

BONG 10



dm/live

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By this time, some of you will have seen Depeche Mode on tour in America. Many British and European fans travelled to America to see the band. Dates for the rest of the tour are on pages 18 and 19.

There are a record five pages of letters in this issue. Don't forget, if you want to ask something, or just make a comment about DM or Bong - write to The Depeche Mode Fanclub, P.O.Box 1281, London N1 9UX.

On June 16th, Alison Gibbs and Chris Wright, members from Oxon married, also, Mike Butler married his fiancée Roz in Cambridgeshire on May 26th. Keith Smith and Sam Mann from Norwich would like to announce their engagement on July 29th. Sam has 40 DM penpals from all over the world, and therefore would like to let all of them know through Bong!

Gavin Dwyer from Australia has written a piece on what being a DM fan 'down under' is like for him (page 9) If you'd like to write a feature on exactly what it's like for you being a fan, what *your* area is like for meeting other fans or getting hold of DM records/videos etc, or even what the music means to you - anything! The only specification is to keep it fairly short-ish. Around 350 - 400 words can fit comfortably on a page! A mystery prize will go to anyone who gets their feature printed! (Gavin's prize was a 1989 fanclub convention T-Shirt)

Anything else printed in Bong (Penpals, letters etc) wins the writer a 'VIOLATOR' tattoo transfer!

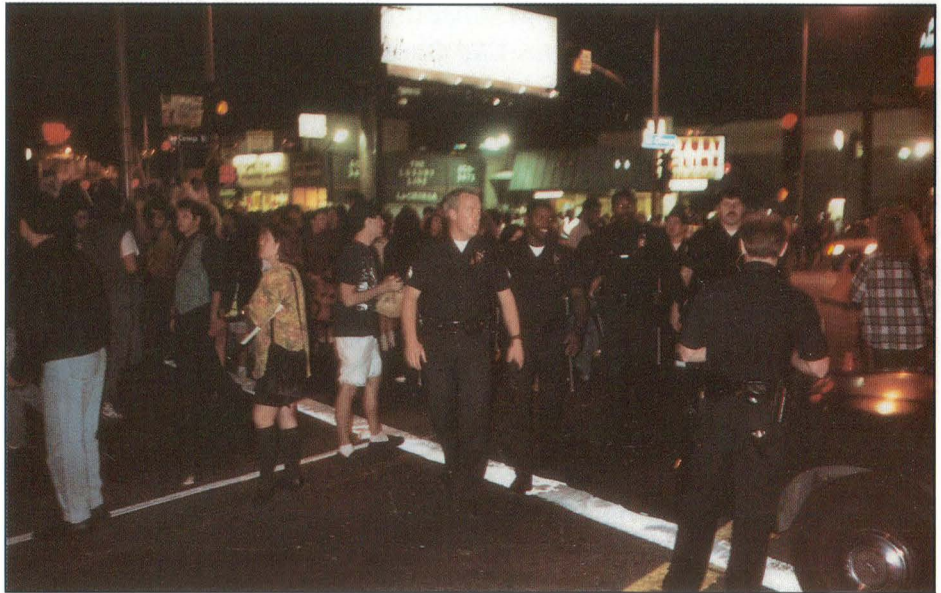
All the photos in this issue were taken by Andy Franks and Daryl Bamonte.

I Survived The Depeche Mode Riot

By Angel Perlas

When K-ROQ (L.A.) started announcing that anyone can meet Depeche Mode at the Warehouse, I got excited. March 20th finally arrived. People camped out the night before and even the night before that! On La Cienega the anticipation was just building up. The line extended about 15 blocks. No-one minded the hot sun because it was a big DM family. We were all blasting our radios and singing along to different DM tunes. By the time DM arrived a little before 9pm, in their grey limo, there were around 17,000 devoted fans chanting 'Depeche Mode'. Some of the fans were getting too wild and started pushing, in the hope that they'd get to meet their favourite group. There were some minor injuries and people fainting, including myself, due to lack of air. My DM brothers and sisters helped me by taking their albums and fanning me. After only one hour of signing, Depeche Mode were asked to leave by the local police, so no-one else would get hurt. Even though it was a painful experience for most of us, we all had fun. Depeche Mode we love you!!!

