

EMPTY

BurningEmptiness Inc. Newsletter issue #2

HELP

/If you had this directly from us, you should have two copies of it. One is for you, the other is for one of your friends. If you like your friends, you should help them discover some new music. In case you don't like the newsletter, send the spare copy to someone you don't like. In case you want more than one spare copy drop us a line and you'll get as many as you asked for.

ABOUT

/This newsletter is issued by BurningEmptiness Inc. It expresses our opinions on art we had through trades, CareWare, as gifts, etc. E M P T Y follows our non-commercial bad habits: we only write about stuff we like, we do not review our own productions, we do not review anything from regular labels.

/If you wish to appear here, please send your stuff (not only music) to BurningEmptiness Inc. c/o B+D DEL NISTA-Chemin de Saint Marc-Mauran-13130 BERRE-France. You'll get some copies of the newsletter and some music from the label as a trade.

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/www.burningemptiness.fr.st

No Energy-Fencing Flatworm Records-CDR-Jewel box w/color sleeve

/Sleeve features some kind of full-coloured squid and not much more but the track titles. To speak short this is a great album. One might object (in fact, he did) the tracks are very 'flat and samey ambient', that repetitive use of ring modulators and digital degraders make the tracks a whole where the cuts seem to've been made at random, that opening an album with a seemingly endless fade in of just one sound is weird at best, that... The hell with objections.

/I like the 'deep water' feeling of the tracks (remember the sleeve?), the use of 45-rpm-played-33 sounds (especially vocals), of lofi-but-high-quality sounds, the 'nothing sounds normal' policy (broken for a few seconds only in track#3 and 4 for jazz-like bits) and the dense atmospheres created with so little sounds. Whether you like ambient or not is your concern but THIS is how ambient should sound in the 21st century, I think.

/A word about Fencing Flatworm: this 'no-budget, hi-tek, lo-fi, dedicated to electronic and experimental music' label issues nicely packaged CDRs. What I heard is good quality ambient worth the £4/\$7 it'll cost you. MIDWICH's 'Tiny Muscle' for instance, not being quite as good as No Energy to my noised out ears is still a very good record full of nice melodies and good moods, the perfect soundtrack for your reading evenings. They issue the oTo series, too, a series of 50 tapes 'document of what's happening in the no-audience underground' and it includes one tape feat. Thurston Moore you can have only if you order at least something else. Know what? I like that way of seeing/doing things: these are good people, support them.

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DarkEmbraced-debut album-ProProductions-BlackCDR-homemade color package

/Recorded winter'99, each track 1st take only, recorded live, they say. Distorted screams and strange detuned vocals. Heavy guitars playing worn out riffs at 20 bpm. 4/4 equally slow, equally worn out and equally straightforward rhythms: my guess would be a beatbox, but if they found someone to play the guitar that way, there must be a drummer lying in the same toxic waste waiting for the magic formula to wake up and crawl on the stage. I was planning to listen to this playing some stupid videogame but I soon quit the game, enthralled in the 'drug-crazed' (that's what they say, too) atmospheres. I listened to it over and over till I couldn't stay awake. I'm still listening to it as I write this. I think I still will tomorrow, just as I listened to THE SWANS' 'cop' till I knew it so well I could press 'play' in my own mind and listen to it (it's still written on my portable hard drive, the one that's supposed to help me finding my glasses when I wake up). Listen to track 10 and 11 in a row and feel this SWANS influence I'm talking about.

/HELL. Best dark metal record I heard in ages. And don't ask me why: it's brilliant, that's it. And the end of the album's brilliant, too so I won't spoil the surprise.

/Yep something else: I had the CD version of INHALANT's 'Kill Yourself' I reviewed in issue#1. Mastering is fine, package is wonderful, music/noise is as good as I said it was. Drop Chad a line, buy his records, trade them for something (we got four copies of this one if you live in Europe, otherwise ask Chad).

