying to seek a direct link with punk zines and their influence in the evolution of punk aesthetics. I think the ad you can see in this issue of The Explosion / Right Brigade is really interesting in that matter... Further on we hope we can bring you some interesting people talking again in interviews, zine profiles (zine people we probably won't contact you, just contact us, ok?) and more of that. We always try to show one person's personality and personal feelings / thoughts through interviews rather than talking about shows, releases and guitars.

Off course this does not mean we are apathetic to music. It's the hardcore / punk music that unites us, so people that think they're doing some strange or original noisy musical projects should definitely contact us. I'm looking forward to hear from you and your musical outlets...

Other zines you should read are: It's Raining Truths, The Ugly Duckling, Yoda, New Direction, HeartattaCk, My so-called Life, Inside Front, Sideburns and so many more. We are all basically friends! Bands, labels or individuals that could make you shine are FiveStar Records, Wilson, Black Star Foundation, Five Day Getaway, Amen Ra, Vuur, Children of Fall,...

Punk and hardcore are such amazing underground cultures. Punk and hardcore are great. I'm not talking about about tough guy bands here. I'm talking about individuals worldwide that get connected through this movement. Just come to think of that sometimes. We need to do it too...

Well, goodbye and consider straightedge. This was all done ourselves except for the ads. Some would call this diy, others wouldn't. Fuck them. Semtex 2001 salutes you sincerely. We hope to hear from you soon, definitely, lovely...



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