



**BONG 49**



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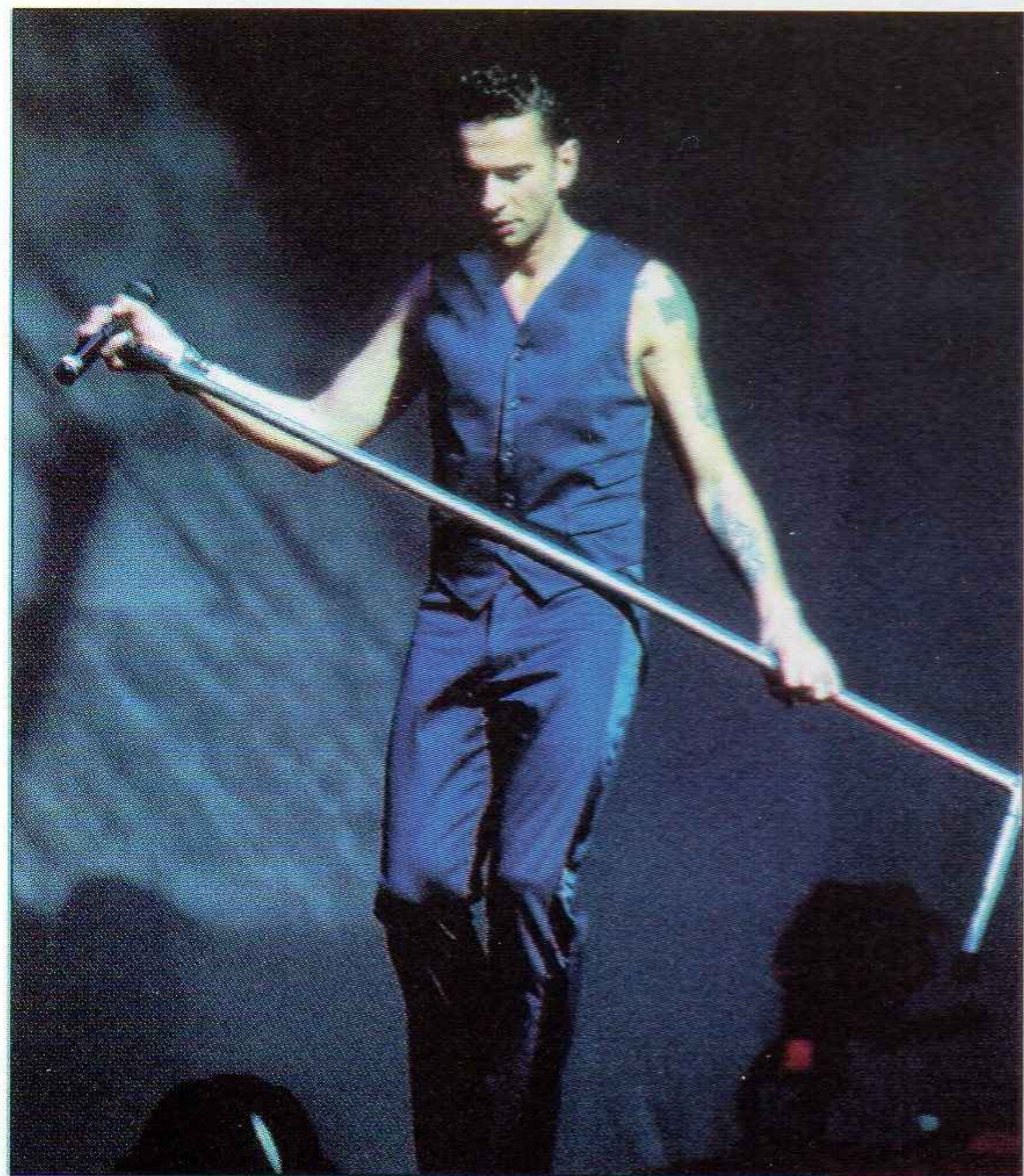


Photo by Robin Francois

Cover photos by Anton Corbijn

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## **Hello! Welcome to issue 49 of BONG!**

The Band successfully completed the US leg of the "Exciter Tour" in August but if you didn't get a chance to see them live overseas, look inside to find out what you can look forward to in Europe over the next few months. But we're not giving everything away, as we don't want to spoil it all for you!

While the Band are still touring, we thought we'd give you a rare opportunity to ask Depeche Mode what is it like to live on road for several months... So you now have the chance to send us a question which you've been dying to ask Martin, Fletch or Dave - for example how do they keep fit, where do they party, what's their favourite backstage meal or how difficult it is to perform the songs from "Exciter" live on stage!! We are going to select approximately twenty questions (which we must receive before October 7) to be able to ask the Band, on your behalf, at one of the UK shows. That's not all - those of you whose question is chosen by the Band as the most interesting, will receive a merchandise item autographed by Depeche Mode! So, hurry up and send your entry to: [flexible@volny.cz](mailto:flexible@volny.cz) or the usual BONG address.

It's convention time again! We promised to let you know about the next event Bong is organising for their members and other devotees, as many of you have been asking for some time now. So we are very happy to let you know that we are ready to take bookings for The International BONG Convention 2002!! The last one in Basildon (2000) proved to be a huge success, with all of us staying over 2 nights at the beautiful Posthouse Hotel. Having time to relax at the bar or club, hang out with other fans and finally partying to a DM night full of videos, dancing, competitions, trivia and fun! If you were there last time and would like to go again or didn't go and don't want to miss it this time around, please book early because there are only a limited number of rooms available. The event is on Saturday March 30th 2002 in Basildon, UK. We are already looking forward to seeing you all there! (See booking form enclosed)

**Until December - keep moding!**

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# PRESSED IN BLACK

## Dear Bong,

This is to say thank you for the t-shirt I received early on this week for my contribution in one of the past issues of Bong. Now I have something to wear at the concert....

I'm from an island in the Caribbean called Puerto Rico and Depeche Mode are unknown here. But by a twist of fate I became a devotee when I was just 10 years old. That was 12 years ago. When all my friends were listening to kids music, I was listening to the strong lyrics of "Music For The Masses" and "Violator" and understanding what they were about. I loved their music as it made me feel so grown up. But living in Puerto Rico, it was hard to find even their old records, let alone getting the new ones. I had to depend on mail order (and it always arrived much later than the release date). My friends and family thought it was only a short phase in my life and that sooner or later I would stop liking the band and turn to groups from here, like the famous Menudo. But that didn't happen; my devotion just grew bigger and bigger. I got one of the biggest collections of Depeche Mode memorabilia you could imagine. But although I had this big collection and managed to get the records on the release date, something was missing... and it was going to a concert.

Depeche Mode have never come here and I guess they never will. That meant, that if I ever wanted to see them, I had to travel all the way to the United States, which was just too expensive. But I still hoped my dream will come true one day. You just have to believe!

I was very close to see the Band during "The Devotional Tour" but then my travel plans fell apart and I couldn't fulfil my dream. So I told my boyfriend I would go to see them the next time they go on tour. I was determined. But the odds were against me once again as my boyfriend proposed to me just when Depeche Mode announced the dates for "The

Exciter Tour". Not that I wasn't happy about getting married but we had to get all our money together for the wedding and I couldn't possibly ask my boyfriend to sacrifice some of it for my silly dream...

But I was so wrong. My boyfriend, who is so nice and understands my passion for Depeche Mode, surprised me with a plane ticket to go and see the band for the first time in my life on July 3 at Jones Beach Amphitheatre. I was so happy I couldn't wait. My biggest dream would finally come true and all thanks to my boyfriend. He was the only one who knew how important it was for me and I will be grateful to him forever.

**Manlyn Rivera**  
**Puerto Rico**

## Dear Bong,

I have been an avid Depeche Mode fan, since I was in the 4th grade. I am now 24 and still enjoying the Depeche Mode experience. I have bought all the albums and seen several concerts over the years. I have bought shirts, posters, and at one point subscribed to Bong Magazine, several years ago or it might have been their fan club.

Nevertheless, I am very concerned and disappointed about the costs for tickets. I was very excited to hear that Depeche Mode were touring again, but my excitement dwindled quite a bit. The tickets for the Dallas show are outrageous. For good seats to the show, at a mediocre venue, I must add, the prices were 50-70 dollars. This price does not include the many service charges provided by our friend, Ticketmaster. I do believe that Depeche Mode are worth every penny, but unfortunately for the average individual or a couple, the prices for the tickets are in close proximity to the cost of car insurance for a month. I am very disappointed and frustrated that I will be missing this tour due to greedy ticket agencies.

I want to be very clear that I do enjoy Depeche Mode, despite the current

prices and wholeheartedly believe that the music presented by Depeche Mode is worth millions. The prices of CDs and concert tickets have become an outrageous sight. I wish the band the best of luck. Hopefully, someone will read this. The fans are the very thing that enable bands to continue their success. Thanks for all the wonderful music!

**Jeremy Williams**  
**USA**

**Editor's note:** Unfortunately it's the promoters and ticket agencies (not the Band) who make all the decisions regarding ticket prices.

## Dear Bong,

I have been a DM addict since I was introduced to their music by an old school friend, Daren Wagstaff, for which I thank him! That was 15 years ago.

Over those years, each new Depeche Mode release has brought much excitement and anticipation and I've never been disappointed. "Exciter", I feel, is their best yet. Dave sounds on top form and Martin's song writing goes from strength to strength.

I look forward to the forthcoming tour. October can't come soon enough!

**Debbie Giles,**  
**Worcs, England**

## Dear Bong,

What can I say...I think "Exciter" is an absolute work of art! Dave's voice is even better than ever and Martin's lyrics are just outstanding! Fantastic!

**Phil Clarke**  
**England**

## Dear Bong,

As a Devotee of 18 years, I am sad to say this but I think that "Exciter" is a bit of a disappointment. Full credit to the band that they are still making such excellent music as "Dream On", "Shine", "When The Body Speaks" and "Freelove" after over 20 years together. However, aside from the tracks that I have



mentioned, I feel that "Exciter" is 'Depeche Mode by numbers' - a pastiche of the band that we all know and love. Was I maybe expecting too much? Possibly, I guess, but it's not just the music itself that I find to be an imitation of former DM material - song titles such as "The Sweetest Condition" and "Freelove" strike me as almost being parodies, as does the majority of the lyrical content. Sorry guys, but this is how I feel. I am still eagerly awaiting the band's forthcoming tour and I still think that they are an incredible band - I just wish that they had taken more risks on "Exciter". And something that has puzzled me in reviews that I have read about "Exciter" in recent features about the band in the music press: that the absolutely glorious "Ultra" has been described as a below-par DM album. Eh?! Personally, I feel that "Ultra" is one of the band's greatest achievements. But then it's all a matter of opinion, I guess.

**Jason Kirk**  
**England**

**Dear Bong,**

I'm just sending in a comment. I'm not a negative person and I hate sending in stuff that is negative, but I'm just writing this to say that I am disappointed in how Bong has handled the North American fans this Depeche Mode tour.

I have just finished reading a lot of the comments in Pressed in Black in Bong 48 congratulating and thanking the Bong on setting up the advanced tickets that were set up for the European leg of the tour. Ever since I received Bong 47, I've been sort of depressed about the fact that you guys could go to so much trouble to set up so many phone numbers for Bong members to get in early and get tickets.

I've been a Bong member since 97 and a fan since 84 and I know you can't do everything for everyone, but I just felt pretty bad about it. I count myself lucky enough to have seen them three times and I did get tickets to see them the 21st in Denver. I do think even if you couldn't set up dates for other fans in other places than Europe, you could have run contests for other fans in different countries to go to meet and greets. It's not like they tour every day

and there are a lot of Bong members out in the world other than Europe.

**Julie Masters**  
**Colorado, USA**

**Editor's Note:** It's always been impossible to set up 'good seat' tickets for the States, BONG is a very small organisation and just doesn't have the manpower to take on such an enormous task. Primarily we are just a magazine, not a fan-club and everything we do, apart from produce the magazine every three months, is done on our own initiative - so meet and greets are not within our power to organise, but the website ran a few competitions for them.

**Dear Bong,**

It's hard to put into words how superb the new album "Exciter" is. On May 14, I made sure I was not at work, and could be home with the new album as early as possible. I am really impressed with the way Depeche Mode have progressed yet again. The quality of the music and lyrics is unbelievable.

The songs on "Exciter" have so much depth and energy and deal with real issues that anyone can relate to. I find it extremely hard to understand why Depeche Mode are not more respected in the UK, but I think this bothers fans more than Depeche Mode.

Well done Dave, Martin and Fletch, and thank you for giving us another superb album to add to the collection.

**Dean Fisk**  
**Braintree, England**

**Dear Bong,**

As the new album "Exciter" was about to come out, I felt a sense of "déjà-vu" in that I was expecting my second child. When "Ultra" was released, I was expecting my first child, Elise and I played the album constantly before and after Elise was born and was doing the same again with the "Exciter" album. Elise loves singing along to "Dream On", so no doubt I will have my second child singing along to Depeche Mode in the future too!

I watched a programme back in May called "Top Ten" which was about synth bands of the 80's. Depeche Mode were No. 2 in the list, having been beaten to

the No. 1 slot by, dare I say it, The Pet Shop Boys! I really had to laugh in amazement and wonder! Apart from the fact that Neil Tennant's voice could never match those of Dave and Martin in a million years, their songs have no depth or meaning whatsoever! My apologies to those of you who actually did/do like The Pet Shop Boys, but beating Depeche Mode as a top synth band - really!

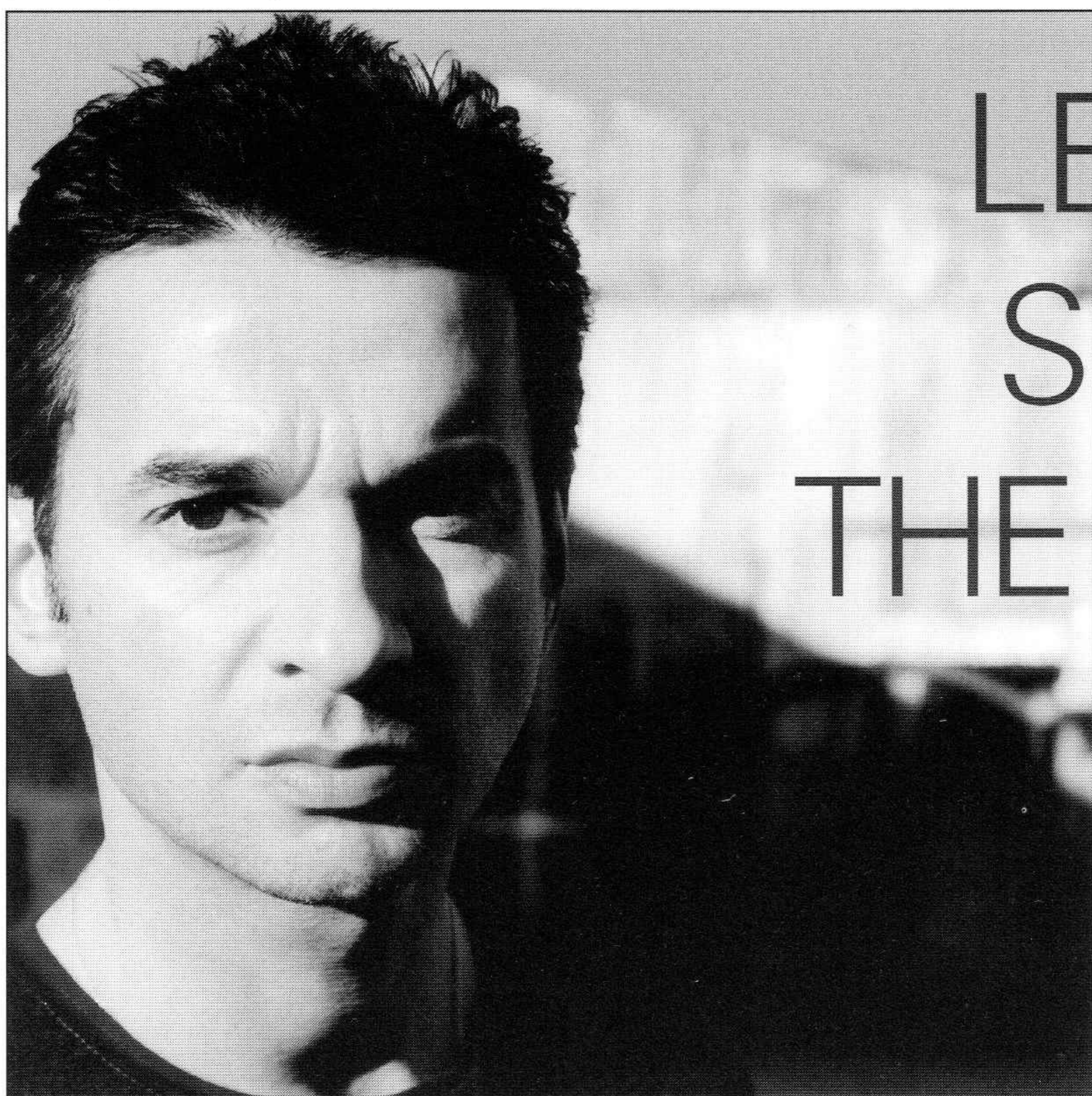
I missed out on going to a DM tribute night "Party For The Masses" on the 5th May in Birmingham, due to being heavily pregnant but did go to one held in September last year, so I didn't feel too bad! I have to say that myself, my husband and our friends really, really enjoyed the evening, apart from the fact that it gave me another excuse for wearing PVC clothing! It was definitely the first night out I have had since becoming a fan 20 years ago where I have been able to listen to DM all evening, dance all night, get totally drunk and know that everyone else was there because they were fans too. There was also a tribute band who were very, very good.

