

ROAD PAGE

N°4

A photograph of a man with a beard and a shaved head, wearing a dark short-sleeved shirt, playing a light-colored bass guitar on a stage. He is looking down at the instrument. In the background, there are stage lights, including a prominent red one, and another person is partially visible on the left. The image has a rough, torn-edge border.

**FRENCH TASTE OF FREEDOM
OFFICIAL FAN CLUB SINCE
2001**

Number four! !

This is a very particular issue of Road Page, cause for the first time, the magazine is available in French and in English. The No Mercy Festival was a good experience for us, even without Eric Klinger...

Chris -Do Or Die vocalist- had mailed me that he hope to be on next headlining tour with Pro-Pain...

I join the cool band Px-pain for a day in Switzerland, a very cool moment you can read in the magazine.

You can send me what you want for the magazine, you're welcome, don't be shy!

As you know, Pro-Pain has leaved Nuclear Blast, I try to find a contact in Eagle with the help of Gary to have some stuff for you dear members.

The sounding reveal that you are satisfied of the magazine and the t-shirt. One good thing for me, 'cause as you know I make all by myself, and this English version is most work for me.

The eighth album is coming' soon, more in news page.

I thanks Anne Gaelle, Jeremy, Sam for the pics.

I know that my English is very terrible, so please excuse me, I make all my possible to make it better....



www.pro-pain.org

<http://site.voila.fr/frenchpageoffreedom>

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INTERVIEW TOM KLIMCHUCK 28/02/2002

This is an interview from Norge...

Six years ago, you played in a place called « The Betong » in Oslo, i remember 'cause this night i drank some beers with Gary in the tour-bus.

Tom: Yeah! We try to drink as much as we can every night!

I have a copy of your last album « Shreds of dignity », and i can hear you play most aggressive music after each album.

Tom: I think it's a reaction against Neo-Metal phenomenon. Even if these bands have a big popularity, it seems to be at end. Some of them try to put in their music mid-tempos or hip-hop influences. We want to be different with this musical type, and want to be our-selves. We must re-create our style, and be sure we are near to our roots. The new album is just heavier than before, we really want to make the difference with new bands.

Yeah! It's a success. I'm Pro-Pain fan since 1995, i discover the band with « Foul Taste Of Freedom » and ten years after you still have the hard-core spirit..

Tom: Yeah, a lot of bands splitte up juste before second album . It's a great oportunity to be aware with business music, We still be interested with it, and try to control everything like Rolling Stones do .

Did you imagine a Pro-Pain reunion for your 25 years carrer?

Tom: (laugh) Well, i don't think we can go so far !

I think what is interesting, that you produce the album your-self , you don't need help from any label, since fews years now .

Tom: We've never looked for a deal with big Record compagny. If you do it, tu must sacrifice a part of your-self, and we shall never agree . I think Pro-Pain never went this, and each member is satisfy with it.

Exactly! I read in Gary's interviews, that he still be against ht e business, and it will never change!

Tom: Right! We want to keep a lot of money four us! Did we ever won money, that's the question? Not really sure, even our independency... But if we'll do it again, i'm not sure we do.

About some of your records, Gary says they're produced in your home.

Tom: There isn't any studio to rent with more 2000 dollars by day. We prefer recording at home, and do all by our-self.

Lets' talk about your last album. It is great, you pull the riffs to the maximum this time

Tom: The writing process was single this time. Before we had a global vision with what we do for the album with fast songs andsome slower. It gaves to the album various atmosphere, and it was one of our particularity. This time, we don't really think about this, and just recorded, and when all was finished, we were satisfied. It's true, that the album is very heavy, intense, it's very interessant for us.

There's a very strange thing on the CD. Just after the last song « Killeor be killed, after tree minutes silence, a very crazy song . What is it?

Tom: Well, There's no explanation for this. But i can give you the light about this song! This spng's called « The vomit ». The vomit is Tom Mancini's cognomen! Cause he still drinking!

INTERVIEW TOM KLIMCHUCK 28/02/2002

One night in Cleveland, during the tour after a gig, it was 5 or 6 in the morning i improvised this song, and the members follows me and everybody sings « The vomit ». We ues it as introduction for our gigs, and one days during Shreds writing sessions, i had not inspiration so we take the decision to put it on the album.

This is a very humoristic song! Let's be serious now! Like precedent album, the lyrics are very deep, stronger than never. With « Shreds of dignity » & « Justice must be done », make us thinking that you have a politic message to give us?

Tom: Yes and no! The lyrics are very important for us, and we are still informed about politic. This had still be improntan for us. To include it into our lyrics make us as honnest as we can be. It's a very interessant thing, the hard-core reason to be!

Exactly, in an odl Gary's interview, he says that Pro-Pain still searching for stronger lyrics.

Tom: Yes, there's a lot of deep lyrics, what you hear must have a sense. From my personnal point of view, the lyrics are like lessons you'll learn to your children or something like that.. When you talk about something to the people, they must understand and relative what you say. Well, it's some narcistic situation to put these lyrics on our music. We think that we will interest people, but people have nothing to think for us?

Its like a politic speech!

Tom: Yes, i think it's really what i like in our music, and it will make me crazy.

Is there one chance to see the band a little more in Scandinavia?

Tom: We still try to come during our tour, but we missed some schedules . But we're happy to come this summer, for some festivals, even if nothing's really sure now, we really hope it happen soon.

If i ask you about this, it's cause i didn't see the band since six years now.

Tom: Yeah, you know, it's hard to be alright with our promotors, we want to go in every countries where we have fans, but we dint have good answers each time. I thinkg there's really a chance we'll be back soon. We won't wait six years, you can be sure!

I hope, 'cause six years, it's a very long time...

Tom: I'll probably have more children in six years...

I have some questions about « The truth hurts » . This album disturb me. With the contrevsry, with the cover.

Tom: You were not alone! Roadrunner records had the same sensation. They don't want that someone see the album with original cover! And take the decision to censor it without any discussion with the band. It was ended our collaboration, but somme weeks later, they ask us to come back and and to reconsiderate the cover. Fews fans seek the album with original art work. It's only possible to find it in Europe.

That's i don't understand , is why Roadrunner doesn't change his attitude after your departure?

Tom: I don't know, maybe 'cause the pictures are real, that is probably the reason why!

I think you were right, the picture are real, and the album talks about truth!

Tom: Yeah! « The truth hurts » That's real truth!

INTERVIEW TOM KLIMCHUCK 28/02/2002

FOAD, what is behind these letters?

Tom: Fuck Off And Die! I will not talk about the lyrics

OK, i don't ask you sorry

Tom: No! It's cool, people need song like this!

We'll the european tour seems to mean that you really like the small club, against the great stadium.

Tom: It's strange to play in a place . You are so far from the crowd. It makes me nervous. I prefer to meet them, to touch 'em.

It's strange, it's most comfortable for the kids to be in a great place. In a small club everyone is heaped up.

Tom: You know, the tour bus is not as comfortable as you think, it's like the small club, but we like this!

I think that hard-core fans like this intimacy

Tom: Yeah! I prefer the small place, and i think we find the sound we're looking for.

It's true! Small clubs are hard-core territory!

Tom: It's right! It against the bands who are going to play and win a million dollars!

Exactly, you most honest in this condition, and it's still important for the band. Gary has always be him-self, and the four members give us the same topic.

Tom: I really hope! It's very important for the band, and for me too. I'm not an example of perfect man, but i think most you be honest, and most honest will be the people with you. The world can be better if people try to be honest.

It's a good thing that you keep the same attitude with many line-up changes.

Tom: Yes, it's very hard for the band to keep the same line-up . I think the bands do, have a big success like Metallica & Pantera.



