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EUGENE
SHOCKABILLY
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INTERVIEW



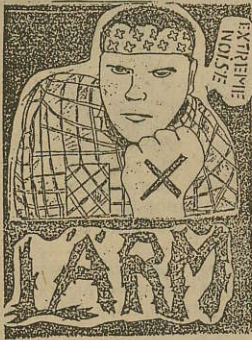
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RK SLOANE

an interview with LÄRM

LÄRM
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HOLLAND



Because I think LÄRM is one of the greatest bands in the Netherlands, I decided to do an interview with them. The members of LÄRM are :
Menno - vocals (20 he studies the law at the university).
Olav - drums (22 unemployed).
Paul - guitar (24 unemployed).
Jos - bass (21 is becoming a teacher this year).

Besides the band some of them are active in their local punk-center "het KIPPENHOK" organising gigs, cut hair, they have also a tape-label which is called "ER IS HOOP tapes" (not so active lately), they also do video (we're rich, ha,ha) "X-core video" and Paul, Olav and Jos play

in another band called A.M.K.A. that's really short trash and noise. They are together since new years day '83 so that's about 2 1/2 year, they play about 1 1/2 year in this line-up, the time before they had a girl on vocals "Dorien" she left the band because of musical differences. Paul, Olav and Jos played together in several bands during the last 5-6 years (Sextons, Disturbers, Total Chaos), Menno used to sing in the band Survival Squad from the Hilversum area. By the way LÄRM comes from different areas, Menno lives in Amsterdam, Paul and Olav in Amersfoort and Jos in Achterveld (go and find it on your map of the Netherlands). The bands LÄRM likes are those who play with very high speed and who has got to say also something. They believe that playing hardcore/trash is not only playing fast but also have some good lyrics. Well that was the introduction here comes the interview :

F- How many gigs did you do ?

L- Since we did our first gig in April '83 we've did about 40 gigs (we've never counted them) we almost played around the whole of Holland, we remember some good gigs (atmosphere, music, dancing etc) in Steenwijk, Antwerpen, Venlo but every (well almost) gig was nice to do.

We also did 2 gigs in Belgium in Antwerpen and Zichem. We think that Belgium is a good place to play, with loads of nice people (Belgium punk come to gigs to have fun and a good time that's something you can't always say about the dutch punk).



F- What are your political statements of LÄRM (or the members individual).

L- We don't like to put a political label on the band 'cos each member thinks for himself and got his own political views but in general we think in a "socialist/communist" way, or should we say: we are a radical left-band. Some of us are more radical into politics than the other but together it works very well. We also think possitif about Anarchism but we aint anarchists; but we respect the bands and punk who are really into it....but we hate those trendy anarchists 'cos there's nothing more stupid than people wearing an A and not knowing what it means. (Attention: with communism we don't mean russia, d.r., albania;...etc, and we don't support party-communism like the C.F.N.).

F- What do you think of the politic situation in the Netherlands

The political situation is maybe better than elsewhere in this world, but we still think that we live in a wrong situation. Holland is a country where the rich, the multi's and the privileged have their say and the rest can keep their mouth shut. Democracy could be a good thing if it works but here it doesn't work. Once in 4 years you can vote (we don't) than you can shut your mouth again...."normal" people dont have any influence on government's policy, the authority dont listen to our votes, our protest. All political party's are bullshit, you cannot trust one of them, it's frustrating because a lot of sad things has

happened or happening right now: the vacation of Wijers, plans to build 5 new nuclear powerstations, rsv affaire (F-a corruption affair in the dutch government), cutbacks on dolo-pay, 48 cruise missiles are coming....etc. We could mention many more to proof that the political situation in holland is wrong.



army

F- What do you think of Holland in the Nato ?

L- Read the lyrics of our song "Puppets on a string" We think Holland should leave the Nato 'cos it's a capitalist military organisation with only one goal to build up a big, highly technical military powermachine (just like the warsaw pakt). NATO DOESN'T SERVE PEACE, NATO IS A WARMACHINE. The only people who benefit from it are the war-factories they make big profits and it's a shame that Holland is taking part in this. Nato keeps the war-industry rolling (especially in the usa) and only think in terms of war and world domination. And it's known that some of the German nato generals are ex-nazis (F-No they are still nazis)....so beware of the nato.



F- Do you have to go in the army to do your duty (so called), and are you going to do it ?
L- Jos got an exemption owing to one brother service, Paul and Olav are both rejected from military service and Menno will do his study till 1990 so none of us have to go but if we had to we would

refuse it. It would be hypocritical if you sing anti-war songs and still join the army. By the way a punk in a army-uniform is just as ridiculous as Beatrix (F-the dutch queen) buying a LÄRM lp.

(F- Some of you may know that I was in the army for about 14 months last year. I dont think a punk can't sing anti army songs, when you do that it's the same as a punk cant sing anti nato songs because he's (or she) a member of the population of Holland and the most of them like to be in the Nato. A punk can do anything he wants to do dont be narrow minded).

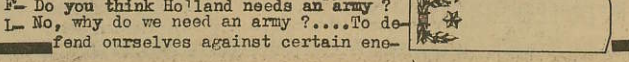
F- What do you think of the army ?

L- The army is an institution where they teach you violence and anti communism, they teach you how bad and monstrous our enemy is, they teach hate and how manly it is to kill, pull a trigger, drive a tank, fly a jet...etc

In our eyes the army is a fascistic institution, the uniforms, the boots the guns, the screaming commanders, ranks, drilling, discipline...etc. A soldier doesn't use his brains he's just a number who's got to obey ORDERS ! And it's all happening in the name of GOD, DEMOCRACY, AND FATHERLAND...the army is nothing for us !

(F- Of what I know about the army (it's always more as someone who was not in it) is that it's not fascistic. Yes most of the officers are anti-communistic but I did never hear them say they are monsters (maybe they were to afraid I am from the K.G.B.). You forgot to say the first thing they say, it's happening for FREEDOM (fuck-it !!).

