



NEWSLETTER / AUGUST 2020

EVIL METAL



SARCATOR (Swe) Visions of purgatory Ep. 2020. Digital. Self-released.

The last years, I didn't find as much interest in the newer Swedish metal bands, because many wanted to sound like ENTOMBED so much (Or sometimes wanted to be so professional) that a part of the underground fun got lost... But here is a nice surprise for fans of energetic & old school Swedish metal. SARCATOR is a young band from Trollhättan that plays nice "blackened" thrash metal reminding my crucified skull of old MERCILESS (Swe), old SWORDMASTER, or early KREATOR (Pleasure/ Terrible era), perhaps with a zest of NIFELHEIM (Less "drunk")... And if you want to be more underground, they share some spirit with the thrash bands you could find in Sweden in the 2002-2006 era (LEPROZY, LETHAL, CAUSTIC STRIKE etc...). The songs are built on a quite energetic thrash metal basis, then you can find some black metal influences (Fast "blast parts", screams), or touches of death metal and even speed thrash... There's some kind of "teenager" enthusiasm in the playing, which is quite good to hear, for this reason they have something of the first CROWN OF THORNS/ THE CROWN album (Even if their style is clearly more thrashing). Well, the songs are quite well built, and some riffs sound quite catchy (And even great), but I also find less enthusiastic points: I find the music to be a bit more common when they tend to play closer to old school DM or 90's black metal. Also the last two songs sound less great than the two first ones (I don't say it's bad, but I feel less catchiness). To conclude, SARCATOR didn't reinvent the wheel of torture, but this Ep is very pleasant

to hear, and might please the needs of those who like it thrashing, with touches of black and death, and also with a Swedish enthusiasm.
<https://sarcator-se.bandcamp.com>



ANTHROPOPHAGOUS (Usa) Spoiled marrow Demo 2019. Digital.

Are you in a need for obese and ugly death metal crass to explode your parasitic brain? Then you might have found a nice purity-healing medication with ANTHROPOPHAGOUS. Their style is roughly fat ugly death metal in the style of old ROTTREVORE, old AUTOPSY (Less epic), with some great Finnish sounding riffs of doom here, or some regular death metal there (That can be "thrashy" or "crusty", but only by moments). If you want to talk about newer bands, the music is perhaps not unlike some UNDERGANG or TOMBMOLD sometimes. This tape is full of heaviness and ugliness but sometimes the band is almost inserting its ugly fingers in the scrotum of sludge (Rather the old one, no "atmospheric" stuffs here), and I'm not a very big fan of sludgy stuffs, so... The ugly crass addicts might be interested to read this demo also happens to contain few death grind accelerations à la old REPULSION (Or EYE GOUGER). Well, obviously this is destined to the fester, to the fans of the ugly, and might not please everyone (Who cares?). This is a quite great sounding tape to please fans of ugly, doomy, death metal crass.
<https://anthropophagous.bandcamp.com>



MASSIVE OBLITERATION (Fra) Demo tape. 2018. Self-released.

I know this is not a new release, but feel free to teleport me in the past if you need it extremely fresh and current! MASSIVE OBLITERATION plays some kind of old school grindcore/ old deathgrind, and comes from the north of France (Lille). While listening to their music(k), I think about (very old) NAPALM DEATH, NAUSEA (First album), old AGATHOCLES, or maybe

ATROCITY (Usa). They say they are influenced by old TERRORIZER, but you have to play extremely tight to sound this way, so I don't know. In my decrepiting hears, this sounds more like a cool underground grindcore demo, with a somewhat chaotic side in the playing... And so we feel closer to the old demos from the past. This is not based on blasts only, there are many dbeat/ crust and a few slow beats, which is nice...

I heard the band wanted to change their name for a reason I didn't totally understand (No, I wasn't drunk on goat semen, what did you imagine?), but I wouldn't advice this... I once wanted to change the name of my "industrial" project, because the style was changing "a bit", but looking back it would have been quite wrong...

Well, let's come back to the music: This tape contains cool old school grindcore and fans of old grind who are stuck in the cave could dig it. So, if you're into the sounds of the old grinding underground, you know where to place your ugly fingers: On the "PLAY" button of the tape player! Ps: Members of the band use, or used to play in Evisceration, Mass grave, Gerbe of life, among others...
<https://massiveobliteration.bandcamp.com>



APOFENIA (Argentina) A cold night's death Demo tape. 2019. NEKRASSIOUS Tapes.