INTERVIEW TOM KLIMCHUCK 28/02/2002

They don't have any financial problem, that is the source of many changes in a band. It's not easy to manage a band, when the line-up is still changed. For each time, you hope to find the good musician. A lot of our fans are against it, but that's life! We loose friends, we win other. I think that the band keep his spirit, and that the different members gave one personnal touch to our music, but they doesn't change it.

All song are written by Gary & you.

Tom: We'll, the two guitar players work with Gary for the music, the lyrics are fully written by Gary.

Did you think that Pro-Pain still be in 5 years?

Tom: Why not? Is you asked me 5 years ago, i will probably anwser the same.. Everything's alright for us, and we hope it will be the same in the future.

You have sale 600 000 albums, without any help from média. It's really good for a hard-core band.

Tom: That's right. We make our promotion with our intensive tour. We works hard every year. The copies saled are not so expansive, but we're gonna be millionaire very soon...

Did you make side-projects?

Tom: Eric Klinger is still working in a side-project with drummer Eric Matthews. Gary and me never want do that. We just produce some album for hard-core bands, it's a good thing to help 'em.



NEWS



- * The new album is called « RUN FOR COVER » and will be released august 26 th. This is a cover song album! Track list :Never Again (Discharge), Circle Of The Tyrants (Warrior), The Crowd (Operation Ivy), Refuse/ Resist (Sepultura), Iron Fist (Motorhead), 100% (Spudmonsters), Terpentin (Bohse Onkelz),Nothing (Negative Approach), Weeds (Life Of Agony), Just Sit There (Crumbsuckers), Damaged II (Black Flag), Your Mistake (Agnostic Front), Knife Edge (GBH), South Of Heaven (Slayer) !
- * New Struggle album will be produced by Tom Klimchuck. The recording started up in may.
- * This is the new adress of comin new Pro-Pain web site:Pro-Pain.com
- * Eric Klinger have his web site, you can rent him to produce your album with 25 dollars for one hour! www.ericklinger.com
The band will appear on summer festivals...
- * Gary Jr, Gary's son is playing drums .
- * Belgian hard-core band Do Or Die want to join Pro-Pain on the next tour... Px-Pain too?
- * Eric Matthews had join the Cleveland hard-core band RINGWORM. Ex Pro-Pain drummer is replaced Chris Dora, more details in thsi Road Page



Here the complete chronicle from Metal Maniacs magazine n° 11 from april 1993. This is one of the first Pro-Pain interview.

Pro-Pain / Brutes With Brains

The debut release of Long Island's Pro-Pain, *Foul Taste of Freedom* is a chunky, musical riffing injection of a reality does. Pro-Pain so not write disposable music or lyrics, and I can appreciate what the guys in this band are trying to achieve. They are real; discussing the human condition and socio-political issues that show clearly their grip on reality. I recently had the opportunity to discuss their ascent and direction with bassist/vocalist Gary Meskil, a candid and earthy individual. Making up 210 dates on their tour slate for the year, it's no wonder the debut record didn't waste away on the charts after your average month following a release. "The album still sells a decent amount of units every week, being we've hit a lot of markets three or four times," remarked Gary. "We've been openers on three tours this year (Testament, D.R.I. and Body Count) and recently we've been on a headlining tour."

I asked Gary if when they first released *Foul Taste of Freedom* most of the public knew of their association with the vintage N.Y. hardcore project The Crumbsuckers, with Gary and drummer Dan Rechartson were original members of. "Many people didn't know about it," remarked Gary. "We had a choice, and we didn't want to exploit (our roots). Slapping a sticker on a record saying 'Former members of the Crumbsuckers' wasn't where it was at. We wanted to be a new band, have a clean slate, and we've achieved that in the least." Why, indeed, live off your old merits?

But how can any of us forget the endearing Crumbsuckers? Especially not their first release, the classic *Life of Dreams*, which was released around the time when the scene was at its zenith. "I've stuck to my guns in what (I wrote) about in those days as I do now. If anything, I've gotten more intelligent and genuine in what I feel in my heart and soul." There's no mistaking their outcry at their surroundings in times past or presently, but there was some levity to the Crumbsuckers

There were songs on that album like "Hub Run," about a guy driving to his dope connection to buy a dimebag that ended up being laced with dust. Gary laughs when he thinks about that one. "I was not responsible for the song. I don't smoke pot or write about it. We had a couple of different lyrics on that record, and Dave Brady, our original singer, wrote about 25% of the songs. We did get a lot of mail about the song, since it wasn't on the lyric sheet after the first few hundred records were pressed. The scene being the way it was, you couldn't help but jump on the bandwagon in those days," reflected Gary as he continued on about his thought on "The Scene." "Some of the hardcore scene is hypocritical. As soon as you sign to the majors, the fans (abandon) you. We've always been underground, which is miraculous, but if we busted out of it I don't know what would happen."



"We discussed how Biohazard currently have the ideal situation of being on an indie and being distributed through a major label. "Distribution is important, and the label has the freedom. Artistic freedom means the most to me." After the Crumbsuckers' *B.O.M.B.* release, Dan and Gary put together a project with ex-Crumb Chuck Lenihan called Heavy Rain, since they wanted to do something different. "It was what you could (term) radio friendly. We were along the lines of Queensryche or Fate's Warning, with a lot of vocal harmonies. I had just come out of an eight year union with the Crumbsuckers, and I needed to experience something different before I could (gear) myself into another heavy band."



What the time was right for the two to endeavor into heavy turf again, they formed Pro-Pain, a volatile band with an attitude and a mission. They recruited Tom Klimchuck as guitarist, who had to leave due to his exacerbated illness with Krohn's disease, and then they took on Nick St. Dennis, who they had become acquainted with on their tour with Testament. He was the latter bands' guitar tech, and since he knew all the Pro-Pain songs, was the logical choice as their newest member. How do the three view things, and do they butt heads when coming up with song ideas? "I've only known Nick 10 months now and I'm still getting to know him, but we all pretty much see eye to eye." With all the touring they've been doing, it's probably hellishly distracting to try to become inspired to contrive lyrics. "I hang out by myself at night," commented lyricist Meskil. "Usually ideas beckon me late at night. On their *Foul Taste of Freedom* release, all the bandmembers were in full-time working situations which emphasized the blue-collar outlook by being able to directly relate to others through shared experiences. "Exactly," agreed Gary. "I perceived things on a daily basis, and was definitely affected by just looking around town and seeing what was going on. We were all affected personally. So many stores are closing and why is business down? We truly shine when we look around us on a day to day basis." The social aspect of their record was undoubtedly derived from their living in our country's biggest metropolis, a breeding ground for every seedy element known to man. Bands from smaller communities can't get the angle on that. "Crime is up in every town, and the signs are coming in the big cities. People are scrapping everywhere."

Having toured the whole year, Pro-Pain undoubtedly had a forsake their full-time jobs and remove themselves from that influence, which--who knows--may affect their outlook on the next record. Would they ever want to give up their jobs in the permanent sense as their success spirals? Many bands have things that need to be said on their first couple of records, and their purpose becomes lost in the shuffle as the band becomes their 'career.' "It's kind of weird, this 'starving artist' concept. The more successful you get in the financial sense, the less (valid) some bands become in the artistic sense. (Being in Pro-Pain) calls for a lot more road time. I recently closed up my catering business. It was seven days a week and a lot of work for some time there. The taxes were too much and there were a lot of lease problem. My friend owns a liquor store, and I had worked there a long time. I outlived four owners and climbed up the ladder on my merits as a good worker. I earned the freedom to return to work whenever I want," concluded Gary as he thought about how his band has really been taking off lately. "Success is just like a lot of parts of life, you have to approach it with a level head."