F- Do you think Holland needs an army ?
L- No, why do we need an army ?...To defend ourselves against certain ene-





mys?...We must face reality if there ever gonna be another war it's gonna be a nuclear war and then are all soldiers, tanks, war-planes/ships USELESS 'cos the whole world will be blown to hell. So why waste all those billions on our defence system, it could be used for far better and more human purposes like houses, jobs, milieue defence, help to the 3th world...etc. By the way, for a war you need an army, so if we have no army we can't fight a war...someone has to take this step for a better and peacefull world.

east west problems

F-What do you think of the east-west problems?
L-The east-west problems are based and **FEAR** fear created by Moscow and Washington 'cos it's not really east-west but Russia-America, those 2 worldpowers have dragged other countries into their problems (often under pressure) so now the world is divided in 2 worlds the so called free world and the so called communist world, in good and bad. Holland belongs to the west nato that means automatically that Russia is our enemy. We are forced to build up an expensive defence system with mostly U.S. arms. (ofcourse the same is happening in the east). East and west make their own people scared of the other side's hostility, most people get frightened (FEAR) and start to believe all the lies. For example Nato says: if we dont station cruise missiles the red devils and barbarians will invade europe, a lot of people believe that...we don't! Look at Afghanistan a 3th world country defended by simple-armed rebels but **big** Russia can't keep them under control so how the hell should Russia ever keep Europe under control??? Do you know??? It's just a part of cold-war politics made by leaders and generals, keep the common men frightened, deceive him and he will hate the other side. Unfortunately it's working very well on both sides and that is really sad. It's up to us to make people aware, we are anti west and east! Both worlds are not our world-s!!!

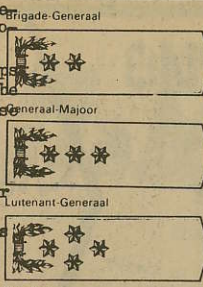
F-How do you want the Dutch position in it?
L-The dutch position must be one of neutrality and peace, from that position we must raise protest and accuse Russia's and America's cold war politics, ofcourse that means that we must leave the Nato. Now we are chained into Nato rules. If the cold war becomes ever a real war than we are all forced to fight this war, that means Europe will be the battlefield/slaughterhouse. The Dutch peace movement (and all the other peace groups all over the world) are a positiv force but still to small to really change something, but we must continue our struggle for a peaceful world. A punk-project like the P.E.A.C.E. compilation is very important, we think that such projects will change the attitude of people (specially punks) towards war and peace.



F-Do you think you have a solution for that problem...or dream?
L-We have ideas about it, dreams how the world should be, but would they ever be reality? A world of peace, freedom and solidarity must be possible but such a world needs fighting for, action and struggle, a lot of things must change. Our solution is maybe our band, we sing about it and for us that's a possitive contribution to the problem but also beside the band we try do as much as possible to make people aware...protestmarches, demonstrations, fanzines...etc. But to be honest it's not easy and most of the time the results are ZERO, but at least we try, protest, raise our voice and that's always better as doing nothing. Well we think that one very important solution will be, think for yourself...if the people in east, west, north, south would use their own brains instead of some poisoned brains of their leaders than the world would look a lot better!!

F-Do you think "NORMAL" people can do anything about it?
L-Ofcourse they can! "Normal" people Vote, work, pay taxes, join the army...etc. They've got more power than they think and if they wanted they could break the power of the capitalists and tear down this system. But sadly enough most people are satisfied with

F-What do you think of the punk movement?
L-It's great that there are punks/bands/fanzines...etc all over the world even in the east-bloc countries, punks who are active in their own way and own country. But in some way we're all united 'cos in general we all support the ideas of the punk movement and we share these ideas and feelings through records, tapes fanzines and gigs or just writing each other (we do correspondent with loads of foreign punks)



the situation they live in, they don't care about politics...etc. They only care about their tv set, car, holiday and job. They don't care if the lubbers (sort of dutch president red.) station more cruise missiles here etc, etc. Normal people are often too apolitical and lame. there is also a group of people who are afraid to do something. BUT they got the power to do something... IMAGINE that all the workers would strike!! IMAGINE that people dont vote on the next election! The people in power would shit in their pants. We must make "normal" people aware, through fanzines, bands, protestdemonstrations...etc. than maybe one day our dream will come true....
F-Why did you put so many numbers on your record?



L-Numbers??, you mean tracks...well we wanted to use the vinyl till it's maximum. We didn't want to rip off people by leaving a large piece of vinyl un-used (look for example at the new JFA 12" ep Mad Garden very expensive but only a few tracks, ain't that a rip off)? Maybe it was also a challenge for us, at first we wanted to put our whole set on the record but unfortunately that didn't fit, if it did we would have done 35 tracks on our side.

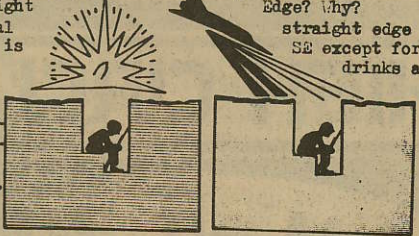
F-Are you guys so fucking productive?
L-Yeah! we normally make a new song everytime we rehearse but sometimes we also have a total inspiration black-out and don't make any new material for weeks. On the other hand we sometimes come up with 3 new songs...it varies a lot.



F-So you have already new songs?
L-Yes, we've 5 new songs, you see we weren't so productive the last few weeks it's mainly because we had so much gigs. We hope to make a lot new ones the coming weeks 'cos we want to make a new record soon. We also play some of our album tracks in a new faster style.

F-What is your relation with Stanx?
L-Well I looked for bands for the first Holland hardcore tape (ERH tapes) so we wrote to them and that was the beginning of our friendship, they're real great nice people who do a lot of good work, they organise gigs in the BUZZ steenwijk, they make a zine Melkboer Strikes Back and they have the band Stanx, they're real active people. They have the same approach as us they play in a band for fun not for the money and fame and they also have something to say, and just like us they don't care so much about perfection or who's the best, read the lyrics of "Kapsone" it tells you all. Stanx are good friends of us and we hope to continue this friendship as long as possible.

F-Are you guys Straight Edge? Why?
L-Two of us are total (Paul and Olav), Jos is cocktails and Menno beer now and than. With SE we want to protest against people who need to smoke, drink or take drugs to feel happy. We think you dont



need all this to feel happy. It's also a protest against drunkenness at gigs which most of the time results in trouble. We don't smoke because we think it's bad for your health. We are SE but we don't wanna force people not to drink, smoke and take drugs (it's up to them what to do with their lives) it's more a way to show that there are other ways to have fun or feel happy. SE is not a set of rules and is there for those who want it.

F-What do you think of the punk movement?
L-It's great that there are punks/bands/fanzines...etc all over the world even in the east-bloc countries, punks who are active in their own way and own country. But in some way we're all united



'cos in general we all support the ideas of the punk movement and we share these ideas and feelings through records, tapes fanzines and gigs or just writing each other (we do correspondent with loads of foreign punks)

We are possitive about the whole thing and it's still growing!
 interview by Trashkrant zine/ Postbox 51177/ 1007 ED Amsterdam/ Holland

Total Thrash

NO. 11

Religious
Front

Accused

Party

United

Democracy

Oblivion!

