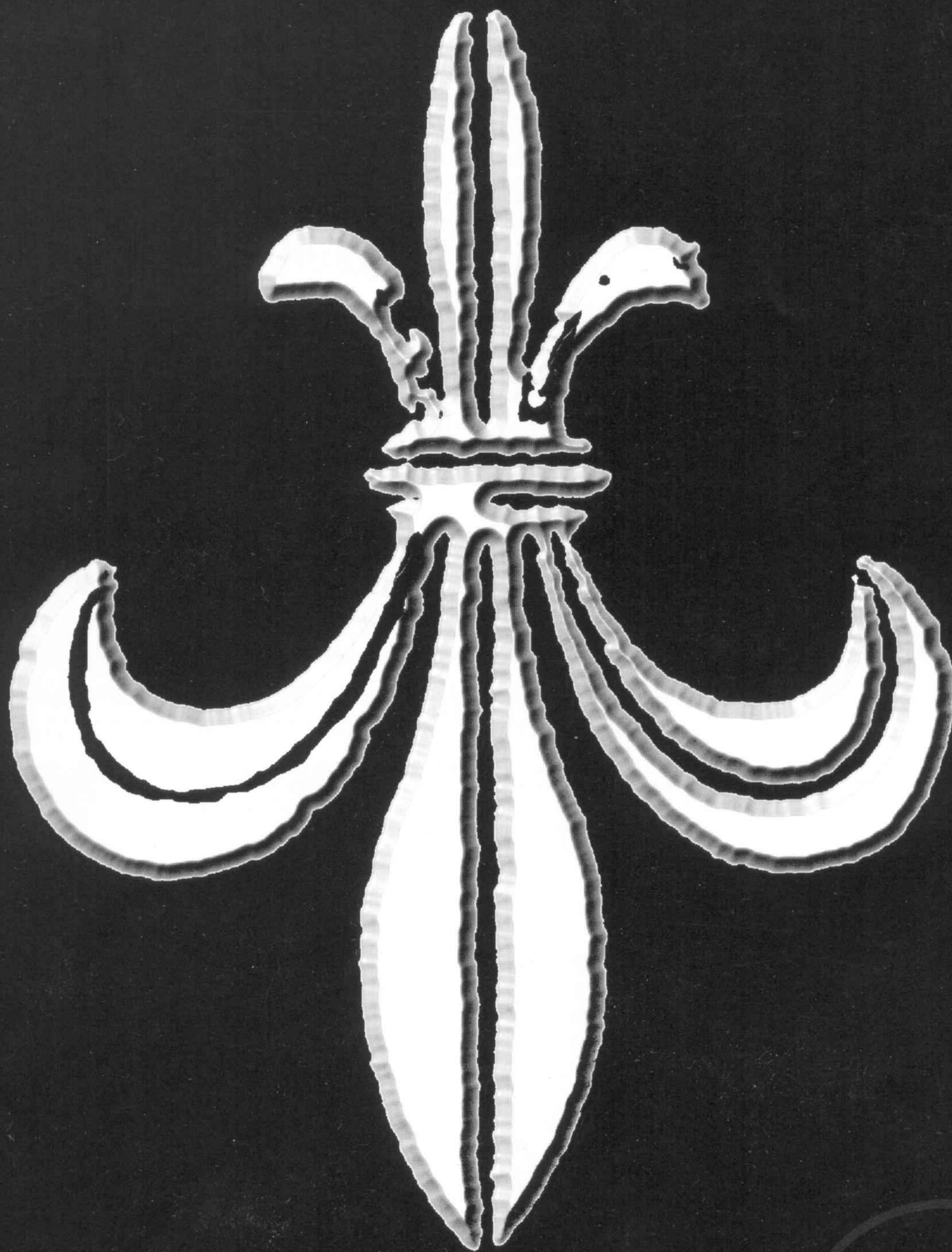


BONG 34



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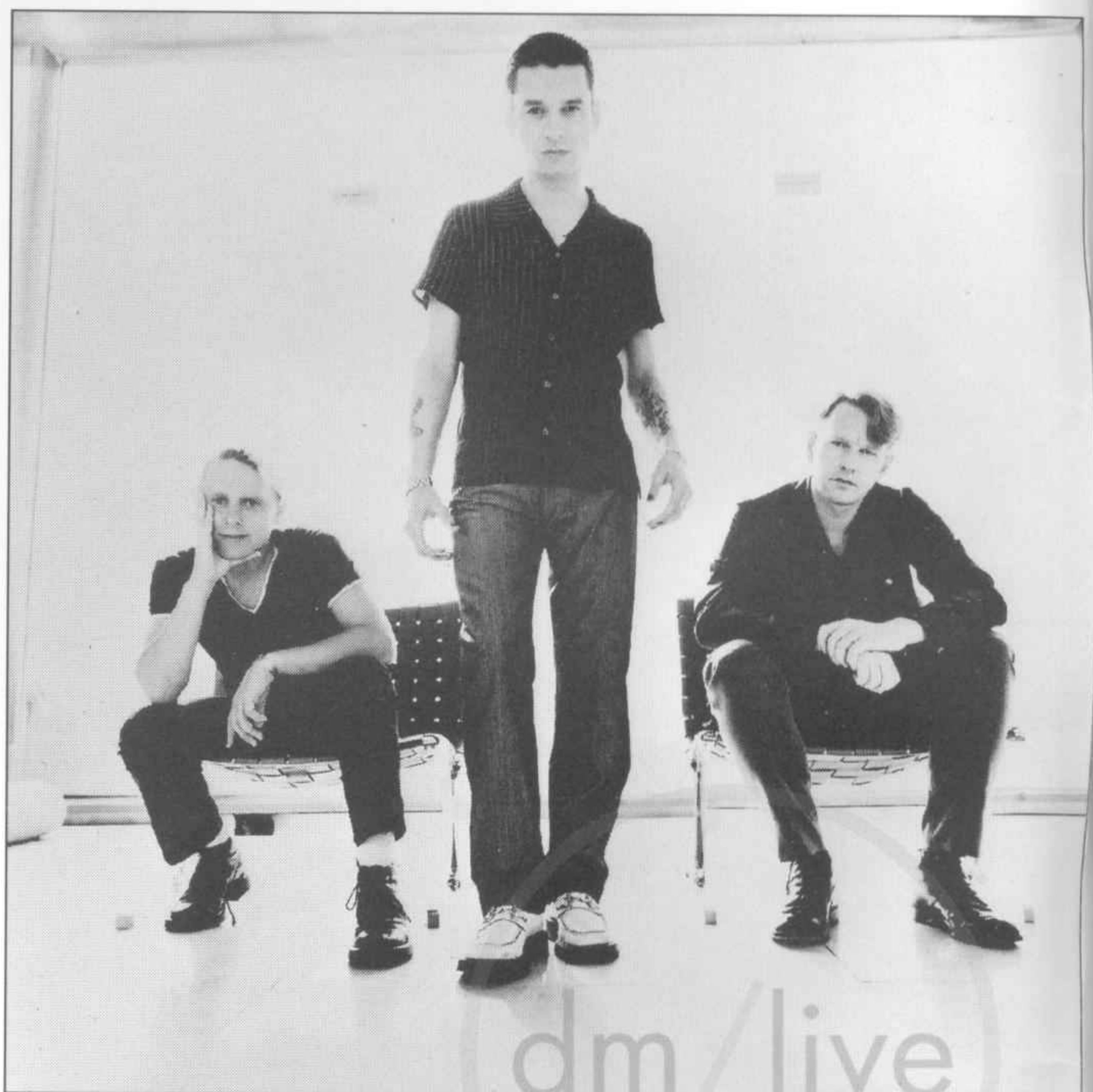


Photo by Marina Chavez

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. INTRO .

Hello to all Bong members and welcome to the last magazine of 1997!

We think that 1997 was an amazing year, full of excitement for the fans, as well as the guys themselves. We've celebrated the release of the new brilliant album together with four great singles and some of us were lucky enough to see the Band playing live in London, Los Angeles or at some other occasion during their long-running promotional trip around the World. Just can't get enough?!? Well, no promises at the moment but rest assured that there will be more to come next year!!!

We are also happy to let you know that all charges against Dave from July 1996, were formally dropped by the LA district attorney, following the Los Angeles County District judge's decision in September. Dave, having completed the program which included drug rehabilitation therapy, is doing very well and would like to thank everyone for their love and support.

For those of you who didn't join us in Prague at The International Bong Convention on October 11 - you really missed a brilliant evening! Although we were quite busy on the night, we had a wonderful time and lots of fun! The atmosphere was superb and we met several Bong members from England, Belgium, Poland, Germany, Slovakia and of course The Czech Republic. There was a Czech premiere of the "Useless" video (you can imagine the reaction!) not to mention the Czech beer! So cheers to all of you who attended and a big thank you to everyone who helped out with the event, especially Iva, Michal, JD and Mute Czech Republic!

Please note, that we have recently changed our address and info line number. You can find them on the back cover of this issue and you should use those from now on. Don't worry if you have sent anything to the former address, as the mail will be forwarded to us for some time. We have also changed our e-mail address, but you can still reach us at the old one.

You may have noticed we've cut the amount of pages in this issue, but don't worry it's not going to be permanent. The reason is the enclosed Depeche Mode 1998 calendar made especially for Bong members. We hope you understand and enjoy this very exclusive Christmas present from us.

In this issue, we continue our 'Archives' section and review the first two video cassettes "Some Great Videos" and "Live In Hamburg". In Bong 35, we will be concentrating on "Strange" and "101". So if you want to have your review printed in Bong, please send us your contribution before the end of January (no more than 250 words please).

We have a new section in this issue called Gallery, created for your pictures, drawings and caricatures of Depeche Mode! Turn to page 19 for more information, and inspiration.

For those who couldn't open the videos for "Barrel Of A Gun" and "It's No Good" in the video/multimedia section of the "Useless" CD. Try to go to the news section of http://commline.com/~bratmix/DM_News.html, an unofficial DM web site which, as we discovered, contains full instructions for Mac and Windows. Good luck!

We look forward to your letters, contributions, ideas and opinions on Depeche Mode and Bong in 1998!

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and an 'Ultra' New Year from Martin, Fletch, Dave and all of us at Bong!

dm/live

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A

Splendid! In my opinion, "Ultra" is the most achieved and thoughtful record the Band has ever done. I cannot stop listening to it! Martin's lyrics and Dave's voice make once again a perfect match.

I have a weakness for "It's No Good" as it reminds me of "Music For The Masses" period, and I love the atmosphere of "Insight". Not to mention the remixes which are just perfect.

Who said that Depeche Mode were over? They are forever!

Valérie Bosc
Cadalen, France

R

T

Congratulations to Depeche Mode on "Ultra"! It is a brilliant album. "Ultra" is very atmospheric and full of great sounds. All the songs are incredible. Especially, I love "Home", "Sister Of Night" and "Insight". "Home" is a great ballad with a phenomenal ending. The use of violin and guitar is just great! "Sister Of Night" is another fantastic piece. I can't almost listen to it as it makes me cry....

Vladimiro Ferrara
Aversa, Italy

L

U

There have been some fans who didn't like "Ultra" very much and they keep comparing it with "Songs Of Faith And Devotion", "Violator".... I think that "Ultra" IS a good album, but you shouldn't really try to compare it with the previous work. It's clear to me that the band has moved on. I must agree that there are some songs that aren't as great as I would have liked them to be. "Freestate" for example doesn't really turn me on and the instrumentals really disappoint me as well. Why didn't they include "Painkiller" and "Slowblow" on the CD? Those are really the instrumentals we hope to hear

from Martin. On the other hand, tracks like "Barrel Of A Gun", "It's No Good" and "Sister Of Night" are beautiful songs. For me "Ultra" doesn't stand above "SOFAD", "Violator" and all the others, it's just another beautiful piece in a great Depeche Mode puzzle which hopefully isn't complete yet.

Bruno Iserbyt
Menen, Belgium

I would like to congratulate the band on the new album "Ultra". They have done it again! They have released an album which is their greatest work to date, and has kept me gripped from "Barrel Of A Gun" to "Insight" (and of course track 12) over the many times I have so far listened to it.

Every track has been thoroughly thought out in both musical and lyrical composition and is filled with what I'm sure will turn out to be classic Mode songs. The band has got the balance between using guest musicians and performing themselves spot on.

I read interviews with the band prior to the release in which they stated that recording the album had been a much less stressful experience than on previous occasions (in particular "Songs Of Faith And Devotion") and this is obvious throughout the recording.

Unfortunately, I have also read interviews by reviewers (in particularly one from The Times newspaper) in which DM are slagged off because the songs on "Ultra" are not like "Just Can't Get Enough" or "New Life" and the record is nothing but depressing rubbish. How much longer will so-called music reviewers go on and on about two singles released sixteen years ago? Do they think that DM have not released anything between "Just Can't Get Enough" and "Barrel Of A Gun"? The sad answer is they probably do. I am sick of people slagging off Depeche Mode, when they have not listened to any of their music in the last ten years. Can you imagine what they would be saying if the bands last eight albums had been along the same lines as "Speak And Spell"?

It is the ability of the band to change their direction with each recording that makes them the great group that they are. Thank you Depeche Mode once again for an excellent album.

Phil Easby
Basildon, UK

I just got the new album "Ultra" and again it's yet another masterpiece! A little bit slower than the previous albums, but

still with great melodies! My personal favourites are: "Home", "Freestate" and "The Bottom Line".

I hope Depeche Mode will go on tour as soon as possible. I would like to give them a big "thank you very, very, very much!" for these wonderful songs!

To Dave, Martin and Fletch - please go on for the next 15 years!!

Jens Hellinger

Werlte, Germany

"Ultra" has surprised me by its mood because when I heard the album for the first time I found it too depressing. It took me ten listens before I felt I like this record very much. Now let me tell you my opinion on what is so special about this album.

"Barrel Of A Gun" is very innovative and the most dynamic song on the album. But I think it would sound rockier if they used a lot more real drums rather than synths.

"The Love Thieves" - very good slow song. Listening to it is like sailing through a sea of music. Nice synths and atmosphere.

"Home" is one of the most intriguing songs on "Ultra" and so I was surprised that it was chosen as the third single. Martin's voice is anxious and strong like never before.

"It's No Good" - when I heard this song for the first time I thought it is the best Depeche Mode song I have ever heard. The remixes are very interesting too, especially Speedy J Mix which sounds like The Prodigy.

"Uselink" is a very nice link piece but too short.

"Useless" - this must be Dave's best vocal performance ever, underlined with the great sound of the electric guitar!

"Sister Of Night" - a very dark song with a surprising intro that suggests a dynamic tune but turns into something completely different. In my opinion, this track is very similar to "Waiting For The Night".

"Jazz Thieves" sounds unfinished and is the worst part of "Ultra".

"Freestate" sounds almost as a Country song and reminds me of "Coming Back To You" from "Tower Of Song". In the Bluesy parts of the chorus, the vocal and lyrics sound absolutely amazing - "...let yourself go, let yourself go..." - I can't stop humming!

"The Bottom Line" is a step forward, something new. Maybe a taste of Martin's future creation, with less electronic elements.

"Insight" is my second favourite song on this album. The beautiful lyrics together with Dave's voice make me shiver.

All in all, this album is great! Especially Martin's lyrics are more

intriguing on this album then ever before, not to forget Tim Simenon who brought in some very innovative ideas. Now I can't wait to see Depeche Mode playing live!

Marek Grzesiak

Poznan, Poland

"Ultra" is Depeche Mode's finest album, a real jewel musically, lyrically, with a magnificent production. Its broad use of various instruments opens new doors to a wide range of sound and heightened concepts. All this added with Dave's enhanced vocals goes to make a truly outstanding album.

