



Newsletter #2, December 2008

Greetings! Here you have the second release of this new Project called X-reviews, showing signals of life... On this December epochs the cold sometimes is too tight on nights, people on streets celebrating and spending money on anything, while I save myself drinking a cup of coffee reviewing discs of Metal which are for me a big interest. Lately I haven't bought national discs, I've done purchases on order of discs that I already know well and I want to have them in my room, "just the best" even though I have enough material for the review, and if it runs out I'll go for more. Some of my recent purchases are: Dimmu Borgir "for all tid", Cradle of filth "the dusk and her embrace", Venom "Black Metal" and a jewel of profanity "The enemy of virtue" and I think to make a review of all of them, 'cause as you can see they aren't unknown discs and not much less new, those were good purchases weren't they? In only one month and days of life, it seems that destiny had something good prepared, because it looks like good luck has smiled for this letter of reviews, it has come to hands of the European, Center Americans, South Americans and certainly Mexicans who have demonstrated a good acceptance makin' comments on the same one (I include the commentaries page "what they have said of X-reviews") I don't really know how far does this first release has gone but some people ask me to translate it to English, sorry for disappoint you because I'm still in the same position of non doing it, because I've forgotten most of the language for lack of practice, apart it's a retarded enough task, with my abandoned English I'm going to make a lot of mistakes and I'm not going to give that sense that I give while I write in my native language, I believe loyally in the "Supreme Mexican Metal Art".

On the other side I comment you that I've thought very much about the idea of creating a Website just like I did on repeated occasions for various years, even I already have a dream come true, is too simple thought but it will be ready for downloading it on newsletters in PDF format and leave a comment, for previous

experiences I know that this will facilitate its spreading and it'll achieve the principal objective "be read by everyone". Do you remember that in the past newsletter I said no more WebPages? Hahaha... of course I said that, and now I'm retracting myself, that's what happens for being such a speaker, hahaha...

Well then let's stop aside those histories to open the door to the reviews, I hope they're of your total and off balance pleasure, see you next time.

BELPHEGOR

"Bondage Goat Zombie"

Nuclear Blast/Under license of Scarecrow

Elapsed Time: 40:01

"Brachial musical terror since 1993" CD+DVD.

I didn't know anything of the Belphegor since the majestic "Lucifer incestus" were I also interviewed and I could obtain some details of



that disc since it was just a embryo in the studio 'till I had it in my home, I know I lost the "Pestapokalipse VI" but I'll do whatever it takes to get it, oh my! I give myself of blows, you see? It's never bad to cut out of scene 'cause time never stops and good music neither... I'm going to be honest with you; I went to Mix Up and bought it in a very reasonable price, because they are the ones that Scarecrow of Mexico is working on under the permission o the Nuclear Blast. That's how I found it; I saw the logo and said: "wait a moment, I know this guys, but what the hell is this disc doin' here??" this store is supposed to be a snob store in a snob place. Hahaha...

Going back to work I tell you that the album presents a totally new, complex, dark, blaspheme and exaggerated front, with good characterizations and a very professional graphic design; specially I liked the sexy nuns with their masks and tiny clothes in many positions giving a masochism session to Helmuth and Serpenth, I also liked the demon

that is sat playing his flute made of human bones. Then, already well with everything and at simple view I knew what was waiting for me, I already was imagining what in this occasion was comin' from Australia...

"Bondage Goat Zombie" opens this massacre with a brief sound extracted from the place where the sorrows are purged in their condemnation, they make their way immediately with a fulminate speed that you doesn't even realize, being a pretty succeeded decision, since the name of the disc, we must justify it with a great opening (Hail Chaos, Hail Satan), even obstructed and with some senses out of its site. Belphegor decided to continue flogging you with "Stigma Diabolicum" which is for me the best, since it has a morbid, brutal and viciously addictin' rhythm in drums and guitar, the quality in the mouth strings of Helmuth become present when choring: "Stigma Diabolicum Possessed and Branded" something very uncommon on this days. Too little time is what you'll have to take a brief rest because "Armageddon's Raid" initiates very instrumental, but once you fall down in the trap it turns you into submitting seconds later.