If you like death metal rotten, cold and ugly. If you like old demos from the early 90's that were recorded on 4 trackers. If you like to sleep in seas of crass and rancid ugliness, Then this quite bizarre tape might be for your hears.

As you probably understood, this band practices very old school death/ death thrash. During the listening I thought about early AUTOPSY (Death doom), the demos of NIHILIST, the first DEATH album ("Scream bloody gore"), maybe some extremely early IMMOLATION (The first demos), with a touch of old Finnish death reekings for some bizarre moods. (Sometimes there's also perhaps a bit of Napalm Death "Harmony corruption", but it's not an enormous influence).

I tried to review this demo, listening to the bandcamp page of the band, but it didn't work because of a too clear digital sound (Due to my speakers?)... So I shut down the speakers, and inserted the promo tape sent

by the label in a noisy cassette player, and it was immediately more convenient! (More heaviness and analog bass frequencies :-)) Well, the playing of the band isn't always super tight, it's even a bit strange by moments, but it's a demo so it fits the rotting context. This tape is destined to fans of real underground death metal, the production is roughly closer to "Morbid visions" (Perhaps a little better) than "Left hand path", but it doesn't really matter as there are cool moments of morbidity and repugnance. DECAPITATE THE BIZARRE AND DEFORMED!



AFTER (Usa) TKG Demo. 2019. Digital.

This is a pretty energetic punk hardcore band from Brooklyn. The music is simple and quite raw, following the old & nice dbeat style. This reminds me of a more "punkish" DISRUPT (Especially the "Unrest" album), with very old school fast punk hardcore moments, and little "rock'n roll" touches à la DISFEAR. Listening to their tracks, I wonder why they didn't call their band "DISAFER"? Ah Ah When I saw the artwork of the demo, I expected to feel some "punk" influences à la early CELTIC FROST ("Into the crypts of Rays"), but there are no metal touches here, it's mostly punk & dbeat. The music of AFTER is a little too punk for my tastes, coz the dbeat I enjoy somewhat reached the next level of "hardcore power"... But I'm not a big HC fan anyway, and nothing sounds wrong here, so the fans of dbeat/ early punk hardcore might find interest here. Smash your head with bromide bottles. Break the bottles, break the bottles! Test the hardness of your rotten skull.
<https://aftertkg.bandcamp.com>

OLD SCHOOL

GRIND

DEKONSTRUKTOR

// Eating the universe //

Slow, depressed and spaced out doom/ doom/ old sludge, with old industrial influences (No machines). Music infused and recorded in a quite old school way, not unlike very old Godflesh by moments. Almost 60 minutes to fall into post-industrial oblivion or to skirt your parasitic brain.

Tape available from Visceral Circuitry recs:
visceralcircuitryrecs.bandcamp.com

RANCOROUS

THRASHING INTERVIEW

OLD SCHOOL
THRASH/ DEATH
— METAL —
FROM NEW ENGLAND/ USA

Hello. Before all a little introduction to RANCOROUS would be welcome. What were the reasons for the creation of the band? Was it only to compose good metal songs, or you had a bit more in mind?

From the start, the spark that lit the fuse was ripping off MERCILESS and 80's German thrash metal, mostly SODOM and some early KREATOR. That was the initial thing. Eventually it also became an outlet for misanthropic hatred of humanity, total irrational fury, and wanting to kill and destroy everything. Doing this style of death/thrash metal without some actual warped aggression scorching through your brain doesn't make sense to me at all.

Your music shows a nice sense of composition, so I think you had other musical experiences before... Can you tell us more about it?

Fuck, we could be here all week talking about the various failures that led to the creation of the songs for this band, haha. Speaking for myself, I've made and discarded dozens and dozens of awful riffs and songs over the years. And I've had the honor and pleasure to participate in more than a few bands and projects that either went absolutely nowhere, or just totally crashed and burned. All of the stereotypical band bullshit. Dealing with every dysfunctional personality type imaginable. Getting fucked around by flakes and charlatans. Putting up with gargantuan egos. Any sense of composition comes from bombing and fucking up for years and years, and then being stubborn and stupid enough to not quit. Maybe somewhere along the line you come up with something that kills. That's maybe.

Are melodies important for a thrash metal band? If I had asked this question to a thrasher in the 80's his answer could have been quite harsh ahah

Depends on the band. SLAYER made a career with a ton of atonal, fucked up riffs & solos. Is it a deal breaker if a band uses it well? Nope. All things considered, I definitely prefer the more fucked up atonal thrash riffing in general. "Darkness Descends" is a prime example.