Their forthcoming, as of yet united, release, will be another crunch-metal commentary due out in April. Pro-Pain are currently working on the material as their tour dates wind down. "One issue I will deal with on this album is propaganda. It's so effective on the drop of a dime, just like with Somalia. I was watching the American hostage on T.V. the other day, and the American public is like 'Wow, they have a hostage. Let's get the hell out of there.' People don't have any interest at all in what's going on until something drastic happens. We have another song called "Down in the Dumps" (and another called) "Put the Lights



Out." It's about doing away with the old way of thinking on how lyrics and cliches have taken on a meaning, and (forming) a new way of thinking. I don't think it's appreciated if you're not on a bandwagon. You get nowhere and it's self-defeating. Many bands had great ideas, and (their demise) wasn't their fault. It's terrible, if a band is politically and socially active." In the musical sense, Meskil admits that the album will be a bit of a progression. It won't be drastic," laughs Gary. "In our old band, we took a progression that went a bit too far and had too many personal changes. There's going to be variety to it, I want to see how the album goes theme-wise, to see if I can (tie it) all together." Pro-Pain will probably seek the auspices of producer Alex Perialis once more for the finished demos,

and I wondered how they felt about working with a producer who devotes his time amongst many bands, as opposed to a lesser-known, but good soundman

"I hadn't worked with many producers before, but Alex and I see 'ear to ear' on a lot of aspects. The chemistry is there with the right producer and engineer. We only have about four songs now, (and by) three to four weeks I'll have enough material to speak with him about it," sized up Gary. The time is prime. After a couple of years, a decent spread has been established for a band to come up with new material, giving people an ample breather from their last one.



So what are Pro-Pain doing lately besides finishing a tour and having completed a rap-remix of "Pound for Pound." "We put the bass line over the versed, kept the choruses and did the whole thing in one day with four tracks and drum machine. It sounded strange until we played it about fifteen times. It wasn't 100% happy with it, but we were pressed with the elements." And what about that Crumbsuckers reunion we've been hearing about as of late? "We played a show out at the Limelight recently and drew a sizeable crowd. We played with Psychic Orgy, which was Mike and Chuck's (ex-Crumsuckers) and Pariss' (ex-Cro-Mags) band." Will they still team up with Chris Notaro, their ex-vocalist, for any dates? "Chris is the foreman for his dad's landscaping business out on Long Island. The other guys and I might call at the last minute to see if he'll come out and play four songs with us," hoped Gary.



Collect 'em all



A very rare laminated card from the very early days of the band. It announce the release of « Foul taste of freedom » and the first ever tour of Pro-Pain. We can see Gary & Tom with long hair, and Dan with skin head...

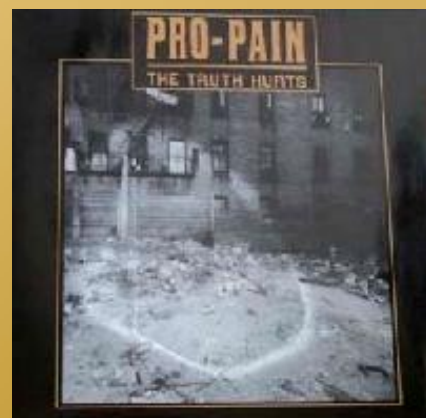


Back with Spudmonsters album « Stop the madness », this time with a limited édition in red vinyl with only 1000 copies made.



I hear ya winter spring '99: A sampler CD from 2000 with Pro-Pain's In for the kill!

« The truth hurts »: The second album in vinyl in german édition only available in soft cover. Not a few copies are pressed.



Another CD sampler available in october 2001 in USA:

Metal Maniacs Presents... Deranged

Trial by Fire [Testament], Eye for an Eye [Soulfly], Dead by Dawn (live) [Deicide], Hacked to Pieces [Six Feet Under], Staring Through the Eyes of the Dead [Cannibal Corpse], Principle of Evil Made Flesh [Cradle of Filth], Reptile [Dimmu Borgir], Raven [Kittie] Substance [Pro-Pain], Detached [Spineshank], Pervert [Dog Fashion Disco], Vengeance Is Mine (live) [Pissing Razors], Lasting Dose [Crowbar], Fear Death by Water [Sixty Watt Shaman], United Forces [S.O.D.] .



Collect 'em all



A promo video with «Pound for pound» clip and short portrait of the band. This vidéo contains 2clips « Waiting through the darkness » from Flotsam & Jetsam from their album « Cuatro » and Independant from Sacred Reich from the album « Independant ». Even if it has nothing to see with Pro-Pain, i like those bands too, so it's a really cool stuff.

Insult II Injury is a hard-core band. In 1994 with the album Point of this, they have one very spécial guest: Gary Meskil. This album is produced by Overkil's vocalist « Blitz ».



The same compilation you've seen in Road Page n°3, but in vinyl this time.

Little souvenir from the first european tour in 1993...



One strange thing with this jacket, is the back « Death on the dance floor » on the « Truth hurts jacket tour 1995. Like you know, « Death on he dance floor » is on « Foul Taste of freedom ».

One promo CD TUNE UP N° 77 with one of the biggest hits « Pound for pound » available in 1993.



Collect 'em all



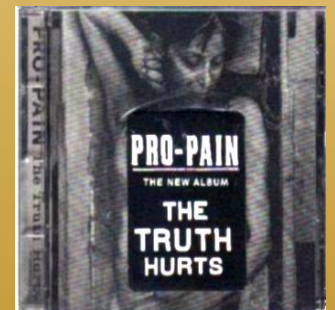
Adidas or Pro-Pain shirt? Well, it's a cool Pro-Pain shirt from the european tour 1998 with drummer Mike Hanzel.

From High Gain Records, a promo 5 titles CD very rare, also contains: Get real, Time, Don't kill yourself to live, Mark my words, Life's hard. This CD announce the release fo self-titled album on February 2th 1998.



Nice collector, this American Foul Taste Of Freedom in long sleeve. Distributed by Energy Records, only available in the states.

Second album with censored art work with the sticker imposed by distributors. Then we can not see the long scar on woman's body...



Gary's early days! A very cool and rare promotional poster from Combat Records for the release of BOMB, second Crumbsuckers album. It's strange and funny to see Gary with hair.

Interview Hard N' Heavy 1998



Back with one of the best album of the band, « Act of god ». This interview was published in french Hard N' Heavy magazine in 1998

Why to hide it? We like Pro-Pain so much, since fews years now! So when Sir Meskil is back with his band and with an album like the bomb « Act of god », it's a crazy moment... Fire! Gary!

Each time we meet Gary Meskil, vocalist/bassist/leader of Pro-Pain, he still had the same impression on his face: quiet and determination. The man's right, 'cause since six years now, Pro-Pain is on the road, and Gary had meet many problem with the band, and he never gived up. He will never stop, the life i a fight, his fight through the band, the music. The band was the pretender to succeed Pantera, but is still playing in small clubs, ans is distributed with energetic but small Record compagnies, all this can be discouraging, but not for Gary! During these years, he loose two friends –Dan Richardson ex Crumbsuckers with Gary, and Rob Moschetti, the man with killer face, one of the wildest guitar player from hard-core scene...

Seatted on table in a parisian restaurant, with a cu of coffee, and his eternal base ball hat on his head, Gary is serene. « Rob is gone, 'cause he love this girl and prefer to go to restaurant with her rather to be on the road with the band. Since the begining, we play almost 2000 gigs!