I would also like to thank you Bong for giving Bong members the opportunity of purchasing priority tickets by dialling the given number. After re-dialling many, many times and eventually getting through, I did manage to get myself and my husband some really good seats within a block next to the stage.

A good friend of mine, Louise Bell, is the cousin of Mark Bell, who as we all know has produced the "Exciter" album. I got such a shock when she told me as I could not believe that I knew someone with a contact so close to my favourite band. To my disappointment though, Louise does not see much of Mark but hopefully after her efforts and a few words, Mark may be able to get something for me (autographs, perhaps?!?). So Mark, if you are reading this, you are a complete genius and you could make a devoted fan very happy! I am really looking forward to seeing Depeche Mode live again in October at Manchester (when I have found a babysitter for two kids!).

**Suzanne Miskelly**  
**Mirfield, England**





# LET ME SHOW YOU THE WORLD IN MY EYES

by **Trevor Swart**

Photo by Anton Corbijn

February the twelfth, 1994. My father had just died, and it was the most exciting time of my life. Depeche Mode were in town, in Johannesburg. Their presence was so well timed, it was almost scary. My father's illness had been a long one, and by the time he died I'd already done most of my mourning for him, and I was now getting used to the reality of it. From when I was thirteen until I was just shy of twenty, I knew my father was dying of cancer. And for most of those years, I was listening to Depeche Mode's music.

At that time in South Africa, the apartheid government was on its way out. Sanctions had ended. The artists who we'd heard but never dreamed to see were starting to come to South Africa while touring, and also Depeche had finally made it.

This was a band I'd discovered relatively late into their career. They'd insidiously been sneaking into my young mind, and by the time I was fourteen I was starting to hear more and more of their music. That was 1987. As with almost any teenager in that time and place, I didn't have all that much exposure to music. But one band out of all the ones I heard back then kept striking chords with me, and they became my touchstone. By the time "101" came onto our shelves, I was hooked. No other band existed. I had tracked down and taped all of their work I could get my hands on, and was listening to it almost incessantly. I was obsessed.

Fourteen is a very special time in anyone's life. At that stage, puberty is in control. Everything has changed. One's hormones are wreaking havoc with one's emotions. The opposite sex becomes, well, interesting. Not so for me. I was destined to be different. You see, I didn't find girls any more interesting than I had before. But my new best friend Shaun, well, in simple terms you could say I fell in love with him. It was a strange love. The strange highs were the pure emotions I was feeling for the first time. The lows? I was flying high with him, watching the world pass by, all unaware that there was anything out of the ordinary. Until I told him what I felt (I want you now!), and discovered in his rejection that I was a freak, a queer. And nobody but Shaun knew, and it hurt so much when I lost this friend of mine I believed I loved so desperately

because there was something wrong with me that I vowed to make sure that no-one else ever found out. And no-one did, for a very long time. Long enough for it to be very unhealthy for me.

Right about that time, our family also learned that the cancer which my father had had removed, had returned. The vital man started to visibly die by inches.

And so began the dark years of my life. I found myself in a holding pattern. I would suddenly fall madly in lust with a friend, all unintended, and he wouldn't be even the slightest bit interested. And I began to believe I was a freak, and I really did believe that God's sense of humour, if there even was one, was pretty sick and twisted. Through it all, through all the pain I felt at the time, those songs kept me going. Martin understood that all I wanted was "Somebody", even if the semi-saccharine taste of his words made him sick. No matter what mood I found myself in, there was always my room, my hi-fi, and the songs of Depeche Mode. The sixteenth (or whatever) generation copies had been replaced with original cassettes, which as I grew older became CDs. The collection filled out until there was almost nothing of Depeche Mode's that I didn't have. Nothing that had been released on CD, anyway.

My father's condition continued to deteriorate. Inexorably. While he did his best to remain upbeat, to not let it affect him negatively, the cancer had its hold, and our family life became more and more strained. Not that we were consciously aware of it, though – or at least, not that I was – because I had my own problems with which to deal.



## Scan by Maudy

By the time I finished high school, Depeche Mode were gods incarnate. There was no other explanation. Their "Violator" album had been out for over a year, and the songs were still ringing true for me. I ached to show people the world in my eyes, but I couldn't – I feared to let anyone see my freakish side. I knew that there'd be consequences that I'd have to deal with, if I eventually decided on a policy of truth. Come clean? Never. Not if there was even the slightest chance that the end of the tears and in-between limbo years was going to leave me with an anguished note like I heard coming from Dave at the time. And the best part of it all was that I wasn't even slightly attracted to any one of them. What I felt for them and their music was completely free of the taint of freakdom that dogged my every step. It was pure, and it was sweet.

University happened to me, one of those default choices in life that I would never have made had I been thinking. It didn't matter so much, though, because now my musical world was opening wider and wider. And the beer was helping to numb my despair. The Depeche obsession receded more and more, as my head was being blown wide open by the anger and the pain of bands like Skinny Puppy and Nine Inch Nails. It didn't stop me from my mission to get "Songs Of Faith And Devotion" almost the instant it was released, though.

And so the cycle began afresh. Again, there was all this resonance between the words that Gore was writing and the songs that he and Dave were singing and the life I was living, and the bittersweet joy I experienced when I first heard them was priceless. In amongst all that sadness was something that made me glad. Consistently and thoroughly. After screaming at a parent, "You don't know how I feel!" and slamming myself into my room, hi-fi on full blast for the duration of a Depeche Album, I was guaranteed to face the world again feeling that much happier.

Time passed and I continued to explore music. Nitzer Ebb's latest album, I discovered, had been produced by Alan Wilder. The synchronicities just kept happening. My father was knocking at Death's Door, and so was Depeche Mode. Well, in one of their songs, anyway.

When I heard that Depeche Mode were coming to South Africa, I almost didn't believe it. In fact, it was only when they actually walked onto the stage that first night in Johannesburg that I believed they were truly in town. I experienced that pure emotion that manifests itself as weeping joy as they performed that night. All the pent up emotion of all those years of pain, of my father's recent death, started to show itself, and I let go completely and rode the wave of adulation. I remember at one point needing desperately to urinate, and being so caught by the music that I just peed my pants right there in the middle of the packed stadium rather than miss a moment. That was the hold they had over me.

I caught every single one of their Johannesburg shows, somehow finding the money for it at the last moment every time. I lost my voice from screaming. I got to meet some of them backstage, got to chat with them all briefly as they partied in Jo'burg. I got to watch Martin as a friend asked him for a cigarette. Stare incredulously with him as she carefully opened her almost full box, placed it inside, took it back out and turned it around so she'd have some way of recognising it from the others. Laugh with him as he said, "You're not even going to smoke it!" with the sound of utter disbelief in his voice.

"No," she said, and sniffed a tear out of her eye. I was proud of myself; never once did I ask for an autograph or a photograph. Of what use? The music was all I needed. I didn't want that time to end.

It did, and my musical world just kept on expanding. They stopped being the best band in the world, because now they had to share that place on the podium with many more people. They slowly but surely lost their godhood as I grew into an understanding that they are just people, after all. Remarkable people, yes. High profile, yes. But people. Just people. Subject to human problems like keeping a band together and rediscovering their equilibrium after the loss of a member.

February the twelfth, 2001. I am alive, and I am in love with life. I have shed my insecurities and taken my rightful place as a happy person, to laugh at the joke I finally caught a while back. I have started hearing the music of Depeche Mode differently, partly because of my own musical journey and partly because of my spiritual one. No longer do I project my unhappiness onto Martin's words. Now I project my happiness. I had lost my way, but I've found it. I've got right, you could say.

Picture a twenty-seven year old male, sitting at his desk in an open-plan corporate office, dressed "smartly" with a tie, and making his way in the world. Picture him cursing as his auto-downloading application keeps crashing. Picture him reliving some of that teenaged excitement at a new Depeche release, bent forward over his desk with his head between the two speakers soaking up what he can from the music, unable to play it as loudly as he'd like to. Picture the thrill as he hears that they're still doing it, stills making music that's fresh and different - yet still, somehow, the same. The distinct dichotomy that is the Depeche.

David, thank you. Thank you for living honestly. Martin, thank you for your songs and your voice. Andy, thanks for being Andy. And Alan - thank you for your influence. It was almost painful to see you go, but in many ways I'm glad you did. Liquid wouldn't have been the same if you'd still been part of Depeche. You guys have enriched my life, positively so. I like to think I'm a connoisseur of music, appreciating it in almost every flavour I encounter and distinguishing at the slightest whiff whether it's a cheap variety or not. This particular wine seems to be an Exciter, aptly named. You have grown and matured in your art, and I can hear it. You are closer to discovering that elegant simplicity that is so easy on the ears and so difficult to create. I look forward to having more than just this little taste.

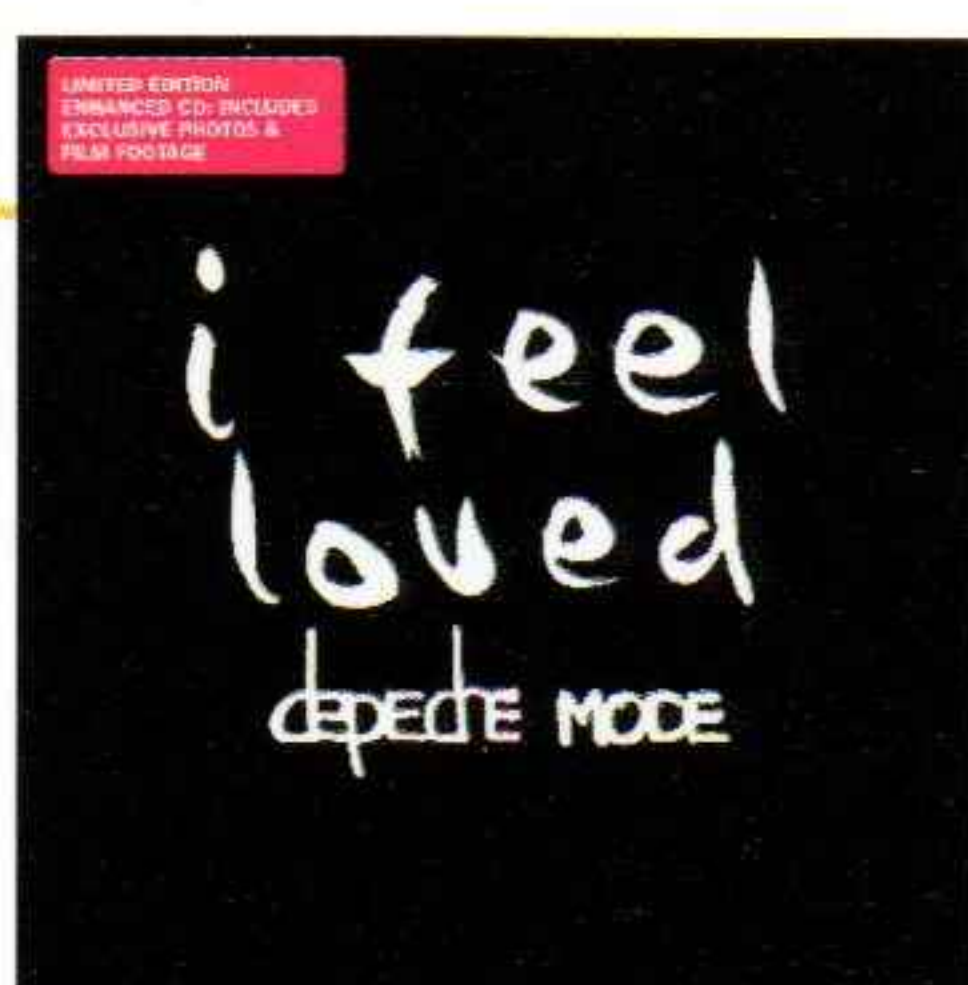
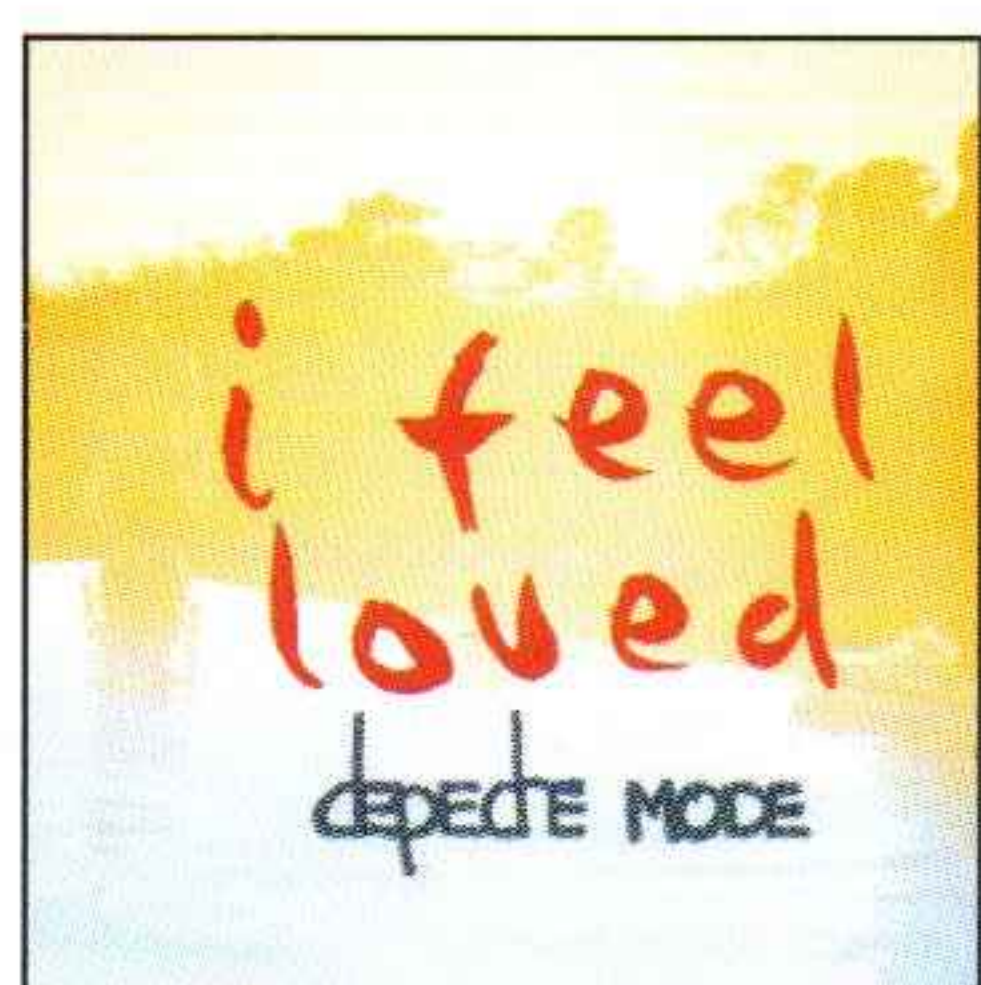
P.S. – I live in Cape Town now. This is a hint, and not a subtle one. Table Mountain is calling you. You are feeling sleepy. Ohmmmmmmmm. You can hear the mountain. It is calling you. It wants to hear you again.

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# EVERYTHING COUNTS



## I Feel Loved

The second single from "Exciter" was released on July 30 in the UK and July 31 in the States. The licensees however were able to deliver the single to the stores a week earlier on July 23.

The release of "I Feel Loved" (Bong 31) was accompanied by a number of special remixes and promotional formats. The one, which received extra attention in the media Worldwide, was the mix by Danny Tenaglia.

A cover of the legendary The Stooges song "Dirt" as a B-side of the single came as a bit of surprise. You shouldn't miss the enhanced "I Feel Loved" CD (Mute LCD Bong 31) featuring four video clips of the band, snippets from the recording of the album, Anton Corbijn photo shoot, the making of the "Dream On" music video, one wallpaper image and animated interface. More details and MP3 files of all the formats are available at: [www.depechemode.com](http://www.depechemode.com)

The radio friendly track "I Feel Loved", including the highly acclaimed remixes, has made it to the heavy rotations on most radio stations across Europe. The sales charts, on the other hand, have seen the single to climb to the Top 10 in only five countries: Poland (2), Spain (4), Denmark (6), Hungary (2), Eurochart (16), Finland (17), UK (12), Germany (9), Norway (40), Sweden (16), Austria (44), Holland (64), Switzerland (64), France (39), Belgium (37), Italy (5), Portugal (11).

## Freelove

The third single to be released from "Exciter" is the beautiful ballad "Freelove" which is to be released on October 22nd. Australian director John Hillcoat, who also directed the "I Feel Loved" video, met up with Dave, Martin and Fletch during the US leg of the "Exciter Tour" in New Orleans at the beginning of July for the video shoot of "Freelove".

## Exciter

It's no surprise that the sales of "Exciter" have reached award status gold or platinum in many countries around the globe, including Italy and Germany (platinum), UK, France, Spain, Canada, USA, Sweden, Switzerland, Belgium, Austria (gold) and Portugal (silver). "Exciter" also certified platinum in Europe, which means that the album has exceeded one million sales throughout UK/Europe.