Party



XXX LARM APARTHEID IS FASCIST OPPRESSION AND MURDER

This next interview is probably the best and most informative one I will ever print in this zine. Maybe a lot of you don't know this band but LARM is a ultra-speed hardcore band. I don't know how to describe them, let's just say that they have influenced alot of the bands that play high speed hardcore today. Just pick up some of their stuff, you'll either love it or hate it. LARM also has a lot of things to say and rather than me telling you about their beliefs read this interview and you will find out for yourself. The guitarist Paul will expound so read on...

TT: Try to compare and contrast the U.S scene to the European scene.

P: First of all, I have never been to the USA so all I know is what I've heard and read. Of course there are a lot of comparisons, punk/HC in American and Europe grows out of local scenes and networks of people trying to accomplish goals independently, people set up bands, fanzines and independent labels. I think there's no real difference in that between the USA and Europe we got the same roots/ideas about punk and HC I think as in a lot of cases we also got the same goals like a better world, peace, unity etc. You have political bands in the USA as in Europe and the same goes for straight edge/positive bands, crossover bands, fun bands... We just have a lot in common really. But there are some contrasts. At least as far as I know, in the US you don't really have a network of independent punk/HC clubs runned by punks, like we have in Europe. As far as I know the US gigs mostly take place in more commercial and corporated music venues/clubs. And I think that in the US the music industry has a grip on the HC movement especially the crossover bands like DRI, CRYPTIC SLAUGHTER, CDC signing to MetalBlade or Combatcore which are labels in the hands of the businessmen of the music industry (cos all those records are here in Europe released on Roadrunner which is the backdoor label of the multinational BBS) the same for GANGREEN, CIRCLE JERKS, or a band like HUSKER DU who signed to Warner Bros. Of course it's a small minority of bands who sign to such labels and jump on the commercial bandwagon but it can be also a beginning and how far do you go? In Europe the music industry ain't got a grip on HC/punk bands. They release their own records or release it on a small independent label. The only exceptions are bands like GBH, ENGLISH DOGS, ONSLAUGHT and EXPLOITED but those bands are not considered HC bands at all anymore for years! Another contrast I think is the political side of the scene. In Europe bands and punks are more political than in the USA. Punk here are a lot more active on political things like squatting, anti-fascist groups, animal liberation groups, peace movements... They're more radical! Of course I don't say that the US punks are apolitical but when I write to USA punk or bands they mostly don't have a political view and

I'm always amazed how bad informed punks are about lots of things: for example, fascism or communis. And in some areas of the US you have quite a lot of "right wing" bands, patriotic proud Americans you know that kind of bullshit. But again it's just a part and you can't blame the whole US scene for that though I think punks should take a stand against that bullshit cos sometimes I read US fanzines and I read things like "I like big tits and hot cunts" (sexist crap, girls are human beings too! And why print that bullshit?) or things like "We hate faggots" (discrimination) and last time I read an interview and the band said "Aids patients should be killed"... Well if I read such things it really makes me sick and in Europe you will never find such racist shit in fanzines but in US zines it seems to be "funny" to talk about tits, cunts, drinking lots of beer, say negative things about homos etc. I don't like that! (In your fanzine Scott I even read that kind of things, why?) (ed- why censor someone's thoughts even if they are negative. But I agree I am guilty for not pointing out when I disagree with stupid shit)

TT: Being straight edge, what got you into those ideas against substance abuse?

P: Me, Jos and Olav are all straight edge. Menno does drink and smoke now and then but we're not really preachy kind of straight edge band! We don't only sing about S.E. topics ok. Why did we get into it, well we were in a way always straight edge only we never labelled ourselves that way even when S.E. became popular through bands like SSD, MINDR THREAT, D.Y.S. we never felt the need to call us S.E. though we agreed what those bands had to say.. But meanwhile we got more and more fed up with alcohol and drug abuse within the scene. It's real easy to get alcoholic drinks (from beer to vodka) and here in Holland you can get drugs quite easy to (soft drugs like weed, hash are even tolerated by authorities) we don't say it's wrong we even agree with those liberal policies towards drugs but on the other hand you see that people can't handle it and that leads to alcohol and drug ABUSE also in the punk/HC scene. Punks who drink too much and dance violently and hurt people, starting fights, or puke all over the place. The same for punks who are stoned they just don't know what they're doing.. But they're ruining the scene that's for sure! And we hated that so for us the alternative was S.E. to show people we don't agree with that sick situation. And we're still the only S.E. band in Holland so that shows S.E. is not really popular around here. It's still the country of drinking beer, smoking a joint ... But I must say that there are also quite some punks who do agree with us! Look we don't say: "Be straight cos that's a good thing to do". That's up to every individual what to do with his life if you want to smoke, drink, take drugs it's your choice and I don't condemn you for that but if it comes to abuse of those substances than we will speak up and voice our opinions! If you get drunk or stoned at gigs and start trouble we will fight you!!

ESSIOI
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Do you think the crossover thing is going to help or hurt both scenes? Talk about your experience with it...

P: When it all started some two years ago we were positive about the crossover thing cos we thought, yeah, if it works both groups can learn from each other musically as well as socially and politically. But now we must come to one conclusion: Crossover doesn't work! At least here in Europe it doesn't. I don't know how things are doing in the US. Crossover does mean that we learn from each other and work together but both things didn't become a reality. Let me tell you about some experiences: we played twice on a so called crossover festival with both hardcore and speedmetal bands, it already started with the gear. The punk bands were not allowed to play on the equipment of the metal bands so every band had to take his own drumkit, amplifiers etc. (that NEVER happens at normal punk/HC gigs). Secondly, afterwards we heard that the metal bands asked a lot more money than the HC bands. (We asked 250 guilders while one of the metal bands asked 900 guilders that's nearly three times more!) Thirdly, their merchandise (records, T shirts) was a lot more expensive than our merchandise, they only think about the money! Fourth, because the metal bands asked so much money the doorprice was nearly three times more than any regular punk/HC gig. Fifth, the metalheads behaved like some animals, most of 'em were fuckin' drunk, they pissed and puked all over the place, some even started fights and other violent things and if you said something about it you got beat up! I'm not even mentioning the racist/sexist shit coming out of their mouth. It was really sick, at one of those festivals I heard that even a girl was raped on the toilet... We heard that story some days later but to us that was really the limit and now we would never play at so called crossover gigs, by the way we never go to metal concerts either cos there's so much differences between punks and metallers and the only comparison is maybe the music but that's all.. Ideological/political/social. We're totally different in fact, they'r our enemies with their racist/sexist/satanist/right wing views! OK, maybe there are some metals and metal bands who are nice people and have good lyrics but it's such a small minority it doesn't make me positive about crossover. And besides that we have all this shit like: majorlabels run by capitalist swines and greedy businessmen (do you know a metal band that released a LP by themselves independently? Very few..), money making agencies, high door prices, the cockrockstar attitudes, the whole satanist image and violent attitude. Well you know what I mean I don't see punk/HC and metal ever coming together maybe musically we got influenced but I don't call that crossover. Cos there's more than music it doesn't stop there.