When we talk about the new drummer on « Act of god », Gary stay quiet and says:« Oh, Dave Chavarri... His dream was to make a tour with a rock band. When he realise that is'nt cocaïne & groupies , but tree month in a tour bus with guys with smeeling foot, he says: « OK i saw, it's cool, i back home! » He stay with us 'til the end of the tour... I respect his decision, he had a familie and a home...

One word about the best-of ?« Our first records were distributed by Relativity (Roadrunner in France) are indiscoverable. I just want that young kids can have an idea of what was Pro-Pain at the begining. The live songs were recorded during the « Pro-Pain album »event in january.





Here we are with the famous new album »Act of god«, a killing record, played, recorded and sold by Pro-Pain through their own label, Raw Head.

Gary: « I don't know if the things will continue for us, (the second part of « us » is Tom Klimchuck). We have now the Spudmonsters rhythmic section in the band (hard-core band from Cleveland, the best live, the worst on records).

Pro-Pain & Spuds have played few time together, so Eric (Klinger rythm guitar) and Eric (Matthews drums) know exactly what is our life style on tour without major compagny. They're great musicians,

But the scène, Gary! It's there that you are the best band of the world! Why did you come so rarely in France?

Gary: « You know, if we can we do more gigs in France(only 2 in 1998) But we can not have the control of everything. I really hope things will be better with our new record compagny High Gain. They have a good staff, all are fans of metal and i'm sure they will give us a great help for the next tour.

We never say it enough! Pro-Pain is a live band! The new album « Act of god » is a bomb, better than precedent self-titled album.

Gary: « The self-titled album was recorded between two tours. There's a lot of good song on it, the thing i don't like on this records is the drums sound.

Cause we like Pro-Pain so much, we don't want to discuss more about this. Live, was the final test, and songs like « Dont kill yourself to live », « Mark my word », & « Blood red » was incredible live. Now with « Stand tall » to « All falll down », or « Love and war », I remain & « Time will tell » (Gary's prefer song), dont look for the mistake, thre isn't. Pro-Pain is definitely a killing band, the record must be listened very loud! .

The band will continue his road for a long time, a chance for us 'cause great live band are rare. So welcome in kicked in the teeth music, the hard-core music of Pro-Pain, brutal, mais still intelligent!

INTERVIEW TOM KLIMCHUCK

Round 6 the new Pro-Pain album is once again 40 minutes of intense music. We meet the symphatic guitar player Tom Klimchuck, to know all about the making-off the album and what will be the next schedule for the band.

What's up since the release of Act of god?

- We do a important tour through Europe and States, and after we all need some holidays. We get in studio to start the recording of Round 6.

What did you think about the bands who wants to sign with major compagny?

-Well, every one is free! Even i think it's stupid if you wont when you have opportunity! If you're sure to keep your artistic liberty, and you can do the music you want to do, why not? It gives you a lot of experience, you can play in the entiere world!

How was the writing process for Round 6 album?

- Very simple! We want to control all ourself. Ans that's what we do, a real pleasure for us, it's easier for the band.

What is about with the lyrics?

- it's hard to answer, 'cause Gary is the only one in the band who's writing the lyrics. All i can say, it's like the precedent album, about the society problem, or personnal problem. Gary still try to see the things with positive touch. He try to not repeat the same things in the songs.

How is the writing process in the band.

-Gary and me for the music, and after the rest of the band. The other members don't want to do more for the moment, and it's alright for us.

Can we say Pro-Pain is Gary's and Tom band?

- No, I don't think that. As i say, Gary and me are writting the songs, but each members give us another point of view. We are like a family and each one member is as important as another one. We are very jointly.

When you are writing, how did you know that one song is good for Pro-Pain?

- Just the feeling. I can talk for Gary, but i'm sure it's the same for him. I think it's just a question of feeling. Sometime we take some risk, but we only keep the song everyone like.

Some words for your belgian fans:

- Yeah of course!. I would like to thanks them for the support. Dont forget our next schedule with the new album Round 6. We'llbe back in Belgium in February 18th with 40 Grit and Unbound.



Exclusive Interview

Strasbourg April 17th 2003

Gary & Tom

Greg: It's the first time you play in No Mercy festival, isn't it?

Gary: Yes

Tom: Yes, we've been very pleasantly surprised with this tour.

Greg: How will run the tour after the No Mercy Festival?

Gary: We will return with a headliner tour shortly after the new record is released (TBA)

Tom: Look for a Pro-Pain headlining tour early in the new year..

Greg: Why did you choose this festival, the other bands are not really playing hard-core music?

Gary: We thought that NO MERCY could broaden our fan base because the crowds are different than we are used to playing for.

Tom: NO MERCY needed a little hard-core!

Greg: Gary, You're touring with Testament like 10 years ago, what is changed since those ten years?

Gary: Not as much as one would assume. The music is still very heavy with both bands.

Greg: Tom, You're touring with Testament like 10 years ago, i don't remember (sorry) if you

we're still in the band at this time.

Tom: Yes, for some of the touring the two bands did, i was there.

Greg: After ten years of intense touring, did you feel the same pleasure when you're on the road?

Gary: Yeah!

Tom: I still enjoy being on the road, but i want to spend more time at home these days.

Greg: Did you ever think one day: « Fuck it's too hard, let's stop now! »

Gary: No!

Tom: No!

Greg: Is there anything new or radical change in the music of the new comin' album?

Gary: The new album will be a bit slower and groovier than the last, but heavier also!

Tom: No radical changes, but maybe some small changes.

Greg: If you deviate of the « Pro-Pain style », did you think you can deceive your fans?

Gary: Yes. I think Pro-Pain fills a very particular void very well and we don't want to change that.

Tom: Early in the band history, we were experimenting with samples and horns, and

this has allowed us to continue trying new things without turning fans off.

Greg: Shreds of dignity was available in Europe in April 18th, but in France in the middle of may! What was the problem with the distribution of your album?

Gary: I really don't know what the problem was.

Tom: Distributors in different territories are sometimes unable to keep the same schedule as surrounding areas.

Greg: Gary, the shreds lyrics seem that you have a pessimistic vision of the world. We can think that there's a lot of anger deep inside your heart..

Gary: I think that we live in a pessimistic world, and in order to make things better we must discuss our views and problems.

Greg: We know that lyrics are very important for the band, is there a theme with the new album?

Gary: I am yet to write the lyrics, but I assume they will represent the times in which we live

Tom: No theme has come out of it yet.

Greg: There's ten years ago, you wrote a song called

« Iraqnophobia » .I have the feeling that this song is sadly still actual, isn't it?

Gary: Yes, unfortunately it is still timely. However, that may change soon.

Tom: Yes. Hopefully, ten years from now, we won't want to hear it anymore.

Greg: You have built the « hard-core attitude » during one decade, and you're still the leader of this music. Did you know why, there's not a lot of young hard-core band. Is it 'cause it's not the best seller music?.

Gary: Hard-core is an attitude. The bands who understand that will be better off than those who don't.

Tom: I think mostly because we 've become friends with most of our fans.



Exclusive Interview

Strasbourg April 17th 2003

Gary & Tom

Greg: Gary, Two years ago, we talk about Kirk Hammett played live with Crumbsuckers. Last week, i find in my archives an old interview from french fanzine (1987) that Jason Newsted listed « Life of dreams » as N°1 in his play list. It seems that Metallica and Crumbsuckers were really good friends in the 80's. have you a particular or funny souvenir about this time with the guys of Metallica?

Gary: Only a video of Kirk on stage with us at CBGB's Metallica started it all for a lot of bands, and they deserve more credits then they are given these days.

Greg: The 70's & 80's madness we can see in concert is disappeared. We have the impression that a lot of band are like the boss of big industries, and not really like musicians. What did you think about this attitude?