There's been some progression in the sales charts for "Exciter" since the last issue of Bong. The album has since reached No. 1 in Hungary, Poland and Mexico, No. 4 in Estonia and climbed up one position in Austria to No. 2.



Dave, look at me!

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Photo by Jonathan Kessler

I think this looks quite good ...

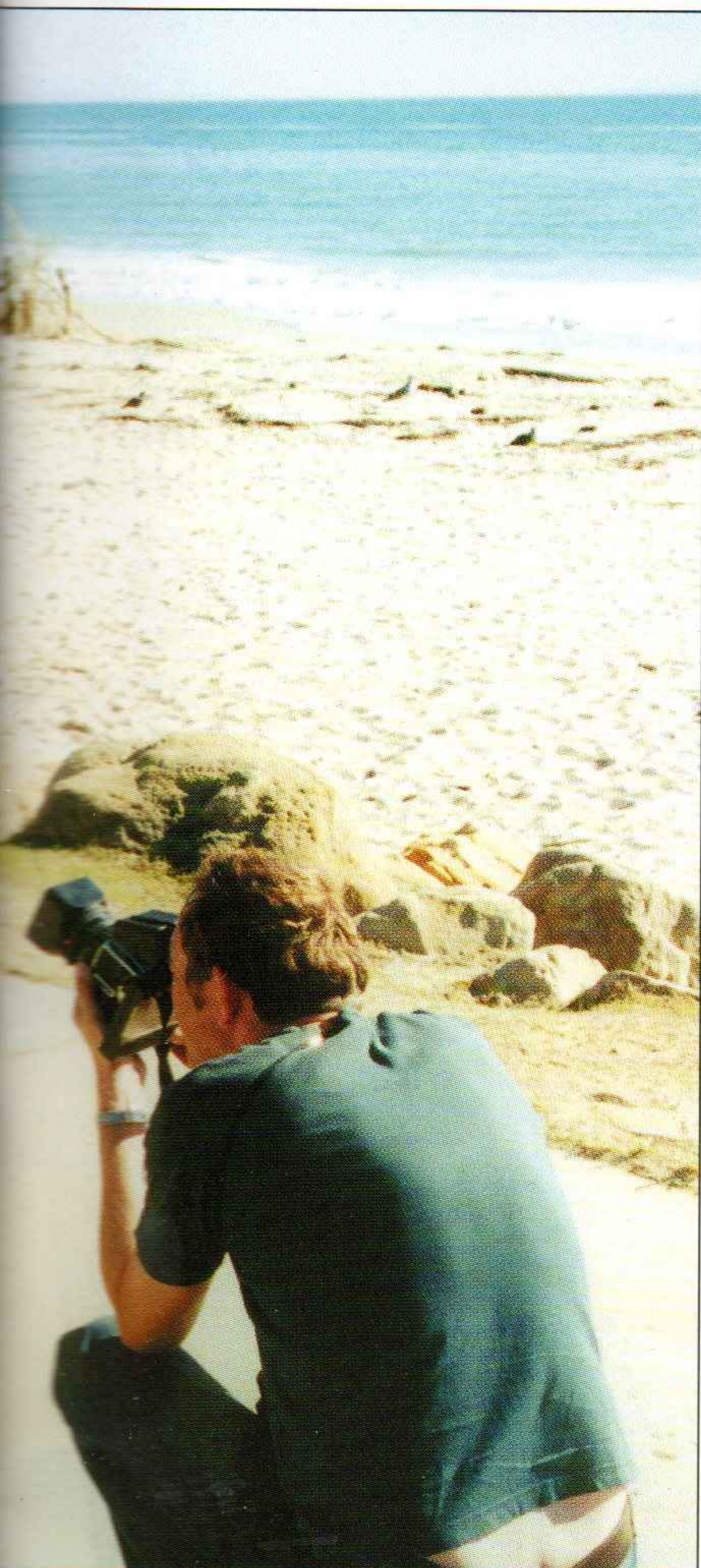


Photo by Jonathan Kessler

### Exciter Tour

Although, the set list of the "Exciter Tour" might seem free of your old time favourites at first, take another look. The line-up seems so fresh you would be surprised, plus you will be treated to some little treasures of Depeche Mode's back catalogue. After all, the Band introduced you to a collection of their best hits on the last tour... If you are in Europe and can't wait to see/hear it for yourself, here is what to expect: "Easy Tiger"/"Dream On", "The Dead Of Night", "The Sweetest Condition", "Halo", "Walking In My Shoes", "Dream On", "When The Body Speaks", "Waiting For The Night", "The Bottom Line" (Martin acoustic), "Breathe", "Freelove", "Enjoy The Silence", "I Feel You", "In Your Room", "It's No Good", "I Feel Loved", "Personal Jesus". The encore includes: "Home", "Clean", "Black Celebration" and "Never Let Me Down Again".

Unlike "The Singles Tour" the Band have been occasionally changing the song list performed on this tour - so you could experience Martin's acoustic of "Sister Of Night" and "Surrender", "Dressed In Black" accompanied by Peter Gordeno or "Condemnation" as on the last night of the North American leg of the "Exciter Tour".

The charismatic singer Poe supported the Band throughout the North American leg of the "Exciter Tour". The opening acts in Europe are Fad Gadget for 32 shows and Technique for 7 shows (Warsaw, Moscow, St. Petersburg, Athens, Istanbul, Hamburg and Leipzig).

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General

The singer Tori Amos has covered "Enjoy The Silence" for her upcoming album "Strange Little Girls" which is due out in Sep-Oct 2001 on Atlantic Records. Apart from Depeche Mode, the new album features songs composed by such artists as Neil Young, The Stranglers, Eminem, and others. According to the official press release, the songs are taken apart and put back together darkly, gently, and in an uncompromising fashion.

"I Feel Loved" (Danny Tenaglia's Labor Of Love Edit) appears on this year's MTV 2 CD dance compilation "MTV Ibiza 2001" (out in August) amongst other tracks such as "Music" by Madonna, "Another Chance" by Roger Sanchez, "Once In A Lifetime" by Talking Heads and many more.

The Danny Tenaglia's remix of "I Feel Loved" has been nominated for the Best Remix Award at the Muzik Magazine Dance Awards 2001.

On April 1, the Danish TV station TV-2 Zulu broadcast the MTV program "Behind The Music" with Depeche Mode.

"Enjoy The Silence" is being used as background music during a programme about languages on the Italian TV Channel RAI 2 every day from Monday to Friday at 6am.

On Wednesday 4th April, The Kruder & Dorfmeister Session Mix of "Useless" was used as background music in an advert for the Champions League match between Arsenal and Valencia on the Italian TV Channel Rete 4.

On Sunday 8th April, the Dutch radio station Kink FM played the Top 4 Depeche Mode songs as chosen by the listeners in the following

order: "It's No Good", "Barrel Of A Gun", "Enjoy The Silence" and "People Are People".

A surreal comedy sketch "At home with Depeche Mode" was shown in April on the UK programme called "Terrorville". Dave and Martin were played by people with strong Geordie accents, arguing about domestic chores.

On April 10, the German TV Channel Sat1 asked the following question in its "Quiz show": Which Band is David Gahan the singer of? The contestant, of course, got the right answer.

The final program closing "Videomusic" on the Italian TV Channel TMC2 was dedicated to Depeche Mode, who were selected "Artists of the Week". This included music and excerpts from an exclusive interview with Dave, Martin and Andy, broadcast every afternoon from Monday 16th to Friday 20th April. The staff of "Videomusic" said they wanted to go out with a bang! They deserve a big thank you for their never ending support of Depeche Mode since the 80s, showing true love and respect for their music.

Narinder, one of the housemates in the UK Channel Four reality TV show "Big Brother 2", was singing "Enjoy The Silence" while talking to the other housemate on June 5.

On Sunday 6th May, The Dave Clarke Acoustic Version of "Dream On" was played over a review of Portsmouth Football Club's games, during a live game between Stockport County and Crystal Palace in the Nationwide First Division.

On May 4, the German TV station SAT1 broadcast a feature about Depeche Mode in

the program "Blitz" called "Die Legende lebt" (The Legend Is Alive). There were interviews with the Band, old videoclips and a report about a young couple who loved DM, although they weren't even born when Depeche Mode were formed.

Several extracts from "Useless" (Kruder & Dorfmeister Session) were used on May 13 during a report about Michelin F1 tires, in the Formula 1 pre-race report "F1 ' la Une" on French TV TF1.

On the season finale of the WB's Charmed, which aired on May 17th, an excerpt of "Dream On" was played.

On Tuesday 8th May, BBC 1 (UK) showed a documentary called "A Fine Romance - The New Romantic Story". During the show snippets of "New Life", "Just Can't Get Enough" and "Everything Counts" were used, as well as a close up shot of a very young Dave Gahan. Jonathan Ross was interviewed and stated that when Depeche Mode came on to the scene late on they brought with them a "smarter" sound than the original groups.

On May 15, the German TV Channel SAT 1 used "The Love Thieves" as background music in a report about fire hazards in the household during the show "Akte".

Many thanks to Iva Milerová, Jane Voiret, Carin Cullen, Richard van der Meer, Robert Broj, Stephen Hickson, Andrew Drennan, Claudia Sterlini, Sarah Marshall, Scott Butler, Brian Weihe, Valentina Moggia, Mariska Heijnen, Michelle Preston, John Rulton, Holly Moon, Daniela Vorndran, Andy Hall and to anyone else who sent in contributions. Please keep the information coming in and don't forget that Everything Counts!

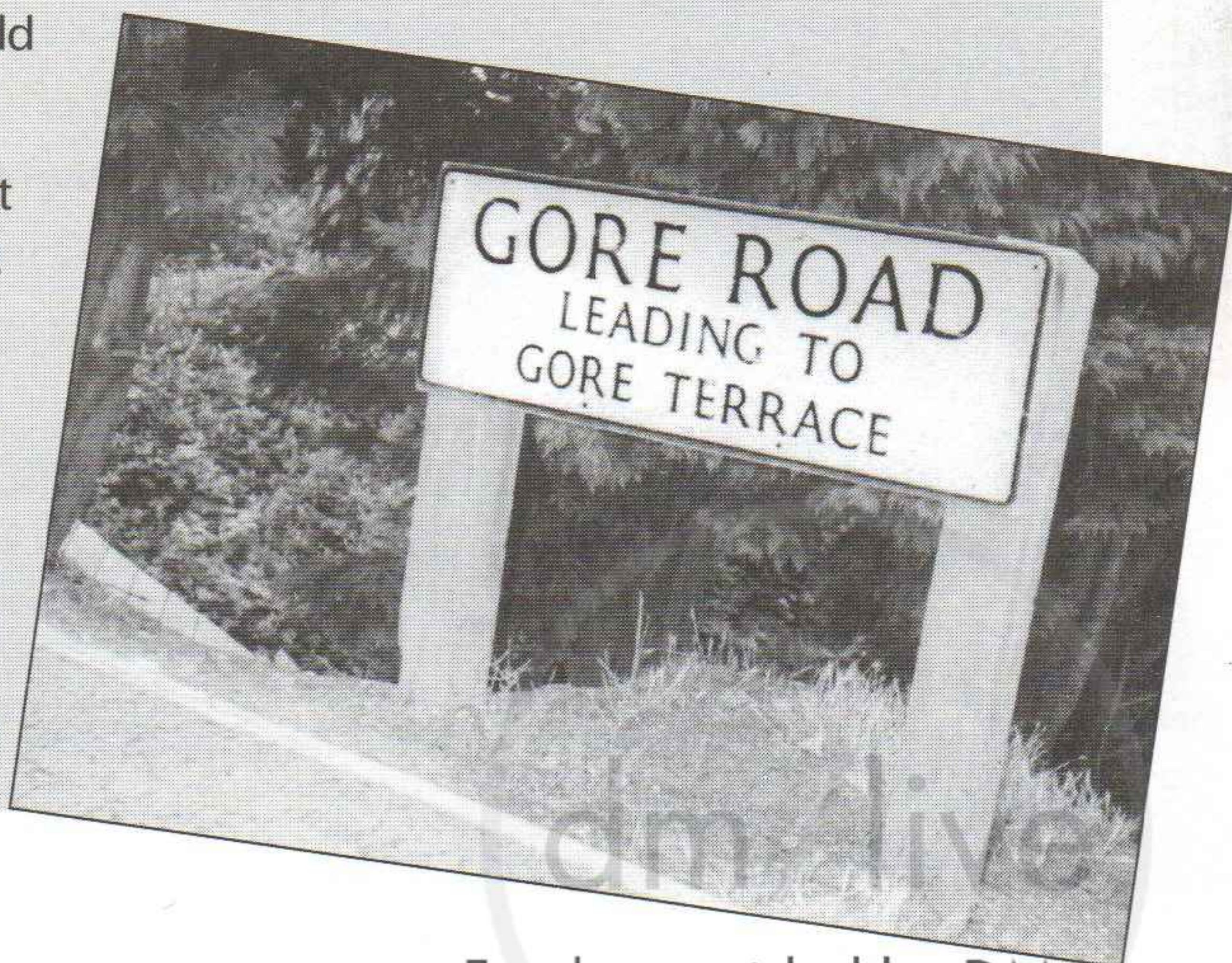
EVERYTHING COUNTS PLUS

A chance to win!

You now have the chance to win some DM related prizes for a short story/article and photograph showing how influential Depeche Mode are in your everyday lives. There must be lots of places (restaurants, houses, etc.) or things (car number plates, boats, etc.) and even pets, named after our threesome. Let us know about them...we can't wait to see what you can come up with! All contributions should be sent to our usual address or via e-mail to: flexible@volny.cz

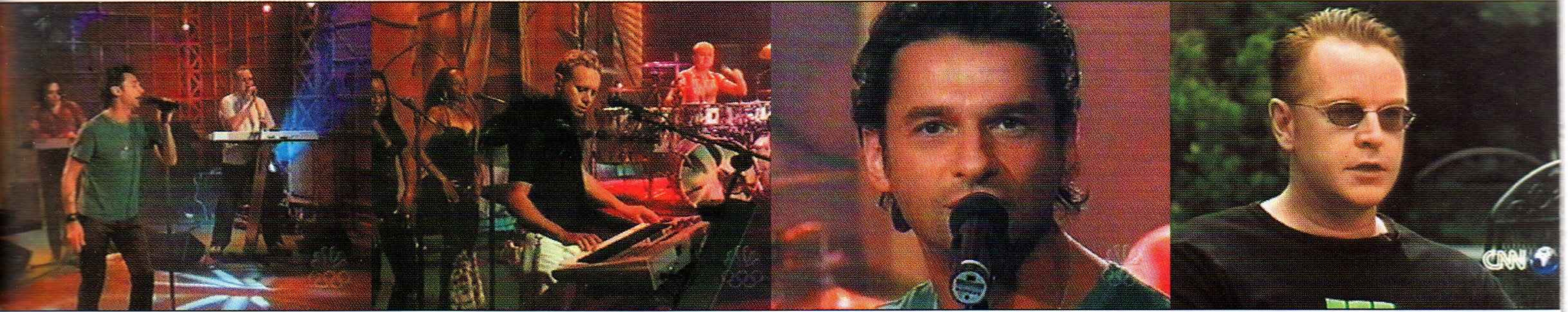
I am afraid I haven't named my Rabbit Dave or my Goldfish Martin but I enclose a photo of a road name that is only a few miles from where I live. In addition to Gore Road, there is Gore Lane, Gore Terrace, Gore Cottages, The Gore and Gore House. Anyone would think a very famous songwriter lived here, but unfortunately not. These roads are in the village of Rayne in Essex and I often come across them in my everyday work at the local authority. It's nice to be reminded of DM when you least expect it, particularly in local government work. **Dean Fisk, Braintree, England**

DM T-shirt and a badge go to: Dean Fisk, England.



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On August 7, Depeche Mode performed "I Feel Loved" on The Tonight Show with Jay Leno on the US Channel NBC. The Band were accompanied by Peter Gordeno on keyboards and Christian Eigner on drums.

On July 21, the CNN program "World Beat" featured interviews with Depeche Mode and Anton Corbijn as well music videos and snippets of live performances of "The Sweetest Condition" and "The Dead Of Night" from the "Exciter Tour".

# TV ON MODE



MTV's 20th Anniversary bash called "Live And Almost Legal" on August 1, included an edited performance of "Personal Jesus" recorded during the Philadelphia show on the Band's Exciter Tour.

Depeche Mode won The Best International Artist Award at the recent German Music Channel VIVA "Comet" Award ceremony, beating Madonna, Jennifer Lopez and U2! The pre-recorded message from the Band saw Martin practising his German...

"The Essential of Depeche Mode" was the title for the MTV special in mid July, featuring an interview with Band members and a selection of their videos.



"The Making of I Feel Loved", a special show taking you behind the scenes on the video shoot, was screened on MTV throughout July. The programme included interviews with Dave, Martin, Fletch and video director, John Hillcoat.