As a post-script to the Warehouse Records story, a special tape was put together by Depeche Mode, Warehouse Records and K-ROQ, and copies have been issued to those fans who were at the store and were turned away due to the sheer enormity of the crowd. The tape is made up of various interviews with DM in the store, general apologies from the band, a special interview between Fletch and K-ROQ's Richard Blade and the 'Metalmix' of 'Something To Do'. This tape is completely unavailable anywhere else, so no amount of letters to the fanclub or Mute Records will procure one! This is completely a one-off to try and make it up in a small way to those people who were disappointed on the night.



WHEREHOUSE RECORDS





DM NEWS

Daniel Miller will be presented with the Joel Webber Prize for Excellence in Music and Business at the New Music Awards in New York in July. The committee who decided who to present the award say that with Mute, Daniel "has shown remarkable consistency in signing unconventional artists, letting them do exactly as they please, and employing uncanny marketing creativity to help many of them to achieve international popularity." Also to be presented with an award is Def Jam's Rick Rubin.

The winners of the 'VIOLATOR' prize draw (who will have already received their prize) are:

UK:

Watches: Tony Frankish from Hull
Gillian Chee from Coventry
Brooches: Ian Griffiths from Liverpool
John Whitehurst from Stoke-On-Trent
Esther Myers from Cheshire
Sal Hawker from Hereford
Colin Kerr from Edinburgh

EUROPE:

Watches: Daniela Pula from Rome, Italy
George Geranios from Athens, Greece
Brooches: Jeus Eickeneier from Seebach, East Germany
Sven Maes from Sint-Niklaas, Belgium
Armin Zimmerstadt from Riedt, Switzerland
Anni Schaadt from Kolding, Denmark
Monica Florido from Madrid, Spain

ELSEWHERE

Watches: Kate Mora from California, USA
Lorae Haines from Brisbane, Australia
Brooches: Yoshiko Tsukamoto from Tokyo, Japan
Kathy Low from Montreal, Canada
Brian Honey from Westland, New Zealand
Ricky Yu from San Jose, Costa Rica
Jean Louie from Texas, USA

On May 3rd, DM were in London to tape an interview for Soviet Television. The monthly show, titled 'Programme A' is transmitted on the third Saturday of each month. This came about after the Russian Newspaper 'PRAVDA' ran a survey to find the most popular Western band - Depeche Mode came out on top. 'Programme A' was so popular that many Russian DM fans (many from Moscow) have written to the fanclub asking for penfriends. If you'd like to write to a fan from the USSR, send in your name and address and a few details about yourself, and It'll be forwarded to someone in Russia.

Depeche Mode have also appeared on BBC2's 'Rapido' on Wednesday 9th May and recorded an interview for US television's 'Entertainment Tonight'.

The band are looking forward to their very first visit to Australia "with some trepidation!". Martin told me "We want to break Dire Straits' record of 21 people at Sydney Opera House" - Dave later pointed out that it was, in fact, 21 nights that Dire Straits performed at Sydney!!

I've been asked why the fanclub doesn't sell more in the way of merchandise. Well, obviously, we do sell special shirts at conventions, but if we did a regular service, we'd have to charge VAT to our UK members, not only is it very time consuming and complicated - it would probably cost a lot more than buying the same items elsewhere! Also, Depeche Mode T-Shirts can be obtained from most major record shops, (Both HMV and Virgin in London do mail-order) and Bravado occasionally do merchandise offers through the magazine. The Fanclub isn't here to make money from fans, just to keep them up-to-date with their favourite band!



A FEW FACTS ON BEING AN AUSSIE DM FAN

by Gavin Dwyer from New South Wales.

I thought it was about time a little news was spread about the DM happenings in Australia.

Sydney nightclub The Site held another Depeche night, this time to launch the LP '**VIOLATOR**'. There were about 150-200 happy party-goers to dance the night away into the early hours. I spent about four hours there and enjoyed myself immensely! There was an English Depeche fan there and I was able to catch up on the latest news. It made the evening even better.

As a matter of interest - our local FM Station (well, not so local anymore, it now broadcasts to 4 major cities in Australia) 2JJJ has been playing a fair bit of DM lately. Maybe there's a bit of hope! I'm sure that after they've toured, DM's popularity here will soar.

Unfortunately, being an Aussie Depeche Mode fan is like being a Leper. The fad here now is the glut of 'Glamour Metal' bands like Bon Jovi, Metallica etc, and the awful House/Acid fad that just won't go away! Meanwhile we have to put up with a futile radio network/video shows that only seem happy playing teenybopper stuff like Kylie, Jason, New Kids et al. (No fun for 'oldies' like me - 24 - having been brought up on such gems as Joy Division, New Order, DM, Ultravox, The Eurythmics and such stuff).