Old SODOM are a part of your influences. Which release from their early years is the most influential for your sounds? From the half-drunk evil youth of "in the sign of evil", to the raw savagery of "obsessed by cruelty" (Well, depends on if you own the American or European versions, which are different recordings, still not totally clear about this), to the more professional and catchy vocals or ass kicking riffs of "Persecution mania", or the soulful guitars of "Agent orange"... Which one did matter the most? (And would you say "Better Off Dead" is a part of the first epoch/ Golden years of Sodom?)

Gotta say, the main thing that sold me on SODOM was "Agent Orange". Then "Persecution Mania", then "In the Sign", then the rest. It took a little while for my young dumb brain to absorb a primitive, maniacal song like "Blasphemer", haha. Which is now arguably my favorite SODOM song. The most influential album for RANCOROUS is "Agent Orange", though, no question. Songs, riffs, guitar tone, production... all of it. And yeah, I'd throw "Better Off Dead" in there as possibly being the last of the "classic" era.



Do you miss the Swedish MERCILESS? Their last album from 2003 contained a great melting of old school thrash/ death and blackened Scandinavian influences... I wouldn't mind hearing more of this as long as the (horned) quality would be present.

\\ RIPPING THRASH //

Probably the only band I actually miss is the true SLAYER. Getting to witness Hanneman, Lombardo, Araya, and King perform live was life affirming and remains an all time inspiration. MERCILESS were always killer, but I can't exactly say that I miss them, considering that they essentially ceased to exist as a full time band in the 90's. So it's kind of difficult to miss something that wasn't on my radar until later. I only caught on to them right after that last S/T album came out in 2003. Speaking of which, that record is excellent, and definitely holds up to the rest of the catalog. Love the production on that one. It's one of those records that actually gets better and better the more you listen to it. This question actually made me get the CD out and give it another spin, so there you go. Totally recommended!

Some bands release only online demos on YouTube or bandcamp... On the other hand you decided to release it by yourselves on cassettes. What are the advantages of a physical release in your opinion? I can find various reasons such as "A physical release isn't as easily forgotten as anything digital", but I won't answer my own questions ahah

Now we're getting into music nerd territory. Advantages of a physical release are an actual tangible object that can be duplicated and archived. Having a digital only release provides less context, I'd say. This is due to age, because I can vividly remember having to go by the CD insert thanks lists to find out about other bands. Data on a hard drive has never seemed real. Owning an actual vinyl LP or CD is much more worthwhile in the long run, for a bunch of reasons. I'd argue that any metal band that wants to go the distance will put their money where their mouth is, and plan to release a demo or an album on at least one physical format.

If RANCOROUS was a chainsaw, would it rather work on petroleum or electricity? What do you think about cliché metal questions in interviews? (ahah)

Most cliché metal questions should be destroyed, or ignored, haha! Who the fuck wants an electric chainsaw? You're interviewing an American! We only use devices that will destroy the environment. Our amps run on coal, and our favorite hobby is littering.

What are currently the most important American labels for underground old school metal in USA? Would you say Hell's headbangers, Nuclear war now, or 20 buck spin perhaps? Peoples living in Europe might not have the same view because of distance, persistence of communication...

I'd agree 100% that all three of those labels are among the most important and influential in the US. All three seem to have a solid reputation as well, which says something. Even though I don't like or care about everything they put out, I definitely have respect for the overall professionalism and persistence. I mean, I can nitpick all day about what I like and don't like, but who the fuck am I to tell someone how they should run their business? There are already enough people blasting their uninformed opinions out there on social media and message boards.

And what about smaller underground labels in USA? There are nice labels releasing tapes or smaller scale CDS in your country, which could you quote?



Headsplit is the best as far as US tape labels go. Varied distro with lots of death, grind, and thrash, both newer releases and reissues. Can't go wrong there.

What are the next projects with RANCOROUS? Tell us more, and feel free to conclude.

Currently finishing up demo recordings for the next release. The main goal at this point is aiming to have a full LP recorded within the near future. No wimping out. Zero compromise and zero fucks given. Any LP release should include live gigs and touring anywhere possible. One million salutes for the interview!

<https://rancorous.bandcamp.com>

More reviews, interviews & distro at :

<https://nihilistic-webzine-distro.fr>

BONES

SKULL