"Barrel Of A Gun" with its intense power is a statement that DM are back and stronger than ever. With "Barrel Of A Gun" Dave throttles out the vocals in a mixture of pain, power and frustration, ideal for the concept of this song. "The Love Thieves", talk about chalk and cheese after hearing "BOAG". This song is so laid back and hypnotising. "Home" is full of warmth and security, a sincere ballad. The string arrangement makes for a wonderful epic. "It's No Good", a very typical catchy DM song, probably the most commercial song on the album. "Uselink", it's great hearing Daniel Miller performing on this instrumental. The sound is very reminiscent of DM's early '80s tunes. "Uselink" would make a great intro for a DM live show which brings me to "Useless" that would make the perfect song to start a live show following the "Uselink" intro. "Useless" is a very dominating song and lyrically very self-observing of both the singer and the songwriter. "Sister Of Night" is all in one a beautiful, pain-filled, heart-felt ballad, which wraps itself around the listener, surrounding them with an irresistible aura. "Jazz Thieves" is like a soundtrack to a film about a serial killer. Imagine the killer stalking a young woman through the streets of NY at night, while you listen to this dark instrumental piece. "Freestate" is all about freedom of mind and spirit. The Western style guitar twanging sets the mood of this song, rather catchy and deeply meaningful at the same time. "The Bottom Line", this second Gore vocal is a beautiful song, with very slick use of the bass. The pedal steel guitar is put to very effective use and there are plenty of dark twists in the song, take the hymn like chanting! "Insight" has a very ritual feel to it. It's concept is one of spiritual journey, a dark yet uplifting experience, the perfect song to end a perfect album!

Chris Davies

King's Lynn, UK

dm/live

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EVERYTHING . COUNTS

Congratulations to Depeche Mode! The seven month old "Ultra" has sold nearly 3,000 000 copies and gone gold in US, Germany, UK, France, Canada, Spain, Sweden, Brazil, Belgium, Denmark, Czech Republic, Hong Kong and platinum in Italy.

The singles from the album were not far behind...."Barrel Of A Gun" reached No. 1 in four countries (Czech Republic, Sweden, Hungary and Spain), "It's No Good" topped the charts in five countries (Czech Republic, Sweden, Italy, Denmark and Spain), "Home" reached No. 1 in Czech Republic and Italy.

In the United States, "Useless" was released as a Double A-side with "Home" on November 18th. There are four formats of this single but don't worry there are no new remixes! Here is the line-up so you can check for yourself:

CD Single

1. Home - Album Version 5:43
2. Home - Air Around The Golf Remix 3:58
3. Useless - Remix 4:00

Cassette Single

- A. Home - Album Version 5:43
 A. Home - Air Around The Golf Remix 3:58
 —cassette break—
 AA. Useless - Remix 4:00

CD Maxi

1. Home - Album Version 5:46
2. Home - Grantby Mix 4:36
3. Home - LFO Meant To Be Mix 4:26
4. Home - Noodles & The Damage Done Mix 6:35
5. Useless - CJ Bolland Ultrasonar Mix 6:00
6. Useless - CJ Bolland Funky Sub Mix 5:38
7. Useless - Kruder & Dorfmeister Remix 10:00
8. Useless - Barry Adamson Escape From Wherever Mix 7:15

This CD is also enhanced with the videos from all four singles.

12" Maxi

- A1 Home - Noodles & The Damage Done Mix 6:35
 A2. Home - LFO Meant To Be Mix 4:26
 B1. Useless - CJ Bolland Ultrasonar Mix 6:00
 B2. Useless - CJ Bolland Funky Sub Mix 5:38

Speaking with all three of the guys recently, we asked them to answer the following question for the Xmas issue of Bong:

The year is nearly coming to its end. You released a new album and several brilliant singles, travelled the world doing promotion, performed live and met with your fans again. How would you sum up 1997 then?

Dave: "It's been a very good year. I'm very pleased with the success of the album, and we've enjoyed working together again. It was good to make a record that we're all pleased with, and its success has boosted our self-esteem. Now I'm looking forward to next year".

Fletch: "I'm pleased that we have consolidated our position as an influential and still popular group in the 1990s. The high points for me were playing live at the Ultra launch parties in London and Los Angeles".

Martin: "It's been a great year for us. Ultra received a very positive reaction everywhere, and it was good to find, after a four year absence, that there are still a lot of people who care about us".

The Band will be spending **Christmas** at home. Only Martin and his family will be going for a short holiday in the Caribbean, leaving on Boxing Day and coming back just after the New Year. Dave is planning to spend the week before Christmas with his son Jack in London and then spend Christmas and the New Year in New York. Fletch will be staying at home and spending the holidays with his family.

Martin has been busy song-writing recently, but he found some time to go and see the football match between Italy and England in Rome this October (yes, the one where the riots took place). Fortunately, he wasn't sitting anywhere near the trouble and was able to leave the ground at the end of the match without getting hurt or detained, as the majority of the English fans were.

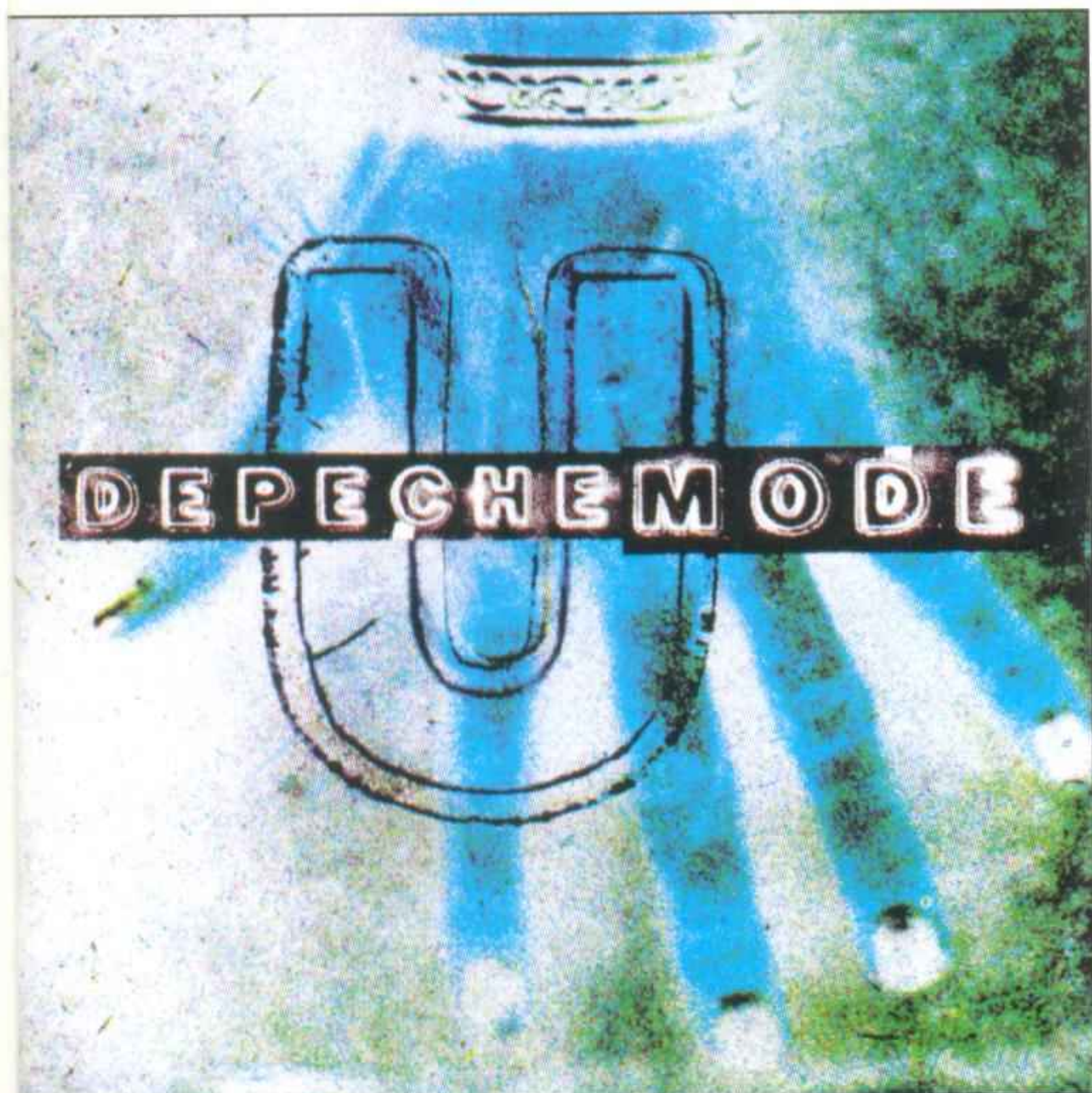
Dave got together with Robert Smith recently, for a chat and afternoon tea in the restaurant of a New York hotel. The Cure were in town for some promotional activities, and this also provided an opportunity for Dave to see Daryl Bamonte who is currently working for The Cure.

It seems that New York is becoming very popular....**Fletch** also visited The Big Apple recently and did meet up with Dave while he was there.



As we said, **Martin** has been very busy lately, writing new songs, and the band could be in the studio as early as the New Year, working on a handful of new songs for inclusion in a double CD package, featuring all the band's hits since 1986. This package doesn't have a title yet, but it could be released late next summer.

The band are also considering touring in the Autumn of 1998.



Depeche Mode were nominated in two categories - Best Act and Lifetime Achievement - for the **'Viva Echo Awards 1997'** on August 14th in Cologne.

Reprise Records, the US label that represents Depeche Mode in America, has released a promotional DVD (Digital VideoDisc) that contains the video for **"Barrel Of A Gun"** along with 18 other Reprise acts. The catalogue number is PRO-DVD-8825.

Following the information in Bong 33 about the Roxy Music tribute album featuring Dave's vocal on **"A Song For Europe"**, here, as promised, are some more details about the project. "Dreamhome Heartaches... Remaking, Remodelling Roxy Music" is the full name of the tribute album. John Taylor (Duran Duran), the executive producer and Hein Hoven, the producer are the men behind the project. The album was released at the

We've just found out that there is a Depeche Mode Tribute Album being put together by a US label called 1500 (a Polygram company). The compilation **"For The Masses"** (please note that this title has still not been confirmed) is a joint venture between Polygram and A&M, and is planned for Worldwide release early next summer. 1500 Records informed us that some of the tracks have already been submitted, but they are still trying to confirm a couple more major artists. The artwork apparently features a shot of the desert taken by Martyn Atkins who has done various album covers for Depeche Mode in the past. The selection of artists and tracks are quite excellent - find out for yourself! Here is the confirmed tracklisting (updated on Nov 13):

Smashing Pumpkins - "Never Let Me Down Again"
DefTones - "To Have And To Hold"
God Lives Underwater - "Fly On The Windscreen"
Failure - "Enjoy The Silence"
Dishwalla - "Policy Of Truth"
Monster Magnet - "Black Celebration"
Hooverphonic - "Shake The Disease"
Locust - "Master And Servant"
Gus Gus - "Monument"
Mekon - "Just Can't Get Enough"
Belf - "Shame"

The following artists/tracks are still to be confirmed:

Third Eye Blind - "Somebody"
Meat Beat Manifesto - "Everything Counts"
Rabbit In The Moon - "Blasphemous Rumours"
Apollo 440 - "I Feel You"

(More info as it comes.....)

end of September on a small label B5 Atomic supported by the charity Children's Hospital Los Angeles - High Risk Youth Program. This charity is a comprehensive program, which aids homeless and wayward youths in LA and has been studied by other hospitals Worldwide as a model program. "A Song For Europe" is available via 'EMOD', which is a new method of selling music on the net and introduced by The Rocktropolis, allowing the customer to digitally download onto his hard drive a song or an entire album for a fee.

You may have already noticed that a snippet of a video featuring Dave singing with the **University of California Church Choir** was used on the Band's official web site. Apparently, it was recorded a few months back by Jonathan Kessler's girlfriend Stacie, during one of the choir's weekly performances that Dave was invited to by Evelyn Halus (Dave's vocal coach during the recording of "Ultra") and her husband, who is the Musical Director of the Choir. Dave was asked to sing a duet with someone called Camilla - which, of course, he did.

General

A German TV channel Pro 7 used "Insight" to promote a thriller called 'Bodychemistry' on 7th August.

On May 30th, Depeche Mode were one of three artists featured on ABC's Channel 6 Friday Night Show 'In Concert' (USA TV). The other two were INXS and Erasure. The show featured video clips of "Barrel Of A Gun" and "It's No Good". They also played part of "Useless". There were also interviews with all three members of the Band.

"Uselink", "The Love Thieves" and "Sister Of Night" were used in a sports car show called 'Turbo' on a French Channel M6.

"Never Let Me Down Again" appeared briefly during 'Party Monster' (UK Channel 4) on August 18. The film tells the story of New York club king Michael Alig and his rise to fame following the murder of a drug dealer in 1996. The track was played as Alig attempted to leave New York.

The satellite music channel VH-1 has been using an extracts from "Walking In My Shoes" and "In Your Room" videos for a self-promotion during breaks. I could also hear "Walking In My Shoes" (Ambient Whale Mix) in the background.

Have you noticed? There are lots of "Ultra" posters around Albert Square in the BBC series 'EastEnders' these days.

On August 1, the French TV channel TF1 used "I Feel You" and "The Love Thieves" during a programme called 'De Plus En Plus'. "I Feel You" was used during a report of the biggest gold mine in the world and "The Love Thieves" was used during an interview with a woman who is the youngest police captain in France.

On August 16, Germany's 'Viva News' used "Sister of Night" as background music.

On July 23, the programme 'Moto-bike' on German Sport TV DSF used about three minutes of "Master and Servant" as background music for a motorcycle test.

"Higher Love" was used during the German TV programme 'Exklusiv - die Reportage' (RTL 2) which, in its July edition, focused on fetishism.

On July 19, "Home" was used during a show called 'Sommer, Sonne, Sat 1' on the German TV station Sat 1.

The opening bars of "New Life" were played during a trailer for the BBC1's 'Match Of The Eighties'. Then during the actual programme, two other Depeche Mode tunes were used. "Everything Counts" was played during a review of the 1981-82 season when Danny Baker talked about all the sponsorship and money being injected into football (...the grabbing hands, grab all they can...) also "Just Can't Get Enough" was played during the night.

"It's No Good" was used on July 10, in Germany, during the ARD TV series called 'Verbotene Liebe'.

The satellite music channel VH-1 used 'Painkiller' in a (UK) show called 'Jobson's Choice' as background music during an interview with a female designer, after which the video for "Master And Servant" came on.

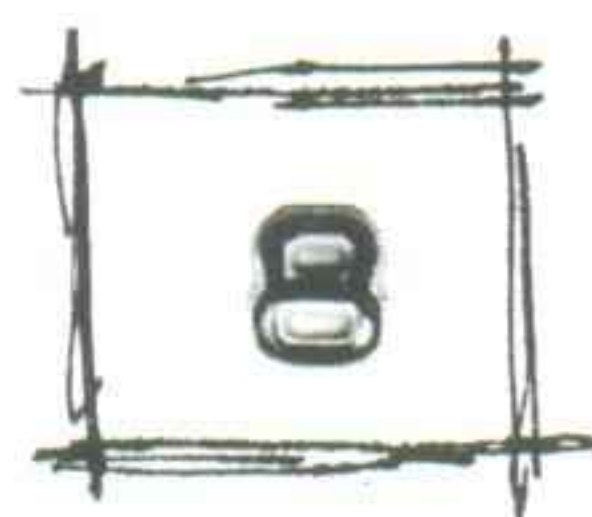
On August 2nd "Barrel Of A Gun" was used as background music for the MTV 'US Top 20'.

Many thanks to Norma Lopez, Martina Kučiková, Tom Evison, Bernard Isabelle, Marc Borgstedt, Martin Muschg, Torhild Skogly Kjeldsen, David McKain, Stuart Nuttall and to anyone else who sent in contributions. Please, keep the information coming in and don't forget that Everything Counts!

Depeche Mode Info Line

The Fan Club has its own information line, regularly updated to provide you with any new information as soon as it happens, i.e. latest DM news and forthcoming Bong activities.

To find out more, please dial **0171-486 9044** (this is a new number) but please note there is only one line, so if the number is busy keep trying - don't give up! The maximum price for any individual call to this line should not be more than 25p.



Erasure's latest single "Rain" was released on November 24th. The specially-priced CD and double 12" contain mixes by Jon Pleased Wimmin, John "00" Flemming (updating Erasure's 1987 hit "Sometimes"), Blue Amazon, Dekkard and BBE, with the CD also featuring three live tracks and the previously unreleased song "First Contact".

Currently in the studio with Flood Barry Adamson is mixing his new album, which is due for release early next year.

The culmination of Mick Harvey's project to transform the songs of Serge Gainsbourg into English is called "Pink Elephants" and was released in October. "Pink Elephants" is a collection of precious odds and ends bound by the presence of many of Gainsbourg's most important and best-loved songs.

Among the busiest Mute acts who completed their tours recently are Erasure (South America and Scandinavia), Nick Cave (Australia), Diamanda Galas (Europe) and Moby (USA)...just so you know.