TT: What positive affect has your music/beliefs had if any?

P: Ah, difficult question, well we know some bands who said that thy were influenced a lot by us and because of us they started a band, you could say that that is something positive. I think we made clear that you don't have to be a real good musician to start a band and that your music doesn't have to be so difficult but on the other side tons of bands did that long before us so I'm not sure if we're responsible for that.. but in some cases we did. Our beliefs seem to have a positive affect on people according to the

letters we get, people write us that they started to thin more about certain things we talk about in our lyrics, 'zin etc. Some of them even got active in political groups, well that makes us happy, if people get more aware because of our lyrics or the things we say well that gives us strength to carry on with the band.

TT: Since Holland is a country with legalized marijuana how do you feel about legalization of drugs in other countries?

P: I think the legalization of soft drugs is OK (sounds silly out of the mouth of a straight edger) because if you make it illegal it gets more criminal (you know the drug mafias, businessmen etc) Because it's legal here the prices are fair and the selling of it is not in the hands of the criminals as I said before while in other countries this is not the case. There people have to pay very high prices which they can't afford so they steal money, betray their friends and they get in trouble and that is often the step into the hard drugs scene. It's a vicious circle so we think legalization of soft drugs is better than keeping it illegal and underground/hidden away, and it's hypocritical that most governments sell alcohol legally but not soft drugs and you must know that alcohol is a lot more dangerous to your health than soft drugs and there are more, far more alcoholics than junkies in this world so if you forbid soft drugs you must also make alcohol illegal. The best thing of course would be that everybody was straight edge haha! Then we wouldn't have all these problems around drugs, alcohol, tobacco! But to get back to your question I (we all) think Holland should keep soft drugs legal because of the reasons I mentioned before. (Criminalization, high prices, more victims, more people who'll take hard drugs)

TT: Since your lyrics are in the left wing, liberal thinking vein, what turned you on in the beginning to those kind of thoughts? Why didn't you stray in the conservative path?

P: Well we all come from working class families (except Menno) so we were raised that way. My parents are socialists so they vote for the Labour Party etc. So it started already in my earliest days to think left wing. But when I was 17 I really started to get interested in politics and read political stuff. In those days (1977) punk started and I got involved and liked the music and ideas behind it. In those days I called myself a anarchist and did read Bakoenin, Proudon etc and got influenced by the lyrics of the anarcho-punk bands but when I got older I started to realize that anarchy couldn't work right now and besides I was disappointed about the whole anarchist scene, you know a lot of slogans and words but no real action. It became to me just a empty phrase everybody walking around with a circled A on their jackets but not knowing what it really means. Besides that we think anarchy can't be realized directly after the fall of capitalism there should be a transition period before we can realize anarchy and that transition period will be a communist/socialist one. So our views are into the communist/socialist vein nowadays and we truly believe in it and are active in that way to. We didn't stray in the conservative path cos we really hate conservatism it keep the rich rich and the poor poor, it keeps the powerful people in power and the people who got nothing in the gutter

and that's pretty much shown by all the conservative governments all over the world. Thatcher, Kohl, Lubbers, Mitterand or Reagan it doesn't matter how you call them you see consevative parties in power and what you see is mass unemployment, house shortages, the rich who get richer, and the poor poorer (in Holland we never had people living on the street but nowadays you see people living in the gutter and poverty is growing fast here thanks to the conservative governement in the UK it's even worse!). Well, I don't have to tell you about the USA but from what I know the USA seems to have 20 million people living in poverty and millions of them have no jobs and roof over their heads, they live on the street! Well should I give more reason why I didn't stray in the conservative path!

TT: What vinyl releases will the band be doing next? Any titles or any musical direction the band is heading in?
 P: Well our new EP is just out and it's called NOTHING IS HARD IN THIS WORLD IF YOU DARE TO SCALE THE HEIGHTS. It got 12 brand new songs (people can order it for \$5, - this includes airmail postage, please only send cash!!!). Well, as far as I can see, we will not head in any other musical direction, I think we will play fast, short hardcore punk, maybe we have some mosh in it, but we still like playing a fast, raw HC punk so why change our style? Sometimes we think won't people get bored of it, but as far as we know people still like it and even if people would call us generic, that wouldn't be a reason to head for any other musical direction. We play the music we like. Of course, we get better musically so there are slight changes and maybe in the future we will have some other styles but it will always be hardcore punk!

TT: Do Europeans fear the USA or Russia more? Give your opinion as well as that of the mass media in your area?
 P: Well, if you talk about Europe, I think it's fifty/fifty. It depends in which country you live. In some countries there's more fear for the Russians, while in other countries they fear the USA more...But fear is maybe the wrong word to use. It's more or less anti-sentiments/anti-feelings towards both countries, and it also depends on what happens at the moment in both countries...For example, the IRANGATE affaire made the USA unpopular even at people of the conservative camp. Also the dollar course (Wall Street crash) made Reagan and his policy very unpopular as does his policy in Middle America (Nicaragua, El Salvador etc). While Gorbachev is now quite popular because of his "glasnost" and "perestroika" but of course this can change very fast...it's a kind of trend. Historically you can say that on the conservative side and the right wing that the USA is popular in Europe while the left-wing and radical left parties are more on the Russian side. So it depends on what political views do you got. The mass-media is more on the side of the USA, that's for sure, 'cos a large part of the mass-media is in the hands of conservative people and multinationals, and I also think because of economical reasons (export and import of products from the USA) you can better write positive about your business-relations...but the most important thing is that most countries in Europe, also Holland, are members of the NATO so we're so called alliances. So economical as well as military, we're quite dependent on the USA and so we're "friends" with the USA and

you better not write negative stuff about your "friends"...so the mass-media is definitely pro-USA in most cases. My opinion is that I'm anti-USA and anti-Russia 'cos both systems and both their policy's I don't like. I hate America because they're a capitalist country and I'm definitely anti-capitalist. I can't stand that there are multi-millionaires and at the same time people begging in the gutter, living in cardboard boxes. I don't like the competition, the big rose that money plays in people's life. I hate the injustice you see everywhere, the corruption...etc. Well, everything that capitalism creates. I hate Russia because they call themselves a socialist state (or as the USA says a communist state) while they're not a socialist state at all. They're just a state-capitalist country where the power is in the hands of the communist (?) party elite and not in the hands of the workers/the people as it should be in a real socialist state! And because Russia is a state-capitalist country, you have also there competition, corruption, bureaucracy, oppression...etc. just like in the USA! Only in Russia the oppression is more visible as in the USA both superpowers oppress and brainwash their people, both in their own ways...and in both countries you have people who fight that in Russia they're called dissidents and in the USA and other capitalist countries anarchists, punks, squatters, etc. The only good thing about Russia is that the welfare/social security is so much better than in the Western world as everybody has work and houses, free medical help, free education! But don't get me wrong, I as the rest of the band are not supporters of Russia neither the USA!