"Justine: soaked in blood" Remains that death metal feelin' that characterized this Austrian band on earlier discs, as in example on the album "The last supper", where, by the way, the authorities of that country got freaked out when they saw the front of the album and decided to censor it. "Sexdictator Lucifer" starts with that typical seducing style hahaha... this track is to half a time and unfortunately I didn't know what was it about because the lyrics were in Austrian and German. "Shred for sathan" align us again with this extreme and exploding vein that makes me vomit my insides, this track is unreasonable... the weirdest song is "Chronicles of crime" Belphegor now turns into melodic, with a good scratching of strings that remains in a slowly advance that sometimes makes you think that they challenged or like the batteries of the Discmans were running out, I do not know what were they trying, but it seems kinda' weird for me. "The sukkubus lustrate" is deep, slow and it's made with baneful choirs. I could tell you guys, that it's the most blaspheme, but talking seriously, every single lyric is made that way and there's no way to choose... Finally, Belphegor gives end of this wonderful disc with "Den Ruthermarsch" that doesn't turns you into a massacre too much, at this higher levels I imagine that they gotta' be exhausted and the

same do I, the voices at the end and that acoustic way guitar + solos, etc... gives a new farewell to this disc.

DVD. - Contains the video "Bondage Goat Zombie" with parts of a live presentation and scenes of helmuth flagellating him in this dark room. "The whip and the Bunker" shows us the behind the scenes of the video previously said, were we can see a Belphegor more relaxed and sociable in proof and mistake. "The root of all evil" with scenes of intensive rehearsing (specially the drummer). "Shredding Stage One" a video about the recording in the studio, later another live video series from different parts of Europe in promotion plans I guess, and to finish this the "belphegor maniacs" with fans in the entire world and sending them comments, greetings and samples of support to this really welcome album...

Nox Mortar

"Between Heresy Blasphemy and Hate"

Azermethod Records

Elapsed time: 40:11

"Black Metal Warrior, still basic but we can see him as a diamond in brute."



Well finally I got this disc of Nox Mortar, which many people were recommending me here in Cuernavaca and I don't let myself to get influenced by others, is just that I simply don't like to waste my money on discs that I'm going to listen just once, and then I'm going to look at the discs and let them to get all dusty, finally I decided to pay attention to that little voice in my mind that says: "hey dude, buy that disc"

Well as I was telling you, this Nox Mortar guys with their "Between heresy blasphemy and hate" they show us a disc replete of interesting things, things that represents a well done job, smartness and first of all at personal view with a high level of riskiness, with that last thing I tried to say that the band is made of too many things that have to be tested, most of all with

success but also makes many other errors, but I ask myself: It wouldn't be a scene without bands that are ready to risk everything would be? Without bands ready to experiment? The truth is that without this bands we would be really mediocre and we have enough of that, that's why the merit goes to this perfect combination like I was saying at the beginnin', it still adjusts to the laws of the basic and warlike black metal, but we could also see them as a diamond in brute, that with the pass of the time if they still as they're doing they will get considerable results... Deepening a little bit more in the uninvolved, the disc, we can start to prepare for the worst storm since the beginnin' to the end of the 7 evil anthems that will conduce us to cold and dark stages that will make us to watch over the hell. The music is crude, and relatively energetic, in example "War of the sons of dark" a inhospitable and enchanting theme or the same "Malleus malleficarum" where there are integrated choirs that gives to the tracks that feeling of warlike and stand of victory, that shout and make us to come out with that weakness that we have for betrayers and spurious, like if we were talking about a inevitable rebellion, In personal, the best ones of my election. In conclusion Nox Nortar really knows what is doing and what are they looking for, is so good that Azermethod paid attention on them because with their discs like these, we can escape a little bit from the conventional ones, I just hope that this album reach the ears of every country as in example the extremists central and south Americans (a big hug) that had grown up in quality, quantity and because of my previous personal experiences that they're always lookin' for this kinds of discs, I'm still helping with my little seed for the forest and I'm hurrying up the propagation of this newsletter as always waiting to see it turned into a cancer (watching it dissemination without control).