So you can see that it's quite frustrating being an Aussie fan. All you people in the UK, Europe and the USA, while you're enjoying heaps of DM tours and releases etc, think of us poor Aussies who seem to get the tail-end of everything.

Food for thought, eh?

LETTERS

Dear Bong

'Bong' - what a weird and wonderful name. Anyway, the reason that I'm writing is that to my surprise all of a sudden in the UK DM are no longer a band to be ridiculed but to be praised.

The music press seem ready to appreciate the music and not just 'slag it off' outright. I've also noticed among my friends that they are (reluctantly however) admitting to liking '**Personal Jesus**' and '**Enjoy The Silence**', which aren't particularly commercial tracks and show the diversity of styles 'Ver Mode' can produce.

'**Violator**' has been a great aid in the 'Appreciate Depeche Mode' campaign. Ranging from the electronic, almost dance track of '**Enjoy The Silence**', the brilliant infectious 'minimal' '**Waiting For The Night**', to the rock guitar riff on '**Personal Jesus**', rounded off by Dave's BEST EVER vocal performance on '**Clean**'. All I can say is the only thing DM can do wrong is to split up!!!

Sam Monnie

Luton

Beds.

Bongi Bonga!

Yes, I know. I'm not like one of the usual devoted fans. Even if there's

Depeche Mode written on the cover, I try to be impartial. And...I HATE '**Violator**'. I can't listen to '**Sweetest Perfection**' '**Halo**' '**Waiting For The Night**' and '**Blue Dress**', even if the words are great. Too empty, no other melody than the voices, too many influences (Pink Floyd, Nitzer Ebb(?), Kraftwerk..) OK, it's good that DM evolve, but I don't like this evolution.

Of course, with 5 other perfect songs, '**Violator**' is by far the best LP of 1990 and you'll see me at many concerts...but the DM landscape is changing....

Modi Moda!

Thierry Molard

Chateauroux

France

Comments please!

Dear Bong

Are you going to plan another convention anywhere in Europe - particularly in Germany? I think there are a lot of fans who aren't able to travel to England. Please think about it!

Katrin Vorkauf

Waltrop

West Germany

Unfortunately, not at the moment, although that's not to say it won't ever happen!

Dear Bong

I'm afraid Depeche Mode doesn't mean 'Fast Fashion' anymore - Nothing to do with the music: it is at it's highest level, and everyone wants to imitate the lads' work! No, I'm talking about the recent record sleeves - there was a time when they used to be very artistic and trendy, thanks to 'Town & Country Planning' or 'Peter Saville Associates' - The picture covers of '**A Question Of Time**', '**Strangelove**', '**Music For The Masses**', '**Everything Counts (live)**', etc, are all masterpieces worth being shown in Modern-Art museums.

Unfortunately, DM went mad and chose 'Area' to design the artwork for the recent sleeves - what happened? The picture used for '**Personal Jesus**', '**Violator**' and '**Enjoy The Silence**' are UGLY! Who actually likes them?

Anton Corbijn takes great photos, and makes brilliant videos: but he should stop conceiving the record sleeves.

Pascal Kaszczyk
Chatenoy-Le-Royal
France

Ok - so who does like them and who agrees with Pascal?

Dear Bong

I enjoy reading reviews of DM's records. In most cases there is so much nonsense written that you can have a really good laugh. You

want to hear an example? - no problem: According to the German magazine 'ME Sounds' '**Enjoy The Silence**' sounds like early DM stuff such as '**New Life**', in which they see the return of DM to pure naivety. At the same time they praise '**Violator**' for being DM's most mature album. I guess that most of you will agree with me when I say "Nonsense" to all that! '**Violator**' is DM's best album. It offers the sound you expect from an album of Depeche Mode, yet it creates a new, exciting atmosphere. But not only is the album great, you can say the same about the remixes of '**Enjoy The Silence**'. Offering a large variety of musical styles, each one has it's own attraction. My favourite is '**The Quad, Final Mix**' with it's extension from House to Classical music.