...nights.
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...clared Herr Hunziker. "And
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TT: Are there any political systems that you think would work better than today's?

P: Well, we believe that a real and true socialist system will work better, a community controlled society where everybody has his say, collective leadership, factories in the hands of the workers, the land in the hands of the farmers...etc. Give the people the power and the responsibility, let them take the decisions on a real democratic footing (not the fake-democracy that we have now, where everything is very bureaucratic, corrupt etc. where the rich and the privileged buy power, where people are manipulated, brainwashed etc). It should be a class-less society no more rich and poor but everybody will be equal, no more police and army (there will maybe be a kind of militia, people's army/police, but that will be normal people (no uniforms, special rights etc - workers, students, farmers or whatever). A society based on: equality, freedom, solidarity, sharing things. One thing will be sure, it won't be like the system in the USA or Europe and it won't be like the system in Russia, Poland...etc. 'cos as I told you before, we don't support those systems!!!! And I also told you that this socialist/communist society is a transition period, that will learn people how to handle power/responsibility, how to make decisions, how to control their own lives, to respect each other, share things, work together...etc. and if people do learn all those things then they're ready for an anarchist society and I think that's the end goal of all left-wing people....But I must admit, it's easy to talk and dream about it but it's hard, very hard to realize it. But it is something to fight for and every little step forward is good! I know that right now it's nearly impossible to realize a true socialist society but the first step you have to take is try to realize it on a small scale, in your scene for example (working together, sharing things, help the poor, protest etc) ACT locally and THINK global! You have to start somewhere...in Holland you have places like Vanhall(EMMA), Chi-Chi Club...etc. where people are really working together and create good things. I think a project like the Gilman Street Project in the USA is an example also and from that we must set up networks of friends/scenes, so we can build a real strong nationwide or even world wide scene and that can be a start of something bigger or at least a step in the good direction. I think now we're too much divided, we're not really working together, there's lots of violence, intolerance, apathy, racism, sexism etc. in the punk/hc movement that sometimes I even wonder: Can we call it a movement???...Well let's hope we learn from past mistakes and really fight for a better world! And let's hope that hardcore/punk will not change in just some music thing where only the music counts and not the ideas/views and ideologies, punk should remain a rebellious thing as it always was!

TT: Can you think of any circumstances where physical violence is necessary to solve a problem?

P: Yeah, I can.. For example, the problem of fascists well let's stay in the scene.. Nazi punks/skins, we had some nazi skins a few years back and they were really a threat and they came to punk gigs, starting fights, seig heiling, making propaganda for their racist/fascist shit. We got so sick of that, we put our heads together and we decided to fight back (use violence) so everytime nazi skins came to

FASHION

gigs we the punks kicked their fucking asses and threw them out with violence and believe me it helped! Since then we haven't got a skinhead problem anymore. (Please don't misunderstand me, we didn't beat up every bold kid/skinhead we beat up the nazis only.) And at some demonstrations physical violence is necessary or let me say we're forced to it 'cos sometimes you get confronted with a brutal police force or any other contra-force. For example, a few years back there were actions against ammunition trains, to stop those trains you have to sabotage things like the railroad (blockades etc) which were beginning peaceful but the demonstrators got beat up real hard and brutal by the police and one thing lead to another 'cos a radical core of demonstrators used more violent means to stop those trains! The same goes for squatting, the past years it's more radical 'cos the houseowners/landlords do have a kind of fighting gangs who are there to beat up squatters so in fact there's no peaceable way of squatting these days in MOST cases you have to use violence to defend yourself. Well and I can mention other situations where I would use physical violence because the peaceable way doesn't seem to work anymore.. But on the other side I want to make clear that I don't really like to use violence and we ALWAYS TRY to solve problems in a peaceable way and avoid any kind of violence but sometime's it's necessary, it's sad but true! Well Scott, that's it.. Thanks for the interview, I hope you can use it!



I'd like to give Paul lots of thanks for this amazing interview! It should serve as inspiration for bands who answer things in two words... If you would like to write anything agreeing or disagreeing with Paul's comments feel free to write your thoughts and I'll print them! To contact the band, please send IRC's OK! The address is: LAR! Hessenweg 183, 3791 Achtervald HOLLAND.