# Press On Mode

**NEW INSIGHT (May 2001)** > an album review with sleeve picture

**THE BIG ISSUE (14/05/01)** > an album review

**THE DAILY TELEGRAPH (19/05/01)** > an album review

**SOUTHERN CROSS (23/05/01)** > an album review with colour sleeve picture

**KINGSIZE (June 2001)** > one page "user's guide" to Depeche Mode hosted by Martin Gore with b/w picture

**KINGSIZE (June 2001)** > an album review with sleeve picture

**MUSIC WEEK (02/06/01)** > a news story re: Depeche Mode's and REM's chart positions plus American chartwatch features DM

**ANANOVA.COM (05/06/01)** > a news story on the forthcoming single

**BURNITBLUE.COM (05/06/01)** > a review of the single "Dream On"

**NME.COM (08/06/01)** > a news story on LA show with pictures

**CDNOW.COM (08/06/01)** > a news story on LA show with pictures

**THE DAILY TELEGRAPH (22/06/01)** > a news story on fish and chips in NYC mentions Dave Gahan

**NIGHT & DAY (24/06/01)** > a preview for MTV B'day show

**Q (July 2001)** > a preview for live concerts in their listings with colour live picture

**FOUR FOUR TWO (July 2001)** > a two page interview with Andy Fletcher with colour picture

**GQ (July 2001)** > an album review

**FUTURE MUSIC (July 2001)** > a news story on the 80's being back with a picture of DM

**BOY'S TOYS (July/Aug 2001)** > an album review with sleeve picture



YOU'RE LISTENING TO LONDON LIVE 94.9 - I'M GARY CROWLEY, AND THIS IS THE DEPECHE MODE STORY...

# the story of DEPECHE MODE

*Following is the second part of a two hour documentary "The Story of Depeche Mode" broadcast on May 7th at 3.00pm on London Radio Live 94.9. The programme was produced by Tony Wood and narrated by Gary Crowley - both have been fans of the band for many years. You can hear the documentary in it's entirety on the website [www.depechemode.com](http://www.depechemode.com) but we've printed the transcript for those without Internet access. So the story continues:*

...Following the positive experiences gained from working in Germany, the band decided to record their fourth album there as well. "Some Great Reward" reached number 5 in the UK charts, and produced the catchy singles "People Are People" and "Master And Servant", whilst also serving up the controversial "Blasphemous Rumours". Martin's fascination of leather-clad fashion and the band's lack of direction concerning their image around the time of the album didn't do them any favours. Looking back, Alan confesses they were damaging times: "I was never comfortable with Martin dressing up in girls clothing and the rest of the group would often comment and try to dissuade him but I think the more we might do that the more belligerent he would become about it. He had his mind set. All of us were naive about image, none of us knew which direction we should be taking or how we should be looking, what press we should be doing. There were pressures from different angles to do various things and inevitably we would argue about it and have differences of opinion. We've always had differences of opinion. So there was never a clear focus about what we should or shouldn't be doing. We weren't particularly great at doing interviews, we would contradict each other in the press and we weren't particularly good at appearing on TV - we didn't have the confidence to carry off an unusual look. So we kind of looked a bit stupid and I don't think we really lived it all down, we haven't really been forgiven for it."

In October 85, Mute Records released "The Singles 81-85" - a collection of Mode's singles to date. After "Some Great Reward", the band were uncertain of the direction in which to take their next album. Frustration began to surface within the group, leading to arguments and tension. Daniel Miller suggested their next album should be recorded in one continuous session, stretched over four months. Despite a spell in Berlin, he recalls the mood remaining uptight: "There was a bit of tension. We were trying to figure out the new balance of how we were going to work in the studio. Alan, who was a very good musician and loved working in the studio and experimenting with sounds, was taking quite a big part in the recording of the record, how the record was sounding and the way it worked. Martin would do a demo, which would suggest a lot ideas, sometimes very specific, sometimes abstract. Then once we got in the studio we would develop those ideas. As time went on, Alan was becoming more and more influential in how those ideas were developed. It was the most difficult album I worked on."









Inevitably, that dark vibe transferred onto the tracks that appeared on what is still regarded as one of their finest albums - "Black Celebration". As Fletch remembers: "We had 'Some Great Reward' out before and it was quite a commercial album and it did quite commercially well. With us, you'd expect us to follow it... but we followed it with a darker album. When people ask how have you kept your fans - cause constantly over the years we've completely surprised them, the reason they rush and buy a record is because they're always thinking what are they going to do next? Which is a good thing. So, it is particularly one of my favourite albums, I think it has got one of the best collections of songs that Martin has ever written on there. The diversity of all the different styles, I think it is a really good album."

Whilst the band were in danger of being tagged doom and gloom merchants, "Black Celebration" fared extremely well in terms of sales, and reached number 3 in the UK album charts. For a record that had created so much anxiety within the band, the final result connected more than ever with their fan base. They embarked on their biggest tour to date - stepping up one more level en route to stadium filling glory and recalled by Alan Wilder: "We went on a tour that just seemed to take off, particularly in America. It seemed to be where we stepped up a gear and went from playing smallish club venues through to quite big arenas. So, things moved very rapidly from that point onwards."

Away from the music, Dave Gahan had got married. Fletch and his girlfriend Grainne moved into a new flat in London, Alan lived a secretive and almost reclusive existence with girlfriend Jeri, also in London, whilst Martin had decided to come home to England after a few years in Germany. By the time Martin had come up with a fresh set of demos for a new album, Daniel Miller had decided he was too busy running Mute to get involved with any production work. The album also saw Fletch take more of a back seat with musical contributions, and instead became the band's representative in their business concerns.

Meanwhile, Depeche employed a new producer, Dave Bascombe, and in 1987 started work on "Music For The Masses". Given the success of "Black Celebration", was there an air of optimism for the new project? Alan Wilder: "I don't think we ever really could foresee what was happening with any of our records. We didn't know what would come from them. Martin and Fletch were always very pessimistic about what we were doing, saying 'we won't be able to do it we're doomed' that kind of thing. We would just put it out there, see what happened, go on tour and hoped that we'd do well."

Bascombe is hasty to expose the album's shortcomings, and with hindsight, his nature probably meant that "Music For The Masses" was the closest album that came to being self-produced.

Peaking at number 10, the album gave way to three more single releases, the most successful of those being "Strangelove" - the other 2 failed to breach the top 20. By now, Dave Gahan had become a father to his son Jack. But success at home was being eclipsed by what was happening elsewhere, especially in the US, where Depeche were about to take an even bigger step up the ladder. A gruelling tour began in October 1987, culminating with their 101st concert at the Pasadena Rose Bowl in front of 70,000 fans. As Alan explains, the logistics and scale of the event gave the group a sense of caution: "I remember being very apprehensive about it, worrying about all the different aspects of the show. The fact that on the entire tour we used one PA system but for this one special gig we were going to use something completely different. We had to hire in all kinds of extra lights and different people to do this that and the other. It was just a logistic exercise that we weren't really prepared for. I think everyone has said the same thing - we weren't able to enjoy the moment because we were just worrying about it too much. Nobody really enjoyed the gig and we didn't play particular well that night. It's only really when you look back and it's being captured on film and the sound has been tarted up a bit, that you realise what a big, special moment it was for us as a group. We should have just taken the time to enjoy it a bit more."

Daniel Miller: "First of all, the sheer scale of it, 70 000 people...I'd never been to any concert before with 70 000 people. Secondly, it wasn't just 70 000 people watching the concert it was 70 000 people participating in the concert, really responding. Everybody there was a fan, it wasn't 'lets go and have a look at this, see what's like it', there was 70 000 Depeche Mode fans there."

OMD were the support act on the American tour. Their vocalist and songwriter Andy McCluskey paid tribute to the way Depeche had conquered the US market: "They had built themselves up into this huge monstrous touring machine, particularly in America, with this massive, what they call, alternative following in America. You could sell a million and still be alternative in America. Here we were being paid 5 000 dollars a night to support them, which didn't even cover our costs. Playing sold out arenas and stadiums. A band that had started, because they heard our first single. We had to swallow our pride a bit on that one. But, I look at it and say 'they stuck to their guns and they delivered to an American audience something that the American audience wanted'".

One year after the release of "101" as a live double album, they consolidated their success by recruiting a new producer, Flood, and crafting a set that not only turned out to be the best selling album of their career, but also brought much satisfaction to the band.

Fletch explains: "We had these great songs but the single we wanted to release was 'Personal Jesus'. What we always try

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and do is think what is the best track. We were thinking why are we releasing this track, it's going to be a disaster. We're going to get in lots of trouble. We put it out six months before the album and it was still in the American charts when we released the next single. It's the biggest selling 12 inch in Warner Brothers history. That's more than Madonna or anyone like that. It's a phenomenal thing. Then we've got 'Enjoy The Silence' as well. That's one of most magical moments I've ever had in Depeche Mode. When we were in Denmark and we had this ballad called 'Enjoy The Silence' and we just decided to speed it up and then Martin put this riff in and within an hour, we knew we had a massive hit record. We asked Martin to give us demos in their most basic form and 'Enjoy The Silence' was very basic and it occurred to me that it could work brilliantly as an up tempo dance track. The others were a bit dubious but after a little persuasion they said 'why don't you and Flood put something together that you think will be appropriate for this track and we'll go away and then come back and play it to us when you're ready'. That's what we did with several tracks on that album. "

The atmosphere in the studio during the recording of "Violator" was upbeat, despite bouts of tension throughout some of the early sessions in Milan. As Alan Wilder recalls, Fletch was having a particularly bad time of things: "He sort of developed this depression which the rest of us became aware of gradually during some of that recording period and so we sent him home to get better, to get some help and advice. That kind of helped things in a way, because it meant we didn't have this distraction of somebody that was somewhere else, having a problem."



Tony Wood with Alan Wilder

The "Violator" album was a mammoth success and on the whole extremely well received, though a small campaigning lobby criticised the band's choice of title for the album, claiming it incited distasteful thoughts. Over in the states, as KROQ's Richard Blade remembers, the new album was an important and much awaited release - and the fans weren't to be disappointed: "'Violator', I think, was a breakthrough in the States because it really had a pop feel and it wasn't because Depeche Mode sold out, I think it was because everyone else brought in. Depeche Mode didn't change, they were always evolving. You listen to every Depeche Mode album and each one is a step ahead of the next. I think with 'Violator', what happened was,

America was ready for Depeche Mode, they were ready for 'Policy Of Truth' and 'Enjoy The Silence'. Absolutely brilliantly crafted songs."

The artwork and stage design for the "World Violation Tour", was undertaken by London based visual artist Anton Corbijn. They'd worked with Anton in the past - his first assignment had been to shoot the video for "A Question Of Time" back in 1986. Allowing Anton a free reign on all aspects of their image, he set about trying to update and eradicate the persona the band had projected from their early days as na'ive teenagers. Andy recalls: "You look at our whole career, you start from the beginning and start to move through it, it all starts to come together round about 'Black Celebration'. During 'Black Celebration' was when we first started to work with Anton Corbijn and before that as you can see from all our early videos and all our early photos, we didn't really have a control or have much on the visual side. We weren't happy, it was our fault you know. But from when Anton came in and took control over all our visuals and with our music getting better as well, it all seemed to come together."

Anton Corbijn: "This sounds very austere as they say on the continent, but I don't think there was so much of a Depeche Mode package before I got involved. There was nothing to grab on to. Of course, the music was there but I'm talking about the package. There wasn't really that. I think the music and visual became one when I got involved."

*(to be continued)*

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# CLASSIFIED

I have 6 DM LP's for sale. I'm really trying to get rid of them as I'm emigrating to Oz, so first come first serve. They're all in their original plastic covers and never been opened. You can contact me at this e-mail address: ric.garcia@hamilton.co.uk

Looking for the following CDs: "Everything Counts - Live" (LCDBong16), "Personal Jesus" (LCDBong17), "Enjoy The Silence" (LCDBong18; XLCD Bong18) and "World In My Eyes" (LCDBong20). Please contact: Edgars Zilitis, Lugazu 4-12, Riga, Latvia, LV-1045 or e-mail: edgar\_richard1@hotmail.com

Wanted: "The Singles 86>98" US 3cd pack, "The Singles 86>98" Triple Vinyl pack, The remixes CD (PLCD Mutel 1), 7" in red & green, 12" in coloured vinyl, DM live appearances from 86 and foreword on CD. "Black Celebration Tour" programme, Anthology lyric book, promo jackets from "The Singles 86>98" & "S.O.F.A.D." Please write to: Jan Jensen, Kuskevej 29, 9981 Jerup,

Denmark or e-mail at: jan.jensen@frederikshavn.peugeot.dk

I am looking for the DM live performance from Cologne, which was aired on MTV. If anyone has this item in good stereo quality in UK VHS format, please contact with price: Paul Milbourne, 43 Budleigh Crescent, Welling, Kent DA16 1DX, England.

For serious collectors: I am selling rare DM promos, records, T-shirts in mint condition and other interesting items. For a list, contact me at: shine-forme@gmx.de or Sebastian Sinterhauf, Magdeburger Pl. 2, 10785 Berlin, Germany.

I am looking for old calendars, books, articles, videos and anything else on Depeche Mode. Please, if you can help me, wherever you are, send your list and price to: Susy Barona, Via Valeriana 89, 23015 Dubino, Sondrio, Italy.

For sale: Sounds music paper featuring Depeche Mode's first press interview

+ review of the first single "Dreaming Of Me" + large review of "Some Bizzare Album" dated back in January 1981. Drop me a note at: Tim Learner, 125 Bridge Street, Belper, Derbyshire DE56 1BA, England.

Is there anyone who would like to swap DM videos? I am interested in live performances and can offer some early DM material like DM on concert back in 1981 taken from the program "Off The Record". I am especially interested in DM live in Cologne from 1998 or other earlier stuff. E-mail Daniel at: neutrum44@hotmail.com

*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 CANNOT accept any advertisements for bootleg records, CDs, tapes, videos, etc.*

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## CONTACTS

Come and join  
**The 5th Annual Los Angeles  
Unofficial Depeche Mode  
Convention**

Sunday, September 23rd, 2001.

The Palace,  
Hollywood, Los Angeles, California  
6pm to midnight  
Tickets are \$20.00

For tickets and/or information go to  
[www.depechemode.com](http://www.depechemode.com)

MESH fan with Oxford accent, I hope that you spilled enough of your pint to remember talking to me at "The Garage", Highbury Corner on 9th June. Sorry to rush off at the end but I had to catch my train. If you are still interested in meeting up for DM @ Wembley, Birmingham or even before then, please email me: christian.harris@vega.co.uk

Hello to all the fans I've been in contact with over the last decades or so - there are so many! Arne - look forward to seeing Depeche Mode with you in October, Morena - I'll write soon, I promise!, Norbert - it's been a long time and I would like to get back in contact! and so many others - you know who you are!! Gavin Dwyer, Australia.

Hoping to contact Graeme A'Court from Northumberland! I found a box of DM things, which I had forgotten about and while looking through it I found the letters you sent me during 1993/94. I read them again, and thought how wonderful it would be to find out how you are now. Your letters meant so much to me back then - that's probably why I still have them. If you see this, contact me! Anne, 35a High Street, Barkingside, Ilford, Essex, England.

**Are you the lucky winner?!?**

If you entered the Competition Time Again of Bong 48 and sent us the correct number code of the photos from the "Dream On" video which should have read: 654123, then you could be one of three lucky winners we picked in random out of hundreds we received... A copy of "Dream On" promo CD goes to: Victoria Jameson, Quebec, Canada; Maria Roncone, Milan, Italy and Stephen Barron, Nottingham, UK. Congratulations!

*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".*

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# BLASPHEMOUS RUMOURS

## Exciter

"Although they integrate guitars and orchestrations with greater finesse, the skeletal arrangements leave Gahan no harmonic place to hide, no singalong choruses to coast. Lips pressed against the mike, the rehabbed frontman turns in his most physically intimate, emotionally masterful performances on unearthly ballads like 'When The Body Speaks'. Yet he also proves himself capable of summoning bygone sleaze on the album's hilariously sullied, sole industrial jam, 'The Dead Of Night'. And on one of Gore's vocal cameos, 'Breathe', his wounded choirboy tenor sounds grandly operatic in the Scott Walker lounge-troubadour tradition."

**Barry Walters, Rolling Stone**  
(June 7, 2001)

*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.*

## I Feel Loved

"Doom-laden techno pop that could almost be Frankie Goes To Hollywood if it wasn't for Dave Gahan's highly distinctive vocal and Martin Gore's soul-wrenching lyrics. Very fine."

**John Coleman, What's On**  
(July 25, 2001)

## I Feel Loved

"Not since the Mode's early days in the Human League - before one faction left to form Erasure, the other to form Alison Moyet - has this band been so melancholily joyous. Spooky, but springy enough to cheer me even in my most sad-sack, nobody-wants-to-publish-my-novel-about-what-if-Jesus-came-back-as-a-grunge-rock-star moments."

**Time Out**  
(July 25, 2001)

## Exciter

"The club-scene-inspired 'I Feel Loved' is also a pleasant surprise, as is the Twin Peaks-like 'Breathe'. We're also pleased to report that the band hasn't deserted its roots: 'Dead Of Night' is bound to become a live anthem, a snake-hipped tribute to Bowie's Diamond Dogs. Long-time fans will be pleased."

**World Of Wrestling**  
(August 2001)

## I Feel Loved

"A meeting of minds or is it just Danny Tenaglia engaging in his remix fantasy by doing The Mode? Any notion of that is quashed on hearing this light, airy tribal tune. Huge deep bass synths squelch over a thousand ideas and sounds, as Dave Gahan's fey vocals sit on top, as if DT and DM were made for each other. Perhaps they were."