Plus - you mentioned in 'BONG' 8 that '**Personal Jesus**' spent 8 weeks in the German Top-Ten. But here are some more amazing facts about the chapter 'Depeche Mode and the German Charts':

Since DM's number one hit '**People Are People**' nearly all their singles hit the German Top-Ten (only two didn't make it); and '**Enjoy The Silence**' is already the fourth single which has reached number 2. Let's not forget that '**Some Great Reward**', '**Black Celebration**' and '**Music For The Masses**' all reached number two in the German album charts. Let's wait and see what

'**Violator**' will achieve. It had a promising start - straight in at number 3. I hope that this time the spell will be broken and Depeche will make it to number one - they deserve it!

**Peter Faustman
Deggendorf
West Germany**

*Since Peter sent this letter, '**Violator**' has reached number two in the German album chart!*

Dear Bong

I'm writing to congratulate DM on their recent success in Britain, with '**Enjoy The Silence**' and '**Violator**'. A good sign, wouldn't you say? That Depeche are on the up and up again in Britain? Why then does it seem as though they're pushing the UK to the back now? It seems to me that they've been neglecting us recently, through lack of TV appearances and a huge (almost two and a half years now) gap between UK tours. Not to mention that those dates are steadily dwindling. I know that the band are doing well in the states and other countries and I couldn't be more pleased about it. The fact more and more people are seeing the light and tuning into DM is wonderful - they deserve it. It just feels like the boys are looking upon us Brits as people to fall back on, like we'll always be there for them. I'm sure we will so they should

show us a little more consideration. I've been a DM fan for years now - as I'm sure many other British fans have - and in a way it looks like the band don't want to bother doing things for us, things like 'Top Of The Pops'. I know they, to quote Andy Fletcher on TVAM - "find TOTP's boring" but what about us? the fans? It's the only chance really we get to see them on a personal appearance show.

Come on boys, we need you as much as the rest of the world does. We too live for your music, after all, weren't we the first to recognise your brilliance?

**Sharon Russell
Glasgow**

*TOTP seem more interested in showing Depeche Mode's videos at the moment., whereas in the past, they preferred the band to make a 'live' appearance. '**Enjoy The Silence**' would have been shown again had it stayed at number 6 for n additional week. DM have appeared 'live' on TOTP 25 times - more than nearly every other band. Obviously, while the band are away on tour, videos are far more practical than flying back from the US or Australia for one day.*

Dear Bong

I've been an avid fan of Dep. Mode since the beginning. I was attracted to them for various reasons, the main one which I believe to be is their loyalty to their fans. This is

shown by them through their fanclub but also I believe by their choice of venues. By this I mean not just playing at Wembley Arena and the Birmingham NEC (as so many bands which have gone "big time" have done). It's Ok for me, as I live close to London, the venue is easy travel to and from, but what about fans further out, say up in Scotland? If, as you said in 'Bong'9, DM only plan to play bigger venues, then I'm sure they will be attended by a more select group of fans. Gone will be the days of when you could follow the band all over the country, meeting fans from all over the UK. Gone will be the days when you could steam up the front to join the crush. Now you'll be forced to stay in your seat, as so often happens at Wembley.

Ok, so it's less work for the band to play at just a couple of venues and it will probably rake in more cash for them, but remember it's the fans who put them where they are, and by playing in only a couple of big venues, they're not doing justice to all their fans all around the country. One last, and to me, the most important point; the big venues just have zero atmosphere! Oh what fun it is to pay twice the old price and to sit at the back where you can JUST see the band...methinks not. And so do many others.

I know it seems like I'm moaning, but you did ask for comments on how 'Bong' can be improved - well

I'm not overly impressed with your letters page. The last one was concerned only with back slapping DM for their latest LP. We know how good it is - why do you need to plug it? Don't you honestly receive any other letters worth pub lishing? Thanx for listening.

Adrian Curry

Croydon

Surrey

Never let it be said that I don't print a cross-section of letters in 'Bong'! The 'Music For The Masses' Tour had, as you know, 101 dates - it took the best part of a whole year of the band members' lives. They do need time with their friends and families, and the last tour was just too long! If they played in smaller venues, well, you could have half the band and half the production? As DM become more popular, more people want to see them live, and to reach as many people as possible, Wembley and the NEC are the ideal venues. The "cash" aspect isn't even an issue! A ticket price of 10 or 11 pounds isn't very much for either venue! There were originally only going to be 75 dates on this tour, but already this has been exceeded! As for your last comment on the letters page. All the letters I received for 9 were about 'Enjoy The Silence' and 'Vio lator' and those fans obviously felt strongly enough to write in to the letters page about them - why shouldn't they have their opinions printed?