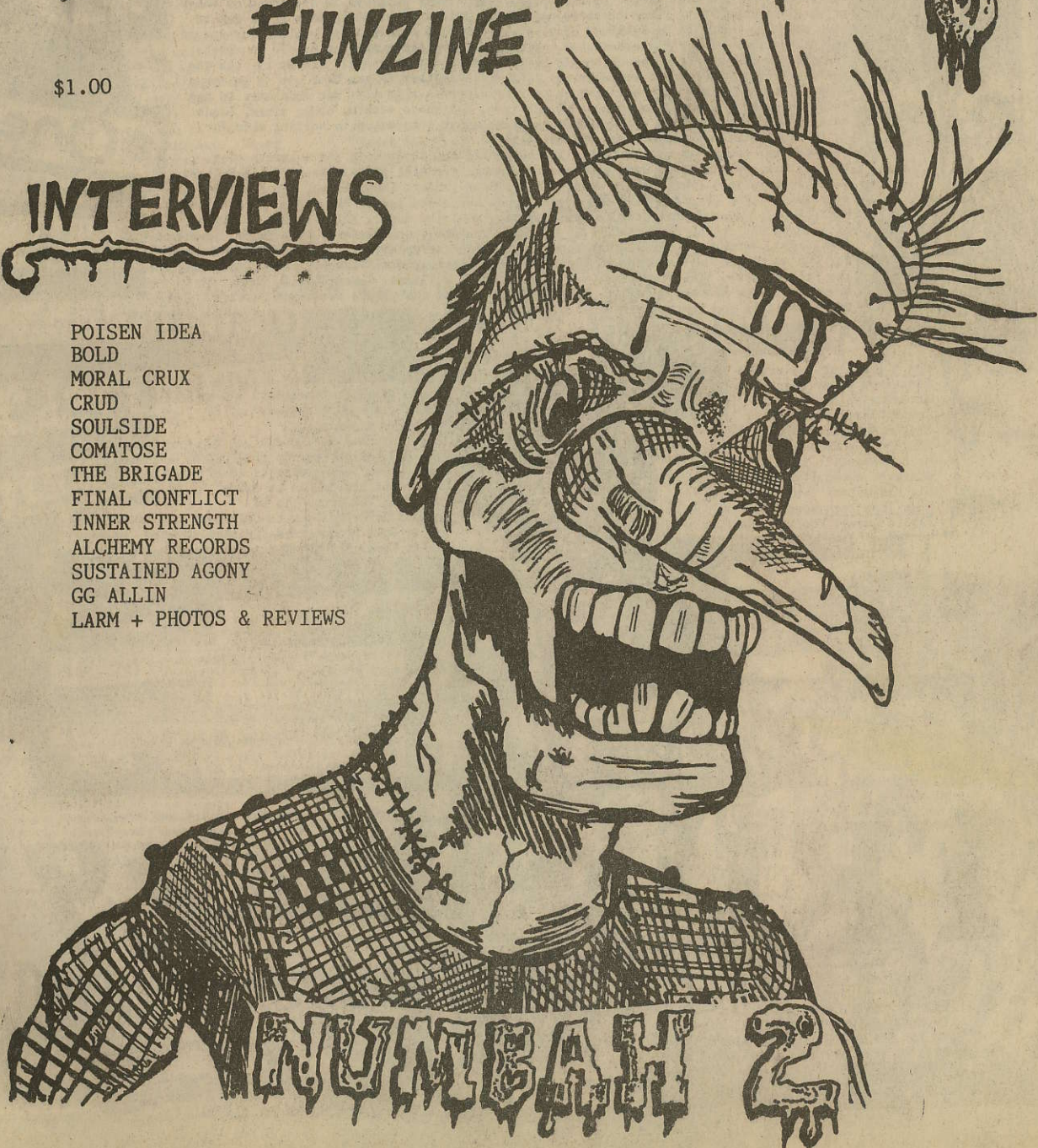
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INTERVIEWS

POISEN IDEA
BOLD
MORAL CRUX
CRUD
SOULSIDE
COMATOSE
THE BRIGADE
FINAL CONFLICT
INNER STRENGTH
ALCHEMY RECORDS
SUSTAINED AGONY
GG ALLIN
LARM + PHOTOS & REVIEWS



NUMB 2

LÄRM

This is an interview with Paul of Lärm, done by Mike Lebbling in January of 1988. It's a long one, but they have a lot to say. If you notice any grammatical errors, it is merely the way the interview turned out, not the typing.

SPLAT: TELL US SOMETHING ABOUT WHAT LÄRM IS DOING RIGHT NOW (ACTIVITIES, GIGS, VINYL).

LÄRM: Right now, we are answering this interview, hahaha...well, we just released our 7" ep "Nothing is hard in this world if you dare to scare the heights", this ep was released on our own label called: DEFINITE CHOICE records. This label is one of our activities, we want to release all our future records on it and we got some projects in mind like a benefit lp with 4 bands or so and the profits we make with that lp we want to give to all kinds of projects (like the Black Cross bust fund in the UK etc). We run the label ourselves as well as the distribution and that's quite some work.

We ain't got much gigs right now (this month, January, we'll have 2 gigs; one benefit for De Blaauwe Aanslag a squat in the Hague and a gig in Belgium), but we have plans to tour a lot this year...we probably tour Germany end February/March, and later this year maybe Spain, the UK and Poland (but not sure yet). Our singer has his studies so we can't tour as much as we really want. But overall we don't complain about gigs 'cos in 1987 we had lots of gigs in Holland and Belgium and we did a successful tour in the UK...in that point we're really lucky 'cos I know of Dutch bands who got just a few gigs last year.

Beside the band we're active on other projects like our fanzine/video also called Definite Choice. The fanzine comes out every 3 months (4 to 5 zines a year!), it's filled with bands, reviews, political & social articles, etc. The fanzine is made by the members of Lärm and some good friends of ours (Theun K, Emelie, Rene Harx, Burt, Roel and Pascal). We think it's a good zine and we hope other people like it too. Beside that we have also our video-thing until now we released 2 hardcore/punk video compilation tapes (the video party!), it's a kind of hobby of us, we film bands, we put the compilations together...we just do everything ourselves and it's really going well. Right now we're working on video party number 3.

Our record label, our fanzine and video are all non profit and d.i.y. that's very important to us. We do those things to support the scene in a positive way and to keep it independent...we want to show that you can do a lot of things with a few people and that you don't have to have a lot of money to do those things 'cos we're not rich kids (3 of us are on the dole and one is a student). And in everything we do we also put our political views cause we think punks should be politically aware!

Talking about politics and ideals, some of us are active in the local squatters scene and for years we had a squat where we had a punk/hc club called the Kippenhok, there was a bar, a small concert hall, etc... It was a place to meet, talk, listen to music, organize actions and demonstrations. We had almost 2 hc gigs every month and things went really well for almost 3 years but sadly enough in November '87 it was over because we lost the squat! Right now it's impossible to squat a new place. But the city council has promised us a new place around September '88...finally after nearly 5 years of struggle we get a place for ourselves, it's gonna be not really a punk club...we gonna work together with some artists, theatre, video, pop collective etc. All those people support the non profit idea of the club so that's ok, I think it's gonna be a great place! What more can we say...well we're active in the peace movement, anti fascist group and other political groups.

SPLAT: THE LATEST EP SHOWS AT LAST PROGRESSION, SOME SAY-(AFTER ALL THESE YEARS OF EXTREME NOISECORE). WHAT DO YOU SAY ABOUT THAT?