P.S. Apologies for incorrectly printing the name of CJ Bolland's Mix of "Useless" in Bong 33. It should, of course have read Ultrasonar, and not Ultrasonic. We were given the details as they became available and we had already gone into production when we discovered the error.

Freely provided by DM Live
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BONG CONVENTION PRAGUE 1997

The International Bong Convention in Prague - 11.10.1997

We took the metro to Vltavska station where the Convention was being held but when we arrived I could not see a sign for 'Belmondo'. We walked around for a short while and saw some lads with DM on their rucksacks so we knew we were in the right place. We sat on the wall waiting for the doors to open.



Two lads came over to talk to us who were from Poland. Shortly after, the rest of their group came over to talk to us. They spoke quite good English and seemed very surprised that we'd come all the way from England. We chatted about concerts, and songs from "Speak And Spell" to "Ultra". They shared their vodka, beer and even involved us in their photo-taking with the Polish fan club banner. One of the lads, Kamil, took two T-shirts out of his rucksack for us to wear with their logo, which was a great honour.

The Convention went well and the lads were around most of the night. We bought them beers in exchange for the T-shirts, as we had nothing else to give them. There was a raffle, karaoke, two live bands which were quite good and the Czech premier of the "Useless" video causing an amazing atmosphere in the audience. The star prize was a pair of Martin Gore's trousers which I wish we had won! But never mind we had a great time anyway. The Polish lads even made sure we got on the right metro home. Good job too because we would more than likely gone the wrong way.



We would like to thank Bong for the Convention and the Polish lads - Kamil & co. Thanks for all your kindness, you made the long trip worthwhile.

Kirsty + Katherine
Eastbourne, W. Sussex, England

(Photo courtesy of Kirsty + Katherine)

dm/live

PRESSED IN BLACK

Dear Bong,

Firstly, I would like to thank you for the beautiful copy of Bong 33! The photos are superb (I was surprised to see Dave with short hair! It reminds me of the 'old' times.) What I like very much are the reviews on "Ultra". I think it is fair that you did not only print the good ones as if it looked like everyone liked the album more or less, but also printed some negative ones. Personally, "Ultra" and especially the single "Useless" are one of my favourite albums/songs. The idea to make it possible to watch the videos of "Barrel Of A Gun" and "It's No Good" via PC is a perfect one!

Markus Bings

Geilenkirchen, Germany

Dear Bong,

I've just read Lindsey from Sunderland's letter in Bong 32, about subscribing to the Pan Pals section and I couldn't agree more.

I've been in the Fan Club since the first booklet magazine (and before that the DM Info Service) and throughout all that time I've written to a lot of fans, and had my name in the Pen Pals section twice.

I've written to males and females of all ages. Most have fallen by the wayside, for one reason or another, but it's been interesting to read about other people's lives.

For me, Pen Pals changed my life and it's all down to my ad in Bong 21. I had quite a few replies. One from a man, just one year older than me, called Steve who lived in Cheltenham. Our letters got more and more interesting and after 15 months of writing, he came to visit me in Hastings. Well, it was love at first sight. We are complete soul mates. Nineteen months later, we're happier than ever, and I left my hometown of 35 years to be with Steve.

Depeche Mode mean everything to us, and to find someone to share the feelings that DM give you, was a dream come true.

So Pen Pals section in Bong - God bless you. Without Depeche Mode, I would never have met the loveliest man alive, and had the happiest 19 months of my life. Thank you!!

Caroline Sharley
Cheltenham, UK

Dear Bong,

I'd like to reply to Linda Hansson's letter (BONG 32) it's really

incredible that so many 'Mode People' can have such varied tastes. Like some even despise the first single from "ULTRA". In my opinion "Barrel Of A Gun" is one of the best pieces ever composed by Martin (on the same level as "Never Let Me Down Again", "Fly On The Windscreen" and "Stripped"). It points out the characteristic ingredients of Martin's high songs - slow and enthralling groove, deep lyrics and dramatic atmosphere.

It's a pity that some fans expect only 'electro-pop' from such a high songwriter. On the other hand, I felt a little disappointed with "It's No Good" which I found a bit light and pandering, as well as being out of the "ULTRA" context, like it was an advertising interference! It's video however, partly contributes to saving the situation, since it shows images that are ironical and trashy.

Nicola Guerra

Marina Di Massa, Italy

Dear Bong,

Can anybody tell me why the DM singles never seem to be big hits in Belgium although the albums score heavily?!?

Bruno Iserby

Menen, Belgium

Editor's note: Many other countries are experiencing a similar problem, especially with the last couple of singles. Some might say it's down to the wrong remixes or that radio formats have changed a lot in the past few years and they are either too alternative or too commercial. Unfortunately, in most cases, it depends on the radio stations and their rotations whether the single will chart or not.

Dear Bong,

Thank you for bringing 'very' different views of "Ultra" in the last edition of Bong.

Personally I'm very inspired by "Ultra" and I think the album is the most mature piece of work to date.

It was really interesting to hear some criticism about DM and "Ultra". I can partly understand why some devotees miss songs like "Policy Of Truth", "Never Let Me Down Again" or "Halo" as the memories of these songs and that era are simply unforgettable. But wouldn't it be

boring if Depeche Mode copied themselves on their way. At some point I think the criticism would have been stronger if Depeche Mode created new songs just to remind the people of the 'good old days'.

The question of 'what to expect' is very difficult. The attraction in DM's music comes natural. You can't force yourself into enjoying it. For me, listening to "Ultra" was a complete blast. The songs are very touchy and dreamy. The fans should see "Ultra" as a beginning of a new life for Depeche Mode and yet another step forward and stop comparing it with other earlier albums. "Ultra" is a part of the Depeche Mode history and one of the most moving albums to date.

Kim D. Schau

Aabenraa, Denmark

....one more time on remixes....

Dear Bong,

I've just purchased the DM "Useless" single and think the mixes on both singles are excellent and the video tracks for PC are brilliant (I do feel sorry for anyone without a computer) and this should be a standard thing on all singles. Well done to Dave, Fletch and Martin for this little gift and keep up the good work. I hope we will be seeing them on stage soon.

One other thing, is it me or have all the singles covers been put into the cases wrong?!?

David Swainbury
UK

Editor's note: Don't worry, it's not you! The artwork for the singles is on what is usually the 'back' of the CD case, in order to provide a larger area for the visuals.

Dear Bong,

I just received my Bong 33 and would like to say what a great job you did! I always find them very informative.

I would just like to thank Dave, Andy, and Martin for all they have done for their fans in the past year. I know they have been through a lot, and to put out an album like "Ultra" is a great accomplishment. My prayers for you all.

In response to some of the criticisms of "Ultra" that were in Bong 33, I would just

like to say that DM has been around for quite a while. Their musical style has changed through the years for the better (or worse in some opinions) because their lives have changed. They are excellent musicians (the best, I think), that is why they are still around. We as fans support all their endeavours. I look forward to hearing any material they may put out in the future.

I must agree, however, with Marcus Passant on his opinion of the remixes of the songs from "Ultra". All I can say is that there have been better remixes of songs from previous albums. It seems as though the people who remix the songs are trying too hard to make them sound "electronically trendy." I don't buy those types of "trendy" CDs because I would rather hear Depeche Mode. Advice for those mix-masters: It's near impossible to top perfection!

Norma Lopez
San Antonio, USA

Dear Bong,

Firstly, I'd like to congratulate Depeche Mode on another great album. I thought I had to write to comment on the singles from "Ultra".

I thought most of the remixes were really good, (except the Jedi Knights remix of "Home" which bears absolutely no resemblance to the original).

What has happened to any new material for the singles, for example, past songs like "Dangerous", "Happiest Girl", and "Sea of Sin" which all accompanied the "Violator" singles?

I'd also like to comment on the 'Tribute to DM' CD. (Bong 33). The cover of "BOAC" is definitely worth a listen. It's amusing because some of the lyrics are different. Couldn't the covering band work out what Dave was singing!?

Keith Noon
London, England

Dear Bong,

I respectfully submit that possibly part of the reason, if not most of the reason, that "Home" has done so badly has been because the remixes have been so pitiful. I consider myself to be an extensive, (near complete) collector of Depeche Mode singles and remixes and memorabilia, and unless I can find the "Home" single at a cheap price I will be passing on this one. Not because the original song itself is poor by any stretch of the imagination, but because the remixes are so completely wretched. I do not even consider the DAMNED Jedi Knights song to be a remix, instead they 'dissed' Depeche Mode, by turning in some crap song that they probably already had recorded as a remix.

It is my hope that the "Useless" single will have better remixes, and will include at least one 'Old School' remix that keeps most of the lyrics intact. I know that remixes are considerably different nowadays, but Depeche Mode are currently paying the price that comes with ignoring that most of us fans have been with them for the long haul and need a bone thrown at us once in a while.

Thank you for your time and good luck on the next single and the next year....

Gremlin aka Javier Lopez Jr.

Dear Bong,

I would like to respond to Marcus Passant's comments on DM remixes in 'Pressed In Black' section of Bong 33.

I am very sorry that my first contribution to Bong is in a negative kind of mood however I have to agree with Marcus that most of the remixes have really nothing to do with the original songs. Previously I thought that the Band choose the remixes of their singles themselves however now I presume that this is not

the case. I can't imagine Fletch, Dave or Martin approve of such a rubbish that has been put on some of their singles. Jedi Knight's Remix of "Home" is the perfect example.

I have been a DM fan for 10 years now and I possess quite a few maxis and remixes in my collection but those new ones just don't seem to be able to fit in it. I would prefer extended versions or maxis that bring forward more background sounds as it used to be on older singles.



Photo by Marina Chavez

I am sure there are more fans who would agree that it is just so hard to say anything negative about Depeche Mode and many fans would rather say nothing than something negative. There is no point me repeating Marcus' words but although "Ultra" is quite a good album I think Depeche Mode have done some better ones.

I still like DM's music and would like to suggest taking more care when choosing the right remixes. Keep going Depeche Mode! We still like you!

Norbert Gots
Slovakia

Dear Bong,

Hi there! There's a couple of things I need to get off my chest. First of all, I'd like to say congrats on "Ultra" - it's a great album and it's getting constant play on the system at home - with faves being "Home", "Insight" and "Freestate". I especially love "Home" - a very spiritual song indeed!

My second thing is about the remixes. I would have to agree the latest batch of single remixes have been rather atrocious. Most of the remixes ends up sounding NOTHING like the original. Do the band ever do their own remixing anymore?

Please don't get me wrong - Depeche Mode are among my most favoured bands. Their music is always there for me. As an example - "SOFAD" was one of my 'coming out' records in 1993, and it has very strong personal meaning to me, as does a lot of their music. I'm sure I'll be one of the many fans that will camp out to get tickets when they next tour Australia!!

All I can say is - best of luck guys!!

Gavin Dwyer
Sydney, Australia

"Some Great Videos" is stranded in the mannered grammar and imagery of its era - Soviet army footage, factory machinery, docklands desolation - and tapers out before Depeche remade themselves through the artful eyes of Anton Corbijn. Who wants "Everything Counts" without "Enjoy The Silence", or "Master And Servant" without "I Feel You"?

Stephen Dalton,
VOX, UK
(September 1993)

I only recently purchased this video and I must say it is completely brilliant! It starts with "Just Can't Get Enough". This is quite a good video but I think the two girls dancing in the background was a mistake! Nice appearance from Vince in this one. "Everything Counts" is good for the early 80's and it seems to give a new feel about the song. "Love in Itself" is one of the best videos and it captures the mood very well. "People Are People" (12") - this notes the war aspect in the song and takes place on a military type of boat. Seems to repeat quite a lot though. "Master And Servant". Bondage City! Absolutely brilliant, especially Fletch attacking the wall with the road drill! "Blasphemous Rumours" - great mixing from what seems to be the "Live In Hamburg" video. "Somebody" is fantastic, moody, moving video, greatly complimented by Martin's vocals. "Shake The Disease" - my favourite Depeche Mode song. The video is very strange. (Martin playing a corrugated metal door.) "It's Called A Heart" - my favourite video. Mode meet voodoo! What's the TV doing in a field? "Photographic" is taken from the Hamburg concert where the production is not as good as this one. This is an excellent video, especially for us younger fans who couldn't experience it first time around.

Jack Persse
Shephed, England

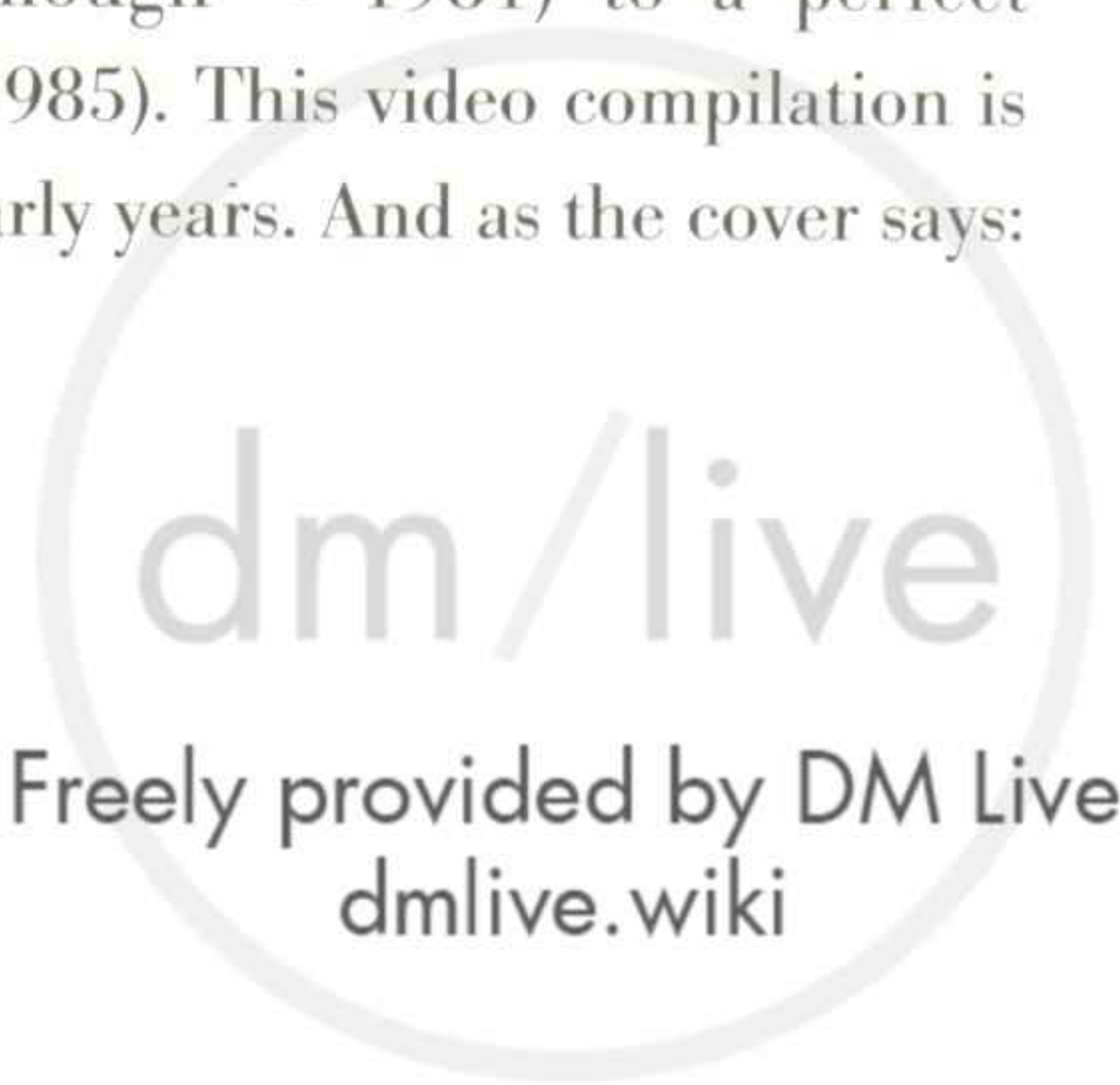
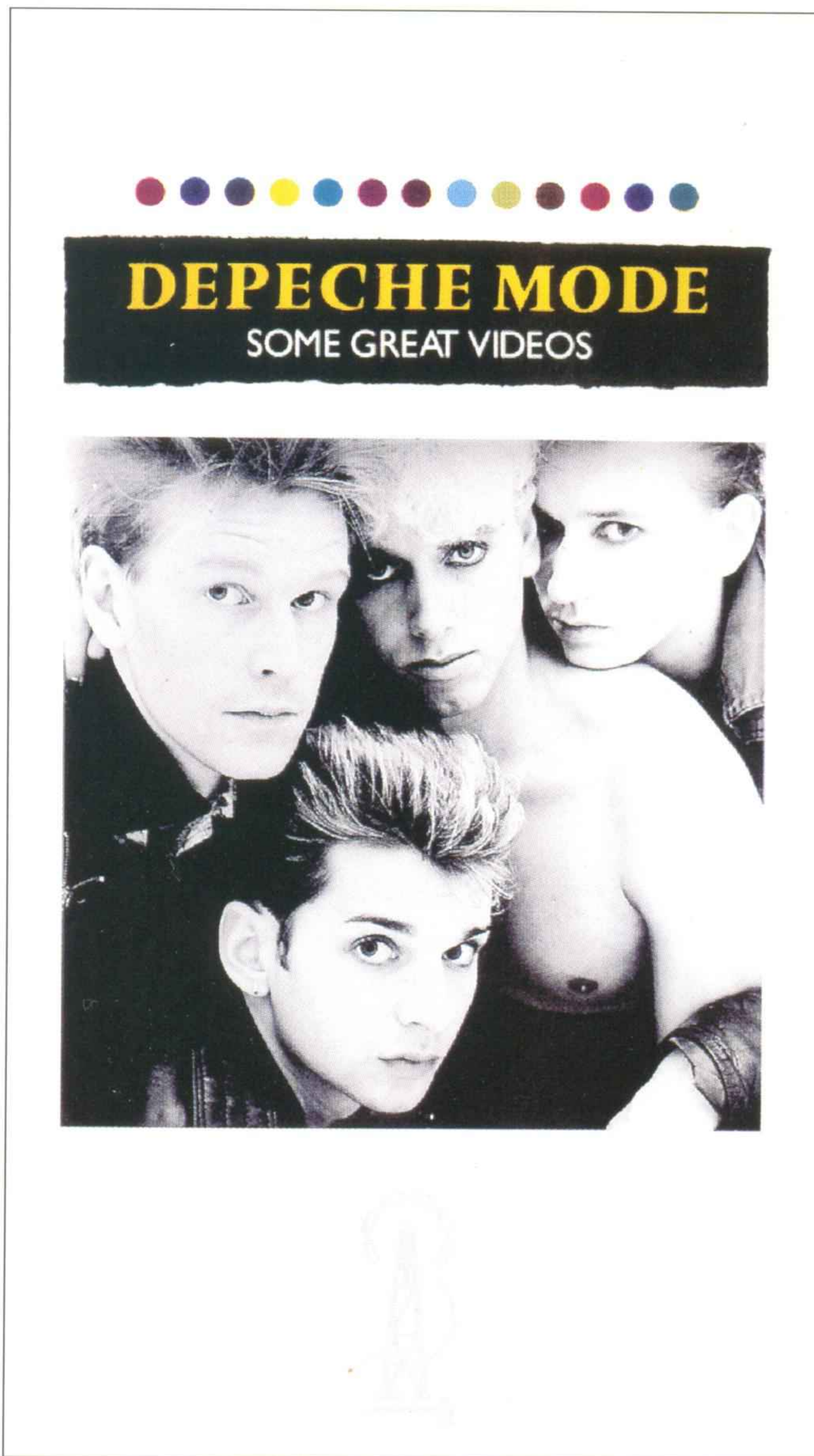
"Some Great Videos" sleeve has the same cover-photography as "The Singles 81-85" and apart from "Photographic" (live) it is in fact the greatest single-videos. The compilation starts with "Just Can't Get Enough" where you can also see Vince Clarke standing behind the keyboard. It is a pity that there is no video from the "A Broken Frame" era. Follow both single hits from 1983,