Dear Bong

Please could you tell me if Alan has any plans to release further solo albums in the future, as I was an enormous fan of his recent works 'Recoil 1 + 2' and 'Hydrology'. I honestly can't understand why he hasn't been able to write more material for DM. Remember 'The Landscape Is Changing', that was one of Alan's and it was probably the most impressive track (except for 'Everything Counts' and 'Love In Itself', of course) on the 'Construction Time Again' album.

Yours sincerely

Richard W. Jackson
Mirfield
W. Yorkshire

Alan has no plans in that direction for the time being.

Dear Bong

There has never been a band that has touched me the way Depeche Mode has. Theirs were the first albums that I could listen to straight through repeatedly and not only NOT get bored, but I would thoroughly enjoy them. The range of Mode music is extensive, from the danceable, upbeat tunes, to introspective, serious songs. This range is wonderful because it often reflects my moods, in addition to displaying DM's versatility. Above all, though, no other band captures raw emotion like DM does. It "Touches so sweetly, Reaches so deeply, Takes me completely" Thank you DM

for sharing your music with the world.

Sharon Bae
Anaheim Hills
California
USA

Dear Bong

A couple of questions - first, I've just read that DM have refused StrangeFruit permission to release their 1981 Radio 1 session, can you find out why?

Secondly, there's a huge amount of DJ-only remixes available but they're mostly too expensive to risk buying without knowing what the sound quality is like. Any chance of you doing a review of them?

Best wishes

Paul Wells
Milton Keynes

When approached about the possible release of the session by Strange Fruit, Depeche Mode actually agreed to it - but for some reason it's never materialised. The band are planning to look into it.

Most of the remixes you mentioned are bootlegs, put together by US and European DJ's for the clubs. However, according to Mute, the 'Razormaid' mixes are official, they were originally US-only and the quality (as far as I know) is pretty good. They're not that easy to get hold of, although you can buy them from specialist shops (try the ads in Record Collector magazine or write to them at 43/45 St Mary's rd, Ealing, London W5 5RQ).

DEPECHE MODE LIVE : A SPECTACULAR SHOW, A TECHNICAL NIGHTMARE.

By Jonathan Roberts, World Violation tour technician.

When you go to see a Depeche Mode concert, what are you actually listening to? A singer, three keyboard players and a tape machine? True enough, but you are hearing the end product of months of hard work, which will have started long before the tour got underway.

The huge amount of equipment that the boys use to record their albums would be impossible to carry around the world on tour, so they rely largely on samplers. A sampler (in Depeche's case, an E-Max II Turbo) digitally records the sounds that the band want to use, and allows Alan, Mart and Fletch to play them back in a concert situation. If you've watched the '101' video then you will have heard Alan describe how the sounds are spread across the sampler keyboard enabling him to play 'Black Celebration', and the same principles apply to the rest of the songs.

On the current WORLD VIOLATION tour, there are two keyboards in front of each member of the band, but only one of these should ever be in use. This is because the second instrument is there as a backup to the main one in case it should fail. The second device is actually controlled by the first to ensure that they both create the same sounds.

Mart and Fletch also play electronic percussion pads. The action of hitting a pad 'triggers' samples on an extra E-Max II, which is kept under the stage for convenience, and to avoid clutter. This arrangement allows the boys to give a more dramatic presentation of songs like 'Everything Counts' and 'Master and Servant', because they can hit out at the drum pads rather than stand behind a keyboard.

Alan plays percussion too. For this tour we have had a special pair of tom toms built, which have been modified to allow Alan to trigger the sounds on the dedicated percussion E-Max II as well as to play the drums themselves. Alan's main keyboard is programmed to select the sounds created by the percussion keyboard which you hear when he hits the drums.

The tape machines that have backed Depeche Mode since they started have undergone as many changes as their keyboard rigs. On the WORLD VIOLATION tour we are using two Tascam MR16's and of course the obligatory computer. Two sixteen track tape recorders on tour? Well yes; again there is a main machine and a backup. When you're playing a concert to over 50,000 people, you can't stop the show just because a tape won't play, so we run two at the same time. The computer keeps both machines perfectly synchronised, so that if the main machine stops or breaks for any reason then it can swap automatically to the other and the show can continue without so much as a hiccup.

