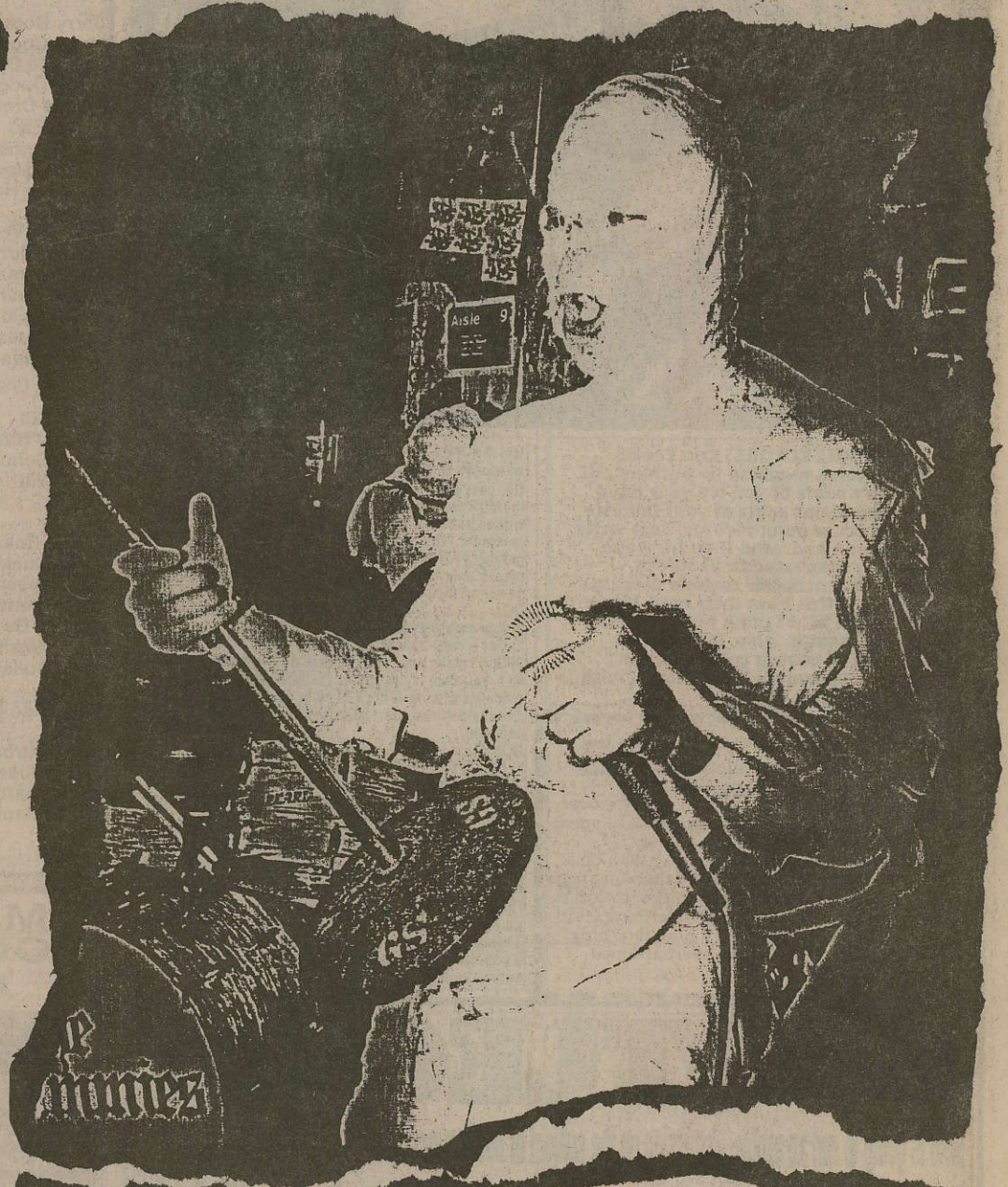


MAXIMUM ROCKNROLL

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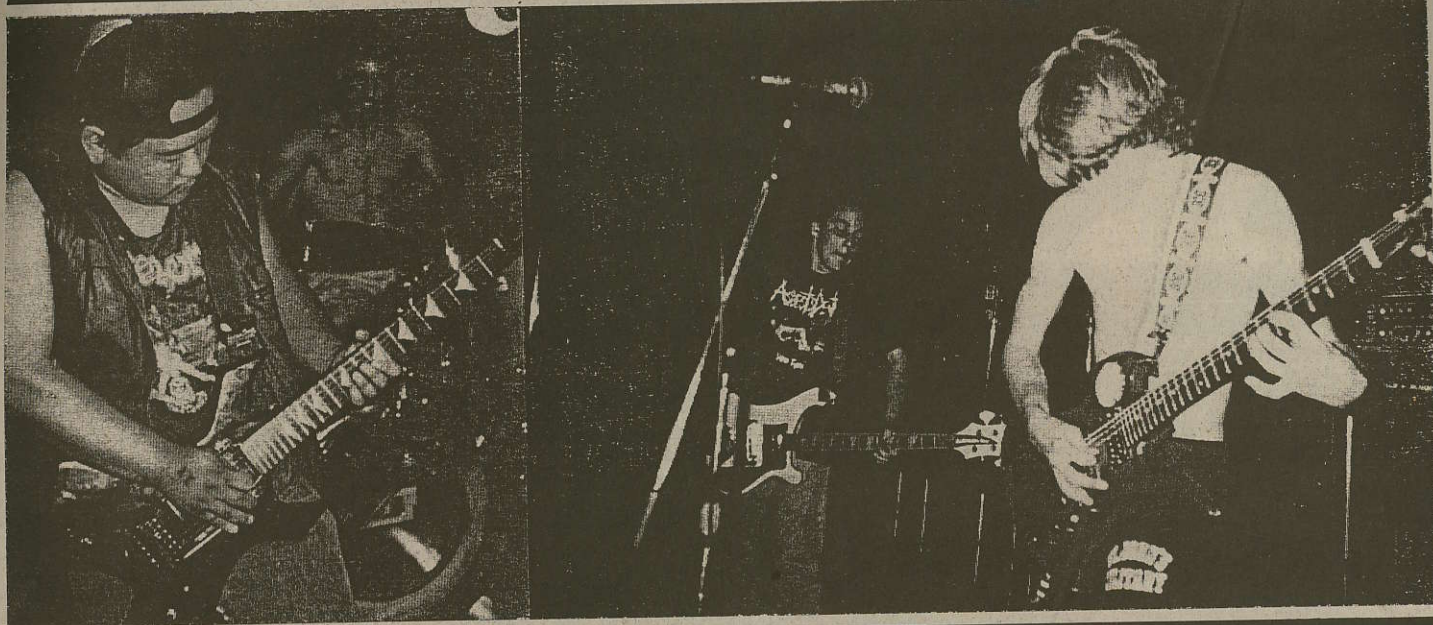
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INTERVIEWS

ASBESTOS DEATH



Asbestos Death is a 4-piece from San Jose, California. They have done one release, their Unclean 7" EP. This interview was done by Roy Page. Read... absorb.

MRR: Ok, let's start by hearing who's in Asbestos Death. What do each of you do in the band?

Al: I sing and play bass.

Chris: Drums.

Tom: Guitar and vocals.

Matt: I'm Matt.

MRR: When did you start out?

Al: About one year ago... roughly.

MRR: Tell me something about your songs, lyrics...

Tom: People ask us why we play such negative music and why our lyrics are general, unspecific.

Al: Our music is a remedy.

Chris: It is a release. Our lyrics are anger.

Tom: We also channel feeling through our lyrics. There is a message in them but the message ends. There are no realistic solutions to what we sing about. That is where people find it negative. To accept the dark side of human existence and acknowledge the suffering knowing nothing can be done to end it.

Al: If we sang about specific issues, then we could offer ideas to solve them. Then maybe people would find our message positive. We sing and play to absolve our misery.

MRR: Are you guys all so negative? In your lyrics are there any messages with positive intent?

Tom: You see things and say positive or negative, but to me it is a constant. This constant does not alter. This constant empty feeling.