"Everything Counts" and "Love In Itself". Then there comes the 12" version of "People Are People" which is one of my favourites. After that you can see every video from "People Are People" onwards to "It's Called A Heart". The video ends with "Photographic" (live) which is taken from the "Live In Hamburg" video. The videos perfectly underline the message of each song. The historical extracts in "People Are People" and the church in "Blasphemous Rumours" underline the atmosphere of these songs. You can also see the influence from the recording of the early albums in Berlin as the video for "Everything Counts" is made there too. There is also a difference in the way Clive Richardson and Peter Care direct. I personally prefer Peter Care work although he only filmed two videos, but especially on "Shake The Disease" he perfectly catches the mood of the song. All in all, I think that the videos are great and it is interesting to see from video to video how the guys changed, especially Dave and his performance. He developed from the shy guy behind the

1985
microphone ("Just Can't Get Enough" - 1981) to a perfect showman ("Photographic" Live - 1985). This video compilation is a superb reminder of the Band's early years. And as the cover says: Some Great Videos, indeed!

Markus Bings
Geilenkirchen, Germany

SOME GREAT VIDEOS



This performance video is a living testimony on what they have done over the last 17 years of existence. It's classic Depeche Mode at it's best... truly, the best concert 80's era film that you could ask from them. For all devoted fans it's a time machine of some sort, where one can get back at the "raw" Depeche Mode that enhanced the use of synthesizers like no one else has done. The "humanist-conductor" himself Dave Gahanna has the uncanny ability to make a performance like no other front man can do, yet at that time with his still husky voice his energy driven enthusiasm to communicate is flawless, who can ever forget his headband habit on "Told You So" and his last shout on "Blasphemous Rumours" that sends a chilling path on your soul. Also, what really amazed me is the way Alan, Andy and Martin played there instruments on "Lie To Me" and "Everything Counts", it was so cool...with the drums and percussion trembling down on songs like "Master and Servant" and "If You Want" which undoubtedly only Depeche Mode can do.

Huge stage production wasn't that evident, which may distract me or anyone who has watched it again, indeed the changing times have come about to a band which have grown so big in the eyes of it's devoted fans World-wide. Nevertheless "Live in Hamburg" is a monument to what the band has envisaged itself to be, "sensibly unique"!

Jocelyn & Leslie Reyes
Spain

"Live In Hamburg" begins with "Something To Do" followed by "Two Minute Warning" and "If You Want". Then there comes "People Are People", the song which made it to their highest chart position in 1984.

The band goes on with two classic singles, "Leave In Silence" and "New Life" followed by "Shame". Then Dave leaves the stage and Martin sings his beautiful ballad "Somebody". While Dave's performance during the whole show is very powerful and full of his classical 'Dave-moves' Martin just walks along the stage. Dave comes back to sing "Lie To Me" and "Blasphemous Rumours", one of my favourite songs especially when it is performed live with Alan and Martin hitting the metal plates. "Told You So" is followed by "Master And Servant", also one of the Band's best

songs. "Photographic" is played in a much funkier version than on "Speak & Spell" and it seems as if the show is about to end with the glorious "Everything Counts". But after some 'Zugabe' the band comes back again to play "See You", "Shout" and one of their most famous songs ever, "Just Can't Get Enough". This lineup is a perfect choice of the first four years in the Band's career. Of course you cannot compare the stage set with those in the later

years (for example: Devotional stage), it is much smaller and there are no visuals, but the light show is absolutely perfect. Together with the songs and Dave's action this video is worth watching again and again. You can feel the brilliant atmosphere and you can almost imagine yourself really standing in the crowd. It is a shame that it is a bit dark sometimes so that you can hardly see a thing. Apart from that....a perfect reminder for everyone who was lucky enough to be there and a wonderful opportunity to see Depeche Mode's earlier performance for those who couldn't. My opinion: Some great reward for all the fans!!!

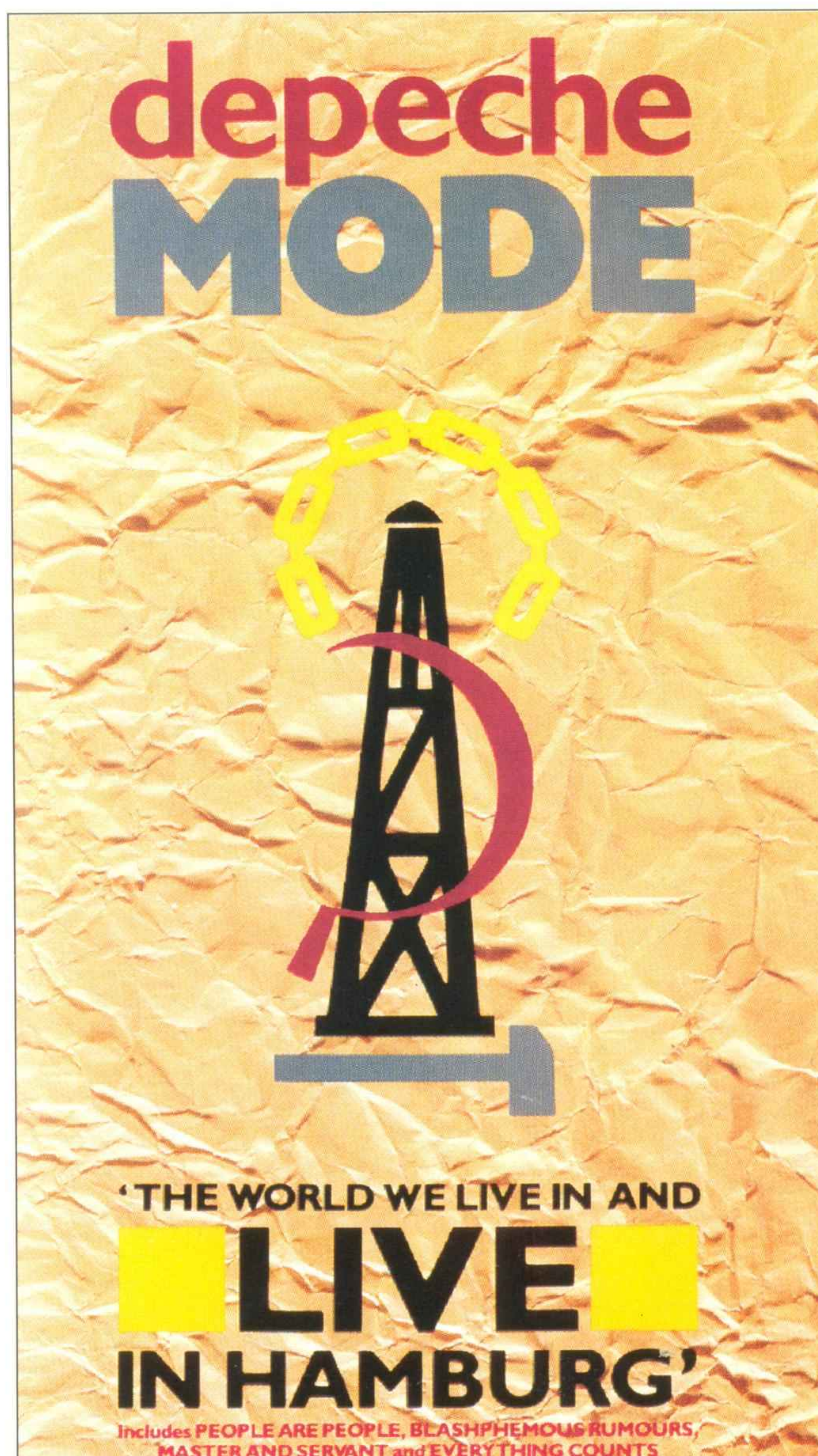
Markus Bings
Geilenkirchen, Germany

No wonder the Depeche lads are huge in Europe and America, where their inescapably naff brand of Essex electro can be enjoyed out of context and their self-reinvention as pervy pop sex lords taken at face value. In spirit, at least, this video belongs to Britain's New Romantic '80s, charting the Mode's progress from fresh-faced youths with the newly minted kiddie-pop optimism of "I Just Can't Get Enough" ringing in their ears, to sunken-eyed sinners suffering God's cruel touch in "Passionate Rumours". (Editor's note: this stands of course for "Blasphemous Rumours") or

"Shake The Disease". Although it was filmed in flickering half-light with all the usual problems of static concert shows, "Live In Hamburg" probably satisfies more by capturing a single timeless moment in '85.

Stephen Dalton, VOX, UK
(September 1993)

THE WORLD WE LIVE IN AND LIVE IN HAMBURG



1985

dm/live

Freely provided by DM Live
dmlive.wiki

I MET THAT BLOKE FROM DEPECHE MODE. ONCE

I bought the ticket for my friend Lene as a surprise birthday present and took her to Wembley Stadium with her suspecting nothing about the events of the evening. As it turned out, both of us were in for a great surprise! We arrived around 7 p.m. - well in time for the football match between Denmark and England Tuesday 15th of May 1990. We hung around the bar, bought a couple of beers and went out to one of the many openings in the stadium wall to look at some of the thousands of people arriving.

We stood near one of the staircase towers looking down at a small group of people, who were standing at the entrance to the tower. One of them was red-haired and I thought he looked a bit like Andy Fletcher. I said this to Lene and she agreed although she wasn't as much into Depeche Mode as I was. Who could the other guy be? Suddenly I realised that it was in fact Andy, and the other guy was Alan. I took a photograph of them and they looked up as the flash went off. I was kind of embarrassed...

It's impossible to describe how I felt at that moment. I just couldn't believe this was for real. I've been a fan of Depeche Mode since 1986 and meeting them was my wildest dream coming true. Even though I was very nervous and my legs were shaking like mad, I simply had to go down and speak with them - just to say hi. It was a chance in a lifetime, but I had some difficulties convincing Lene that she ought to go with me. Finally I succeeded and I guess she was just as nervous as I was. I almost had to drag her down the stairs! I had no idea what to say to them on my way down, but it actually went quite well.

We talked for about 20 minutes, I think. They believed that Denmark would certainly lose that night - I on the other hand was of a different opinion! They were both so sweet and friendly. My opinion of Andy completely changed that day. He was very talkative and seemed genuinely interested in learning a bit about me. Alan was quieter and he looked much better in real life than I had ever imagined. They were suddenly on their way to their seats and I asked if it was possible to take their picture. One of their friends offered to take a photo of the three of us. It was unbelievable standing there between Alan and Andy.

During the first half of the match I was completely wild. I was telling Lene all the things they had said even though she had been there the whole time. The score at half-time was 0-0 and we of course were convinced Denmark would win, as they actually played very well. We went to the bar and met Alan and Andy again. This time I was a bit more relaxed and felt more on top of the situation compared to a few hours earlier. I got their autographs and they were no longer sure that Denmark would lose. Unfortunately we lost 0-1, but it didn't really seem to matter after meeting two members of Depeche Mode! Meeting Alan and Andy made me realise that Depeche Mode really are ordinary people like you and me. There's no need to behave differently in their presence or because of them, but I doubt that I would behave more controlled if it were to happen again...

Lena Hamburg
Kobenhavn, Denmark

If you met Depeche Mode or one of the band members and would like to share your experiences with the other fans, this is your chance. We are giving you an opportunity to tell us when and where you met the Modes and under what circumstances. You can send us full stories or simple details, whatever you prefer. We would also appreciate any photographs you have that we could print as it always makes the page more interesting and will prove to everyone that you were really there! Please, be assured that we will take a good care of your photos and return them to you on your request. Don't forget to mark everything with your name and address.



Photo courtesy of Lena Hamburg



BOOTLEGS

AND.

DJ. MIXES

Ultra - The Remix Album**Format: Unknown****Origin: Unknown**

The first thing I noticed was the striking cover, similar to the UK CD but everything is white instead of black and a nice photo from sleeve notes is underneath a clear tray on the inside. All songs are in order and the length is a tantalising 70 plus mins. "Barrel Of A Gun" is a dancy but still dark mix which works really well. "The Love Thieves" is almost like an instrumental until it really takes off half way through when Dave takes over. Another excellent mix. Drum beats are well mixed into "Home", again giving a dance feel. Good mix and different but original can't be bettered. "It's No Good" is like an extended version of the original but with some extra dubs and samples. "Uselink" is (wait for it) an amazing 9 1/2 mins long and is actually not bad considering the vast difference in time between the original and the new mix. Just like an extended mix really. New sounds are integrated into "Useless" (a bit like an organ in a church) and still has the strong drum beat throughout. "Sister Of Night" is my favourite mix. Starts off with a hard sound but then goes on to the breakdown of the drums as heard half way through the original. It works brilliantly! Dave then swings in to complete a totally wicked mix. "Jazz Thieves" is very similar to "Uselink". Another extended version but not by as much. There is a very hip-hop feel to "Freestate" that works quite well, although original is far superior. "The Bottom Line" also has the hip-hop swing to it. Beats then become richer when Martin sings. Fits in well though. A brilliant track from "Ultra", the concluding "Insight" is not as good as I had expected and is a bit too dancy for such a class track. The last track titled - 'Untitled'! is better known to me and you as "Junior Painkiller", the short hidden piece at the end of "Ultra". Again extended to just over 2 1/2 mins and with quite a few new sounds mixed in with what sounds like someone giving it a few oh's in the background. Interesting! All in all an excellent remix album very well presented visually, very professional with some cracking mixes - 8/10. Highly recommended and well worth £10 I paid for it.