So as you can see, the Depeche Mode set-up is a vastly complicated network of interlinked musical computers used to recreate their songs in a live situation, perfectly every time. It takes several months beforehand to program everything up and make the machines communicate correctly, and two full-time technicians, of which I am one, and Daryl is the other, to look after the equipment on the road.

This is state of the art musical technology employed by a great band as the best way to bring their music live to their fans. That's why the show sounds so good!

Depeche Mode played an additional concert in New York at The Radio City Music Hall, on June 18th. Two fanclub members, Liz Chen and Christine Lubrano, were picked at random to be taken (along with a friend) to the party after the show and to meet the band.

Christine wrote about the experience:

"A phonecall from Jo at the fanclub was a delight - meeting DM three days later was a shock and a dream come true. Dave Gahan was smooth despite all the attention he received the the whole room. Alan was full of charm despite all the attention he received from me! (camera on overtime!) Martin's sweet voice and attitude carried from onstage to backstage and Fletch was a happy mellow-type guy you could hang out with every day.

Depeche Mode were more than a picture in a magazine and a voice on a record - they were real, down-to-earth and four of the nicest guys you could ever meet!....."

Liz was very nervous about the whole thing, but her friend, Jeannie, was very bubbly and all of the girls took plenty of photographs.

Also at the party were Richard Butler from The Psychedelic Furs and some of the 101 people (including Liz, Jay, Margaret and Chris)

As Alan and Dave left Radio City, their car was being given a parking ticket by a traffic cop!

Spotted after the show at the Giants Stadium, the previous Saturday, were Richard Butler, D.A. Pennebaker with his wife, Chris and son, Fraser, some 101 people and Bono from U2, who was there with Anton Corbijn.

TOUR DATES

These are the tour dates from July onwards, Please note that these dates are subject to change, so please check locally. Also, some extra dates may be added in certain areas.

NORTH AMERICA

JULY

Mon	02	Chicago	The World Mus. Thr
Tue	03	Chicago	The World Mus. thr
Thu	05	Houston	The Woodlands
Fri	06	Houston	The Woodlands
Sun	08	Dallas	Starplex Amph
Wed	11	Denver	Red Rocks
Thu	12	Denver	Red Rocks
Sat	14	Calgary	Olympic Saddledome
Mon	16	Vancouver	PNE Coliseum
Wed	18	Portland	Portland Coliseum
Fri	20	Mountainview	Shoreline Amph
Sat	21	Mountainview	Shoreline Amph
Sun	22	Sacramento	Cal Expo Amph
Tue	24	Salt Lake City	Park West
Wed	25	Salt Lake City	Park West
Fri	27	Phoenix	Veteran's Memorial Coliseum
Sat	28	San Diego	Sports Arena
Sun	29	San Diego	Sports Arena

AUGUST

Sat	04	Los Angeles	Dodgers Stadium
Sun	05	Los Angeles	Dodgers Stadium

AUSTRALIA/JAPAN

AUGUST

Fri	31	Sydney	Hordern Pavilion
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SEPTEMBER

Sat	01	Melbourne	Festival Hall
Tue	04	Fukuoka	Shimin Kaikan
Thu	06	Kobe	World Kinen Hall
Sat	08	Kanazawa	Ishikawa Oseinenkin
Sun	09	Nagoya	Nagoya-Shi Kokaido
Tue	11	Tokyo	Budokan

EUROPE
SEPTEMBER

Fri	28	Brussels	Forest Nationale
Sat	29	Dortmund	Westfalenhalle

OCTOBER

Tue	02	Copenhagen	Valbeyhalle
Wed	03	Copenhagen	Valbeyhalle
Fri	05	Gothenburg	Scandinaviuim
Sat	06	Stockholm	Globe
Tue	09	Hannover	Messehalle
Thu	11	Lyon	HalleTony Garnier
Fri	12	Zurich	Hallenstadion
Sun	14	Frankfurt	Festhalle
Mon	15	Stuttgart	Martin Schleyerhalle
Wed	17	Munich	Olympiahalle
Sun	21	Paris	Bercy
Mon	22	Paris	Bercy
Thu	25	Lille	Lievin Stadium
Fri	26	Rotterdam	Ahoy
Sun	28	Hamburg	Alsterdorf Halle
Mon	29	Hamburg	Alsterdorf Halle