Gary: Many musicians use music as a stepping stone for bigger and better things. However i never take my music or the fans for granted.

Tom: I think it's very important for musicians to be aware of the business of making music.

Greg: The deal with Nuclear Blast is ended, and you have a better proposition with Spitfire Records, that's the reason why you leaved N.Blast?

Gary: The deal expired, and Eagle UK has expressed a bit more interest at this time. As always, we'll see what happens.

Tom: I wouldn't say one label is better than hte other. The reason we moved to Spitfire was more about timing and the labels schedule.

Greg: In what was the Spitfire's offer better?

Gary: In many respects it is the same. Good staff, OK, money, etc..

Tom: I wouldn't say that it's better or worse, just different.

Greg: What did you think about « New-metal » phenomenon?

Gary: I don't like the fundamentals of nu-meatl, but some of the bands are good : DISTURBED, SYSTEMATIC

Tom: I think thre are very good musicians and bands playing new-metal, but i'm not really a fan of the music.

Greg: I'll probably make an English version of Road Page, so you'll understand soon what the fanzine talks about!

Gary: GREAT

Tom: That would be helpful.

Greg: What did you think about French Page Of Freedom, our web site and then your web site too?

Gary: We can't thank you enough. I think it's really great. Also, we thank you very much!

Tom: We all appreciate the effort and passion you show for Pro-Pain.

Greg: We'll once again, thanks for your help, just some words for Road Page readers:

Gary: Thanks to our French fans. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Tom: Thank you all very much, and i look forward to a long future with all of us.





GARY MESKIL:

Thanks to our French fans! Your support is greatly appreciated !!!

TOM KLIMCHUCK:

Thank you all very much, and I look forward to a long future with all of us!

INTERVIEW SPUDMONSTERS OCTOBER 1997

What strange twist of fate has given the Cleveland-based Spudmonsters a steady career in Europe and lack of recognition in the U.S., much less their home state? Will the release of their third disk *Moment of Truth*, even the playing field (pun definitely intended) or just be an ironic title? Answers with band bassist Steve Swanson.

Why do you think the Spudmonsters took off so quickly in Europe and not here?

SS: Europe's a really different animal, in my opinion. Kids over there read the rock magazines and aren't tied to MTV as much as here. They're into a lot more heavier music, especially metal. A lot of bands that are big there have hardly anything going on here...it's really funny. It almost gets you down, because after playing Europe, we're busting our ass in this country and things aren't happening as much.

How would you describe the music?

SS: It's so hard to put a label on music anymore. Things are changing, people are rapping over metal. Similar to Sick Of It All. Hard-core, a cross between punk and metal. We've unfairly gotten tagged Krishna-core, because our singer, Don Foose, just converted to the religion. We've got no problem with it, this is America and you have a constitutional right to whatever religion you want. It bothers us when people say we're all Hare Krishnas because we're not. I'm just an average working guy, not very religious. A lot of people are reading Krishna into our lyrics and those can be taken ten different ways.

Let's backtrack to your musical roots.

SS: I'm originally from Ashtabula. When I was young, a buddy of mine up the street got a drum kit for his birthday. He was ten, I was eight. In 1985, after graduating from high school, I moved to Cleveland. I worked at the Agora for years doing construction. When in college, I learned to read music through a friend and went the classical route. It wasn't going anywhere. I heard about the Spudmonsters auditioning, so I tried out Thanksgiving 1990 and made it. The band was getting more serious about what they were doing. Still, we're a bunch of idiots, we have a great time together, all brothers at heart. The work has payed off because I think this disc is our best one yet.

Which explains why you're leaving the country again?

SS: After this last tour with Pro-Pain, we did some U.S. dates including Columbus and Canton. That just finished up back in July. October 29 we're going back to play Europe again. So far we don't have any tune-up gigs before the next tour. We're just taking a break. We've been slacking.

How come you went out of state to record this new disc?

SS: We wanted to get this powerful, live edge. We tried an automated board on our last release and it came out almost too clean. We went to a studio in Rhode Island that had older style equipment.

Who would the Spudmonsters like to do a U.S. tour with?

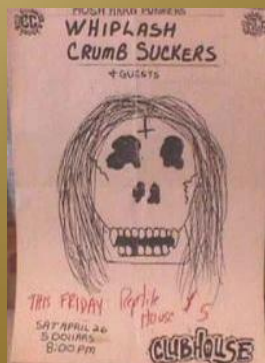
SS: Faith No More and Pantera, because they're friends of ours.

Finally, what's the outlook for the band?

SS: This disc is being distributed on both sides of the Atlantic, but it's our last one for Massacre Records, so we're shopping for a new label. Right now, we're concerned at making *Moment of Truth* go more national.

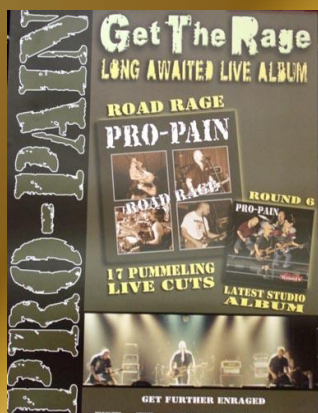


Collect 'em all



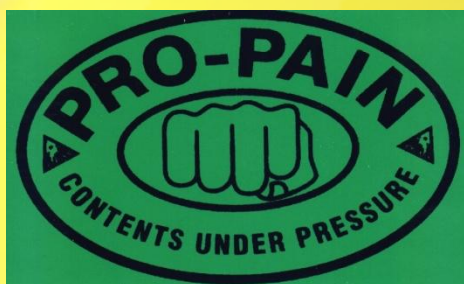
An old flyer from a WHIPLASH/CRUMBSUCKERS gig on Saturday 26th April in 1986... Collector !!!!!

Double sided promo poster from Energy Records



Spitfire's promo poster for the release of Live album Road Rage

Some stickers...



Live in the raw:

The sun shine, we can think it's summer time, it's 3PM when I arrive in Z7. The last time I come here was 18 months ago for an incredible night with legendary heavy metal band Saxon. To store this festival must including an history parenthesis, 'cause some of the bands who play tonight are legendary, and I'm was fan of them when I was a teenager. 20 years later, this is an incredible opportunity to see them back. The place is empty, it's strange... I see Pro-Pain's sound engineer and ask him what's happening. He says that Gary & Tom are sleeping, 'cause the night before they we're a little drunk...

A part of Testament get on stage for the sound-check, without Chuck Billy, They play some parts of « Disciples of the watch », « Signs of chaos », « Electric Crown » and « Harvester of sorrow » from METALLICA. Whoa! Great beginning... Its early for star, only 4PM, and the Swedish band DARKANE begun the gig with a very raw and melodic music. There's only 50 kids in the place, but the band play like even the place was full. The gig is some short, only 30 minutes, I never knew this band before. Cool music! The second band MAFEVOLENT CREATION start soon after, and 'cause I don't like their music, I go to the bar. Too noisy for me...

It's 5 past half when I see a bass guitar that I know. Pro-Pain is near... On thing is strange today, the roadie put Gary's microphone on the left, not in the center of the scène. We'll I see another strange thing, no Eric Matthews. I think « The two Eric are gone! The band get on stage without « Klingy », and with a new drummer. Fuck, once again the line-up is changed. It's a cool opportunity for the people to see the band like in the early days as a trio. The music is still loud, even with only one guitar. Gary, & Tom seems to be tired, the gig is energetic, but not as loud as usually. They started up with « Stand tall » and the new drummer strike his drum kit with determination. Without Klingy, there's like a blank without his energetic rhythm riff, but it's the occasion for us to hear the 4 strings louder! After « in for the kill », and « No way out », the band stop for two second only and play «The shape of thing to come ». I take some pictures during the gig, like usually, on stage, it's hell, the decibels running flow. Only 38 minutes after the beginning, the gig is ended. What fuck! That's all says some kids. I understand that the band will probably go to bed early this night... Set list: Stand Tall, Fuck it, Draw blood, In for the kill, No way out, The shape of thing to come, Life's hard, Get real, Shine, Make war not love, State of mind.