Scott MacFarlane
Glasgow

Ultramode**Format: 2 CD****Origin: Belgium**

It states that this is a product of the Belgium based DM Fan Club and a compilation of rare Depeche Mode material gathered over the years. It also supposed to be the first of five releases yet to come. The cover is plain black with the name "Ultramode" written on it in white. On the back, there are two b&w photographs taken at some press conference. The first CD is everything a bootleg should be. It starts with a live recording of Depeche Mode's performance during the French TV show called 'Nulle Part Ailleurs' (21/4/97), featuring "Barrel Of A Gun" and "It's No Good". Then there is a radio edit of "BOAG" and two promotional club remixes previously not available on CD. The third part of this bootleg is a song said to be a David Gahan demo. The sound quality of this song is not that great, but more than interesting, considering the fact that it could be a genuine demo. The fourth part consists of the tracks recorded during the San Francisco gig in 1994 and features the following songs: "Rush" (intro), "I Want You Now", "Somebody", "Question Of Time" and "Personal Jesus" (with a guest appearance by Primal Scream, it seems). The second CD features some "Violator" tracks but they are a bit noisy and mono - but hey, I got it! In my opinion this is the best bootleg compilation to be found at this very moment. I only paid £ 20. You better watch out for it as there are only 30 copies available!

Gold Collection**Format: CD****Origin: Belgium**

Apart from the well-known mixes, this bootleg also contains some interesting ones: "Policy Of Truth" (Arabian Mix), "Personal Jesus" (Brat Mastermix), "World In My Eyes" (Dub Mix), "A Question Of Lust" (Gore Trance Mix), "Never Let Me Down Again" (Western Remix). All these mixes are very professional and although this CD wasn't cheap (I paid £ 14) I consider it to be an interesting recording. If you haven't got any remixes yet, I do recommend this one.

Bernard Van Isacker
Handzame, Belgium

Forbidden Fruits Vol. 2 - Polished Gold**Format: CD****Origin: Pain+Love Records, England**

This is the following CD of the one reviewed in Bong 26. It has the four lads b&w photos of "101" on a blue sleeve. It lasts 80'06" and contains 20 tracks: "Policy Of Truth" (FM Radio Mix), "Behind The Wheel" (FM Radio Mix), "Strangelove" (Blind Remix Edit), "Personal Jesus" (Who Is Jesus Remix), "Master And Servant" (Single Remix), "Route 66/Behind The Wheel" (Megamix No. 2), "Boys Say Go" (Session Version for BBC Radio 1 - 21/06/81), "A Question Of Time" (Phil Harding Extended Remix), "Never Let Me Down Again" (Single Remix), "Walking In My Shoes" (Chris' Original Mega-Sound Remix), "Enjoy The Silence" (Video Mix), "I Feel You" (Cutoff Metal Mix), "Route 66" (Martin L. Gore Acoustic Version), "Route 66" (Dave Allen Remix Edit), "But Not Tonight" (US 7" Mix), "Shake The Disease" (Fade Mix), "Faith Healer" (Radio Edit), "Behind The Wheel" (US DJ Mix), "A Question Of Lust" (One Canal Mix), "Pimpf" (Strict Edit Midi Mix). The sound is very good but there are some mistakes in edition. Even though the sleeve mentions '20 special treatments' there are some swindles: 13 tracks are in fact official versions (official 7" or remixes suddenly cut in the middle of the track!). The 'Acoustic Version' of "Route 66" is in fact the sample that Martin plays in the guitar shop in "101" movie, and the worse goes to the "Pimpf" Mix which is the fade in of "101"!!! I paid £15, which was a bit too much for such a poor compilation. My advice - don't buy it unless you're just starting to collect singles or maxis and don't have the official versions. Don't be fooled buy new titles!

Thibault Machaté
Saligny, France

Thanks to everyone for sending us your contributions for our "Bootlegs & DJ Mixes" section. We appreciate it as much as the fans. Having reviews of bootlegs is an invaluable help and can save a lot of mistakes and money when buying. We look forward to receiving more of your Bootleg reviews.

Freely provided by DM Live
dmlive.wiki

WALKING IN THEIR SHOES

"World Violation"

USA & Canada 1990

May

| | | |
|--------|-----------|---------------|
| Mon 28 | Pensacola | Civic Centre |
| Wed 30 | Orlando | Orlando Arena |
| Thu 31 | Miami | Miami Arena |

June

| | | |
|--------|------------------|-----------------------------|
| Sat 2 | Tampa | The Sun Dome |
| Mon 4 | Atlanta | Lakewood Amphitheatre |
| Wed 6 | Columbia | Merriweather Post Pavillion |
| Fri 8 | Saratoga | Performing Arts Centre |
| Sat 9 | Mansfield (Mass) | Great Woods Amphitheatre |
| Sun 10 | Mansfield (Mass) | Great Woods Amphitheatre |
| Wed 13 | Philadelphia | The Spectrum |
| Thu 14 | Philadelphia | The Spectrum |
| Sat 16 | E. Rutherford | Giants Stadium |
| Mon 18 | New York | Radio City Music Hall |
| Thu 21 | Montreal | Forum |
| Fri 22 | Toronto | C.N.E. Grandstand |
| Sun 24 | Pittsburgh | Starlake Amphitheatre |
| Mon 25 | Cincinnati | River Bend Music Centre |
| Tue 26 | Cleveland | Blossom Music Center |
| Thu 28 | Clarkston (Mi.) | Pine Knob Music Center |

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|--------|-----------------|------------------------|
| Fri 29 | Clarkston (Mi.) | Pine Knob Music Center |
| Sat 30 | Milwaukee | Marcus Ampitheatre |

July

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|--------|----------------|------------------------------------|
| Mon 2 | Chicago | World Music Theater |
| Tue 3 | Chicago | World Music Theater |
| Thu 5 | Houston | Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion |
| Fri 6 | Houston | Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion |
| Sun 8 | Dallas | Starplex Amphitheatre |
| Mon 9 | Dallas | Starplex Amphitheatre |
| Wed 11 | Denver | Red Rocks Amphitheatre |
| Tue 12 | Denver | Red Rocks Amphitheatre |
| Sat 14 | Calgary | Olympic Saddledome |
| Mon 16 | Vancouver | P.N.E. Coliseum |
| Wed 18 | Portland | Memorial Coliseum |
| Fri 20 | Mountainview | Shoreline Amphitheatre |
| Sat 21 | Mountainview | Shoreline Amphitheatre |
| Sun 22 | Sacramento | Cal Expo Amphitheatre |
| Wed 25 | Salt Lake City | Park West |
| Fri 27 | Phoenix | Veterans Memorial Coliseum |
| Sat 28 | San Diego | Sports Arena |
| Sun 29 | San Diego | Sports Arena |
| Tue 31 | San Diego | Sports Arena |

August

| | | |
|-------|-------------|------------------------|
| Wed 1 | Los Angeles | Universal Amphitheatre |
|-------|-------------|------------------------|

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|-------|-------------|-----------------|
| Sat 4 | Los Angeles | Dodgers Stadium |
| Sun 5 | Los Angeles | Dodgers Stadium |

Australia & Japan 1990

August

| | | |
|--------|--------|------------------|
| Fri 31 | Sydney | Horden Pavillion |
|--------|--------|------------------|

September

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|--------|----------|---------------------------|
| Tue 4 | Fukuoka | Shimin Kaikan |
| Thu 6 | Kobe | World Kinen Hall |
| Sat 8 | Kanazawa | Ishikawa Koseinenkin Hall |
| Sun 9 | Nagoya | Nagoya-Shi Kokaido |
| Tue 11 | Tokyo | Budokan |
| Wed 12 | Tokyo | Budokan |

Europe 1990

September

| | | |
|--------|----------|-----------------|
| Fri 28 | Brussels | Forest National |
| Sat 29 | Dortmund | Westfalenhalle |
| Sun 30 | Dortmund | Westfalenhalle |

October

| | | |
|-------|------------|--------------|
| Tue 2 | Copenhagen | Valbyhalle |
| Wed 3 | Copenhagen | Valbyhalle |
| Fri 5 | Gothenburg | Scandinavium |
| Sat 6 | Stockholm | Globe |
| Mon 8 | Frankfurt | Festhalle |

| | | |
|--------|-----------|------------------------------------|
| Tue 9 | Hannover | Messehalle |
| Thu 11 | Lyon | Halle Tony Garnier |
| Fri 12 | Zurich | Hallenstadion |
| Sun 14 | Frankfurt | Festhalle |
| Mon 15 | Stuttgart | Martin Schleyer Halle |
| Wed 17 | Munich | Olympiahalle |
| Sun 21 | Paris | Palais Omnisport De Paris Bercy |
| Mon 22 | Paris | Palais Omnisport De Paris Bercy |
| Tue 23 | Paris | Palais Omnisport De Paris Bercy |
| Thu 25 | Lille | Stade Couvert Regional |
| Fri 26 | Rotterdam | Ahoy Stadium |
| Sun 28 | Hamburg | Sportshalle Alsterdorf |
| Mon 29 | Hamburg | Sportshalle Alsterdorf |
| Wed 31 | Berlin | Deutschlandhalle |

November

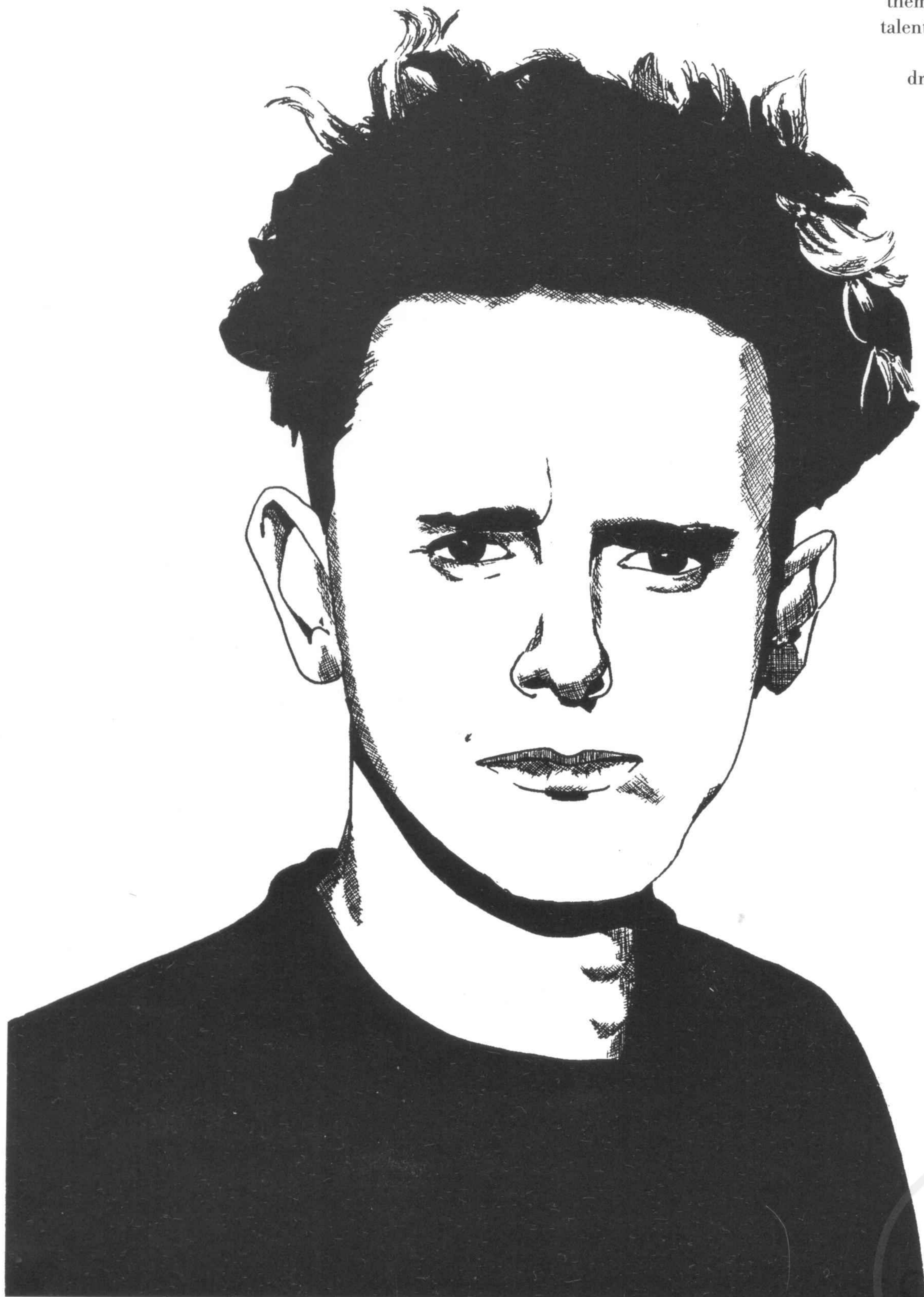
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|--------|------------|-------------------------|
| Thu 1 | Berlin | Deutschlandhalle |
| Sat 3 | Strasbourg | Hall Rhenus |
| Mon 5 | Barcelona | Palau Sant Jordi |
| Wed 7 | Madrid | Palacio de los Deportes |
| Fri 9 | Marseille | Palais des Sports |
| Sun 11 | Milan | Palatrussardi |
| Mon 12 | Rome | Paleur |
| Wed 14 | Bordeaux | Patinoire Meriadeck |
| Thu 15 | Bordeaux | Patinoire Meriadeck |
| Sat 17 | Brest | Parc Penfeld |
| Mon 19 | London | Wembley Arena |
| Tue 20 | London | Wembley Arena |
| Thu 22 | Birmingham | N.E.C. |
| Fri 23 | London | Wembley Arena |
| Mon 26 | Birmingham | N.E.C. |
| Tue 27 | Birmingham | N.E.C. |

dm/live

Scan by Maudy

Gallery

Quite a few pictures were found in our files when we were moving offices, some were sent to us a couple of years ago and we've not had a chance to use them before. They are pictures of Depeche Mode collectively and individually, some of which were really amusing! There must be more of you out there who have done DM drawings, whether recent or gathering dust in a cupboard - we want to see them. To show off your artistic talents, we have decided to open this Gallery, it can be a drawing, caricature, painting or cartoon - whatever you prefer! So don't wait any longer and send us your work! We can't wait to see it! (Please don't forget to mark each sheet with your name and address)



18

by Rolando Oscar (6. 1. 1994)

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dmlive.wiki

dm/live

SATELLITE

DMF

**Apartado de Correos 42064
Madrid 28080
Spain**

Depeche Mode Friends
P.O.Box 239
160 41 Praha 6
The Czech Republic

**The Hungarian DM FC
Budapest
Petöfi Csarnok
1146 Zichy M.U.14
Hungary**

Mode Evolution
3 Marne Avenue
Walton
Peterborough
PE4 6AJ
England

**Faith FC
P.O.Box 25281
East Rand
Withfield 1462
South Africa**

Devotees - DM FC
Rua Manuel Mendes, 21-3A
1800 Lisboa
Portugal

**Kaleid
Ezermals Str. 2/1-29
Riga LV-1037
Latvia**

DM Club

**Linda Andreasson
Norrskensq. 21
37151 Karlskrona
Sweden**

Devotee MODE
42, Rue Armand Carrel
62970 Courcelles-Les-Lens
France

**WorkHard
apdo. correos 12.283
46020 Valencia
Spain**

DM Devotees
A.D. 1154
Vilnius 1
2001
Lithuania

**DM Club
ul. Stefana Batorego 88 m.13
41506 Chazow Batory
woj. Katowickie
Poland**

Devotional Fan Club
C/Taxonera No. 9, 2nd Floor
Ferrol 15403 - La Coruna
Spain

The addresses below are printed for your information only. These fan clubs are unofficial and therefore BONG takes no responsibility for their activities.