**Ministry**  
(August 2001)

## Exciter

"For the most part, Depeche Mode once again strike a confident balance between moving and often incredibly personal lyrics, with infectious melodies and electronic sounds. There are few bands who can do this as confidently as Depeche Mode, and not many from their generation who could have crossed the millennium mark. While it may not be as awesomely mind-blowing as their biggest album 'Violator', 'Exciter' will certainly not leave fans disappointed."

**Danny Corvini, Sydney Star Observer**  
(June 7, 2001)



**I Feel Loved**

"The opening notes of this complex single suggest Madonna in her 'Justify My Love' period and Dave Gahan's breathless, detached vocals are strangely reminiscent of that. Gahan states 'I Feel Loved' with all the enthusiasm of a turkey at Christmas, suggesting that this is an unfamiliar, even unpleasant, feeling for him. It's Donna Summer without the joy."

**The Sunday Express**  
(July 29, 2001)

**Exciter**

"It's interesting to compare 'Exciter' with REM's 'Reveal'. Both bands have clocked up two decades in the business and have proven themselves capable of extraordinary work. But if this was a championship bout to decide who still had the edge, the three count would definitely go to Depeche Mode. This is a great album."

**World Of Wrestling**  
(August 2001)

**Exciter**

"If another song on this had 'love' in the title - 'Freelove', 'Lovetheme', 'I Feel Loved', 'Goodnight Lovers' - I'd scream. Sure, on 'Exciter' DM is still playing spanking games in moonlit graveyards, but the servings here are too slickly produced to get me to grab my paddle and join in. The Goth-metal-industrial clatter on 'The Dead Of Night' stinks like someone spilled acid on Martin Gore's hands and his fingers melted to the keyboard."

**Gigi Guerra, Jane**  
(May 2001)

**I Feel Loved**

"'I Feel Loved' sounds as chunky, dark and full of syncopated goodness as this band has ever delivered. Imagine a fevered sermon delivered by a questionable high priest, whilst about him worshippers of the faith pogo around to a laser light show, and you're there."

**Living Abroad Magazine**  
(July 23, 2001)

**I Feel Loved**

"I've never been keen to review pop artists in this column, even if the remixer is house music's top boy. To break that golden rule it has to be something absolutely special. This - thanks to Danny Tenaglia - is just that. The white pop vocal sounds soulfully angsty, the rhythm's perfect and the mix has more turns than Michael Barrymore's career. Wonderful."

**Terry Farley, Muzik**  
(August 2001)

**I Feel Loved**

"No longer fucked-up, paranoid, rock electronica. Not now that Tenaglia has seasoned it with tribal grooves."

**Ministry**  
(August 2001)

**A Solo Album**

"I'd love to duet with PJ Harvey on the album. I know Nick Cave has already worked with her but she's got such a distinctive voice. I'd also like to work with Bjork. She's a real talent."

**Dave Gahan,**  
[www.ananova.com](http://www.ananova.com)  
(July 27, 2001)

**I Feel Loved**

"A brilliant funk-ed-up track from this massive-selling band. They were big-hitters in the 80's and 90's and look set to be as successful in the new century if this latest wonder is anything to go by."

**Daily Star**  
(July 30, 2001)

**I Feel Loved**

"'I Feel Loved' is hardly a new direction, but it's easily some of their most creditable work of modern times - a Soho Saturday night on the dance floor and a Sunday morning hangover cure all rolled into one."

[www.whereitsat.com](http://www.whereitsat.com)  
(August 2001)



Scan by Maudy



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# ON ROAD **with**

## DEPECHE

## MODE

### ① Toronto, Canada (June 16)

I just attended the Molson Amphitheatre show two nights ago. It was simply...one of a kind. I enjoyed every second of it. However, for some reason the media in Toronto rated the show as average which is really strange and inexplicable to me. What D.M. gave Toronto last Saturday was amazing and I will never forget it. **Hinko D., Toronto, Canada**

### ② Chicago, USA (June 22)

The band performed with such enthusiasm and content. I feel they performed MUCH better than "The Singles Tour". Every song was filled with passion during the performance. You could tell they were truly enjoying themselves onstage. For me, highlights of the show included the backing video screens for "It's No Good". I honestly did not know if I should watch the video or watch the band and could not keep my eyes on both! Another highlight was a different version of "Enjoy The Silence" that they did. It was simply breathtaking!! Of course, the final breathtaking instance was closing with "Never Let Me Down Again" and looking back towards the crowd and seeing everyone's arms waving in unison! I was able to see it from the band's perspective and it was absolutely chilling! The wave of arms seemed to go on for eternity and you could not see an end to it within the crowd. It was amazingly great! It was great to see Dave, Mart, and Fletch all in such great health and looking happy to perform! The concert was truly a magical experience for me! **Laura Iwanenko, Hickory Hills, USA**

### ③ Detroit, USA (June 23)

Detroit City. home to Motown Records and the purveyor of Mr Ford's motor vehicles. The Exciter tour is well underway and tonight we're at the DTE Energy Centre just outside Detroit. The first thing that strikes me as I stroll through the massive woodland car park is that tonight's show

Photo by Robin Francois



isn't going to be your usual DM affair. As Bong's erstwhile reporter on the spot, I speak to as many fans and punters as I can - getting a feel for tonight's crowd and their expectations for the gig. I have to say it's a very weird selection of people tonight, there's the hardcore devotees, families with kids, college boys and girls barbequing food from stoves in the backs of their trucks and cars. "Dream On" has been getting masses of airplay out here and the show has been sold out for quite some time. It's interesting to see that a new breed of devotees have found the allure of Depeche through the strength of the single. As we found our seats, the sun began to set over the trees and "Easy Tiger" purred from the PA, it was a great shame that at this point, not everyone was in their seats - as the pizza and burger outlets were proving to be too much of a distraction. For the rest of the crowd, anticipation was set for warp factor 10 in preparation for the Basildon 3. As the music faded, Martin, Fletch, Christian Eigner and Jonathan Creek lookalike Peter Gordeno strode onto the stage. People then start galloping back to their seats and an acoustic riff of "Dream On" is kicked into touch building the tension for Mr G's entrance. The Add N to X style intro of "Dead Of Night" fires up, then everyone's favourite frontman appears in his pinstripe suit...and Detroit goes totally mental. The last time I saw the band was in New York for "The Singles Tour" and it's good to see Dave looking so fit and lean, not to mention sounding even better than ever. Martin looks good too in his silver top and white trousers, being more than usually animated. Next up is the "Sweetest Condition", and Dave



Pete in Detroit

goes into mic stand twirling overload, sweating buckets. The whole of "Exciter" gets a really good airing tonight with "Dream On", "Breathe", "Freelove" and "When The Body Speaks". Old school Devotees will be pleased to see and hear classics stretching back to "Black Celebration". "Halo" is the first classic tonight and even though it's been tweaked a little, it sounds excellent. The whole band looks comfortable and relaxed. "Walking In My Shoes" does the business as it should, the crowd is really into it and it gets a huge response. The dichotomy that exists here tonight is that many of the crowd are seeing Depeche for the first time, and unknowingly they're being won over - going from polite claps and cheers to full-on whooping and



hollering. It's really good to see. "Dream On" is another popular crowd pleaser tonight, it seems the majority of Michigan knows the words, but the amount of airplay it's been getting out here, it's not surprising. Dave points the mic into the crowd for the chorus and my doubts about this being a run of the mill gig fade away, as everyone (albeit not in tune) sings "Can you feel a little love" ...even I'm starting too!!! A real surprise/highlight happens next as the backdrop turns to raindrops and the melancholy intro of "Waiting For The Night" starts. Again it's been tweaked slightly but I've never heard it live. I imagine the live harmonies for Martin & Dave could present a bit of a challenge for this song, but it sounded just like it should and I'm really impressed, totally ace. At this point in the proceedings I can go home a happy man but there's more to come. Everyone exits apart from Martin & Peter and they do the "Bottom Line" as you've never heard it before - country version to a backdrop of the Arizona desert from "Dawn Till Dusk". I am, once again, really impressed - it sounded so good. "Breathe" is next and even though I'm not a huge fan of this song, it did sound much better live - so credit where it's due. "Enjoy The Silence" gets the second biggest response of the night, and everyone is going mental and singing out loud. The whole band are wearing huge smiles, they're clearly really enjoying themselves. "I Feel You" is as powerful as ever, sounding even better with the lovely Georgia and Jordan working their gospel charms into this classic. More so with "It's No Good" - Jordan's solo performance at the end of this song is top stuff. Aretha Franklin, eat your heart out! "Personal Jesus" provides the only Spinal Tap moment of the night when some idiot throws his drink and container onto the stage. A member of the crew who we'll call Shiny Mc Shine, comes on to mop up around Dave's feet and does an outstanding job (not only mopping the whole stage but Dave's shoes as well!!!). Nice one Shiny - my wife wants to know if you can come round and do our windows when the tour finishes - if your free, thanks!! And so, after a brief "Thank you & goodnight", the band exit the stage and everyone stamps and cheers for an encore or three, they were not to be disappointed. Martin's third solo effort tonight is the torch song classic of "Home". I look over my shoulder, see the moon hanging in crescent over the venue and couples with their arms round each other having a cuddle - just as I'm thinking "ahh, that's nice", my wife grabs me and I'm forced to endure the rest of the song in a headlock! Dave runs back out and does one of his favourites "Clean". This is another song I haven't heard live for ages and although it's not a sing-along song, it remains one of my favourites of the gig, powerful stuff. At this point in time I was wondering what could be coming next "Everything Counts" or "Useless"? - no, no and thrice no my friends,



## Scan by Maudy

the masterpiece that's "Black Celebration". I totally wasn't expecting this, matched with the hypnotic Anton Corbijn backdrop, it sounded truly awesome to hear again after such a long time. All good things have to come to an end and tonight's show is no exception, but it ended in style with "Never Let me Down" - you can't really go wrong with that, can you? This provokes the biggest response of the night with the crowd and Bandalike. Martin starts jumping up and down like a mad thing and everyone joins in - with their arms in the air, encouraged by Dave. Totally excellent and a real crowd-pleaser. All in all the gig was remarkable in the fact that many of the crowd had gone to see a band and be entertained on the premise of one or two songs - but came away impressed and bowled over by how excellent the Depeche live experience can be. The boys did good!!! A massive, massive thank you to Steve, Lisa, Chelsea, Britney, Pinny, Law, Lisa & Lisa. Also the really nice girl I spoke to back stage, who'd driven from Wisconsin for the gig (sorry I've lost my note book with your name on it) & Paul for being such a character/pain in the backside (that's the end of that chapter)! **Pete Skinner, London, England**

### ④ Cleveland, USA (June 24)

I am a big fan of Depeche Mode and I just recently went to one of their concerts in Cleveland, OH. That was the first and only concert I've been to before and I have to say that was the best day of my life. I wish that I could have been closer to the band (especially David) because they are so great...but as long as I was there, I guess that's great! I just really wanna thank the band and tour set up people for giving me the best day of my life!

**Christy B. Fostoria, OH, USA**

### ⑤ New York, USA (June 27)

About 20 of us made it across the Atlantic on Air India flight 101 to witness Depeche Mode at their best. The band had had a series of unfavourable reviews after playing outdoors in Detroit to an audience made up of families who came with their barbecues and picnic hampers for a Sunday afternoon out. We were all apprehensive, but thankfully Madison Square Garden was packed with Devotees, and we were treated to a top show. At 9 pm the lights went out and we ran down to the front barrier with our English flag. There was a rush of excitement as everyone recognised the opening notes of "Easy Tiger". "Dead Of Night" and "Sweetest Condition" set the atmosphere for the rest of the show. The emphasis of the "Exciter Tour" is very much on the musicians working together as a band. Martin played guitar for almost the entire show, Christian's drumming brought real energy to the songs and Dave put a real effort into the quality of his singing. "Halo" was the first real kick-arse song of the night... everybody started jumping up and down.. and despite some poor reviews, this was the proof that Mode hadn't lost it! "Walking In My Shoes" followed - another great performance with a dramatic ending. "Dream On" may not be the most outstanding single, but the live extended version really rocks. Dave did his

spinning microphone stand antics, and you could almost imagine you were back at an 80's Mode gig! However, not wanting us to peak too early, the pace of the show was brought down for the next 5 songs. Dave and Martin came forward to perform an almost acoustic version of "When The Body Speaks" while the rest of the band sat at the back of the stage and watched with admiration as Dave sang one of his best vocals all night. This was followed by "Waiting For The Night". Yee Hah!! It's Mart's big moment, and we get a country 'n' western rendition of "The Bottom Line". The crowd love it and clap along. Who would have thought it? On the second night this has been substituted with an acoustic (piano/vocal) version of "Surrender". The rest of the band took up their positions to perform "Breathe". Martin launches into it, and has already reached the chorus. The powerful drums and slide bass have transformed this album ballad into a rock monster, and Martin is milking this opportunity to really let his hair down and enjoy himself. Gone is the old shy Gore... this man is walking in Dave's shoes... And now for something completely different. "Freelove". Dave comes back on, and flirts with the backing singers, Georgia & Jordan. This song has so much soul, and at the end we are all encouraged to sing along. Can this really be Depeche Mode? Luckily 20,000 people knew the correct words to "Enjoy The Silence" and managed to help Dave out when he got confused and began the song by singing the second verse. Nobody cared though, it was as brilliant as ever, with

yet another new variation in the middle. "I Feel You" was moodier and heavier than we have ever heard it before. Dave even falls down dead in the middle of it so we can then witness a resurrection. Very rock and roll... Anton Corbijn shows off his sense of humour with a hilarious re-make of the film "Jaws" as a projection during "In Your Room". Surreal! The comedy continues in a Depeche Soap Opera projection during "It's No Good". It's new, but already an old favourite. The extended live version of "I Feel Loved" gets even the laziest of American concert goers off their backsides and dancing in the aisles! The band are enjoying this one, and their smiles are infectious as 20,000 happy fans feel loved. Perhaps this should be called "I Feel Loved Up"! Dave is beaming, and gives his son Jimmy (who is in the audience) a mention, before dedicating "Personal Jesus" to him. The usual euphoria. Everyone is ecstatic. Martin comes on to do "Home" as an encore - such sweet perfection! Then time to please the hard core fans, Martin hides behind his keyboard and Dave returns to give an emotional performance of "Clean". This is your real gritty Depeche Mode and we love it! Remember all those tinkly bits on "Black Celebration" that Alan Wilder demonstrated on the "101" video? Forget them! This is "Black Celebration 2001" - big fat deep synths, great visuals and mean drums. It's slower and moodier, and it works! Time for the grand finale - "Never Let Me Down Again". We've all heard it a million times before - but this time it's bigger, (about 9 minutes worth!) better and rockier than ever. Apparently at previous concerts Dave had to explain to his audience that they should be waving their arms at this point. Luckily there were 20,000 fans at Madison Square Garden who already knew exactly what to do, and they were doing it!! **Alan Morgan, Herts, UK**



Alan in New York

Alan Morgan, Herts, UK



**⑥ Tampa, USA (July 8)**

The opening act, Poe, surprised me. She was impressive - very nice looking, great voice, good presence, friendly with the audience (she was actually IN the audience for a short time). The one song I wasn't too impressed with - I am not into anger really - but otherwise she was great. During this time, I was seated on the aisle alone (I had to come alone). This couple sat next to me, and said that I must be a big fan, because I trekked out alone. The lady then said that I wasn't alone, I was with them. How nice. I was also looking around, and it surprised me that the crowd was so eclectic. You had the "black dressers", you know, with the black lipstick, pink or green hair, piercings, etc. You had some stylin' people, dressed in sequins and knee boots, there were teenagers, and people that seemed in their 40's, people dressed like nerds, and joe/jane averages like myself, fat and thin, drunk, sober and other. I also belong in the categories of fat, old (34), and sober. When DM came out, the crowd went nuts, including me. Our world was righted for a few short hours. Andy was his usual in the background self, Martin was his not-so-in-the-background self - he had all white on (he shined), with feathers, and a belt that had "Exciter" on the back, but then he turned around, and on his pants, very carefully placed near, ahem, you know, was "Exciter" written across his mid-section, daring and cocky, but that is what we like about him, and Dave was shimmering in blue, and looking great. I cannot even remember what order the songs came in, I was looking at the floor show. After the first song, Dave took off his vest, then after the second song, he unbuttoned his shirt, then after song number three, he opened said shirt and took it off, and I spent the fourth song wondering if he would keep going (but remembered that it would be against the law - rats!!!). His pants were low enough that you could see his hipbones, and he touched himself enough that you looked, and then looked again. The front part of the concert was mostly "Exciter" stuff. Dave was very energetic, whew, he can whip me around like he did that microphone stand anytime... Martin sang "Breathe", which is my personal favourite, what a wonderful voice he has, and what hair!! Dave did make one mistake on "Freelove", mixing up the order of "no hidden catch, no strings attached", but hey, I'll bet everyone has done that in the privacy of his/her own home. Then they started in on old favourites, and the crowd was out of its collective minds. "Enjoy The Silence", "Black Celebration", "In Your Room", there were more, but my brains are enjoyably fried, so I won't try to remember them all. Dave got a breather or two, he held that microphone stand out, and you could hear "all I ever wanted, all I ever needed is here, in my arms, words are very unnecessary, they could only do harm" perfectly sung by the audience...it was magic. I particularly liked the way that they used lighting, texture and shadow to create patterns and larger-than-life images of themselves onstage. It set the mood for each song, be it red and depressing to gently lit, almost festive, to stark, glaring white light to emphasise the harsher tunes. I knew before I went that it was Andy's birthday (I do not know why I knew, I can't even remember my own name sometimes), and I tried to yell it to him, but there of course was no way he could hear me, and I forgot to make a sign. On the first encore, I was glad to hear