Pratteln April 14th 2003

In 1985, after he started up a band with Scot Ian, Dan Lilker leave ANTHRAX to form one of the best old-school trash band: NUCLEAR ASSAULT. This band knew a large success with his energetic trash and is early compared to great bands like METALLICA, SLAYER, MEGADETH... When I saw Dan Lilker on stage with his old friend John Connely, I think that it will be hot tonight! The Nuclear's olds riff are very efficacious, even they're 15 years old! The band has splitted uo ten years ago, and they're back like in the good old time. If you've got the « Live at Hammersmith 1989 », video, you understand exactly what I mean. The typical 80's trash is very intense, the crowds are head banging, the swear flows . It's

like if I have 15 years old. What a pleasure to see the band live, it's like an old dream... They play hits like « Game Over » during it, John Connely will sing in front of the kids, below the stage! After one hour of crazy head banging, the band play « Rise from the ashes » and the gig is ended ... The band will probably get in studio for a new record...

Once again, a old band is back, San Francisco's DEATH ANGEL had splitted up in 1990... Mark Osegueda's band are coming' on stage and start strongly with « The ultra violence ». Just some minutes later, my wife call me and ask me to back home. Cause she's pregnant, I return home and inform Tom that I'll be back in Strasbourg.

Greg

Dan Lilker NUCLEAR ASSAULT



Rob Cavestany DEATH ANGEL



Pratteln April 14th 2003

The end of the night is comin' soon, i go to the bar and later outside, 'cause i really hate black metal. Sorry Greg! One hour and half later, it's time for the great ceremony; Testament!

The place become darkest, a red smoke invade the stage and introduction « Do Not Resuscitate » start. The gig is like an apocalyptic war during the ten first minutes. All the kids are jumping, slamming, head banging. Master's ceremony Chuck Billy is incredible, he had a very charismatic presence, and with his old companion Eric Peterson too. The drummer (even if we have some regrets there's no Dave Lombardo behind the kit) strikes again and again. All the kids sing with Chuck, The bass player is very impressive, he plays with a fretless bass guitar, without picks, a really good musician. I know that Greg's an old Testament fan, and I'm sure he will appreciate this show.

Steve.



Chuck Billy TESTAMENT



Rich "New kid" Ferjanic



Rich Ferjanic is henforth the new and fifth Pro-Pain drummer (after Dan Richardson, Dave Chavarri, Mike Hansel, Eric Matthews). He was before in RUN DEVIL RUN , the band with ex-Spudmonsters Don Foose, as you know, Spuds was Eric Matthews band before Pro-Pain! (Another thing that you perhaps don't know, Don Foose suggest the name Do or Die for the belgian hard-core band DO OR DIE) The world is small!) Rich was in the band In Cold Blood too.

No Mercy Festival 2003

Report: Fuckin Sam

This day will be hard, 'cause yesterday i was here for CRADLE OF FILTH show! . Me and Jeremy my brother join Greg in the begining of the afternoon to help him to prepare the French Taste Of Freedom's stand with the fuckin banner « Welcome Pro-Pain ».

Darkane start hostilities early, with a melodic death-metal (like Dark Tranquillity) .It's cool, but i don't like the voice so much). After swedish band, american MALEVOLENT CREATION get on stage . The place is full! I don't like their noisy music, i think it's still the same song during the show! I know tons of better death-metal band! DIE APOKALIPTICHEN REITER (Greg's prefer band). Probably the strangest band i ever seen in my all life. It's not a metal band, but circus band, with the vocalist jumping all over the scène, the masked keyboard player, and the songs are in german or in english... Sometimes, some good riff, but not really so good for the people who's very surprised! Fortunately Pro-Pain comes! It's rather strange to see the band as a trio form! Rich the new drummer is not sleeping behind his drum kit, he strikes like a damned! Sure that Eric Klinger missed us, especially with his jump! We can salute the determination of the band to play even without one member, once again we can see the respect for their fans , the band won't cancel the schedule! Many thanks to 'em! Tonight, the pit is on fire, never we can see a lot of slammers, absolutely incredible. It's live in the raw! Just some minutes to wait and NUCLEAR ASSAULT & DEATH ANGEL play their old school trash. I'm not a fan (nd greg: fuck! It's not possible !!!). Norvégiens MARDUK come for one hour of hell music . Too noisy for me, but a lot of fans are here today! It's late when TESTAMENT play . I'm not really a fan of the band, (nd Greg: Go home Sam, you don't know what is heavy music!!!) The show is well, i like the bass player Steve (ex- Death). Great show for Chuck Billy !After the gig, we discuss with , Gary & Tom. They tell us how they're proud with their fan club! It's a pleasure for us to see the sincerity of the band. NO MERCY is definitely a good name for this festival!

Live in the raw:

Second and last show for us with this 2003 No Mercy edition! We're back in a place we love since few years now: La Laiterie. The sun is shining, everything will be right this time. I arrive at 1PM, just five minutes before Fuckin Sam and his brother Jeremy.

We're busy in the early afternoon, 'cause we have a great streamer to hang on the wall with « French Taste Of Freedom welcome Pro-Pain » on it! , and a stand with Road Page our fanzine and the shirts of the club. Gary visit us and I give him the last issue of Road Page and promise that next one will be in English! I give him too, the new shirt, and we discuss during few minutes about « Klingy » and Rich « New kid » Ferjanic... Rich join us later, and was surprised to know that Pro-Pain 'got a fan club. Gary tell us why Klingy's not here today, we wish him all the best!!!

The sound-check star with Darkane, and Tom in the corner of the stage is playing unplugged seated on amplis. At 4 past half, Darkane start his set, the kids are numerous in front of the stage, and started up their head banging. A nice band, with powerful music. Then after this gig, came the furious Malevolent Creation and later strange Apokalyptichen Reiter .I don't attend to their gigs, 'cause I don't like their music. Really not!

Pro-Pain get on stage and « Stand Tall » roar in a fully place. Contrarily in Pratteln tree days ago, Gary & Tom are well tonight, they probably not drank yesterday... New drummer Rich strikes his drum kit with efficacy, a small guy, but very energetic! Tom on the right side of the stage is playing at 100%, the Klinger's absence is not a problem tonight, it's just different , somewhere it's like the early days of the band. The first pause came after « In for the kill », just some seconds to restart with « Life's hard ». The kids are in serried ranks, just in front Gary and slammers are everywhere on stage between Gary and Tom! The band plays on of their biggest hit « Make war », and came back for « State of min » and the show is ended. Tom stay on the scène to salute the crowd and shake some hands. Gary and Rich came backstage.

Set list: Stand Tall, Fuck it, Draw blood, In for the kill, No way out, The shape of thing to come, Life's hard, Get real, Shine, Make war not love, State of mind.

Nuclear Assault

Thrashers invade the scene, in fully Laiterie. One hour of swear and headband , an intense show, the mirror of what was the band 15 years ago: one of the leader of 80's thrash metal. Like says one friend, the voice of John Connely is still the same, it was of particular look of Nuclear Assault music. I remember the band made a great Led Zeppelin cover song « Good times bad times » this night was a good time!