If there is a fan club in your area, a DM party or convention being organised we'd like to hear about it. Please, send us all the details to the BONG address.

**A la Mode
20 St. Patrick St. Suite '719
Toronto
Ontario M5T 2Y4
Canada**

Rush
Crabethstraat 15
2801 AL Gouda
The Netherlands

**Hot Wire
German fanzine
c/o Andy Drabek
Allendestr. 66
08062 Zwickau
Germany**

Empty World 2
Paltholmterrasserne 78 F
3520 Farum
Denmark

**Devotion
Apartado 5265
47080 Valladolid
Spain**

**De.Mo.
Poltavskaya st. 2-45
603024 Nizhny Novgorod
Russia**

Shake The Disease
Stefan Bülter
Zimmer 216
Suarezstr. 15-17
D-14057 Berlin
Germany

**DM Fan Club BCN
Apartado de correos 3004
08080 Barcelona
Spain
e-mail: dmfebcn@aiind.upv.es**

Club For The Masses
Suipacha 463 (6-B)
(1008) - Capital Federal
Bs.As. - Argentina
e-mail: dm_arg@hotmail.com

**Ultra DM FC
c/o Giovanna Siragusa
C.da Conte, Coop Conte
sc.2 int. 1
98168 Messina
Italy**

Satellite - Canadian FC
P.O.Box 63527, RPO Capilano
North Vancouver, B.C.
V6V-1J4
Canada

The Ultra Company would like to invite all the Ultra fans to a special Depeche Mode X-mas party with DJ Elvis held on 26th December 1997 at 22pm in Biskuithall 26, Bonn (Germany). For more info please send your address to: Ultra Company, Elvis Rashidi, Lustheide 101, 51427 Berg.Gladbach, Germany.

Celebrate The New Year with Depeche Mode by attending the 1997 New Year party called "Everything Counts". The event is being organised on Wednesday, 31st December 1997 from 8pm till late at the Disco Dance Club Sytno (Czech Republic). More info on: Michal Popovic, Sytno 19, 349 01 posta Stribro, Czech Republic.

dm/live

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BLASPHEMOUS . RUMOURS

Considering the fact that not everyone can get hold of all the newspapers and magazines with DM interviews, reviews and gossip, here are some of the most interesting bits that were published on DM not just in the press but also on TV and radio. If you would like to take part and help us, then send us copies of any relevant articles you may find in the newspapers of your country together with an English translation to the usual Bong address. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Useless - Kruder & Dorfmeister Mix

“Dark, gothy gear from Dave and the scary chaps that’s given over to K&D to sort out. The top bassline (a la Jah Wobble) is kept, as is the vocal, but those funky Austrians add tons of funky drums and some ace rhodes piano. If you haven’t heard much of K&D’s stuff get hold of this because it’s even better than that copy of Razzle you’ve been promising yourself.”

Anthony Teasdale, Update, UK
(6 October 1997)

Ultra
“At last they seem, well, authentic.”
Q Magazine, UK
(July 1997)

Home

“Martin Gore sings this one (wonder what Dave was doing at the time?) and makes a personable job of it. The menace of self-annihilation is suggested in the words and the heartless beats, but then an enormous string arrangement arrives like the Seventh Cavalry and we’re all redeemed once more.”

Stuart Bailie, NME, UK
(31 May 1997)

It’s No Good - remixes

“Techno musicians and DJs have killed the song again by proposing their own material embellished by a few words and sounds from the original song. The only one worth listening is the hardfloor mix which sounds a little bit like an extended mix.”

SD, Side-Ling, Belgium
(April 1997)

Useless

“So they’re BACK! With another slice of Vorsprung durch techno doom rock, which as ever is secretly half-decent, but will only ever be appreciated by slightly dysfunctional people who sit at the side of the class unnoticed. Plus all Germans.”

Johnny Cigarettes, NME, UK
(11 October 1997)

Useless

“Downbeat balladeering from the Mode with loads of credible underground and left-of-centre remix talent employed, most notably an atmospheric Kruder & Dorfmeister whose lazy and melancholic vibe mix perfectly suits the mood of the original song.”

DJ Magazine, UK
(11-24 October 1997)

Many thanks to Cedric Wattergniaux and to anyone else for sending us their contributions for “Blasphemous Rumours”. Keep them coming!

Ultra

“The against-all-odds, underdog aura that surrounds “Ultra” makes you want to love it as much as, say, Steve Earle’s noble resurrection.”

Sara Scribner, The LA Times, USA
(April 1997)

Ana Martínez Rubio
 c/Pico De Los Artilleros
 No 72, 2B
 28030 Madrid

Spain

Hi! I'm Al-Anita, from the planet Depeche Modum and I want to contact other people on the planet Earth. Write in English or Spanish.

Arne Wojciechowski
 Cölpiner Strasse 15
 17034 Neubrandenburg
 Germany

Hi. I'm a 23 years old male freak from the 'Older Mode - Generation'! I'm absolutely into DM (especially the old stuff) and also into NIN, FLA, F242, NEP, Laibach, NSK, Skinny P., DAF and many more from the Electro, EBM and Industrial scene! I'm always looking for new HONEST & SERIOUS

fans and friends from all over the world! All crazy (and other) letters will be answered! CIAO!

Andy Fallan
 5 Gordon Road
 Corringham
 Stanford-Le-Hope
 Essex SS17 7QY
 England

Hi! I'm a 25 year old DM fan and I live just outside Basildon. I'd love to hear from any female devotees from anywhere in Britain or the world. My interests include music, travel, psychology and religion. I'm very passionate about music and apart from Depeche Mode I'm into Oasis, Prodigy, British Indie rock and all types of dance music. Write to me about life, love, lust and the world we live in or just life in general.

Raymond Maki
 15260 W. 44th Ave
 Golden
 CO 80403
 USA

Hi! I'm a 38 yr. old DM guy looking for my Little 18 (or whatever). Are there any other fans who have been into Depeche Mode since the 1st album? Will answer all! Get Right (write) With Me. I want you now!

Michelle Peterson
 108 Herbert Street
 Sutton, St. Helens
 Merseyside WA9 3LE
 England

Is there Somebody out there who would like to drop me a line? I am 29. I have been a Depeche Mode fan since "New Life", seen them live on all their early tours, plus a few recent ones. Dave Gahan is absolutely, THE guy, he's gorgeous, any look-alikes most welcome! I love black clothes, especially PVC, love silver jewellery. The Bottom Line is, male or female, it would be good to hear from you. Especially from this area. If possible send a Photograph. I don't know It's No Good I can't fight this obsession with Depeche Mode.

Eiri Heyno
 Kuninkaantie 85
 65320 Vaasa
 Finland

Hi all! I am an 18-year-old girl from Finland who is very interested in hearing (or reading) about you, your life, your interests, your thoughts about DM (and other music). Everyone, everywhere (and if anyone in Finland sees this, please let me know) please grab a pen. Let's see how a view becomes twisted! I hope I won't be staring down an empty post box....

Marco Barone
 72 Prince's Square
 London W2 4NY
 England

Hello! I am a 25-year-old Depeche Mode fan. I am seeking to correspond with other fans, from England and Italy. Any others welcome. I like 'Friends', 'Three's Company', 'Nightmare' and 'Halloween'. Music: Depeche Mode and....write to me to know.

Cristina Villa
 Via Catolari 8
 24039 Sotto il Monte
 Bergamo
 Italy

Hi Depeche Mode fans! I'm Cristina. I am 19 years old and have followed Depeche Mode for over 8 years. If you want to drive me to happier days write me as soon as possible. I'm sure we will have something precious to share.

CONTACTS.

Pisa 23.9.07 - Like a cat dragged in from the rain... A poem by D.T. is great. Thank you! Svetlana.

All my love to Anja, Andrea, Karen, Patty, Nicole, Simone (Halo), Silke, Moto, Sebastian, Nicolas from Michael from Staupitz. I wish you and other Depeche Mode fans very happy 1998!

Lindsey from Sunderland (Pressed In Black, Bong 32) - SNAP! I am 21 and have just rejoined the fan club, having first subscribed when I was 13 years old. It's nice to know that there are other girls in the North East who share my obsession! Hardly any of my friends like DM (philistines!) and I'm desperate to talk to somebody who does. If you feel like contacting me, please write to: Emma Watson, "Grenada", 19 Rectory Road, Gosforth, Newcastle NE3 1XP, England.

Tom - Did you say this didn't count? Worth a try anyway!!

Sandy - Thanks for sending me copies of your photos from the Convention. Say 'Hi' to Alex for me. Best wishes, Dianne.

If you'd like to correspond with other Depeche Mode fans, send us a postcard with your name, address and a brief description of yourself and your interests. Please, mark your envelope "Pen Pals". If you're sending a contact message, please make sure the person you are contacting is a member of BONG. Please, mark your envelope "Contacts".

Freely provided by DM Live
 dmlive.wiki

CLASSIFIED

If you'd like to place an advert in this section, send us postcard with your name, address and brief description of what you want to buy, sell or swap. Please note we CAN NOT accept any advertisements for bootleg records, CDs, tapes, videos, etc.

I would like to enquire about the following Depeche Mode videos which I can't seem to get my hands on: "See You" (1982), "Leave In Silence" (1982), "Stripped" (1986), "The Meaning Of Love" (1982), "Get The Balance Right" (1983), "Little 15" (1988). Can anyone help me in finding and recording these videos for my collection? Please, contact me on this address: Darren Tones, 11 Mons Avenue, Hebburn, Tyne and Wear, NE31 1QL, England.

Wanted: Video footage of Depeche Mode interviews, videos, performances, etc. Please help, my footage is very limited. I am willing to pay. Please, send list and prices to: Michelle White, 7 Vale Crescent, North Western Boulevard, Nottingham NG8 3PR, England.

Superb DM items for sale: large list of rarities - CD/vinyl/cassette/book/photos/tour books etc. - e.g. X1, X2, Ultra Box Set, Ultra Mug, Violator scarf, Interviews, Pro-cd 5192, Violation 15 (12"), "Personal Jesus" (Kazan Mix CD), Ultra Promo Jacket (black + silver), In The Zone US Radio CD etc. Send S.A.E. for list to: Mr. Jason Dunn, "Louvrin", Gordon's School, West End, Woking, Surrey, GU24 9PT, England.

Looking to purchase T-shirts (preferably black) and other items from the "Black Celebration" Tour. Also I'd like a large poster and T-shirt of "The Singles". Finally, I'd like a tape or CD of the instrumentals (i.e. "St.Jarna", "Moonlight Sonata", "Nothing To Fear", etc.) Please send picture(s) of the item(s), along with your name, address, and asking price(s) to: C.R.Y.S.W., Post Office Box 11294, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53211, USA.

For sale: "Behind The Wheel" US promo CD 6 tracks (inc. unreleased mixes), "Everything Counts" (Live) US promo CD 3 tracks, "Personal Jesus" Japanese CD 8 tracks, "Blasphemous Rumours" UK Limited 7" 4 tracks, "Strangelove" German red vinyl 7". All in mint condition. Offers to: Dean Thompson, 12 Newfield Close, Hampton, Middlesex TW12 2LB, England.

I am desperately looking for the "Music For The Masses" Tour programme from 1988, "Black Celebration" Tour programme from 1986 and "Some Great Reward" from 1984/1985. I am also looking for LCD "World In My Eyes" (inc. "Happiest Girl" - Pulsating Orbital Vocal Mix) and 12" USA "Master And Servant", "It's Called A Heart" and "Get The Balance Right". Myself, I collect live tapes and video concerts if you are interested to swap. Send your offers and list to: Jose Luis Herrera Molina, Avda/Hnos Machado 87-31, Valencia 46019, Spain.

Wanted: Japanese Box Sets X1 and X2, German Intercord CDs in individually numbered wooden boxes and Japanese 3" CD "I Want You Now". Please make your offers to: Philip Box 135, c/o Post International, 2 Gales Gardens, London E2 0EJ, England or Philip Box 135, c/o Post International, 666 5th Avenue, Suite 572, New York NY 10103, USA.

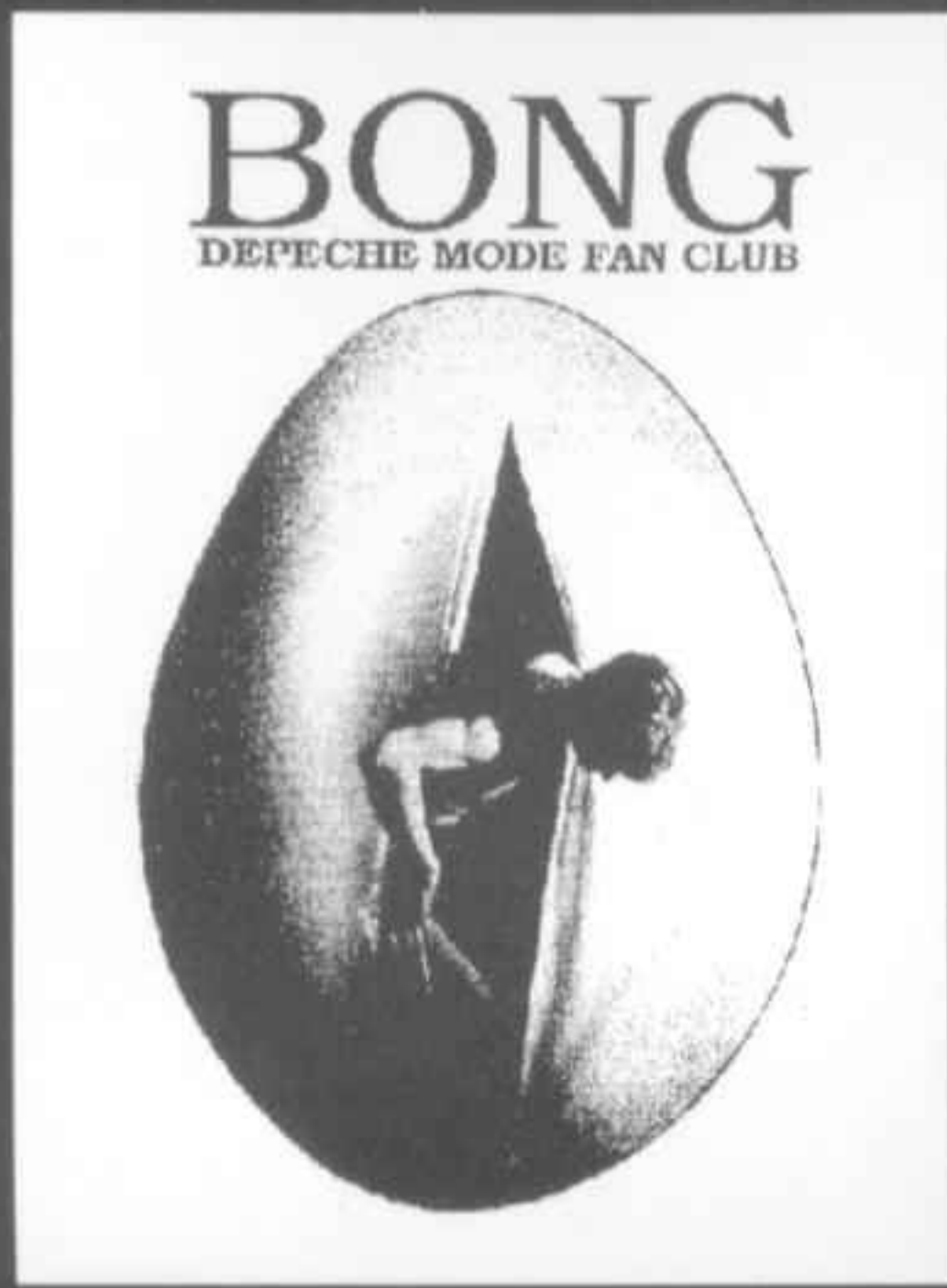
I am very interested in getting the interview with Dave Gahan that appeared in the Q Magazine earlier this year. If anyone out there knows which interview I am talking about and possess it, please be so kind and send me a copy of it! It would really mean a lot to me since Dave is my favourite Depeche Man! Please, write to: Torhild S. Kjeldsen, Galeasen 7, N-3038 Drammen, Norway.

For sale: Strange 1, Strange 2x2 and Devotional (un-opened) on laser disc. Strange 1 is from Japan but has a crack on one side. Offers call: Chris Thomson (England) on +01344-427259.