Dave mention Andy's birthday, and he asked us to sing. Andy covered himself with his shirt, but then he came out and let us celebrate his birthday with him, he came to the forefront so we could laud him, then he got back behind his keyboard and was his usual self again. I felt privileged to have been there for his birthday, I also wondered if he celebrated it with his family, and where did he go, what did he do (or not). The lady sitting next to me wondered, after the second encore and people were starting to file out some, if they were going to leave without singing "People Are People". I told her that I didn't think they would sing it, as it is not a song that the band likes, and if the house lights came on, that was it, and as soon as that came out of my mouth, on came the house lights (isn't it ironic?). I don't know if she was disappointed or not, but I sure wasn't. The time did fly by, though. I saw Depeche Mode, and it was great - now I can die happy... **Sandra Pittman, Largo, USA**

**⑦ Seattle, USA (July 29)**

One thing different in the show that night was that there were no projections. It was a bit too windy for the screen to be up, so we decided not to have it all. It was quite odd at first, but then it was kind of cool to see just the guys performing. At times you get distracted by the screen and forget there are people on the stage. It was also cool because all you could see was the mountains behind the band - SO pretty, it almost didn't look real. After the show, we had a great time down at the hotel bar with Martin entertaining us with his beautiful voice. There was a man at the bar that turned out to be a piano genius, so him and Martin became the best of pals and showed off for us the whole night. Martin even sang some Elvis to my mother - she was in heaven! **Nichelle Carlson (publicity manager on tour), www.depechemode.com**

**⑧ Santa Barbara, USA (August 5)**

The show started off rather early, due to the many curfews imposed on the venue (one of which was, sadly, a low sound level). It was odd seeing DM come on stage with the sun still out. Probably the absolute lowlight of the tour so far, for me, was during "Dream On", when some ass in the front pit decided to shower David with his beverage - twice! People...if you see a band member come to the front of the stage, and they look a bit sweaty, this is not a cue to shower them with unsolicited mystery liquids! They have fans on stage, and water bottles all around the stage. Suffice it to say that the unwanted drenching pissed David off and he almost speared the guy with his mic stand - thank God he didn't). After security dragged the loser's ass out of the pit (to the chanting of "kick him out" from the crowd, and a "thanks a lot dickhead" greeting from David), the show went on. A few songs later, David came back out to the same area of the crowd, and was "high flving" people and shaking hands, making up for the earlier show interruption. The performance highlight was when Martin came back out after his earlier performance of "Sister Of Night" to sing "Home", he said "this is home" (meaning his new hometown, not necessarily the song title). The lyrics took a new meaning with that. **BRAT (the webmaster), www.depechemode.com**

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# BOOTLEGS & DJ MIXES

**Martin L. Gore - Cologne, Hyatt Hotel Bar, 7.5.1997**

**Format: CD**

**Origin: Unknown**

This highly entertaining bootleg consists of Martin, seated at the piano, regaling some Depeche Mode fans with ad hoc renditions of popular pop tunes, ranging from Elvis to Oasis. The CD captures much of the intimate atmosphere of the evening, not to mention lots of slurred background conversations, the sound of cutlery and glasses being cleared away and people falling over drunkenly and fighting. Martin's performance is accomplished throughout, particularly on the songs where he knows the correct chords and more than a couple lines of the lyrics. He is joined, usually two bars into the chorus of each track, by half-a-dozen other male vocalists, some of whom are singing the same song. The music is a stripped down affair consisting of piano and sporadic hand clapping, and is interspersed with the sound of drunken people. The CD which is, unfortunately, not of the highest audio fidelity - reaches a rousing climax with perhaps the definitive rendition of "A Question Of Lust". The tracklisting is as follows: 1. "When The Night Is Cold", 2. "And She Touched Me", 3. "Ruby Tuesday", 4. "Crying In The Chapel", 5. "In The Ghetto", 6. "I Love You Too Much Baby", 7. "Here She Comes", 8. "The People Stare", 9. "Rock And Roll Suicide", 10. "Stoned Love", 11. "My Funny Valentine", 12. "Electricity", 13. "Coming Back To You", 14. "Light My Fire", 15. "Love Is In The Air", 16. "Wonderwall", 17. "Listen To It", 18. "Sometimes", 19. "I Heard It Through The Grapevine", 20. "A Question Of Lust".

**Jonny Morris**

**London, England**

**Exciter**

**Format: CD**

**Origin: Bulgaria**

I am writing to tell you one horribly wonderful thing. You would not believe it but "Exciter" has been on sale in

Russia since the end of March. It is, of course, a pirate copy with the original lettering but the cover features the same photo as the front page of Bong 47. I have asked the shop assistant where the CD comes from and he told me that the Bulgarian pirates had found it somewhere on the Internet and didn't lose a chance! So the Russian fans, not only in Moscow but in almost every big provincial city, could enjoy the new CD over a month earlier than the rest of the world. It is awful but who could resist the temptation to listen to the new terrific CD of their fave band before it is officially released?

**Denis Tsegelnik**

**Russia**

**Ultra Rare Trax - Millennium Remixes**

**Format: CD**

**Origin: USA**

Although this CD appears under the title "Millennium Remixes", it is in fact the successor of the "Ultra Rare Trax" series, this being its sixth part. Like "Ultra Rare Trax 5", the "Millennium Remixes" offer great sound quality (unlike the first four CDs), but once again fail to deliver a strong compilation a true Devotee's ear would deserve. There are some cool tracks on the CD such as "Useless" (ORG Mix), "Lie To Me" (ORG Mix) and "I Sometimes Wish I Was Dead" (Big Beat Mix), but the inclusion of the five demos is a pointless move since they are not digitally remastered as stated, and are only "fillers" taken from the 2CD set entitled "Demos, rough mixes and studio out takes" instead. The CD is, in my opinion, worth \$25 only for those few good tracks. The tracklisting includes: "World In My Eyes" (Distortion Remix), "Stripped" (Tricky Per Mix), "Waiting For The Night" (Sonic Integration Remix), "Barrel Of A Gun" (Tiny Edit), "Shake The Disease" (Buds Ambient Mix), "Only When I Lose Myself" (Crayfish In Burgundy Remix), "Rush" (Black Sun Mix), "Useless" (ORG Mix), "Lie To Me" (ORG Mix), "I Sometimes Wish I Was Dead" (Big Beat Mix), "Master And Servant"

(Modeness Mix), "Enjoy The Silence" (M.L. Gore Vocal Demo Version), "Sibeling" (Demo Version), "Memphisto" (Demo Version), "Postule" (Unreleased Instrumental Demo Version), "Introduce #3" (Demo Version).

**Petko Pavlicic**

**St. Catharines, Canada**

**The Niagara Radiostation Mix**

**Format: CD**

**Origin: Germany**

The tracklisting of this CD compilation includes: "Celebration Mix", "A Question Of Time" (Timeless Mix), "Instrumental Dance Version", "Route 66" (Rubble Dubble Mix), "Set Me Free" (US Radio Mix), "Nothing" (Dallas Raw Mix), "Behind The Wheel" (Boston Mix), "The Official Mega Mix", "World In My Eyes" (Dreamtime Mix), "It's Called A Heart" (Self-made Mix and Remix). The remixes are only a medium quality. The "World In My Eyes" version is in fact the same as Razormaid and the CD also features "Sea Of Sin" which doesn't say on the booklet.

**Strangemix/Photogenic Remix/Deathwish Remix**

**Format: 12"**

**Origin: USA**

This 12" is so good I would compare it to the quality of On-U-Sound tracks. The "Strangemix" is an excellent piece. "Photogenic" is a long version of "Photographic" and "Deathwish" is an extended mix of the original track "I Sometimes Wish I Was Dead". If you see this vinyl, don't wait and buy it.

**Marie Regis**

**Gauchy, France**

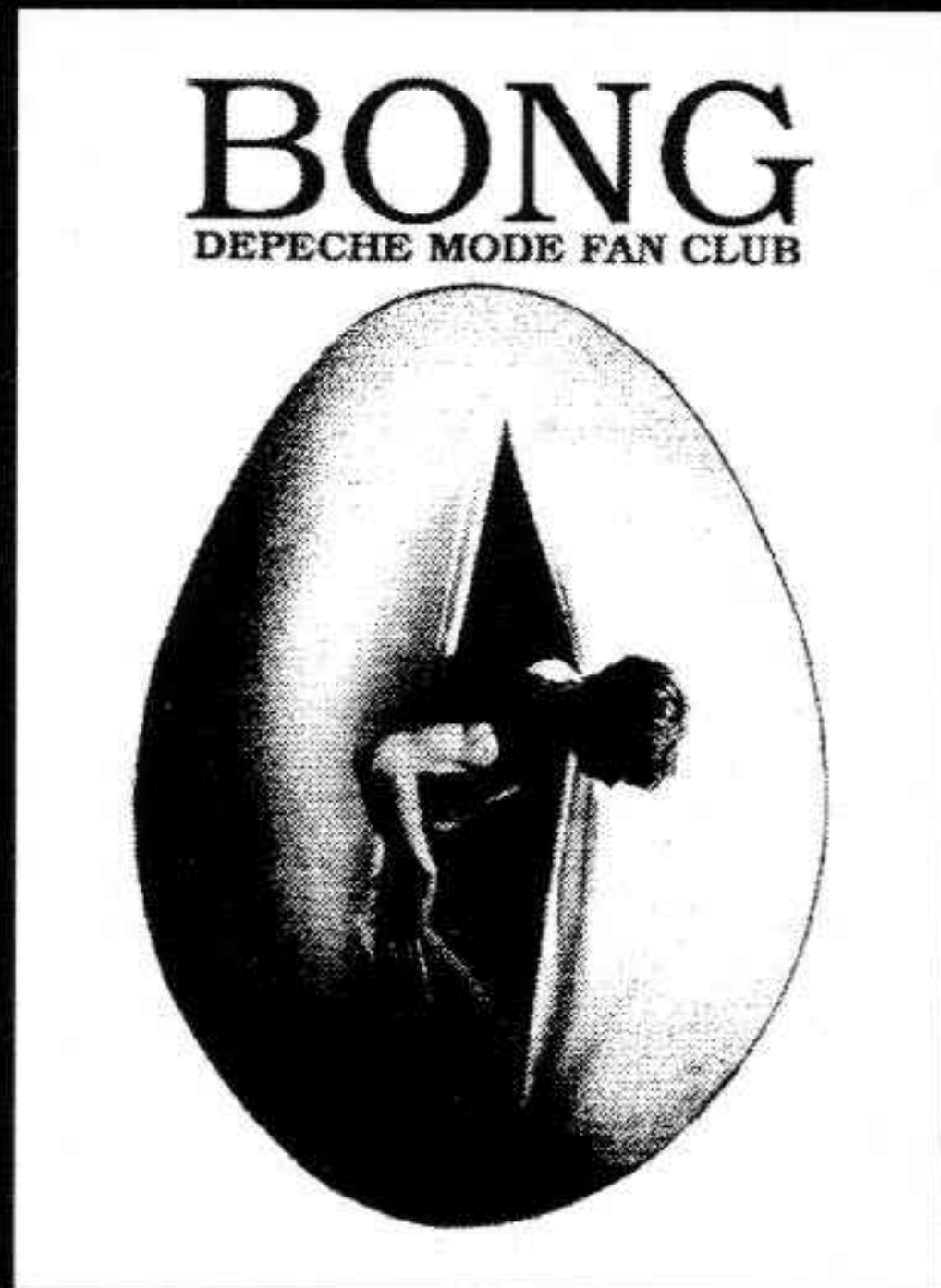
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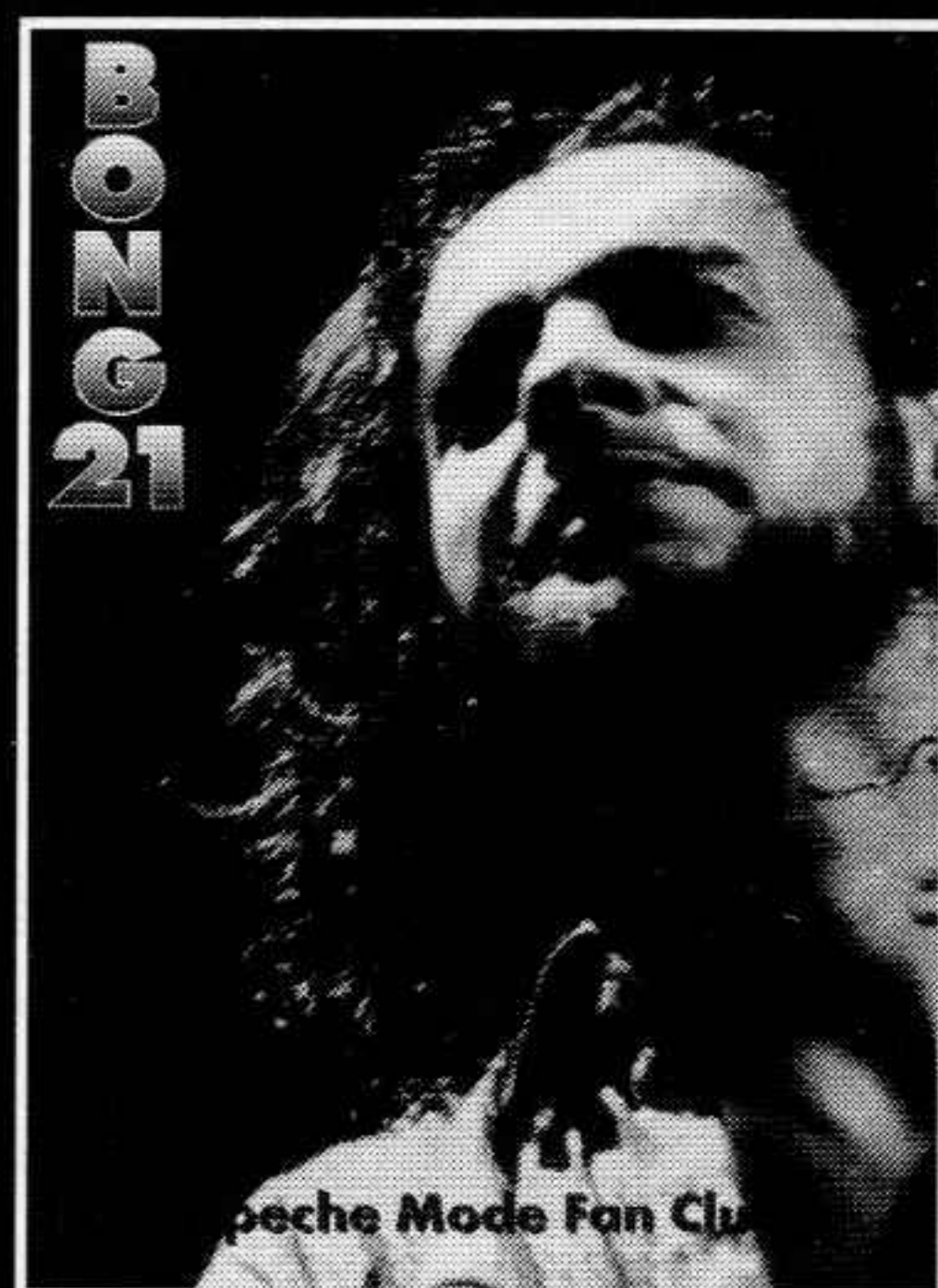
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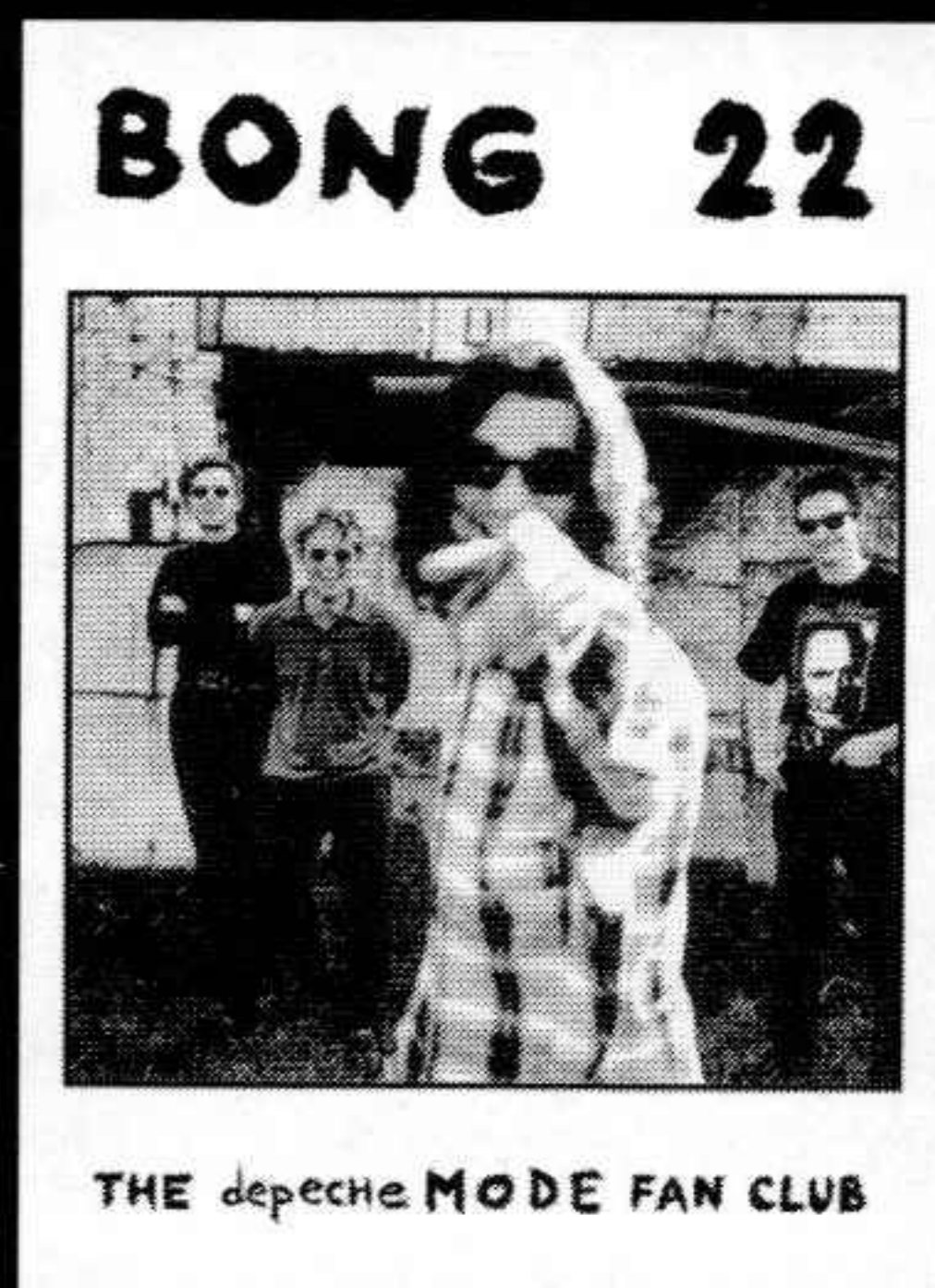
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**BONG 22**