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/http://community.webtv.net/chadwicked
/Pro Records-PO Box 22-VERNON TX 76385-USA

V/A - 'anomalous silencer'-NAPALMED Records-CD-nice BW package

/As you know we do not review productions of bands on the label, so we'll say nothing of the PRESSURE track featured here except that it's very good and a reason on its own to buy the comp. It also appears on PRESSURE's first demo.

/Now let's talk about the rest: from the Scorn-like ambient/dub of Mamarracho to the pure noise of Stratosfera, everyone should find something to like in here. What I liked were the NAPALMED track -not so noisy-, the Fuck the Facts track -some kind of grindcore played so damn loud and fast it could pass for Japanese industrial-, and of course Mr Gunter Schroth's strange experimentation with his barcode-generated sounds.

/And by the way: there is a really *REALLY* good thing about these pay-per-minute compilations: most tracks are short enough, for a change. And we've got a few copies of this one if you want to trade.

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Gouvernement Alpha-'Glacial Specimens'-Tabula Rasa-CDR-beautiful homemade color package

/As soon as I put it inside the stereo and pressed PLAY, that little voice whispered in my head: 'This is *just another* Japanese record'.

/Not quite, little voice. Ingredients are here: deafening high frequencies, humming LOOUUD basses, walls of harsh distortion, digital-with-ultra-high-gain-curves mastering, etc. At first, I fast-forwarded through the record as you dear reader will probably do, too. BUT: where you're a stone-hearted bastard, I'm only a very busy gentle unprofessional, so unlike you I then took time to listen carefully to some parts and... They were excellent. There's nothing there any normal human being could stand for more than two minutes, but there IS some great rhythmic work, some fine my-sound-is-your-pain research, and a lot of your-stepmother-will-never-come-back-for-a-cuppa-if-you-play-this-again moments.

/Maybe you, little voice, could make a better use of your time by teaching all these Japanese people how to turn their distortions OFF for a while?

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DJ Komikon-CatchPenny Records-CDR and tape/Y Prefateerwy-'Llong Danfor'-CDR-BW homemade packages

/Being a small structure doesn't mean you only release small quality stuff and here's another example. Lofi electronics, four-trackers recordings, tape releases, BW xeroxed packages all made at home. Catchpenny records seems to share our taste for truly independent labels. Music from DJ Komikon is a simple and neat-sounding all-rhythmic technoid thing, refreshing, pleasant, and sometimes a bit naive. Music from Y Prefateerwy is what you could describe as lofi pop, but not in the Sebadoh vein, more like an early record by Joy Division sung in Welch. I really enjoyed this EP and was a bit sad it was so short (for a change).

/PO Box 88, MOLD CH7 4ZQ, UK

/While we're at it, this man issues a nice fanzine, too, called 'Viva Sparky!' (quite small for now, but getting better every issue), so maybe you should drop him a line at catchpennyrecords@hotmail.com

Eric Alexandrakis-'Here comes the snow'-Y&T Music-3" CDR-Jewel box w/color sleeve

/A splendid mini CDR in a cute tiny jewel box, containing 3 tiny cutie songs in the vein of Mr Eric's 'TV Catatonia' (see EMPTY#0). Who'd ask for more as a Christmas present? I certainly won't!

/www.ericalexandrakis.com
/6705 SW 147th Court MIAMI FL 33193 USA

The Guy Who Invented Fire-'I didn't get where I am today'-Intellectos-CD-Jewel box w/color sleeve

/He invented fire and he invented a new musical genre: three finger electro. If some self-called musicians I know only had one finger of the three, they'd be called musicians by other people, too.

/My favourite track is 'pretty girl', involving the voices of a middle-aged man and this pretty girl (at least the man says she is) carrying a metronome in turns in order to test your stereo. According to this test, mine is fine so I decided I would like the record and its minimal drum patterns, its simple melodies and its 'I'm not taking all this seriously' spirit.

/There's a negative point, though. I really don't think including a remix from 22-metre-band was necessary, the record's just the good length to me without it.

/www.hifiart.com/intellectos - intellectos@hotmail.com
/1009 Spruce Street, 1F, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19107, USA

Lyssa-'Olympians/Subvert a body'-Shogun Records-CDR-nice BW homemade package

/Now some heavy guitars and sssllloooowww tempo. Apparently, this is their first release. I didn't like Neurosis' latest records much, but this reminded me of the ones I liked.