FOETICIDE

"Inside my blood"

Omeyocan productions / Ablaze productions

Elapsed time: 50:22

"Death Metal Proudly Mexican, with no doubt a piece of our successful maturity..."

This way then I open this great album created by Foeticide that throughout 16 years have been kept down under that Death Metal line that has always been characterizing them, this is a good opportunity for those who hasn't listened to them to start doing it, because this album

includes two discs: One of the first works called "The early years of age" and the other one



called "Inside my blood", or something like as they do in the beauty parlors "The before and The after"...

I remember that like a year ago, they came here to Cuernavaca and since that moment when I listened to them on live and I immediately said: "It's another Death Metal band of course", but which would be my surprise on havin' listened to them, going out of the studio, all of them crazy and recharged. I'll tell you readers, this disc came to my hands because another recommendation and at a very good price.

"Inside my blood" the sound was basically pure Death Metal, sometimes extreme and sometimes peaceful, with important incursions by the guitars, some solos seem to get life because they sound so natural and fluid like if they were doin' everything that they want to, the voice is authoritarian, it's just the perfect one for the music and it doesn't even owe them a cent, this way then, I can tell you guys that it isn't about the derivatives, but of the integrals. The quality on the design of the printing is really really excellent, is obvious that they didn't curtailed on the budget, both CDs, they are all covered with the sun calendar, this way like to clarify their very Mexican roots and with that reaper style too. I think that this album is with no doubt a good sample of what Mexico is doing about the Death Metal, shows us a band that with the pass of the years has reached a so level of maturity and as in their moment, other bands did the same line as Agony Lords, Cenothap, The Chasm, Argentum, and others.

"The early years of age" - many already know this band and well, you know, it's about the same Death Metal but with the experimental and most brutal part, because is logical talkin' about their beginnings, if you like this "shake the mop" thing

or throwing things to the air, well then first of all listen this band because that's what it is for.

BLACK VOMIT

"The faithful Servant"

Azermedoth records

Elapsed time: 36:29

"Black Metal of royal cult... they don't bring the 90s, the 90s are still there..."

At the middle of the 90s, when we use to hang out at the Zocalo of Cuernavaca, a little group of crazy and enthusiastic Metal fans with the desire of eat the entire world and whatever remains of it, and I was part of that group. That night a guy from my group showed us a demo cassette of a new band called Black Vomit and they were like: are you fuckin' kiddin' me?, it's really good... so then everyone listened that disc letting us a good musical taste. In that moment



we used to start with the fanzines made with typewriters and photocopies, I don't remember if I reviewed that demo tape, but I do remember that I still listen that material as it were the first time that I do it.

With this brief introduction you now that I'm not reviewing a new disc and I rookie band either, I just simply have in my hands a re-edition of a prodigious disc of Black Metal + A new theme + live bonus tracks that I would merely say that is very antique at least in our country. Is basically about a pretty austere Black Metal, simple and with too little arrangements, I'm saying this because they don't really needed them, it has enough and more to express their dark feelin' and show their ingenious. It's not explosive, it's not adorned and it definitely isn't something melodic and new so prepare yourself to listen something really different. Every theme is really well elaborated, they're intelligent, and they are 100% flawless, they really have an important value. Many time a little bit drunked we used to discuss which one was the best theme of the demo and everyone always said that it was

"Prayer and for second Last prophecy" and up to the date we still coincide with the same thing. As for the new things we have the track number 6 called "Faustus" that shows us a Black Metal that remains active, rushed, with energy, more revolutionized but without that initiative that characterized them in the 90s. In conclusion this CD is a good opportunity for the ones who couldn't buy this very limited demo tape that flogged us in its time or the same for those who hadn't listened to it.