**A4, colour**

**BONG 35**



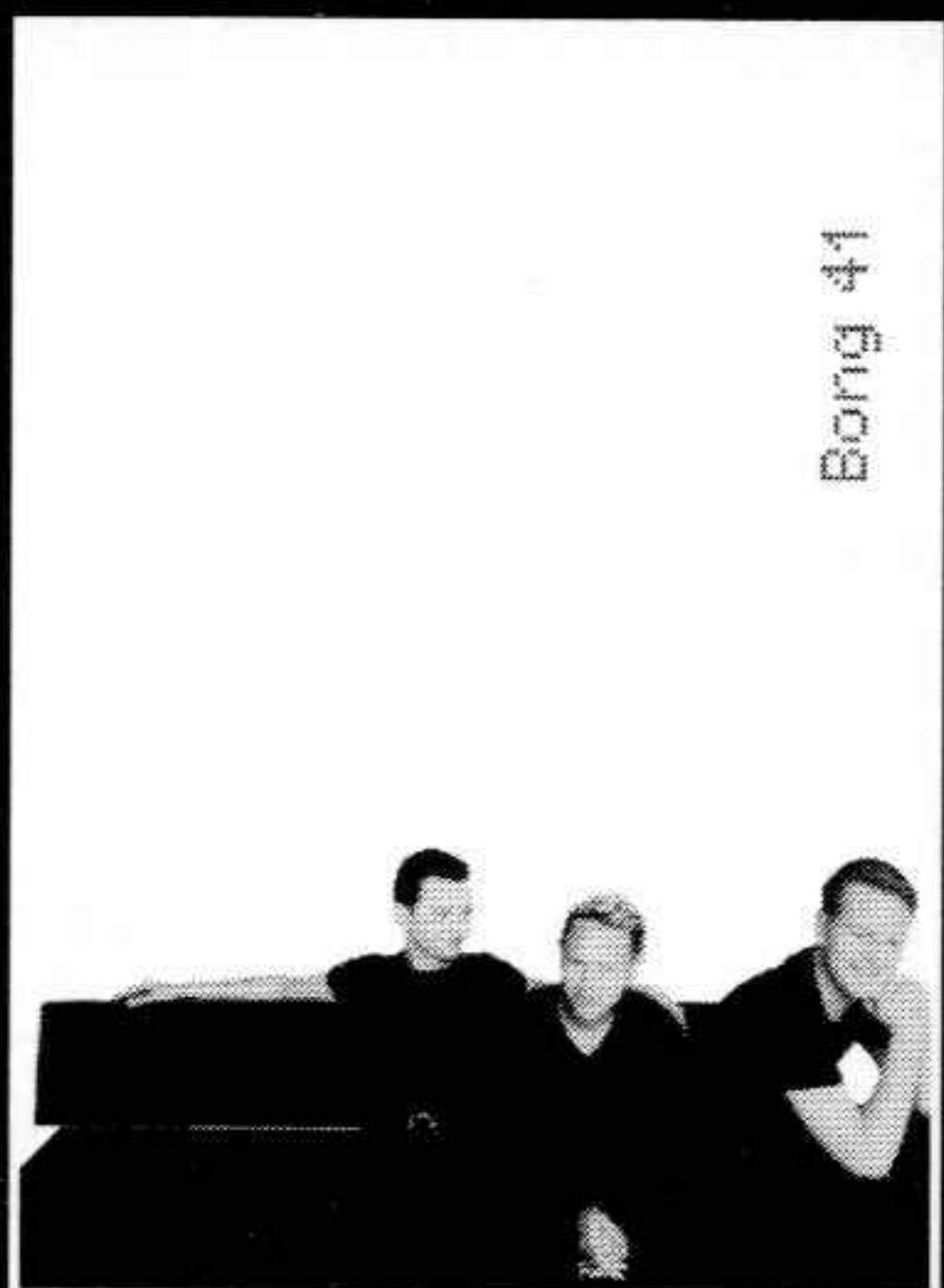
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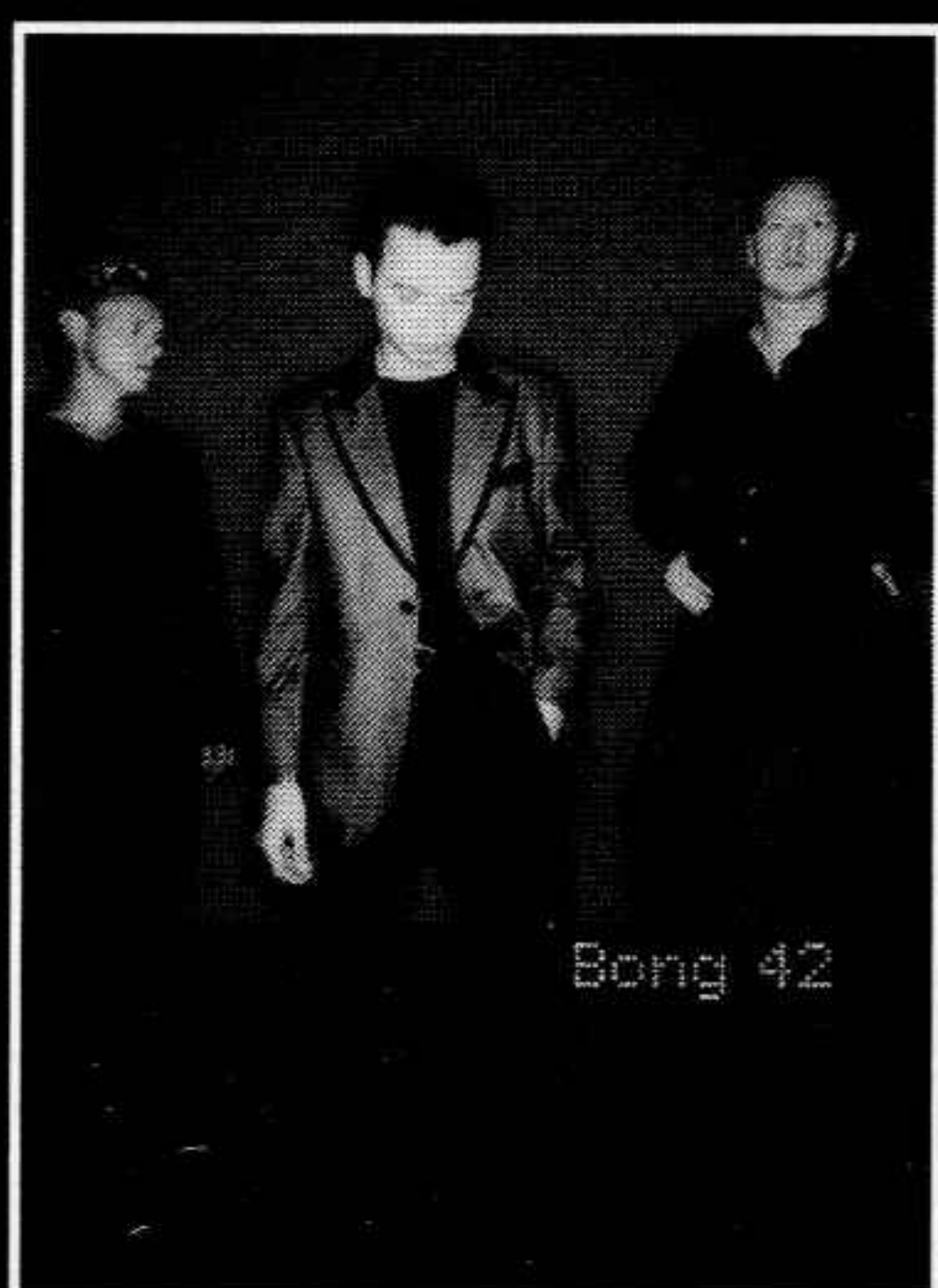
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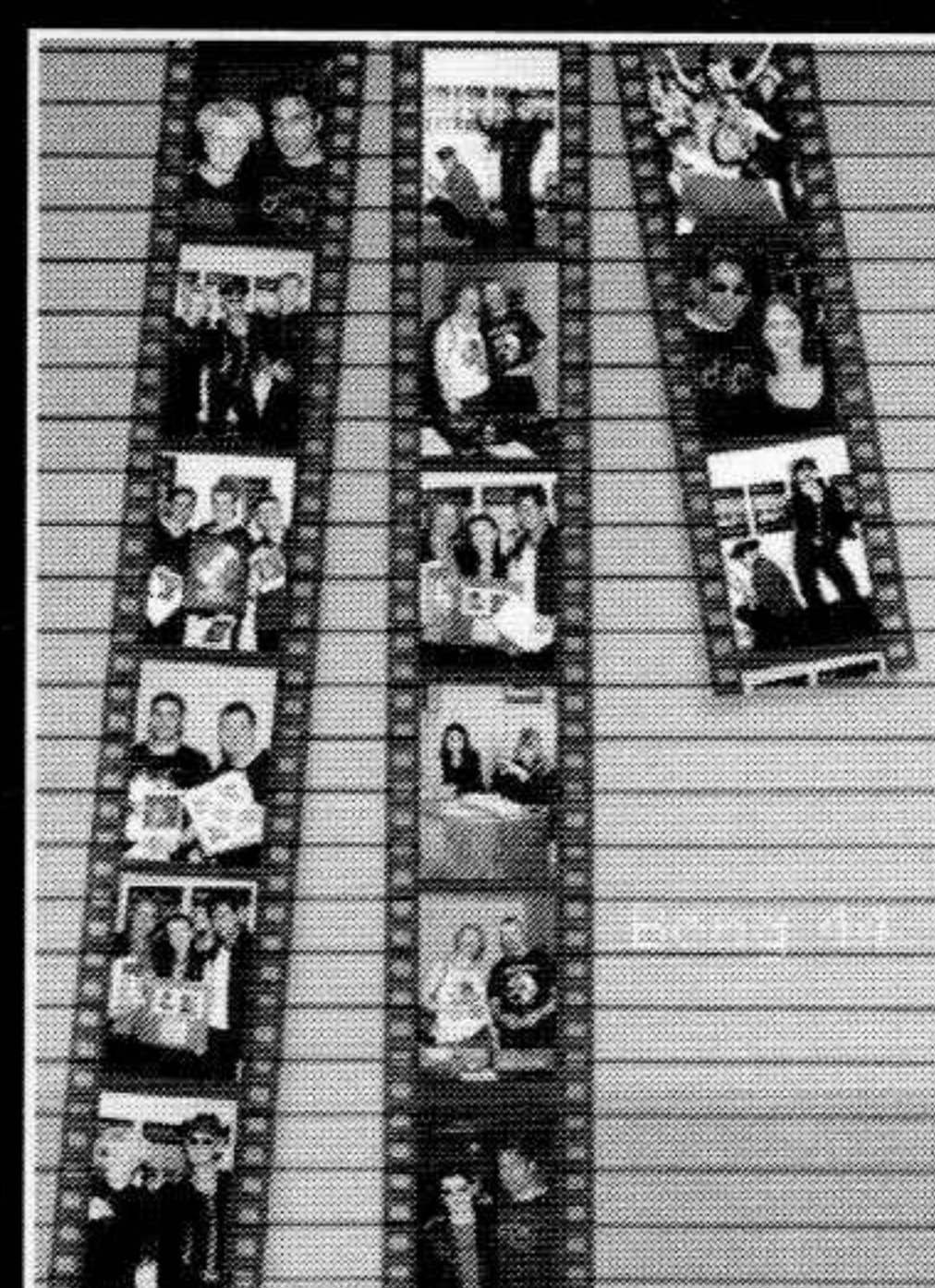
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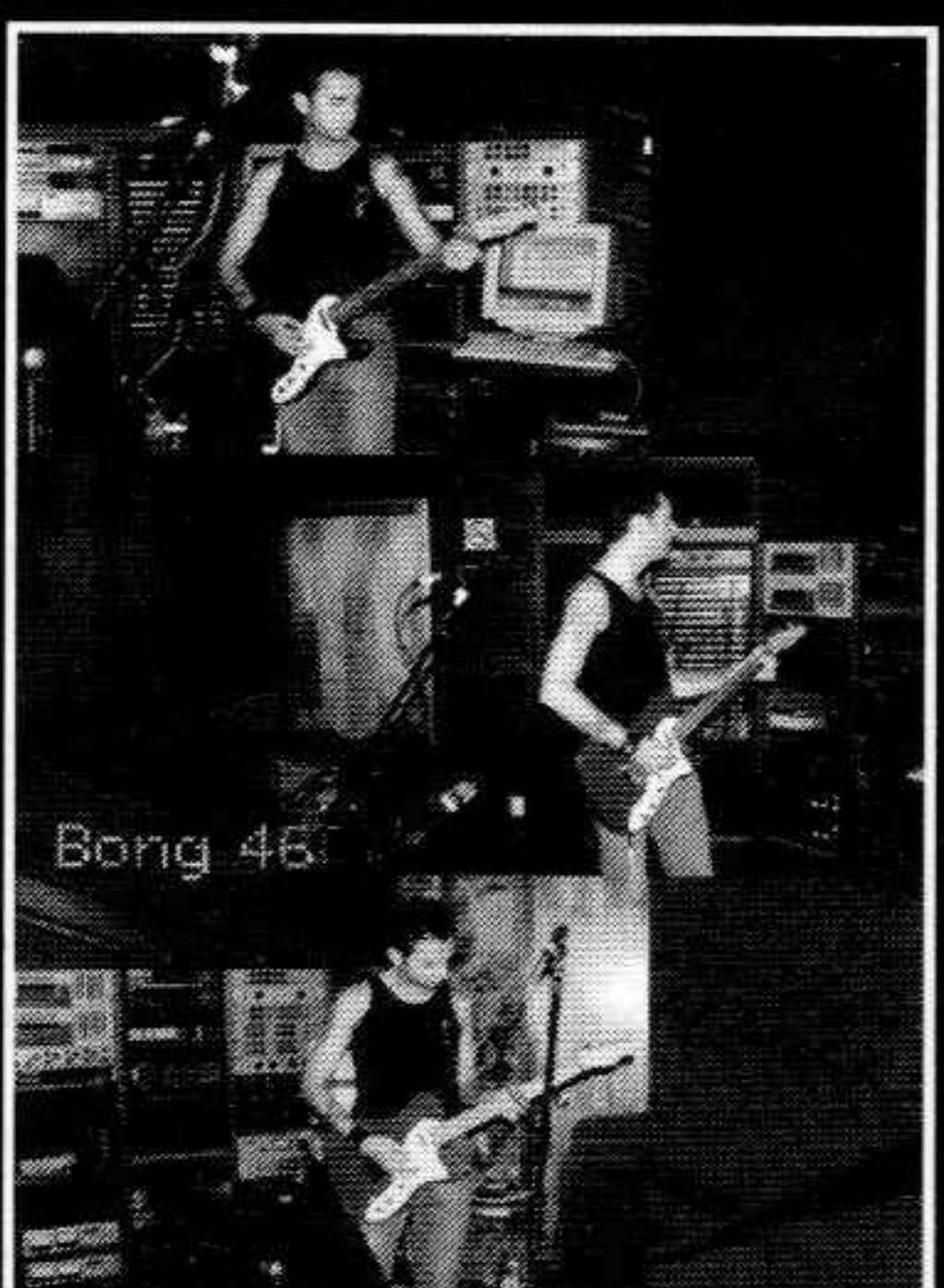
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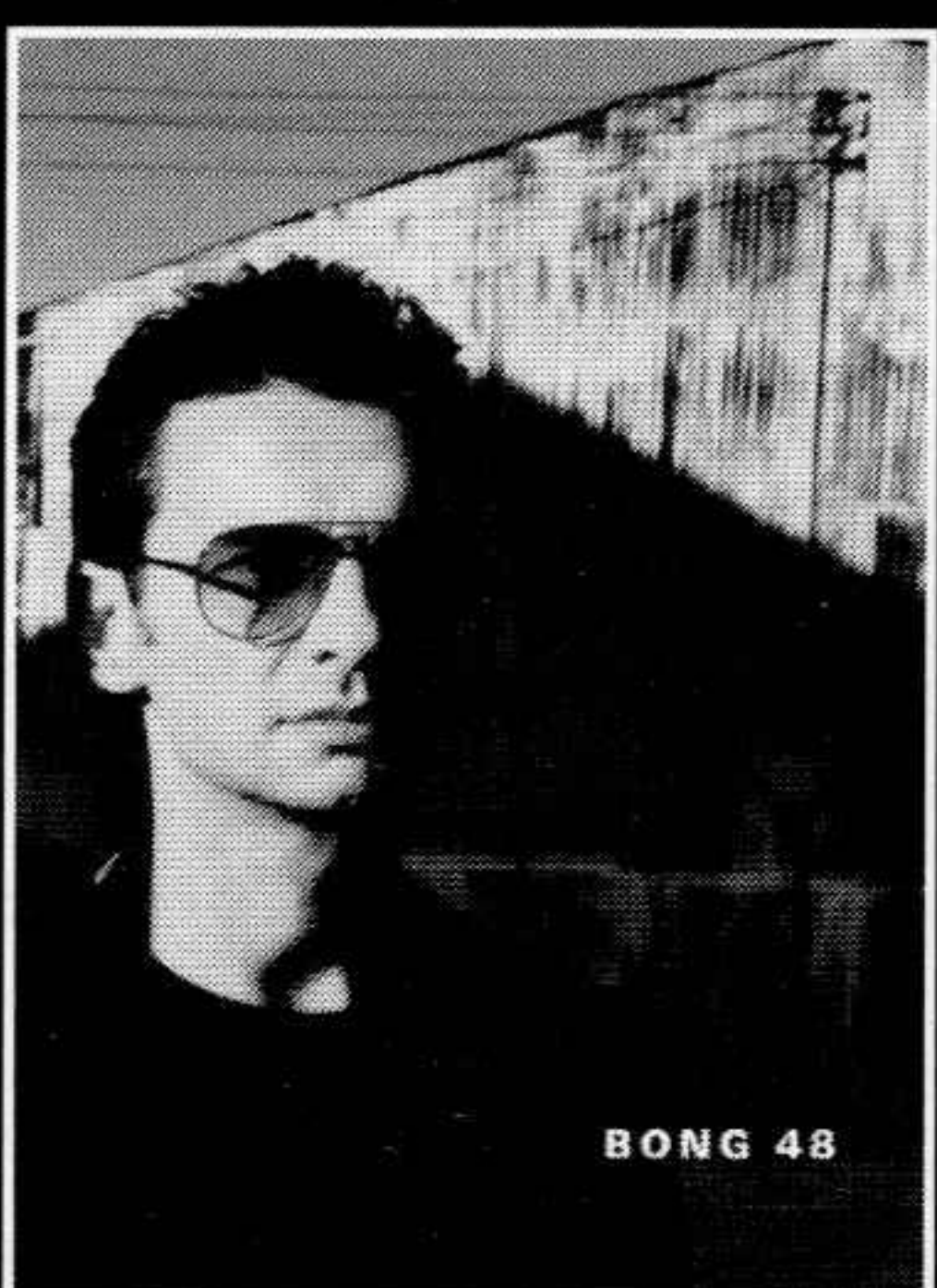
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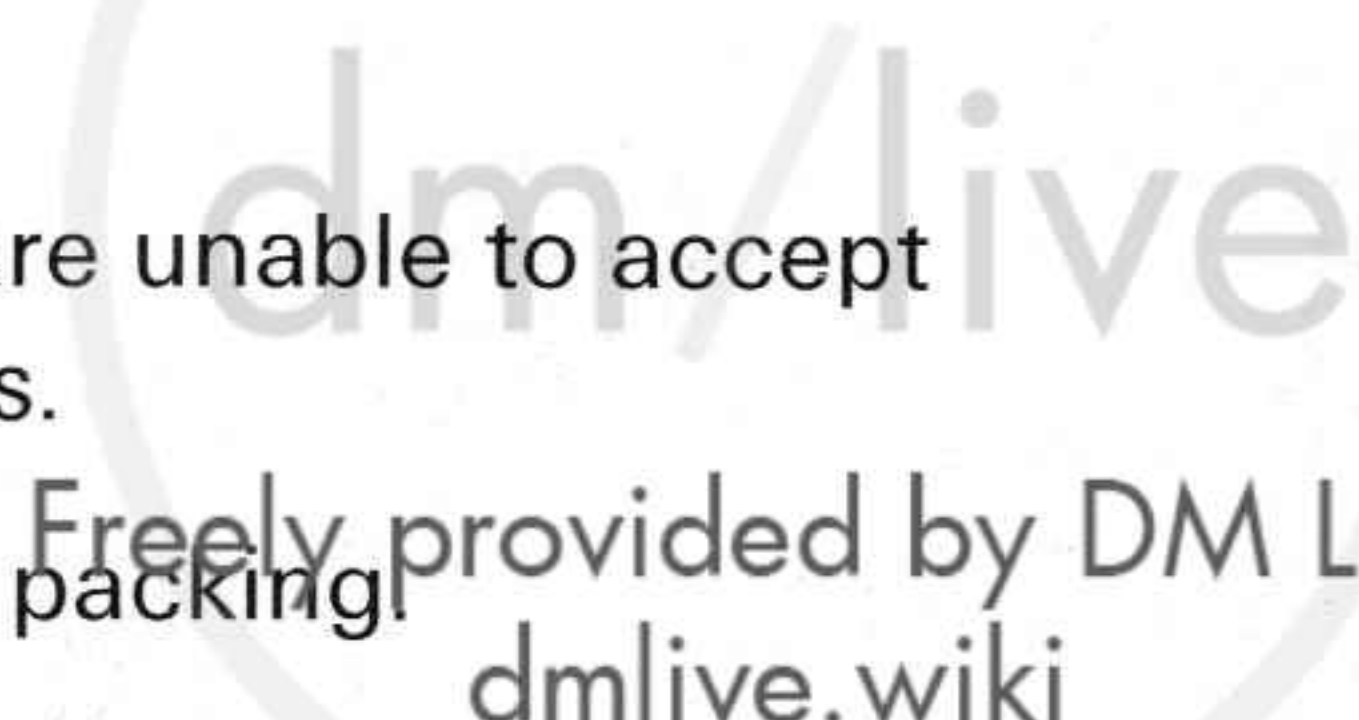
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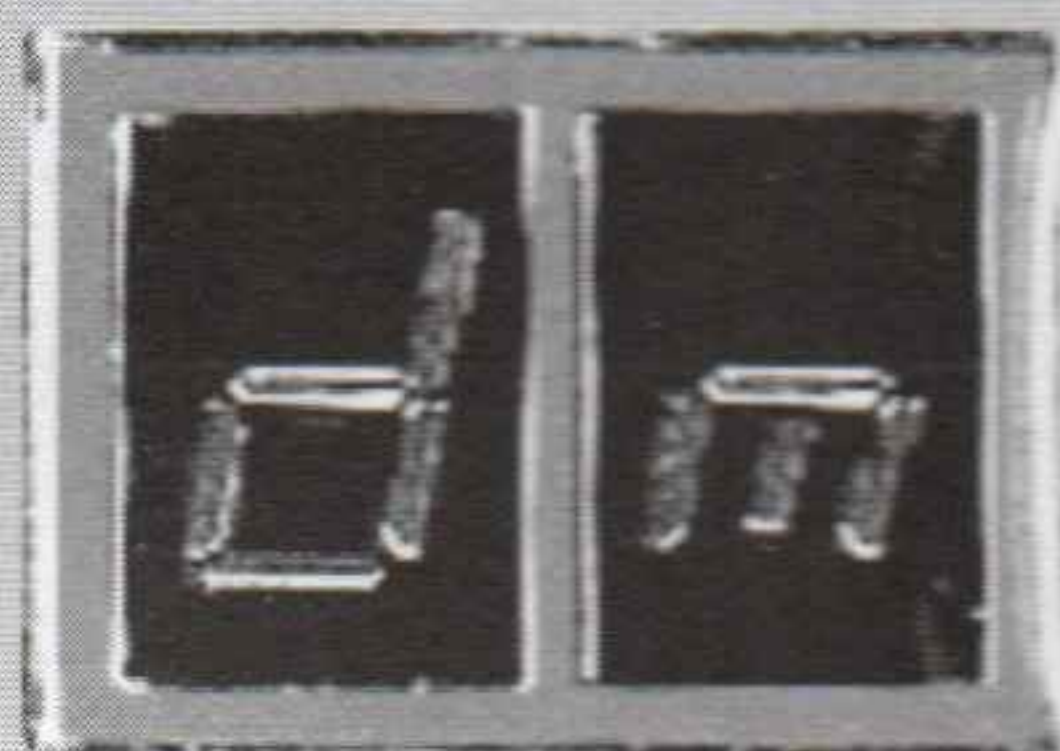