LÄRM: Well, we don't think we changed that much, we think we still got the same typical Lärm style of playing. The only thing that changed is that we have become tighter, we play a little better but our approach is still the same. We never cared much about being a good musician (when we started the band we never played any instruments and we're still not good musicians), perfection was never our goal to be in a band, we more believed in the energy, the aggression the rawness the noisy/chaotic elements. In that way you could say: Lärm was never really a music band but more an extreme noisecore band. And in a way we still are but in the past years we learned to play tighter and maybe a bit better and if people call that progression, well that's ok with us. But I personally think Lärm will never change music wise cause we still like to play fast, short raw, noisy hardcore punk so don't expect that we will progress more and more hahaha and if we should decide to make a change we would also change the band name... but Lärm will always stay Lärm! (we don't become metal, we don't become another U2 rip off, etc, etc, etc!! Beside that our new ep was recorded really good I think that makes a big difference! (Cause our other were not that good produced...)).

SPLAT:WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE HARDCORE SCENE IN HOLLAND?

LÄRM:I think that Holland is still a good scene but the glory days of the early '80-'85 are over, lots of great bands did split up like:Pandemonium, Stanx, Deadlock, Disgust, Nv Le Andere, Pure Hate, Bloedbad, Jetsset...etc. Lots of clubs were closed down, fanzines called it quits. But there's no reason to be too pessimistic cause we still got lots of great bands to offer like for example; BGK, GOD, Scoudries, Götéfix, Lärm, Laitz, WCF, Cry of Terror, Funeral Oration, Swampsurfers, No Pigs... etc. There are also lots of new bands active everywhere so we think that soon the scene will be strong again. And let's not forget the clubs who are still active like; Vanhall, Chi Chi Club, WNC grongingen, Goudvishall...etc. The fanzines; Nieuwe Koebrand, Definite Choice, Threshold (soon out!), MSB...etc.

The most positive thing about the Dutch scene is still their independency and political awareness. All bands release their own records, distribute it themselves or through independent non profit distributors like The Konkurrent! Most bands do have good lyrics and are aware and active in changing things, a very good example is The EX (one of the best punk bands around, a good example what punk is about!)... Yeah, we can be proud of our scene in that way! On the other side like in every scene you have rotten apples, punks who are only into drinking, getting stoned, dance violent...etc. Punks who destroy clubs with their violent attitude...nazis-skins/punks, punks who are sexist etc etc. The rotten apples, we have them in Holland too!

That the media is featuring hc more often is not really positive we think. At the moment it's a trend to feature hc and that's the only reason why they feature hardcore cause it sells! And we think they'll drop it as soon as this trend is over. For example the VPRO (Dutch radio station) did feature a lot of hc last year but already now you can see that they cut it down a lot cause now rap and hip hop is in so now they feature a lot of rap acts. We don't take the media serious and beside that they only care about the music not really about the lyrics, the ideas... etc and that's what make punk and hardcore so special it's more than music only but the media is not interested in that because in most cases they represent all the things we are against like the business around music, major record companies...etc. Of course it is fun to hear hc on the radio instead of the common commercial shit but still we think it's done in a wrong way the same with the writing media.

SPLAT:DO YOU THINK HARDCORE IS HEADING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION?

LÄRM:Well, lets say there is a small danger cause only the stupid bands will sell out to commercial labels and agencies. You see bands like DRI, Suicidal Tendencies, Gang Green, Circle Jerks, Bad Brains, GBH, English Dogs etc sell out to major labels, and they tour Europe with an agency that only wants to make money, those bands play the big halls etc. But the real hardcore/punk bands they will stay true to their ideals and won't sell out. Bands like The Ex, BGK, Chumbawamba, Rhythm Pigs, MDC etc. Well, tons of small independent political bands they don't sell out that fast we think. I mean Rhythm Pigs toured Europe played the small clubs, squats, etc. and they liked it at the same time DRI toured Europe in big halls, high door prices etc. and they lost a lot of their following here. It are choices you make and it's up to every band to choose what they want and if they choose for the money and commercialism they'll loose a lot of their credibilities and lots of people will sure turn their back to them. I know it's easy to judge bands but we must be honest, as I said before, punk/hardcore is more than just music, a fashion or trend, it's a critical movement, political too and it has it's ideals and if a punk or hc band decides to turn his/her back on those ideals then they will be criticized and judged and we think that's normal.

Commercialism is of course not good for the scene/the movement in general cause if the greedy businesslike minds take over it will be the end of our unique movement! We must not forget punk/hardcore is unique in its own way and we did survive for 10 years without commercialism, it was idealism that kept the movement alive...well let's keep it that way!

SPLAT:LÄRM HAS TOURED QUITE SOME COUNTRIES IN EUROPE. HOW ABOUT THE US? ARE YOU PLANNING SOMETHING?

LÄRM:No, we are not planning to tour the U.S. of A because we did try a few times but the response from the punks over there was not really enthusiastic so we think it's not the right time to go on tour over there and beside that we've heard stories about CCM, Indigesti, No Allegiance...etc, and all these bands came back broke and \$1000 lost on the usa tour, even BGK lost a little money on their last tour! It seems that US punks are not really interested in bands like us. I mean Exploited GBH, etc, they attract thousands of punks but CCM or Indigesti did often only attract 100-150 people...I think the same will happen with Lärm cause we just got a small group of hardcore fans in the USA...so maybe if we get a bit more popular and US punks show some more interest in bands like us we will tour over there but to be honest I think it will never happen...and we think that's a pity cause we love to play in the USA and see how the scene is there, meet our friends over there etc...

SPLAT: GIVE US YOUR OPINIONS ON THE "CROSSOVER" BANDS THESE DAYS? WHAT DO YOU THINK OF METAL?

LÄRM: Well, it should be known by now that we are not really positive about crossover or metal in general. We don't see real progress and it's not really working. Crossover was a good idea but after 2 years you can see that it does not work... well ok punks go to metal gigs and metals come to hc gigs and bands of both groups put a little metal or hc in their sound, nothing wrong with that, it's their choice but there should be more!!! Cause how many metal bands do release their own records? How many of them have real good lyrics? How many of them can you call politically aware? Which metal band really cares about low door prices and their fans? And how many headbangers are really interested in the ideas behind punk and hardcore? Most of these questions will have a negative answer! What about the so called "crossover" bands, well look at DRI, Cryptic Slaughter, Gang Green, Suicidal Tendencies, Attitude etc. most of them signed a contract with Metal Blade/Death or RoadRunner which are major record companies, they play for high door prices, they don't give a fuck about the ideas anymore...it's just the money and fame they play for these days, they got nothing to say anymore...and I'm sure a lot of bands will follow that way and sell out to the greedy businessmen. [Since these bands aren't here to defend themselves, I'll try. I don't know about all these bands, but I do know that Cryptic Slaughter don't play for high door prices, and I know they give a fuck. It seems to me that Attitude have retained their values also. I (Ron) think you guys (Lärm) should research this more before you start slagging off these bands.*] Well, we prefer the bands who do it themselves, independently, the bands who are true to their "fans", bands that mean what they say and preach. In that way we are disappointed about the whole "crossover" movement, we think it's done us more harm than good. By the way, we don't say that all metals are stupid or something cause that's not true, I know metals who really did learn from hc/punk and started to think about things like major labels, rock star attitudes, world problems etc. And we don't say that punks are better people cause that's not true either cause there are lots of assholes in the punk movement too.