/Composing songs over 8 minutes that only include vocal samples and not much more electronics I could hear and no 'real' singer is such

a hard task no one can make it on the first try. LYSSA couldn't, but that's not saying the record is not good. In fact, there are some interesting moments (maybe 7 Tone would be a better comparison than Neurosis, now that I think about it), heavy&loud bass, 'never-sound-metal' distorted guitars and good atmospheres, here and there. Did I tell you the package was nice ? It is.

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The Atlantic Manor - 'The hate we get going' Do Too-CD-pro jewel box w/BW artwork

/A flyer coming with R. Sell's albums reads : 'if this record is not your cup of tea, pass it on to a friend'. Besides, he seems to be sending them to reviewers in large numbers. That's how I got three of his albums and chose to review my favourite.

/Pop ballads, lofi, noisy, simple though still able of expressing delicate feelings in a genuine way like a clumsy wooden puppet moved by a very sad 10 year old kid would. All but one, a raging punk tune. The songs are very short. All but one, more than 8 minutes long. The whole album is under 30 minutes, but these minutes I listened to over and over again. Being moved by a record doesn't happen very often to me so I'd be glad if a copy of this one ended in your CD player.

/This man seems to thank his children and/or wife on every album and to use their voices a lot. I'd like to see more of this, too. Much sweeter than all those bodybuilt blokes thanking their sponsors for shoes or tee shirts.

/R. SELL 5013 SW 154 CT, Miami FL 33185 USA

Ministry Of Defiance-'Listening to learn'-Post Office Records-CDR-nice homemade package in coloured cardboard

/Mr Hanford & friends share our love for deep ambience, minimal soundscapes and tortured vocal samples. Clicks (analogue ones, so cracks is a better word), low frequencies are here, too and the release is slightly under our usual 30 minutes limit. Track 5 features a simple rhythm passed through a filter: maybe more of these would've been welcomed. A bit like trying to review your own brother. Of course I like the record. I like it very much. Why are you asking ?

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Second Violin-'Hospital Fugue of Mad Nurse'/'Victoria'-ZeroMoon-CDR-superb homemade packages w/color artwork

/I read somewhere industrial music was much closer to 'musique concrete' than it is to techno and as such was VERY different from other electronic music, probably because calling 'electronic' something made mostly with abused acoustic hardware is silly. Making industrial music became quite difficult over the years, fantastic projects such as SPK or Satori having put the challenge out of reach for most. These people manage to keep that 'genuine industrial spirit' in their music without sounding old-fashioned. Some ambient parts, lots of vocals (some weirdly overdriven in that good old Atrax Morgue way, some plain spoken word and some moaning, too), very little and minimal rhythms, some tiny melodies looped till death, noises of manipulated objects: good industrial, I tell you. Jeff Surak uses a 'prepared violin', something I'd like to see on stage.

/Packages from Zero Moon rule: the ones I saw were all beautiful, inventive and handmade. And ah, yes, something else: would you *please* stop using this terribly adorned font? Besides looking like the ones used on goth and black metal records, it's so hard to read it took me an hour to understand the track titles.

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ZINES

/Robots and Electronic Brains is a VERY GOOD bloody hell of a webzine at www.come.to/robots: mister Jimmy Possession has an ear on everything or so it seems. Share his bloody tastes or not but he definitely HAS bloody tastes, something most reviewers seem to lack these days. There's a bloody hell of a paper version, too (issue#9 came with a 7" and issue#10 comes with a free CD and believe me the music is GOOD, bloody hell) and you can even subscribe for three bloody issues. 133 Green End Road, CAMBRIDGE CB4 1RW, UK

/I didn't like Incursion's previous mottos and thought the interface was a bit too classical, but Mr Richard changed the interface for a beautifully simple one and removed the most wordy mottos. What's left is an excellent webzine, dealing with experimental music in the widest sense of the word, reviewed by people who do know their subject well. www.incursion.org - Richard Di Santo, 53 Macamo Court, MAPLE, ONTARIO L6A1, CANADA

/www.industrial.org is a huge database: record reviews, audio software/hardware reviews, zine reviews, live reviews, news from the world industrial/experimental underground scene and more. Simply great.