NOVEMBER

Thu	01	Berlin	Deutschlandhalle
Sat	03	Strasbourg	Hallephenus
Mon	05	Rome	Palaeur
Wed	07	Milan	Palatrussardi
Fri	09	Marseilles	Palais Des Sports
Sat	10	Barcelona	(to be confirmed)
Mon	12	Madrid	Palacio Des Deportes
Wed	14	Bordeaux	Patinoire Meriadec
Sat	17	Brest	Parc Penfeld
Mon	19	Wembley	Wembley Arena
Tue	20	Wembley	Wembley Arena
Thu	22	Birmingham	NEC
Mon	26	Birmingham	NEC

Highest chart positions for 'POLICY OF TRUTH' (so far) are:
Germany - 7, Switzerland - 12, Holland - 14, Sweden - 5,
Denmark - 5, Finland - 5, UK - 13, Spain - 7, Ireland - 11.

The June issue of the US magazine 'Spin' has a photograph of Dave on the cover taken during the filming of the 'ENJOY THE SILENCE' video. The accompanying feature is unusual in that it doesn't merely concentrate on interviewing Depeche Mode themselves, but also some of their fans, using the Wherehouse Records incident as a focal point. 'Spin' is available in Europe at some major newsagents. There's also an extensive article on DM in the July issue of 'Rolling Stone' magazine. UK publication 'The Face' are running a 'Mute Special' in their August issue which concentrates on Mute in the US and includes an interview with Alan and Fletch.

The UK tabloid newspaper 'The Sun' ran an item in Jonathan King's 'Bizarre' column headed with the question 'Who's the biggest British star in the World now?...' The answer being Depeche Mode. Comparing DM's international popularity with that of Phil Collins, Paul McCartney, David Bowie, U2 and The Rolling Stones, Jonathan King writes that he's heard DM played and mentioned again and again 'from the beaches of Morocco to the Sunset Strip, by Germans and French and Australians' and then goes on to mention the dates at the Giants and Dodgers Stadiums and the sell-out concerts in the UK. 'They are not featured in gossip columns. We'd never spot them in the street. I doubt if most people know the individual members' names.....I find all this immensely refreshing - a group who have succeeded simply because fans love their music.....Congratulations lads!'



PENPALS

"Gorky"