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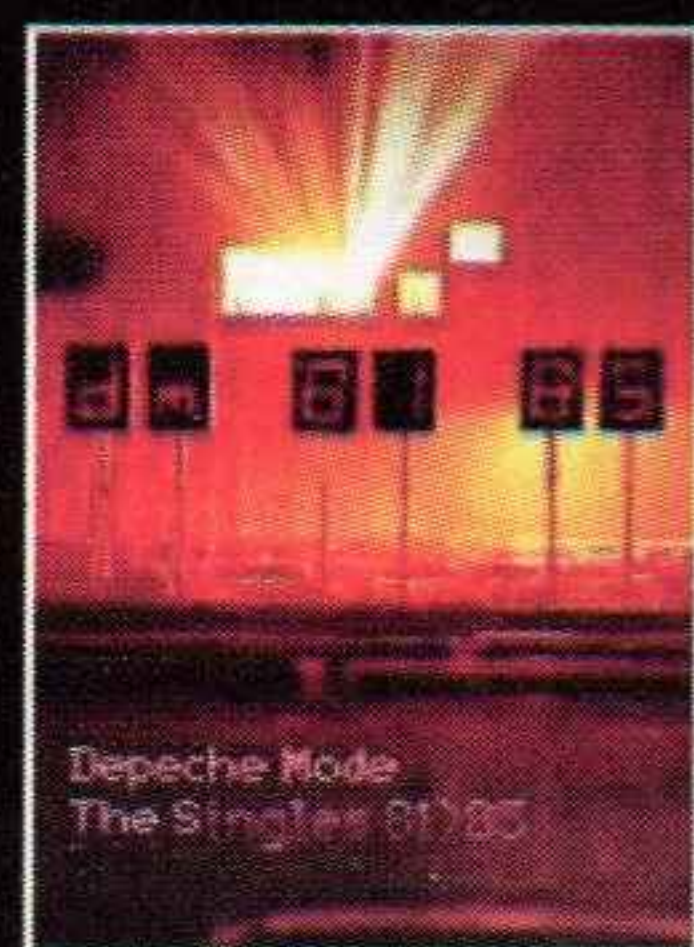
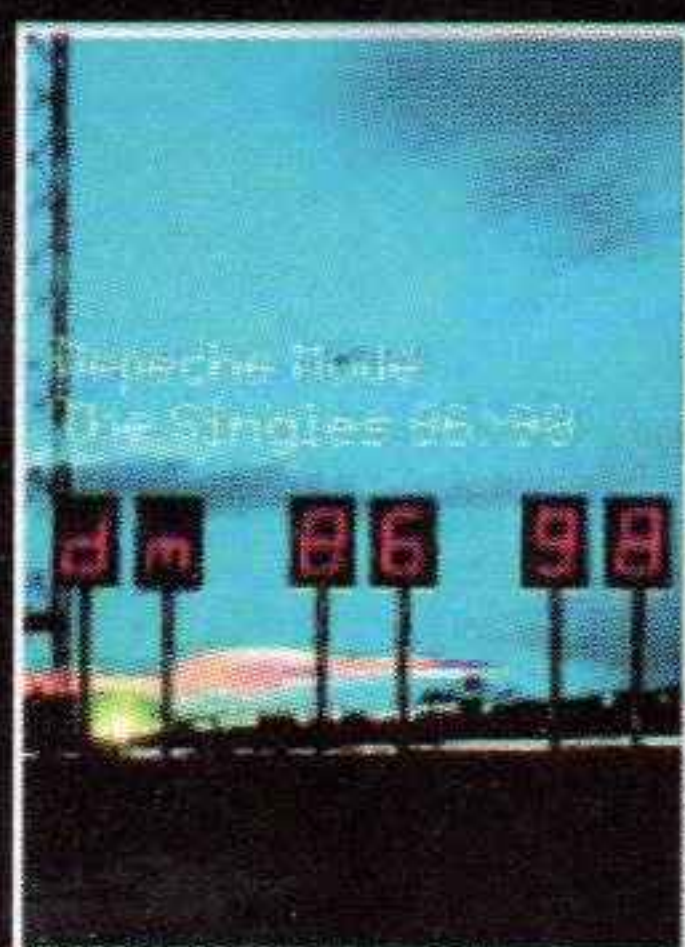
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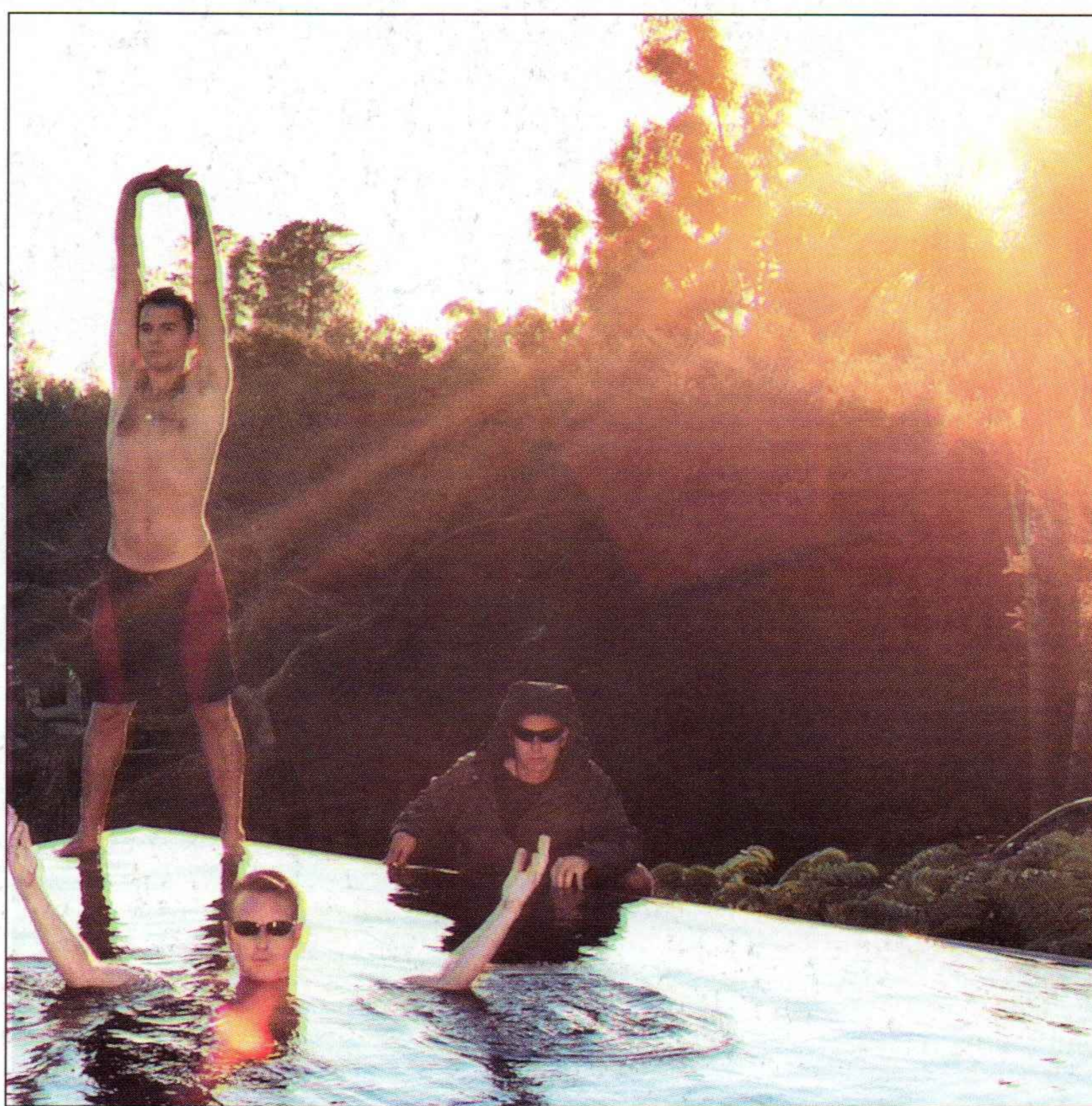


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