I am looking for anyone who can sell me a copy of the following DM's promo videos: "I Feel You", "Condemnation", "Barrel Of A Gun", "It's No Good", "Home", "Stripped", EPK Interview and anything 'live' from the "Violation" and "Devotional" Tours. Please contact me on: Darrel, P.O.Box 91, Grantham, Lincs, NG31 8PU, England.

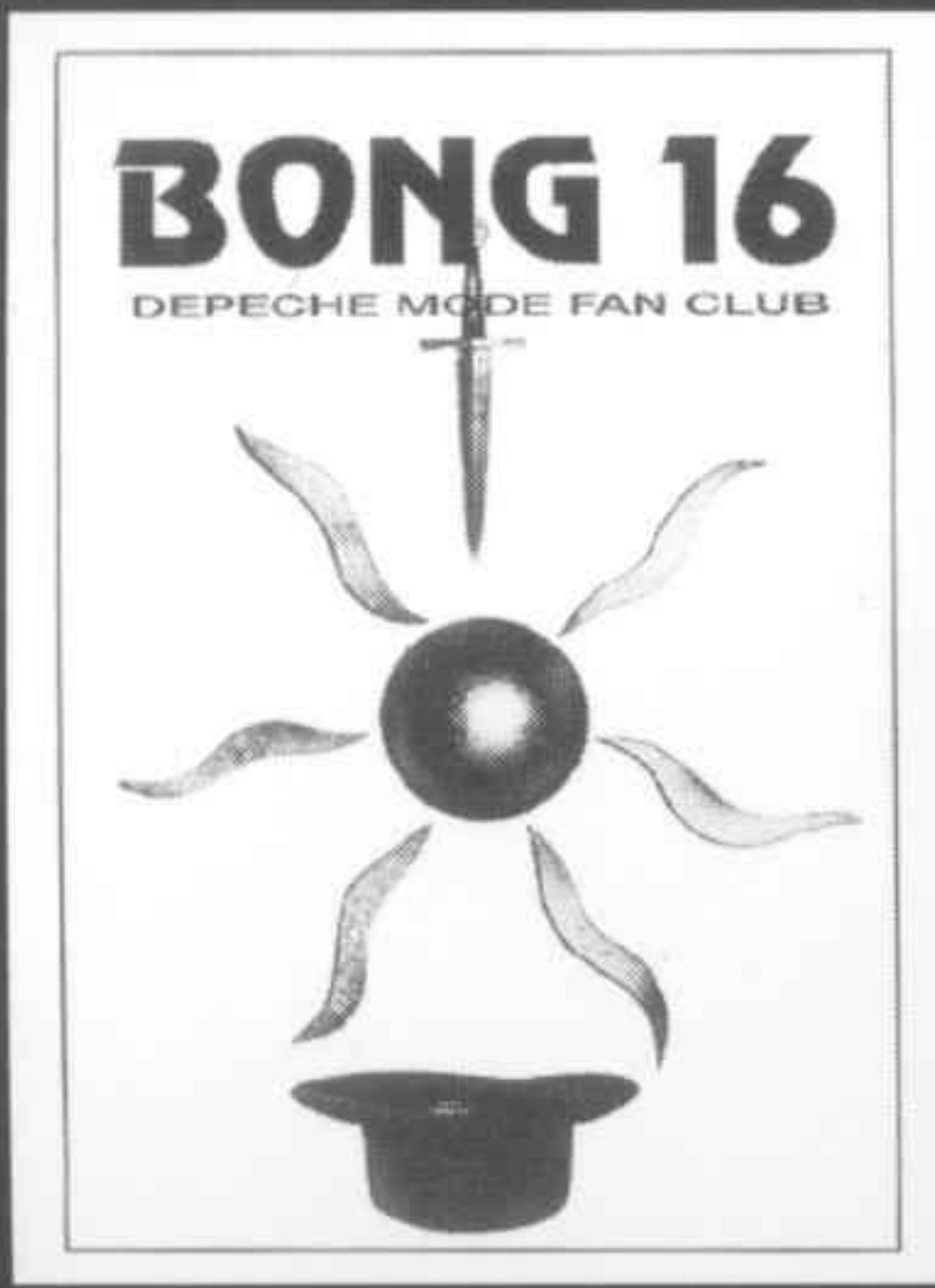
Looking for Bong Issue 5, "I Want You Now" (Japanese CD) and the programmes from "Speak & Spell" and "See You" Tour. Offering X1 and X2, plus all colour/limited editions on vinyl. Please send SASE/JRC to: Martin Finkler, Puschkinstrasse 2, 38820 Halberstadt, Germany or contact me at: finkler@sunpool.cs.uni-magdeburg.de

BONG 14



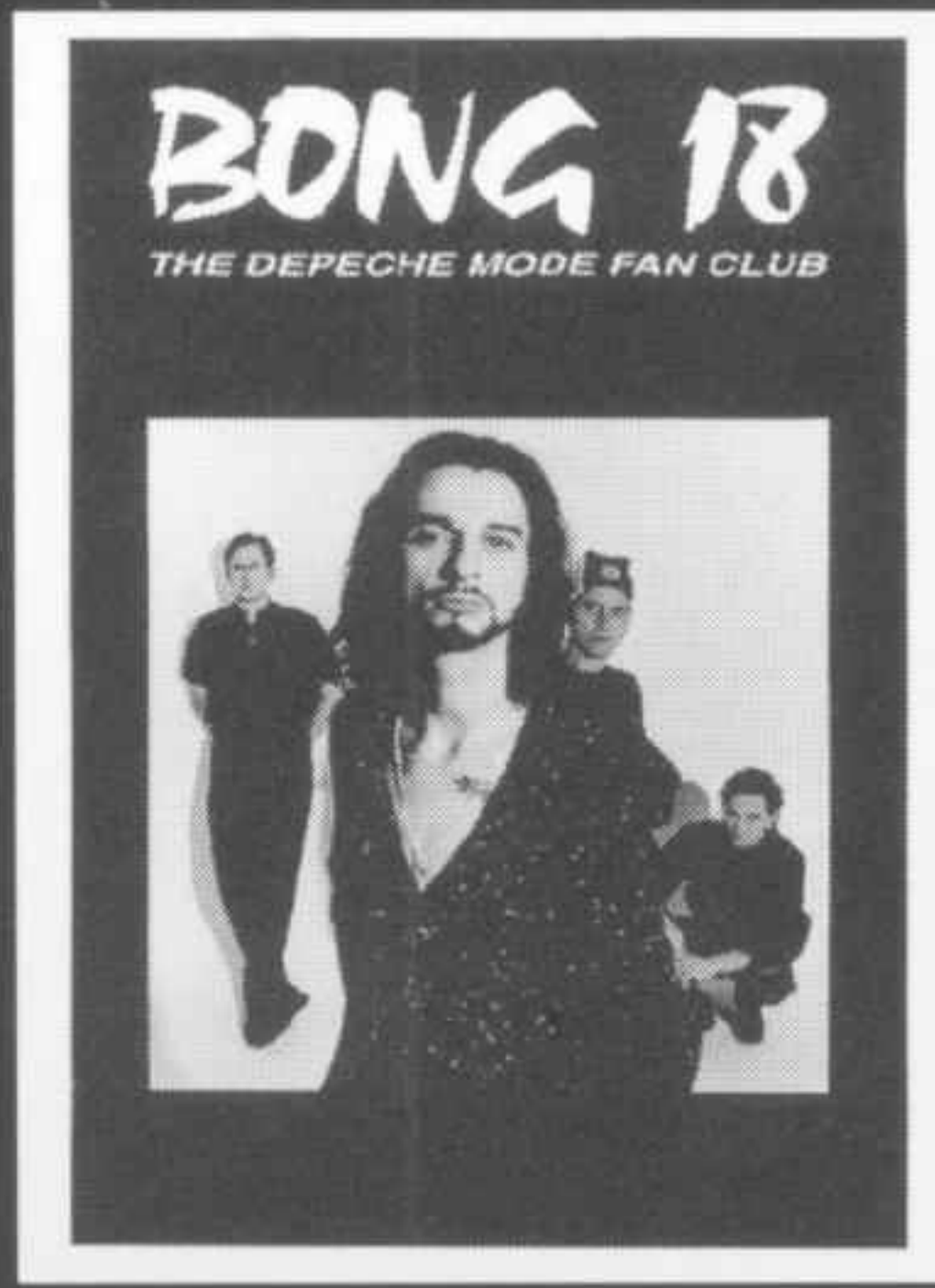
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BONG 16



A4, b/w

BONG 18



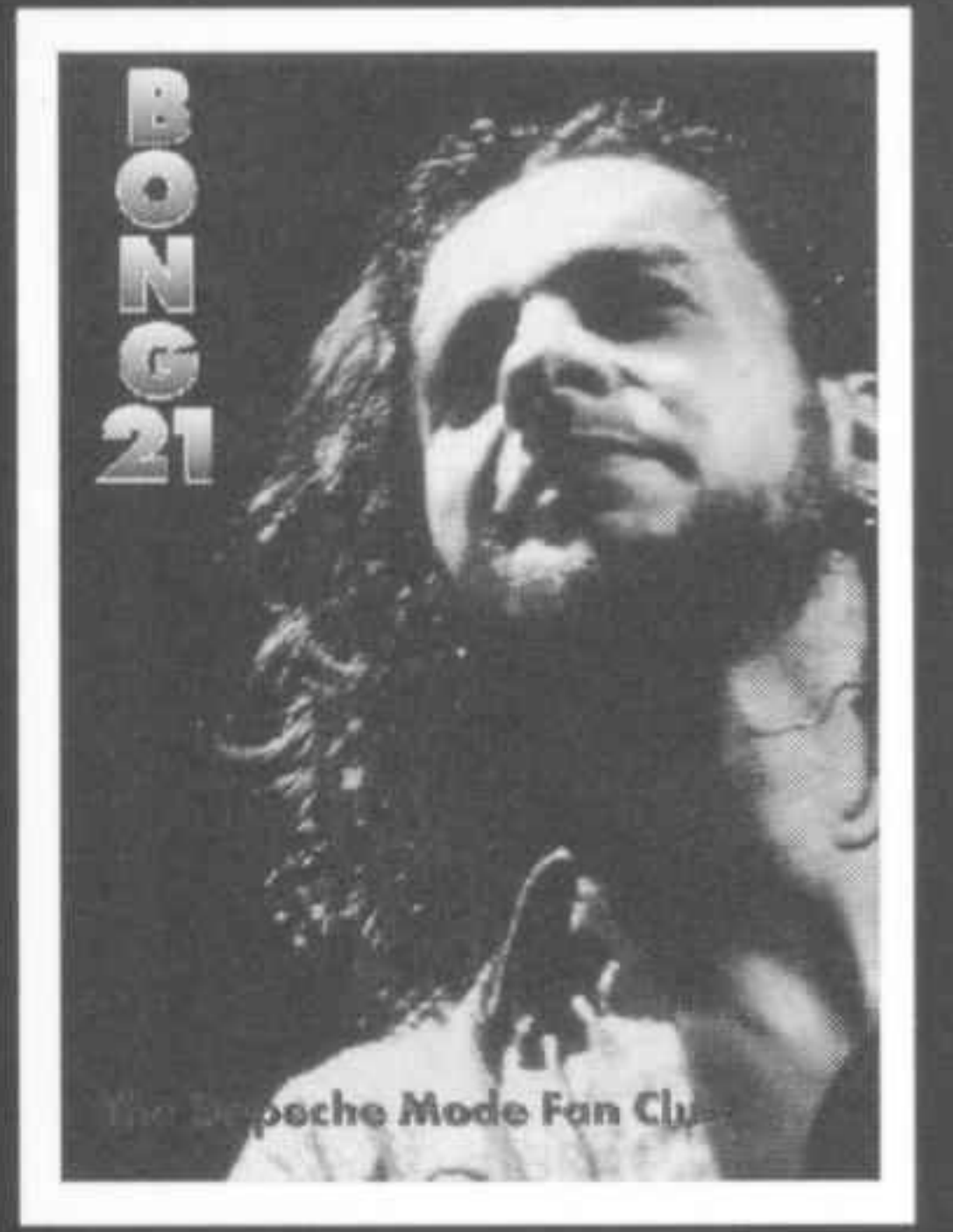
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BONG 20