Al: Why fucking pretend the agony is not dominant? Accept the truth. Accept the landslide of suffering and learn to manipulate it. Try to adjust it to your own psyche. Don't pretend that it is not there or that it is a positive force.

MRR: Your lyrics offer one message: agony, emptiness, pain. When people hear the name Asbestos Death, the name is similar to noisecore or speedcore bands. How do you react?

Al: I think we emphasize less on a name than a lot of bands. To me Asbestos Death doesn't have anything to do with our sound. If that was our goal we would have named the band Agony or something along those lines. Our song titles mean much more than our name. We spend months sometimes thinking of song titles or lyrics.

Tom: But our name has become a part of us and we are attached to it.

MRR: Let's talk about song titles.

Matt: Our set is constantly growing. Currently we play "Vain," "The Prisoner," "Scourge," "Mind's Destruction" and "Anguish" and "The Suffering," which are both on our EP. We have about three songs without names also.

Al: I constantly have songs in my head. I want to try and make each song totally different from the others I have written.

MRR: Yeah, I think a lot of musicians try and maintain that idea but it's pretty difficult.

Chris: Each writer leaves their mark no matter how hard they try not to.

Matt: That is the way it is with all writers.

MRR: What do you guys want to accomplish as a band in the next few years?

Tom: We are touring the U.S. and Canada for four months next year and want to go to Europe in 1992.

Al: Tour and play to a lot of different people.

Matt: We want to do more vinyl this year because our 7" has sold really well. We are desperate to do more vinyl.

Chris: Have a lot of shows, play to a lot of different people.

MRR: What is going on with your Unclean EP?

Al: We are doing a second pressing because we have sold out of the first pressing.

Tom: The production is excellent. I'm satisfied with it. It is self-produced. Entirely self-produced. We are doing our own mailorder along with Blacklist. We are looking for distributors and maybe a label to take it over. Anyone interested please write.

MRR: It's neat how you didn't wait around like other bands.

Al: Now that it's out we just have to get it to a lot of people.

MRR: Jesse Helms...

Al: As soon as they blindfold us, it will make it easier to gag our mouths and to screen our ears. They have begun to destroy our freedoms of expression.

Matt: That cannot be allowed. Shit like that is stealing our identities. Fuck, it is constantly happening. The only thing we have. It must survive if we are to survive.

Chris: You have to keep people saying what they want to say. No censorship of any kind can be allowed.

Al: Some people think that I am disturbed or something, well

I am and I let my music speak for me. Fuck there is a lot to be disturbed about. So many fucking things. The government is the cause of many if not all of the shit. It makes me sick to see people chewing and swallowing all the shit they are sedated with. When will we achieve unity? They fuck with your pay, your food, your resources, your shelter, your mind and all its abilities. There is a pit of black energy that is tapping the minds of humanity. They want everyone to behave. To behave would be to submit, lose my fucking identity. Everyone is being stepped upon, fucking crushed.

Tom: Everyone is the victim of the machine. Everyone is the victim. I am victim. It seems that nothing makes people more aware of the suffering they support and loath in.

MRR: Would you elaborate on "The Suffering"? What does that song stand for? Who wrote it?

Al: I wrote the lyrics and music to it. It is about what we are discussing. Pain tapping into all our realities. Employment. Until you die. That is The Suffering.

MRR: So how do you equate the difference between what is today and when you die?

Chris: Neat question, Roy.

Tom: I must find a new antidote everyday I exist. The struggle to find the anti-feeling continues.

Al: Fill the holes, scrape the leeches, television, paper mirror, skin.

Matt: Our music and lyrics have started progressing into a direction. Before our lyrics were nothing specific. Now it seems that all our stuff is centralized on the human mind.

Al: How it would be better if mankind could not think at all. Emotion. Desire. Greed. The earth is dissolving because of short sightedness, ignorance, impatience, and the mind is the tool that caused all of this.

Matt: The mind brings suffering onto itself. Humanity causes itself to rot, to disgrace itself. It will continue because of the close-minded.

Al: Society is one large institution and we are the sick. We are the diseased. There is no wisdom in government. None.

Chris: Where there are more people there is more to fear. Tom: The human mind... vain.

Al: Realize we are nailed to misery. There is no separation from that bond.

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