

Hail Vince, how is the day today ? Is the winter day cold right now ?

The day is starting to seem fairly all right. Luckily the weather is not so cold anymore.

Let's introduce ARMOUR to readers. Some of us know you through Satanic Warmaster, but how and why did you create a traditional Heavy Metal band ?

Although I usually never want to make any concrete connection with my other projects in the Black Metal abyss

and ARMOUR, I'll answer this once and for all. I have had the need to always express myself in all possible ways, and during these years when ARMOUR has been forming into the band it is now, it's been a vision of mine to create something from a 100% musical standpoint, and naturally it came to be in a form of a Heavy Metal band. Even though the aesthetics within Black Metal are strong, they still represent only a very narrow side of one's personality, and never can portray even a small portion of emotions. As a real living human being, I have much wider variety of emotions than just those that go along with the aesthetics of Black Metal. In this sense, Heavy Metal music, or just Rock music in general has much bigger possibilities of expression in many ways. Also me being a Heavy Metal fan for the bigger part of my life, it was bound to

happen one day or another. I still want to express my disappointment for people who cannot take ARMOUR for what it is, no matter what my other musical projects would be, or the people who only become interested in ARMOUR because of my involvement. A



**Is Scandinavia returning to the cult of the early 80's Heavy Metal music with high pitched vocals and thundering riffs ? Anyway, something is happening in the northern part of Europe; While the early 90's were the glorious years of frozen Black Metal, these days Thor unleashed a great bunch of Heavy Metal combos through Bullet, Enforcer and Armour. Lead by the man behind Satanic Warmaster, ARMOUR is a fucking excellent discovering if you're into sharp riffs, rocking songs and heavy compositions. They'll immediately remind you of Accept, WASP and a bit of Judas Priest. They've published some 7EP and a collection of their songs through the amazing "Sonichouse Tape". Read Vince's answer and bang your head !**

good example of this stupid mentality is from Bart Gabriel from Dragonight agency, who wanted us to be a part of his management, but backed away right after he got complaints from some bigots who thought we were too evil people and that there should be nothing extreme about Metal anymore. For me, and most likely many other Metalheads there's nothing more disappointing than to see people bend under pressure, because this is exactly what Heavy Metal is not about. No support for people who

cannot make up their own minds, want to please everyone and abuse bands to gain also personal fame

through that ! *(the funniest thing is that most people who shit on Heavy Metal praise Mercyful Fate, who are ...Heavy Metal !!!-ed)*

ARMOUR was chosen in the national main TV network competition as the third best demoband from Finland in 2008, as well as the best Metal demo band. How did you manage such a thing ? I've to admit that is pretty cool that you success that, it's much better than Lordi ehehe...!

It was pretty simple actually, knowing that our music of course is second to none. We just put together the video of "Highway Survivor", sent it over to the competition; impressed the judges of the competition who did the initial selection of bands, and our fans did the rest.

The first official material from ARMOUR was "Sounichouse Tapes", containing 5 tracks and a wonderful female cover. I guess the title is linked with the early Maiden's tape called "The Soundhouse Tapes", is that right ? Where did you find such a sexy girl for the cover ? I saw they're several editions of this "Tapes",





Nuclear War Now! will do an American edition, won't they ?

Yeah of course the title bears tribute to the EP Iron Maiden did back in their early days, and also to the mentality of taking things into our own hands and forging our Metal destiny with our own will! I find that sexy woman every morning in my bed. There are also versions of that CD pressed in China and Usa, as well as a vinyl version on Primitive Reaction records from Finland. There might also be a tape version soon, but after that we are really interested in re-releasing that material again.

Would you agree if I describe ARMOUR as a mix between early WASP and ACCEPT ? What is pretty cool in your band is that you kept the European Heavy Metal sound and included some classic for the 80's American Metal... I would say ARMOUR is traditional Heavy Metal with sharp vocals. Our influences are many, but European (British/German especially) and American metal bands have influenced us the most definitely.

This is pretty obvious that your vocals are close to Udo, thence I'd like to know what does Accept represent to you ? For me it was one of the best Heavy Metal from Germany and their early albums are killer... It was never really conscious in that sense to sound like Udo Dirkschneider, and personally I don't really even think that I sound like him anyways. This was just the voice that came out very naturally, so I guess I just sound like myself rather than plagiarize anyone else. There have always been bands with more sharp and raspy vocals, like AC/DC, Cinderella, etc. Of course ACCEPT is a brilliant band in my opinion, but not something I would consider an initial influence in that sense.

Up to now you've only released demo and 7EPs, is there a plan for a full length and which label will be chosen for this album ? I guess you'll do a vinyl edition ?

We are now working on our debut album, and I think it should be out later this year. It will be released by Primitive Reaction records from Finland, and yes, it will

be out on vinyl as well.

Could you tell us some words about your last EP

"Blitzkrieg Warrior" and the two tracks featuring in this EP ?

The "Blitzkrieg Warrior" 7" EP on Iron Bonehead records (Germany) features two previously unreleased tracks, an intense rocking anthem "Hellfire" and a more epic b-side "Dogz".

Vince, we'll know your activities in B.M scene and Satanic Warmaster. What lead you the need to create an Heavy Metal band, to sing with "high" clean pitched vocals ? I mean that SW had an image of a misanthropic and nihilist band, that is in total opposition to ARMOUR and Heavy Metal "codes" ?

I think I pretty much explained this previously. I am not a misanthrope or a nihilist. For myself, Black Metal is about Satanism, and I am a Satanist. Heavy Metal has much longer traditions as the "devil's music", so I see no contradiction myself.

How is an ARMOUR live session ? Do you act like in the 80's with heavy light show, interaction with public and so on ?