ENSLAVED

"Vertebrae"

Indie recordings

Elapsed time: 49:12

"Enslaved Light?"

Exited for gettin' this new album of "Enslaved" and a little bit disappointed because of its content. I don't know why does many bands start very strong and with the pass of the time they become "lighter" and those trends to get lightening are never good and less for those bands where we expect a lot. That's the unfortunately case of this Vikings...

The music is very professional, it has some very interesting entries, something that just the more experimented guys can reach, it has very contagious and rhythmical parts that is the case of "Ground", well the truth is that those tracks like this one are not too much listened here (the only bad thing are those snob choirs that sucks). "Vertebrae" is an alternative theme that doesn't have anything to do with Black Metal



though, in few seconds they remember about it. "New Dawn" brings a little bit of that crude and aggressive Enslaved that we know. "A new dawn gets up. Out of the shadows. It gets up with a new dawn. I'm in the world" (the only bad things are those snob choirs that sucks) "Reflection" seems to be the best song for me, I think that is the one that represents the entire disc, is fast

and kinda' depressive but who buys an album just for one good song? I insist (the only bad things are those snob choirs that sucks) "Center" makes you sleep for a while and "The watcher" is a Black Metal kind of aggressive and interesting but also kind of empty. This new disc of Enslaved is very disappointing, and really, if you have bought previous discs of this band, you're not gonna' like this one, the old ones were better because the velocity and the crudeness used to reign. But someone could like it, if you're agree with a poor black metal disc, a little bit black, a little bit alternative and too light you may want it.

SATYRICON

"The age of nero"

Kaleidoscope / Roadrunner records

Elapsed time: 42:53

"When it's dark enough you can see the stars"

Departing from the general things to the particular ones, the content of the disc is derivate from a "command", a very warlike theme, or something alike, with that military touch, that seems to me the most clear and not that slow theme, because they aren't tracks that "hits you on your face", 'cause it seems that the only one who wants to hurry up with this album is Frost who keeps punishing from the commodity of his drums and with great skill and coordination, the guitars aren't excellent, they're slow ,deep and dragged, like if the strings were stocked and obviously that dry voice and sock that Satyr has, keeps resonating in every direction. "Nightfall. Chaos alive. Demonic. The wolfpack." Is the choir that keeps sounding at least three times in "The wolfpack" which comes all covered with schizophrenic and a little bit suicide lyrics, always keep makin' references to the beautifulness of the darkness, is a really simple theme, peaceful and instrumental. "Black crow on a trombstone" has a good shot of double bass-drum and it's about of the naturalness of the messenger crows, of their challenging position and their cold sight that looks you from the above waiting for your death. "Die by my hand" has that warlike and brave spirit that accuses the cowardice of the others saying: "you deny to the resistance, prefer not to fight? , reflect paleness in your faces while you lie because you want to remain alive", "Die in my hands, admit your defeat..." Globally I see a too mechanic satyricon, too experimented, his music is still very stable but it isn't as violent as we were accustomed in the past albums "Dark medieval times", "The

shadowthrone" or the same "Mother north". In this occasion they came back more affiliated to that "Volcano" style. Satyricon doesn't want to risk more, and doesn't want to test new ways of making music; they know that they're a black metal band of elite and their music will be forgotten in too many years.

The presentation of the disc is made on a gray



scale, with a couple of photos of the members (satyr fashion style), crows everywhere and some military pictures of different epochs. I'm not gonna' lie, this is the best that Satyricon has made so far, even if the other bands are going to say that, nooo... This disc doesn't stop of being good but honestly I prefer the other three previously mentioned.

KAMPFAR
"Heimgang"
NAPALM Records
Elapsed time: 47:08

"In front of albums like this one there's only one thing left, to take my hat off..."