Lets now talk about the music...we don't really like metal or the crossover bands, that's not our musical taste really. Most metal bands are too boring, they might have a super production (24 track studios etc etc) but they just miss the rawness, the real energy that punk/hc has. Beside that we really hate those long guitar solos, high vocals, or ultra gruff vocals...it's so predictable! A lot of punks turned metal cause they said hc was so generic but we think that's bullshit cause metal bands are far more generic than hc bands, well atleast that's our opinion. Lyrically we think metal sucks, all this satanist shit, or stuff about girls, fast motorbikes, sex...etc. really terrible. Ok some metal bands do have some good lyrics but do they really mean it? Let's take Anthrax, they've got a song about indians...everybody says, "yeah, great lyrics...Anthrax is a great band!". But at the same time 2 members of Anthrax played in SOD, a band with racist, sexist lyrics! Or the last MOD lp produced by Scott Ian (guitarist of Anthrax). MOD do have lots of racist lyrics, in fact Billy Milano is a right wing rambo racist and good friends with Anthrax, well does that ring a bell with you? Really we don't take those bands serious, I think Anthrax is as right wing as MOD! And there are much more of this kind of example! Metallica, Dark Angel, Nuclear Assault, Megadeth...etc. the so called intelligent metal bands are mostly a bunch of dicks, just read their interviews in metal mags, they have nothing to say than brag about girls, alcohol...more of this bullshit. That's it and we don't like it.

We also think it's stupid that nowadays everybody wants to know what you think about metal, why don't people ask us what we think about folk, reggae, jazz, blues, pop, new wave or garage rock...etc? Metal seems to be the in thing these days but let me tell you there are bands with great lyrics and attitudes who make blues or reggae or folk etc. Why should there only be a crossover with metals...only because its loud and fast. It's a bit narrow minded, personally we all have a wide taste in music from ultra melodic to ultra fast noise, and everything that's in between.

SPLAT: LÄRM HAS ALWAYS BEEN A VERY BUSY BAND (ZINES, GIGS, RECORDS, VIDEOS ETC, ETC.) DO YOU GET ENOUGH REACTIONS/SATISFACTION TO CONTINUE AFTER ALL THESE YEARS?

LÄRM: Yeah, we are really pleased with the reactions on the band, records, video, and zine, we do not complain. We get tons of mail every week and most letters are very positive about the things we do and that gives you a good feeling and satisfaction. Only sometimes that mail can kill you...well I mean we get so much mail that we nearly can't keep it up financially (all the stamps, etc.) and our arms are falling off sometimes, 4 to 5 hours a day we are working on the mail (not always but often), and there are days that we would like to throw all the mail right out of the window cause we're really sick of it. But I think everybody has this kind of feelings sometimes but believe me, we really answer all our mail as good as we can. And we will continue our activities that's for sure. We just made issue number 4 of our fanzine and we are working on the third video compilation tape, and 2 months ago we did release our new ep on our own label and everything is doing really well and we have lots of plans for 1988!

BURT GIFFORDEN 1986

SPLAT: WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE SO CALLED "POSITIVE"/S.E. MOVEMENT? ISN'T IT BECOMING A BIT GENERIC?

LÄRM: Well, 3 of us (Paul, Jos and Olav) are straight edge and we believe in it and truly support it, but we are not really a positive band or typical S.E. band, we are a political band and S.E. is just a choice we made, but we don't really make a topic out of it. But I think you're right that the positive S.E. movement becomes a bit generic, I mean the ideas are really ok but all those new bands (especially in the US) all singing about the same, how proud they are that they are S.E. and positive, it is really generic if you only can sing and talk about that and it will become naive and I think that was not the intention of it. It also becomes a set of rules these days, the new S.E. bands are in that way different from the early ones like Minor Threat, D.Y.S., Government Issue, SSD, etc. The lyrics of Minor Threat are far more intelligent than those from lets say Bold. We think S.E. is ok but you got to have your limits and you got to deal with it in a intelligent way not some trendy way. "I'm straight edge and I'm the best" that's a bullshit attitude!! We love Crucial Youth for taking it to the extreme and so they show us how absurd most of those new S.E. bands are, S.E. is not a set of rules, it's there for those who want it and that's all!

SPLAT: LÄRM IS SOMETIMES CONSIDERED A POSITIVE BAND. I GUESS YOU DON'T AGREE?

LÄRM: Yeah, you're right we do not agree, we're not a positive band. We are in fact a dead serious band and we are rather negative about lots of things than positive, but we hope to change things in a positive way so maybe that's our positive thing...but overall our band don't deal with the typical positive topics! There's so much shit going on in this world, in society even in the punk scene, that it's really difficult for us to keep our P.M.A. hahaha...no seriously, positive thinking is ok, but it won't solve the problems we have to deal with every day. My thinking is more angry, maybe hateful...I get really mad when I read in the newspaper about the wars, the corruption, the violence in the streets etc. It's impossible for me to keep my thinking positive cause I'd rather smash some heads of the people who are responsible! (not really a positive thought...), I'd rather go on the street and throw some bricks... you know, that kind of feelings and thoughts I have and all the band members have. No, we definateley are not a positive band.

SPLAT: YOUR MESSAGE TO THE READERS IS...

LÄRM: Be aware of the things that are going on in this world, in society in your own street and fight all oppressive conditions and injustice whenever you can, we are all responsible and we can change things if we want and really fight for it. We can create things on a small scale first, we must unite/organize! And as we're punks we must stop fighting each other because one has a mohawk and the other one a bandana or something like that, the way you dress or the bands you like musn't be barriers! The only things you must fight are commercialism, fascism, sexism, etc, things that hurt and harm the scene! Well, of course I could go on for hours telling you what to do or not but I think that you know already yourself and that you must think about it all yourself and voice your opinion...cause in this interview we have voiced our opinions and you can agree or not it's up to you. We are open for any discussion so if you want to write to this fanzine or to us: Lärm, Koerierstersweg 21, 3815 NT Amersfoort, Holland. Thanks for the space and thanks for listening/reading!

ANTI CAPITALISM



Left to right: Paul-guitar, Jos-bass, Menno-vocals, Olav-drums

WIK!

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