Simon McNamara

Alison Clements

Sarah Munday

Julie Ha

Monica Lepping

Martin Woodgates

Donovan Reading

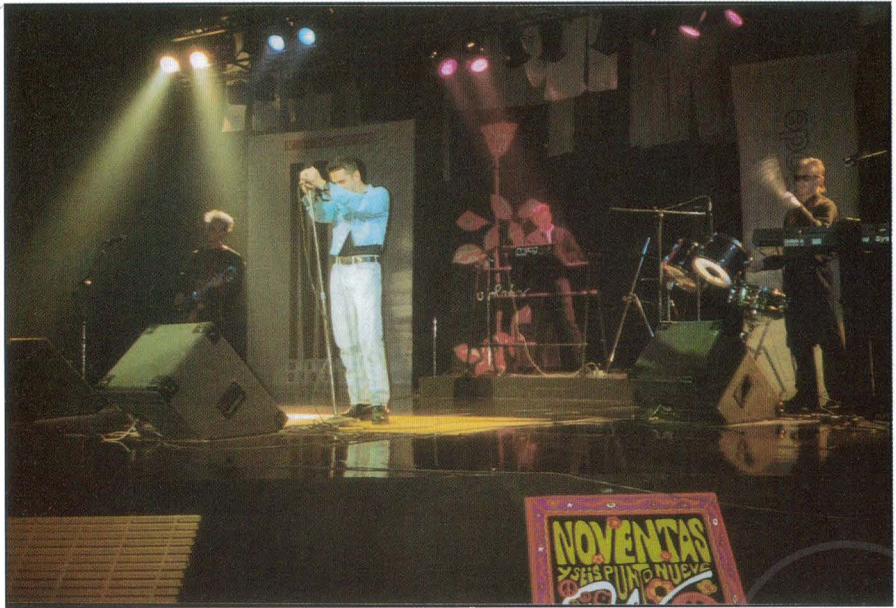
Maira Oliva

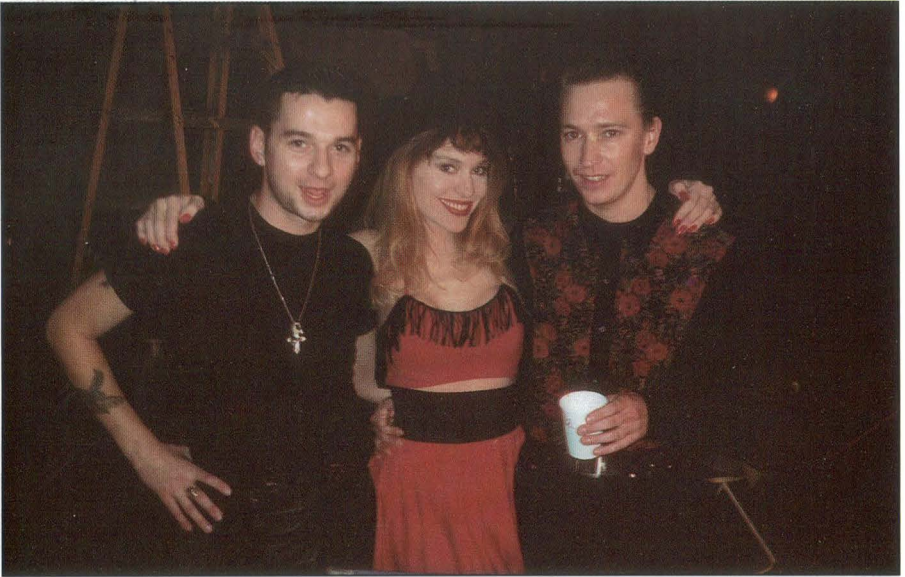
Frederique Medina

Tomas Guerra Olsen

Chris Au-Yeung

Nicole Kosky





The final single release from '**Violator**', '**World In My Eyes**' will be released as a mini-Ep in late September, to tie in with Depeche Mode's European dates. It will also feature two new songs.

'**Violator**' has now gone **Platinum** in Spain.

Nothing has been confirmed as to who will support DM in Europe. Nitzer Ebb are the support in America, with The Jesus And Mary Chain as additional support in New York and Toronto, and Electronic additionally in L.A..

DM's UK date at Wembley will be slightly different than usual - the area in front of the stage will be standing rather than seated. This has worked successfully at Bercy, Paris, and at other venues around the world.

DM are currently in the United States, where they're playing to huge audiences, in fact, the majority of the shows are complete sellouts. The two shows scheduled for Houston, Texas sold out in an hour. The Dodgers Stadium in Los Angeles was completely sold out in less than an hour! The second Dodgers date and first San Diego date went on sale at the same time and were completely sold out by lunchtime. A second date for San Diego, which went on sale a week later, was sold out in a hour and a half.

Ticket sales in the UK have also been doing really well. The original dates for Wembley and the NEC went so well that an extra date was added to each venue, 3,000 tickets going to fanclub members only! The Promotor said that "It's the most successful fanclub ticket launch ever for a pop group"

BOOTLEGS

Whether we like it or not, bootleg records and tapes do exist. For collectors, the thrill of the chase is the thing - the tape of a Japanese soundcheck, forexample, or an American club DJ's own remix 12" is a real coup. Unfortunately, some of these recordings can be very poor reproductions - and prohibitively expensive! Record Collector magazine's May issue ran a special feature on DM 'collectables', the top ten being:

- 1 BEHIND THE WHEEL (2x1-sided 12" US acetates, inc. unreleased mix) £170.00
- 2 VIOLATOR (Boxed press kit, inc.LP CD and Cassette) £150.00
- 3 BOX SET (Unreleased set of 4 promo LPs) £125.00 +
- 4 BOX SET (Unreleased set of 4 promo cassettes) £125.00 +
- 5 ACETATES (Unreleased mixes) £70 - £180.00
- 6 BBC TRANSCRIPTION DISC (Live radio LP, 1984) £95.00
- 7 UK & US 12" ACETATES £60.00
- 8 BIG MUFF (12" US Promo w/custom sleeve) £50.00
- 9 BLASPHEMOUS RUMOURS (12" US Promo w/custom sleeve) £50.00
- 10 UK & US ACETATES £40.00
(Printed with permission of Record Collector)

Many dealers and collectors sell bootlegged copies of the above - plus many others. If you have a particular favourite in your collection , send a review in to Bong. (around 100-200 words long) so that any fan planning to buy the same knows what to expect - quality, price, value for money etc....before parting with any cash. On the other hand, do write about any rip-offs you may have come across as well.

This isn't an encouragement to dealers - there won't be any addresses listed. This is merely a guideline of what's on offer so that prospective buyers have some idea of what exactly they're buying.



MARTIN WITH ANDY FRANKS