/I turned into a Martian, despite its name, is a French paper zine written in French. Issues I have seen review all kinds of indie rock-related experiments from punk to noisecore to grindcore to whatever-core-his-name-is. I heard next issue will include reviews from the electronic side of reality, and a CDR, too. F.GRAND 10 rue du commerce, 39160 SAINT-AMOUR, FRANCE - fredg2@wanadoo.fr

/Taped Crusaders are Australian and their fanzine is loaded up with honest record reviews (not only tapes you know). They live far from our home but they seem to be listening to music coming from the same planet: maybe this is YOUR planet too ? PO Box 356, BRUNSWICK, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA - wormfood@alphalink.com.au
/I told you about Viva Sparky! before, didn't I ?

NEW

☐Label

/You can now subscribe! Euro15, Sterling Pound 10 or \$18 will offer you 4 limited edition records from BurningEmptiness Inc. (from our catalogue, forthcoming or anything else you can think of) plus exclusive material including this newsletter. We still consider CareWare or trades: email or write.

☐Tin.RP

/Third album is called StarVing and is the v2.6beta of their second album Hun_geR, a shorter, more rhythmic version, with a 'more user friendly interface', they say (no idea of what that means). Out FEB 15th, 20ex limited edition with 20 different color artworks and a floppy, Euro5, \$6, CareWare.

/Is finishing a split release with NARC from Canada, second part of the 'File Transfer' series. More soon.

/Is currently working on another split with Paul Harrison, the man behind Expose Your Eyes.

/Appears on the Tribute to SUP as we told you in last issue. Now we had our promo copies let's talk about the music. This IS metal, most of the time and we liked some of it. There's a very funny black metal version of Pain Injection from a band called Grimoria (where all those ultra-cliché bands find all their ultra-cliché names, I wonder), another good joke track from Carnival In Coal, a cool blues from O, an inspired cover from JE, some jazz from Yul and a techno medley from Bristol Meyers Squibb. Most of the rest is copy-and-paste-I-can-play-as-fast-as-professional-musicians stuff... One track is so pathetic we'll shortly break our policy for it: Apophysis indulges into some goths-and-their-ridiculous-low-voices terrible Room 7. Revolting (and death to false metal, as Manowar used to say). Available at good record shops and, alas, at bad ones, too, at least in France.

/Joined the PANX compilation with a harsh techno cover of Georges Brassens, a French protest singer who released his first 7" twenty years before Bob Dylan... And is working hard on dismembering Hüsker Dü's 'New day rising'

☐This Is Not Red Paint

/Vendredi13 Records, a tape-only label issued a JE /This Is Not Red Paint split : one 15 min manga-like soundtrack and 15 min old school industrial in the vein of their first demo respectively. It features the first track entirely composed and played by B'L. V13, 25 rue Goudouli, 31240 SAINT-JEAN, France

☐Guitare Brothers

/Is a project featuring Mr Atomic The Talking Robot With An Electronic Brain and V-MARK3 The TinBOT With Noise (helped by The Ladies and MooN members, too). Expect some weird poppy electronics with a touch of noise and some kind of humour, maybe. If you're interested in remixing some of the record using an old school tracker, please mailto rebzine@hotmail.com or follow the instructions on the CD or our website. Best tracks will appear on the regularly updated CD. Out APR 15th 20ex limited edition with full color artwork, Euro5, \$6, CareWare.

☐Moon

/Is working on a split with Tin.RP around the theme of classic horror. From what we heard, both bands have turned the noise down a lot for this release. Moon's guitarist David is currently watching all Vincent Price's films to find samples while DDN Tin.RP's noise unit tries to find all Hammer ones.

/Has a project of making a split with a metal band. JailBird seems to have accepted the noise corruption from our satellite.

GPL

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