We can name this tour « Dinosaurs' tour » 'cause Death Angel is a veteran like Nuclear Assault! Today, I have a discussion with Mark about Metallica, 'cause I know he's friend with Kirk Hammett. He says « I'm a fan and a friend of Kirk! ». My answer was « I'm a fan of you and of your friend! ». Naturally, it was a huge honor to meet him. The show start fast with « The ultra-violence », and the old kids are like an united voice to sing with Mark. Death Angel is a legendary band, and is back for the best ! Young kids tonight can see for the first time what is trash metal band, and some of 'em buy some CDs just after the gig. During one hour, the band revisited the tree album of their discography, and leave the scène for monsters of black metal Marduk. Death Angel come back is successfully!



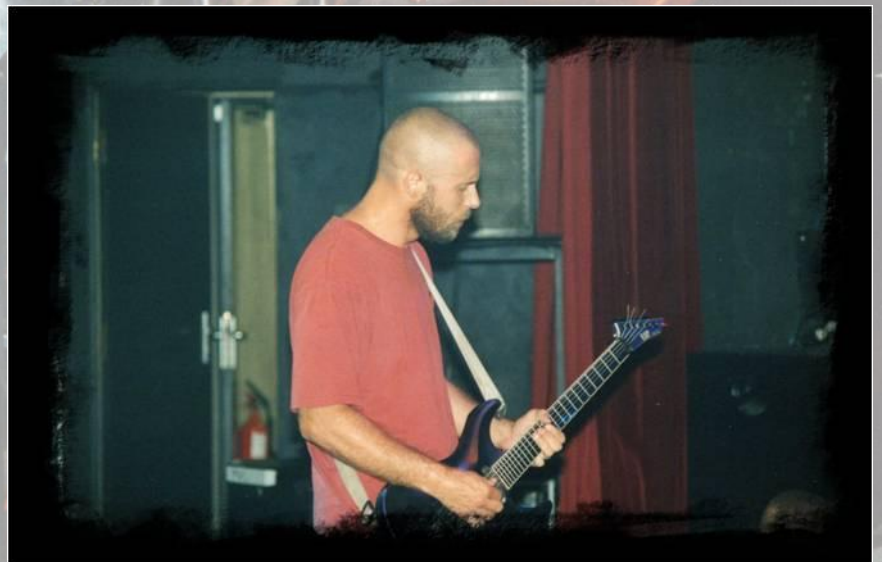
Strasbourg April 17th 2003

It's time for grand 'mass! Eric Peterson come from the right behind a thick red smoke, while start « Do not Resuscitate ». The show begin, and all the kids are under influence of God Billy! The set list, is a large part of « The gathering » (5 songs) and « The new order » (3 song), unfortunately, albums « Practice what you preach », « Souls of black », & « The ritual » are not on the list. But 'cause the show is so powerful, it's a detail. Chuck Billy is the master of trash metal, very charismatic! His voice is very deep, so bewitching! After the gig, we came on the outside to wait him and some other for photos, hand shakin'. We also meet Chuck, Eric Peterson, the guy of Marduk without make-up! All the bands are in their respective tour bus, and go to another town for another gig. For us, it's time to go home with a lot of pictures in our mind and with . Pro-Pain show us a tremendous interest, and it was for Anne Gaëlle (the first member of the club and the only woman) the pleasure to meet Gary, Tom, Rich, Chuck and some more.

I hope to continue this adventure during few years...

Thanks to Pro-Pain, Nuclear Assault, Death Angel, Testament, and the Laiterie's crew for their friendship and support!

Greg.



RINGWORM

Eric Matthews new band.

Four years with the same line-up, the first ever time for the band! Eric Matthews has leaved the drummer job he had in Pro-Pain since 1999, after Spudmonsters splitted up and after Eric Klinger's proposition to join Pro-Pain.

Eric 's back at his home in Cleveland. One band – leader of Cleveland hard-core's scene- RINGWORM was looked for a drummer, so Eric Matthews join 'em just some week after his departure. Ringworm is an old hard-core band, they started up their career in 1990.

They made their first self-titled demo in 1991 and two years later the first album came out: « The promise » on Incision Records . Even the band start up strongly, the band splitted up in 1994. The band came back just for one year during an European tour in 1995 and keep the silence during tree years .

The band is back in studio in 1998 and release another demo called « Madness of war ». The band is signed up with Chicago's label Victory Records and the second album « Birth is pain » is recorded.

In April 2003, the first album is re-edited with bonus tracks live and first demo tracks on label Deathwith inc Records. Chris Dora the drummer leave the band for personal reasons, and Eric Matthews join RINGWROM.



Live in the raw: Strasbourg April 17th 2003

Darkane, Malevolent Creation, Die Apokalyptischen Reiter, Pro-bread, Nuclear Assault, Death Angel, Marduk, Testament17 in April 2003-05-21 The Dairy - Strasbourg. It is at about 3 pm that begins this No Mercy on 2003. Darkane opens the ball. The public is stable but not less attentive for all that. The music of Darkane is especially nevertheless furious and very intense (the singer spat his guts, but his records are not distributed specially indeed where from this effect of discovery which seems to emanate from metal kids. Drawing mainly from Expending Senses and Insanity, the show of the Swedish is strong and the internal power of the pieces makes that the band is squared and direct (which riffs!) in spite of the technical side of certain titles. An original group and to see again. On this eclectic poster in the extreme, Malevolent Creation is the only representative of the death metal. Very square, the group chains the titles between fast parts and typical heaviness of the style. This variation of the tempos return the concert a less linear bit even if, unless being a fan, we can have difficulty in following everything up to the end ...

While they were able be hooted in Paris, Die Apokalyptischen Reiter begins his concert under a relatively low audience, what avoids the risk of mockery ... The public eventually brings in little by little into the atmosphere of this most atypical group of this programming. No whistlings but rather a welcome polished without being discreet. It is necessary to say that the riffs of certain titles can stick very quickly. We shall hold rather the visual aspect of the combo with his singer who moves throughout the stage and who harangues the crowd and his keyboard player whose face we shall discover only at the end of the concert because he was under a mask of black leather (hmmm! Oops). It is an energetic gig but did it convince everybody?

We pass then in a totally different register. It is time for the Americans of Pro-Pain to come to hurl everything their direct hardcore metal in your face! They are only three but which efficiency! The songs are linked at full speed, their stamina is impressive and is totally reflected in the public who slamming all the seconds. The main headlines are played (Stand Tall, Make War not love), and the machine Pro-Pain is an example of professionalism which knows also how to play with its guts!

The atmosphere will remain completely unchained for Nuclear Assault. The public who gets closer is different from Pro-Pain, and we see the die-hards there which can finally see or see again their cult group. Nuclear Assault shows himself so overexcited, of what maybe to convince aficionados also ... Still the music has to go of pair ... And there, as often, we like or we like not. Their speed thrash took many wrinkles, and the appreciation of the style is made on the condition of not counting any more years ...

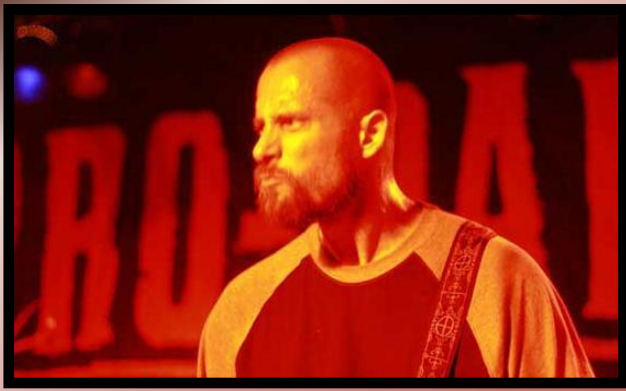
Moreover against - example which could be used to discuss this assertion concerning Nuclear Assault would be Death Angel. Waited with an enthusiasm shared by all, the victorious return of cult also Death Angel gathers this time all the generations. Apparently very satisfied to be there (who would not be here?) the group digs up its pieces into its three albums (The ultra Violence , Frolic Through the park, ACT III with a majority of titles coming of the Ultra Violence and ACT III. The guitarists give themselves to heart enjoyment with a special mention in the lead guitarist which has fun as a madman by modifying at leisure his solos. The singer also has widely of what to receive a palm, he widely gave himself up to the end with a voice which does not have failed only once.