A4, colour

BONG 21



A4, colour

BONG 22



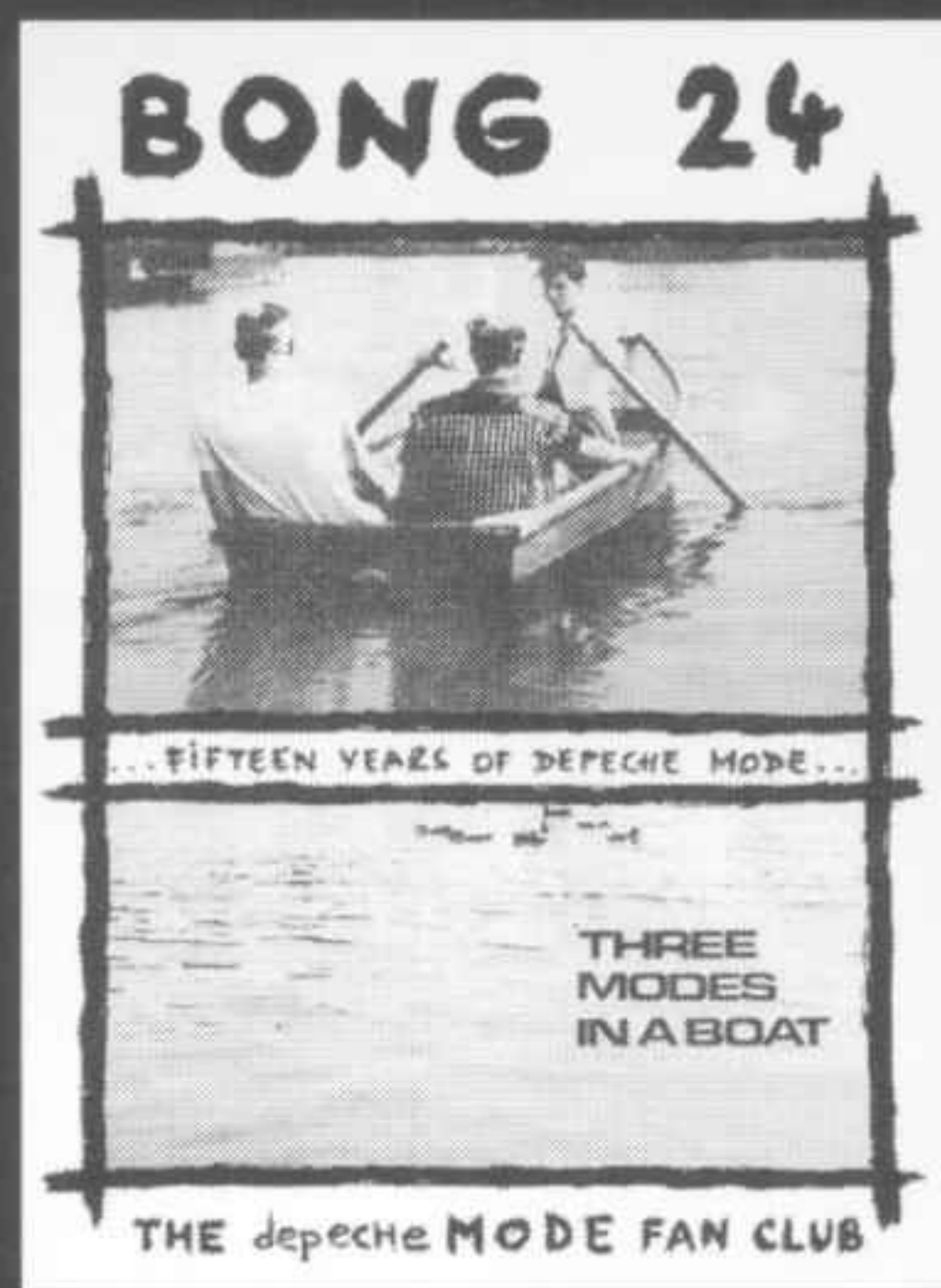
A4, colour

BONG 23



A4, colour

BONG 24



A4, colour

BONG 26



A4, colour

BONG 29



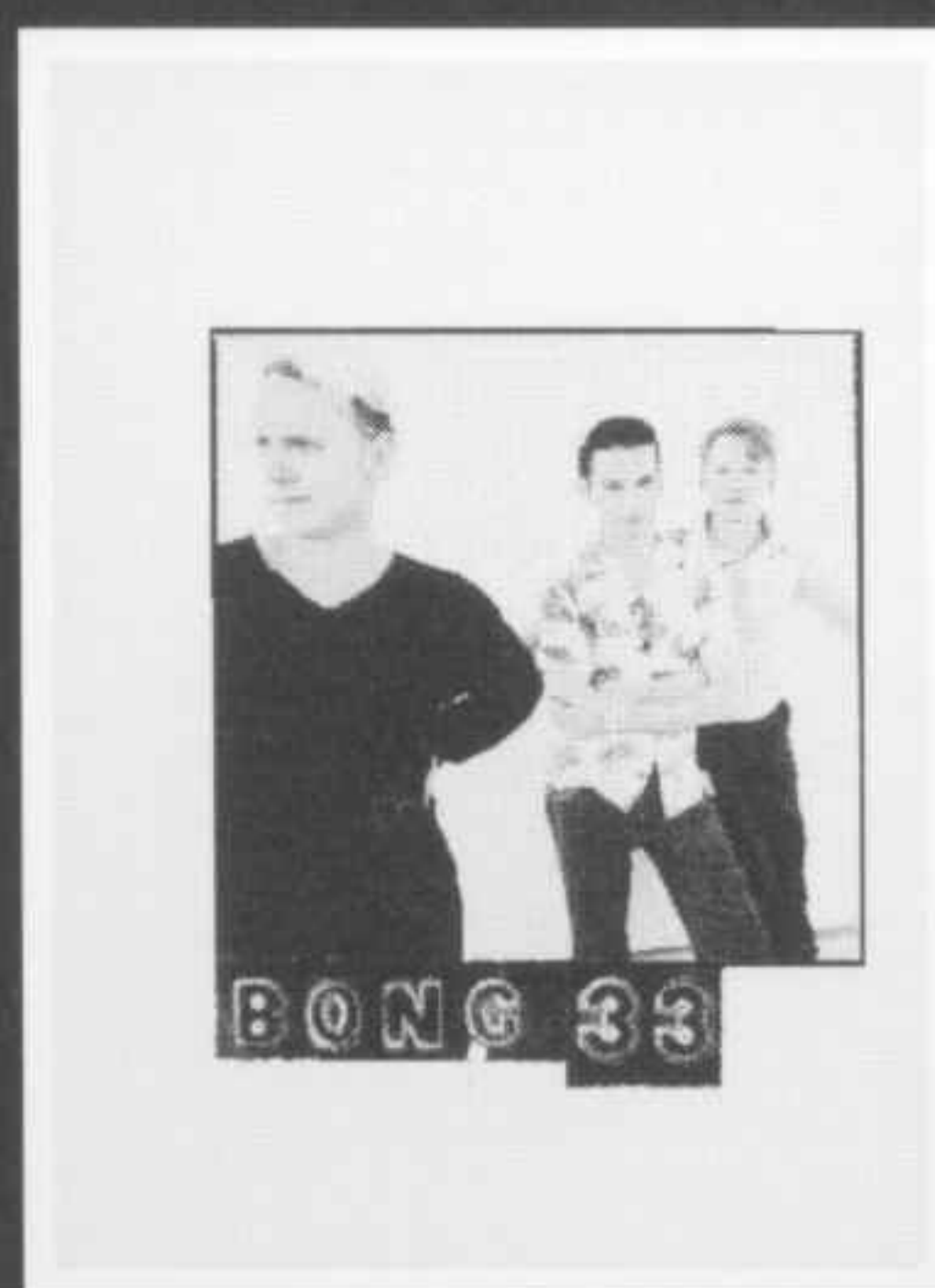
A4, colour

BONG 32



A4, colour

BONG 33



A4, colour



BONG 1995
(white on black)

BONG 1994
(purple on grey)

BONG 1997
(silver on black)

| Item | Quantity | Price UK | Price Europe | Price O/SEAS | Total |
|-----------------------------------|----------|--------------------------------|--------------|--------------|-------|
| Bong 14 | | £ 1.25 | £ 2.00 | £ 2.50 | |
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| Bong T-shirt 1994 (XL) | | £ 5.00 | £ 6.50 | £ 10.50 | |
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| Bong T-shirt 1997 (S-skinny only) | | £ 12.00 | £ 14.00 | £ 15.50 | |
| | | Prices include post & packing. | | | Total |

Please make all cheques and Postal Orders payable to
The Depeche Mode Fan Club.

Name: _____

Address: _____

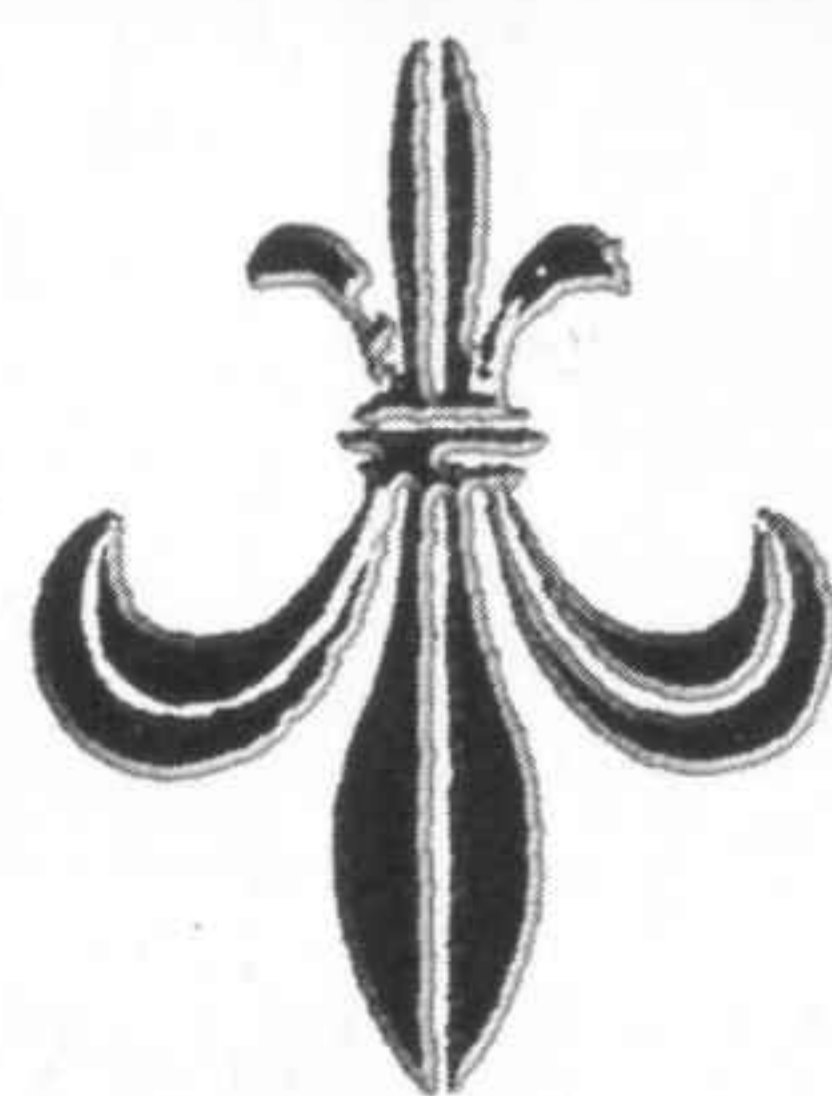
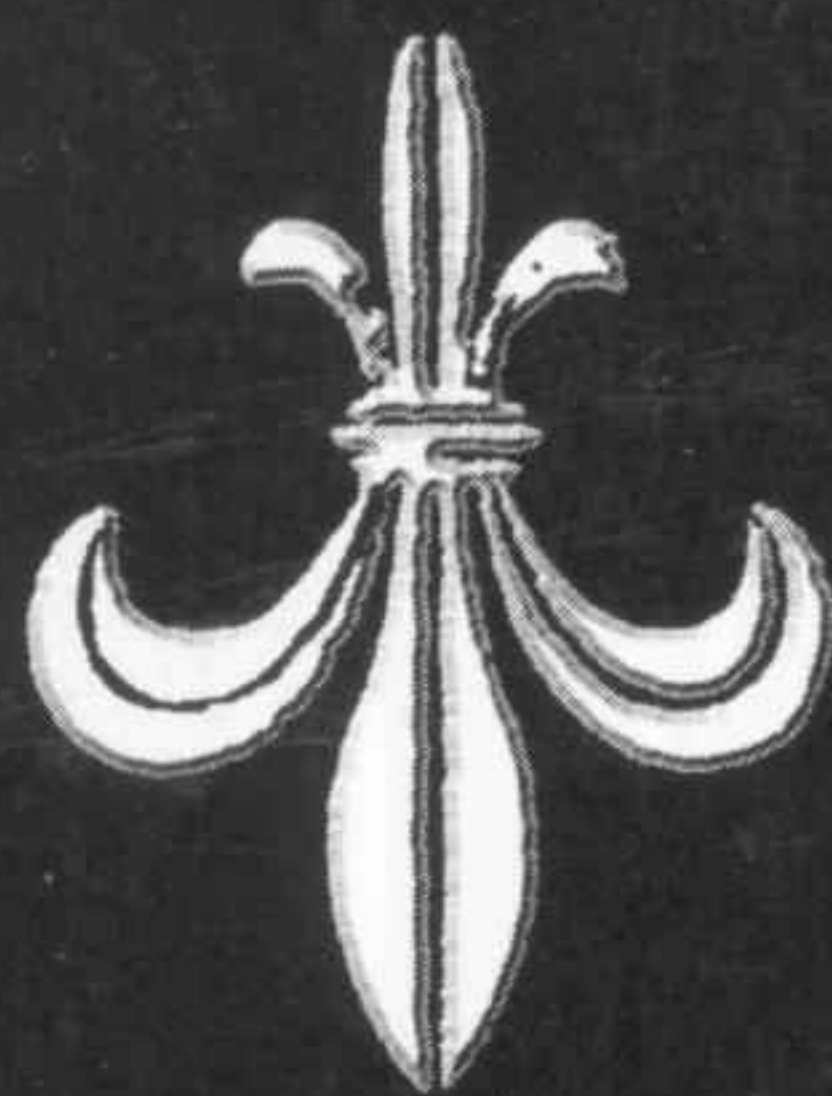
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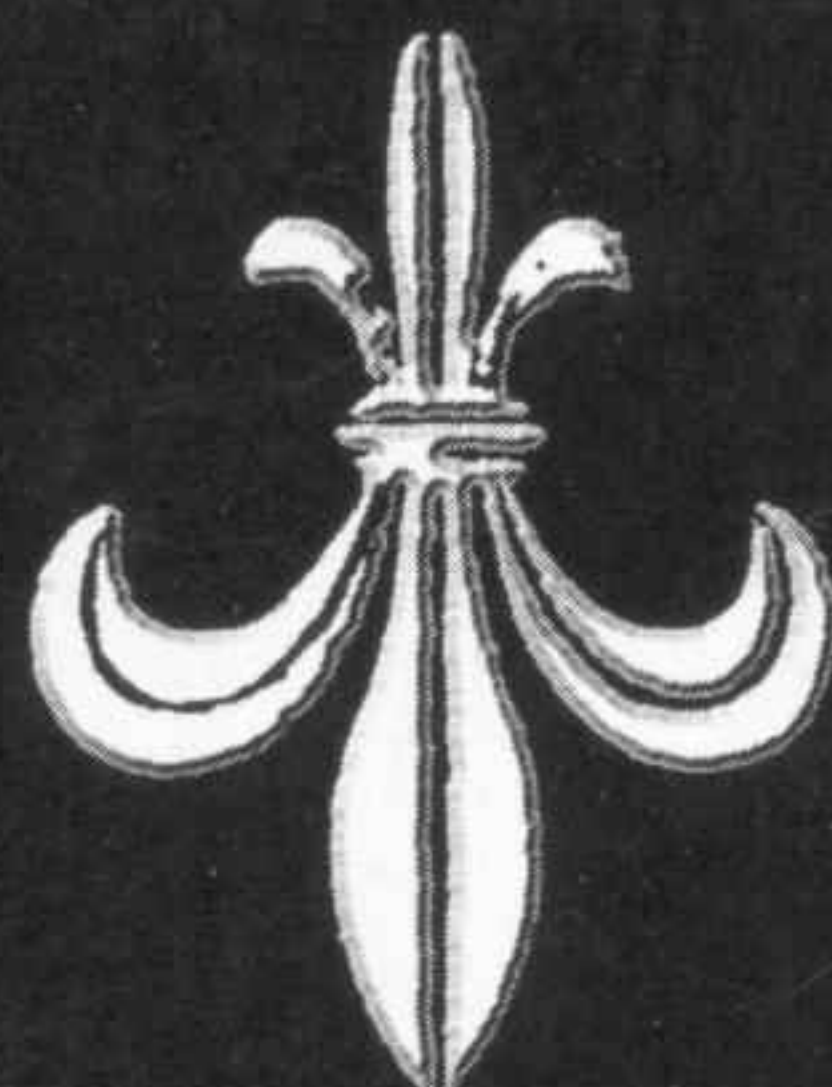
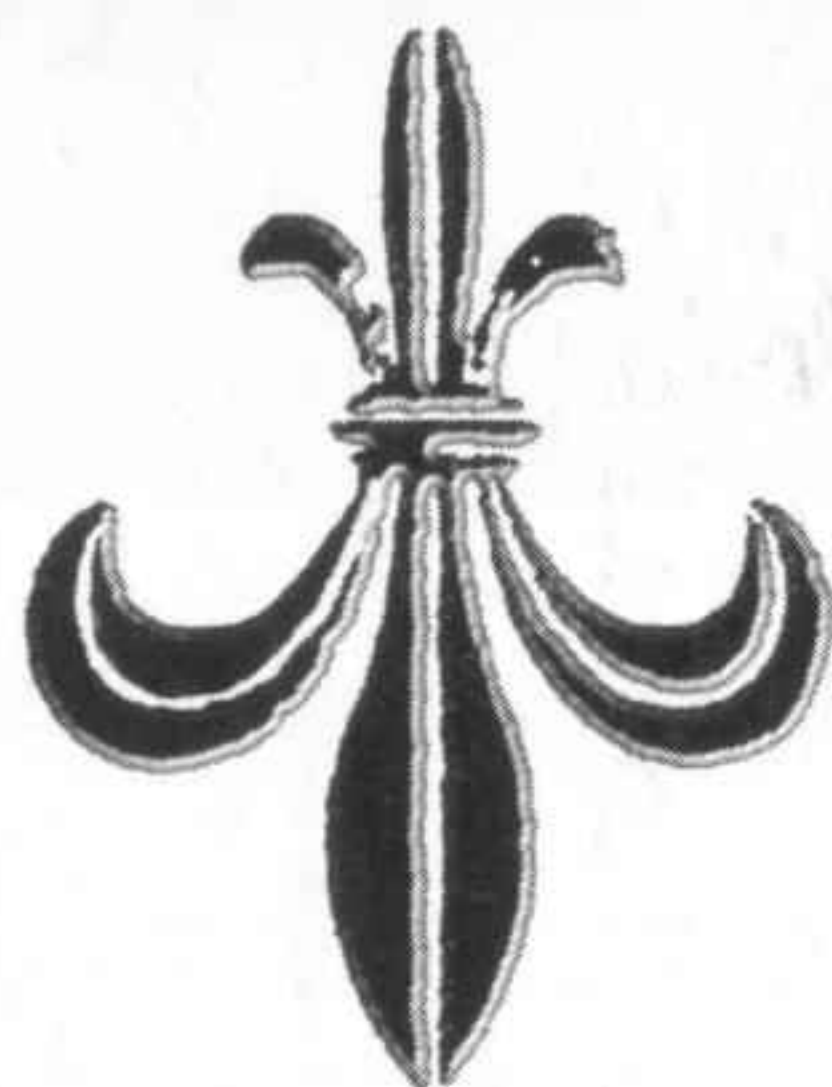
BONG

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ENGLAND



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USA



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OLD <dm_fan_club@mutelibtech.com>

or with your comments and contributions for the magazine at:

<flexible@tnet.cz>

and you can visit Depeche Mode's official web site at:

<http://www.depechemode.com>

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