Finally another of this albums that keeps you unconscious, satisfied, but first of all that gets you convinced that it was a good decision to write again a little bit and be witness of the emergence of the important creations, something that was pulling me out of the hole that I was in, I knew that there was a sip for me and I didn't want to lose it...

The sixth release of Kampfar appears on this 2008 and in what kind of way, I still remember when in chopo's tianguis I bought this disc in less than \$100 n.c. the "mellon skogklede aaser" and when I used to see that cover with that frozen landscape I couldn't resist to listen to it again, I think that I was 1997.

Heimgang is a very appropriated name for this disc, this Kampfar guys are always thinking on their Nordic roots, "heimgang" that in a Norwegian language is called "huskarl" means "the man that hunts"/"going hunting", there's a

old story about the "Huskarls", special warriors in charge of the Scandinavians kings of that old epoch. "The hunting mans" kept armed night and day, a non particular house without caring if it were theirs' or someone's else that hired they, the Huskarl were more than 3000 mans that years later died under the swords of warriors commanded by Guillermo the conqueror, Kampfar puts in this disc their coming back home, their eternal warlike feeling of protect their home, coming back once and for all again and again, as they have always knew how to do it, because their musical style is never apart from their "earlies" that was in those firsts themes that opened path for them into the space between too many Nordic talent (sounds very gossipy but its true), what it is true of all of this is that Dolk, his founder, does of his owns again. The disc is sensational from the slow and challenging opening of that "Vantro" with many basic strings and slows, but totally secure in their path. The Black Metal that is handled over here is very complex, there's no chance to create it without too much experience and too many hours of rehearsing: "Inferno" is a very influential theme with a "screaming" voice and a compact follow-up of the guitars, have incrusted those Norwegian rhythms that characterizes them. "Dodens vee" is a challenge for every guitarist, because in spite of simple look it isn't simple at all, in personal it seems to be the best. "Skogens dyp" is a open window of the Folk/Black Metal, is the most wet theme of



this style and figures as a deep black metal, as if it were an early rising mist, "antvart" is a little bit more extreme, is less elaborated, but it sometimes turns around you and crushes you from the back..."Vanishinn" keeps maintaining on line whoever who wants to go out of their room where is being listened with a darker and peaceful feeling... In conclusion this disc is too much infested with Folk/Black Metal talent and

very easy to digest thanks to those contagious easy to sing-along rhythms. If you're arranged to spend like 12 euro + sending + taxes, etc, you'll have to have at least 3 bills of \$100 in your hand available for this interesting disc listening it knocking to your door.

"Inferno" promotional video. In the official webpage this band has published a video with promotional purposes for this disc; which throws you to the most popular official website in the world "You Tube". The content in general of this work presents us in black and white, with content very simple and from the bass guitar of course, I dare myself to say that they weren't seen in just one afternoon (the investigation about the time of rolling is part of my homework). This video has an extreme way with a cold breath so characterizing of the Nordic lands, it's a little bit empty, but I consider that is just made on the correct size of the album, this video is too short. At least, go to youtube.com and write "Kampfar 2008" press enter, watch it, reflex a little bit and get your own conclusions, 'cause is never good to listen to the things that the others say...

Important:

Every material here displayed has bought as ORIGINAL and the opinions are PERSONAL, the next reviews that will appear on X-REVIEWS will be about the discs that I will buy on this weeks. By no means we publish DOWNLOADED discs or PIRATE ones, much less is not even wanted to do patrimony with given discs. If someone wants to send some material for their respective review, take on count the previous mentioned things, this way as also your material is exposed to an honest review and the most completely possible by my own. Contact me: C/o Mario Gallardo / Calle Mirador Lte. 6 Col. Ampliacion Plan de Ayala c.p. 62180 Cuernavaca, Morelos, Mexico. X-reviews is a free distribution, if you wish to get it, ask for it in PDF format to:
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