Place again in a style which divides up a little the metal community: the black metal. Yes but not whatever, it is about Marduk all the same. Synonym for shit in branch for some, evocation of respectable quality for the others, Marduk knows well the scenic subject and it is in big reinforcements of professionalism that the group built its reputation. We can note all the same a lack of communication between the members of the group each seems to play from his part, and it is on the singer that rests all the work of frontman. Normal will say yourselves me but it is not alone on stage that I know ... Except for this detail, the solidarity reigns musically and that binds a max. The pieces of the last album restore a new saving breath and pass very well on stage. And here is those everybody waited, the lords of the thrash is back!! Will!!! The group will play 60 unfortunates minutes which will have at least the merit to be intense! We would have twice taken back well it, but the promise of a top of the bill (quite as for Death Angel) and a passage in Wacken will a little make us wait ... The words of Chuck Billy's welcome reassure us on the shape of the combo and its satisfaction to be back in Europe. Then place again in the music, and nothing does not seem to stop) the thrash madness! The classics (Into the Pit, Over the Wall, Trial By Fire) are very present and what to say furthermore except that it is simply the ecstasy! It is also the foot tuned to listening songs as Low or True Believer!

Every musician gives himself completely and gives well the image of a fantastic close and ready group. The bass player Steve Di Giorgio is a killer, his play gives new sensations to the songs and it seems totally integrated into the group. The veteran Eric Peterson always seems to burst on these pieces that he had to play certain number of times ... Steve Smyth, the other guitarist, is not spread from it for all that and his riffs and solos are all also murderers. Jon Allen, to the drum kit, is not the legend Hoglan or Lombardo but he plays very well also and does not really have

Of criticism to be made ... Finally Chuck Billy pleases to see, his safe is always so incredibly deep and when he says to you " Obey! " In the reminder, Disciples of The Watch, and indeed one " Obey! It is already finished, but what it was good! The atmosphere so on stage as in the public had nothing unhealthy in spite of the mixture of the kinds , and each left sweaty, torn but intensely satisfied.

Anne-Gaelle Villacroux.



An old interview with Tom during the Contents under pressure tour with Crisis and Voivod...

So, you've been on this tour for quite some time now, did you tour elsewhere prior to this?

TOM: I think we're entering the fourth week of this tour, I think it totals 60 shows. We got back from Europe around three or four months ago, we did about 35-40 shows over there, including a lot of the festivals. Actually we kicked off the tour at the Dynamo Festival, then went and did a whole tour by doing the summer festivals. I've noticed over there is Europe it's a little harder to put a tag on the shows over there, compared to ones here in the States, but there's a lot of strong markets over there where a band like PRO-PAIN is accessible. We made it in the top 50 for record sales for Contents Under Pressure and it seems the market is a little more willing to accept heavy music. There seems to be a little stronger loyalty, cus people are still listening to ANVIL and all the old school Metal bands. They still have a following over there, so they tend to listen for fifteen years rather than a couple of years and then forget about the band. So, in a way it's a stronger market, however as of late, the markets been flooded. Everyone realized Germany is the place to go to do some business and everyone went, and it's starting to collapse the scene.

You mentioned earlier about old school bands and one band that I listened to back in the 80's was CRUMBSUCKERS. Could you tell me, if you know, of what happened from CRUMBSUCKERS to PRO-PAIN?

TOM: Let me tranform here for a second (he pauses to take a hit off a joint). The CRUMBSUCKERS released two records and by the end of the second record and by the end of touring that record, it came to a point where the band was going in different directions for each of the members. As I understand, as it was told to me, it got to the point where it wasn't going to be the CRUMBSUCKERS vibe anymore, so they called it quites. Then Gary & who is the founding, original member of PRO-PAIN formed another band which was a little more commercial and a little more Pop oriented. They did that for a while and they had a record deal with that. Then sort of the same thing that happened with the CRUMBSUCKERS happened to that band. They ended up not getting it to go through and getting it to work, so they threw that away, then Gary figured it was a good time to get back into the heavy music, so they started PRO-PAIN.

Let's talk about Contents Under Pressure, what was the feeling like during the recording of it?

TOM: Just like the title actually! It was a real pressured situation becasue we really didn't have a whole lot of time, and we took it upon ourselves to leave the studio we had booked and take it and record it in our living room. We took the record budget money and threw some of it into recording gear. It was a really, really rough time, because me and Robb were living in the house we recording in were hurting for money. There wasn't any to go around and we had to record this record. It really is a well titled record because it was tough getting through it, but when we were done with it, it was, by far, our proudest effort. There's something about scrapping through the cushions of your couch to find money to buy toilet paper that brings out a certain edge in the music and I think it really get captured on this record. When I listen to it, it brings me right back there, it's funny how it works. I hope some people can catch that vibe off there.

So what do you see next for PRO-PAIN?

TOM: We're planing on going to Europe in January. After that we have an opportunity to tour America again, or go to South America, Japan, and Australia. And that looks pretty appealing. And after that we'll probably start doing the new record. From there, if we survive,...I'll be happy.

Here's a live report from french fanzine Ram'core Posse



PRO-PAIN: ten years strong

Pro-Pain is one of the best hard-core bands, they come from New York. They never won the notoriety they merit... As I write this chronicle, it's because I'm a Pro-Pain fan, and I see that the band isn't very known by the youngest kids. I think with the fanzine, I can change this! We can resume Pro-Pain with only three words: brutality, simplicity, efficacy. If you like harder, faster, stronger, music, you will like Pro-Pain! The band was started up with Tom Klimchuck, the guitar player and the impressive vocalist/bass player Mr Gary Meskil! The band still changes with drummer and rhythm guitar player... Since ten years now, the band has recorded 7 studio albums, one best-of, one live album and a live DVD absolutely raw! In 1992, they made « Foul taste of freedom » the best album of their discography, very heavy, very angry. Two years later, with « The truth hurts », Gary Meskil was probably very angry 'cause his voice is like an animal yell! Once again, a very great album. 1996, « Content under pressure », Pro-Pain is for the hard-core what is Mozart for classical music: the best! « Pro-Pain » in 1998, « Act of god » in 1999 & « Round 6 » in 2000, once again three albums more, still the same attitude and music on 'em. In 2002, the last album is more faster than ever, with supersonic riffs, and has very deeply lyrics. This is the life of Pro-Pain since ten years. Well you can think: « OK the albums are great, but live??? »

I was in Paris during the « Shreds of dignity tour » on April 9th. For this tour, Pro-Pain, Px-Pain and Against All.

American band Against All started up their gig, (the band is produced by Tom and Gary) and their music is strong but not really appreciated by kids.

After the guys of Px-Pain play a metal core, raw, energetic, it's something different than Against All, the kids like this band.

After the funny « The vomit » introduction, Pro-Pain started up with three songs. And played classical hits « Foul taste of freedom », « Shine », « Make war » and many more. After one hour of gig, the band left the scene and came back for more four songs! If you've never seen Pro-Pain live, don't miss them during their next tour, you can not be deceived.

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