ARMOUR live is as you could expect it to be, arrogant, rough and hard-hitting no bullshit Metal attack!

What are you favourite 80's bands and albums ? Were you enough old to perfectly understand what was happening in the early 80's in Europe and Usa with all the NWOBHM ?

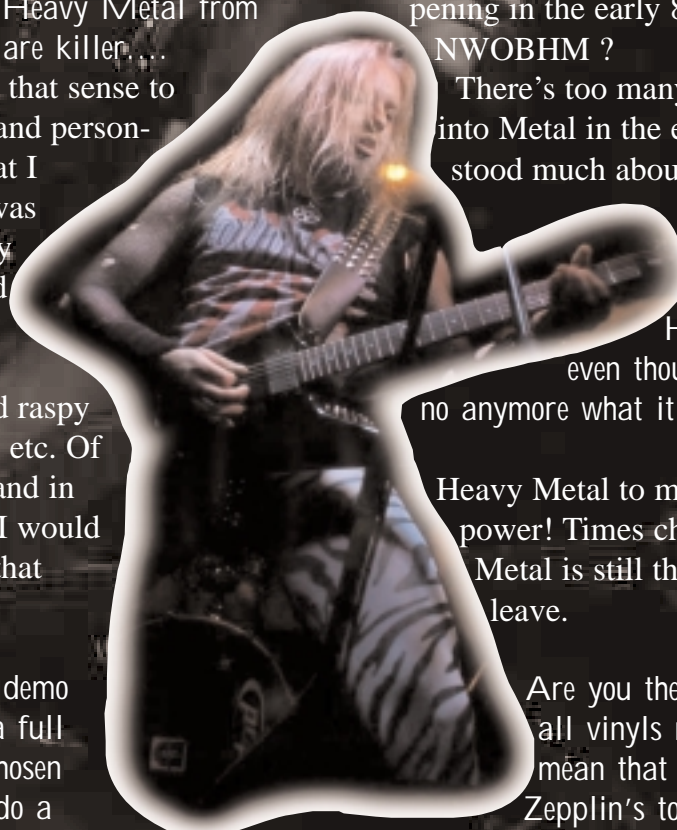
There's too many great albums to list. I only got into Metal in the early '90s so I don't think I understood much about it in the '80s.

What does Heavy Metal mean to you in the 2009 ? I mean that Heavy Metal is 35 years old and even though that it's still pretty strong it's no anymore what it was once....

Heavy Metal to me means freedom, rebellion and power! Times change but as you can see, Heavy Metal is still there and for sure isn't going to leave.

Are you the kind of Metalhead that collects all vinyls no matter the kind of Metal ? I mean that you can collect vinyls from Led Zeppelin's to Darkthrone at once ? How large is your vinyl collection and what are your jewels ?

I am extremely selective when it comes to records I buy. As I have a mind of my own, I can actually buy whatever I like. I guess I have over a thousand LPs at the



moment. I appreciate my Exterminator (Brazil) "Total Extermino" LP from 1987 quite a lot.

I'd like to know if you got bad words from B.M maniacs as you've created an Heavy Metal combo. I mean that perhaps some narrow minds would think that you betrayed the famous ideology ?

Of course there have been people bitching about it, it was more than expected. The worst thing one could do is to make an ideology out of any kind of music. Nothing is more disgraceful than to take aesthetic reflections of various artists' philosophies and views on things and make them an ideology of your own. These kinds of things exist only for weak minds who have to dogmatize things that are to be taken as they are.

What do you think of Glam Metal genre ? I ask you this question as pictures from ARMOUR live remember me a bit this kind of Metal, or perhaps it was just "for fun" ?

I really don't even have a clue of what this "Glam Metal" or "Glam Rock" or whatever is?! Heavy Metal bands have already dressed in an outrageous manner and I personally feel that it's one of the many aspects of Metal aesthetics that serve a clear purpose. To go back to the "Glam Rock" thing to which somehow people connect ARMOUR to in some occasions, I have to say nothing would be as far from glamour as ARMOUR. Not to mention that glam bands like Sweet, Slade, T-Rex etc. are total shit.

There's a video live in your Myspace called "Heavy Metal Drinkers". How was this video clip shoot and it's a real live session or is it a play back ?

This live video is 100% real live session. The gig was in Lahti in 2007, and was shot by a fan of ARMOUR.

As you've a track called "Heavy Metal Drinkers" I'd like to know what is the

strongest alcohol Finish people can do and what do you think of French beer as they taste like piss when foreign people drink them ahahha ?

You can get Spiritus Fortis from underground dealers, that's around 95% so it's the strongest. I have never tasted French beer myself (you're so fucking lucky !!!-ed).

Finland wasn't very famous in the 80's when it comes to Heavy Metal, so which bands from over there would you advise us ?

I can recommend Tarot "Spell of Iron", Kirka "R.O.C.K.", Kassu Halonen "I have played Rock'n'Roll", Sarcophagus/Moottorilinnut stuff and OZ albums. Also in case you're interest in good bands

appearing now, be sure to check out Speedtrap and Cast Iron (read the interview that's on line on Franang zine web site-ed), both are very promising bands!

What are the latest releases that impressed you no matter the Metal genre ?

Lately there haven't been many good ones.

What do you think of this traditional Heavy Metal and Thrash Metal that is currently alive with bands such as yours, Fuelled By Fire, Résistance and so on ?

These two bands you mention are unknown to me. From bands appearing in the past few years that I can appreciate, in addition to the two Finnish ones mentioned above, I can appreciate bands like Portrait and Enforcer for example whose debut albums are both totally killer.

Thanks a lot for your word, what is the very next plan with ARMOUR ?

There will be a great surprise soon for all the Heavy Metal Hunters out there soon. Stay Heavy/Evil!

