

BONG 50



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Intro	3
Exciter Tour	4
BONG 50 Commemorative CD	5
Ask Depeche Mode	8
Everything Counts	10
On Road With Depeche Mode	12
Bong Calendar 2002	14
The Story Of Depeche Mode	16
The Best Of Bong	20
When Budapest Meets Depeche Mode	22
Blasphemous Rumours	24
Ads	26
Bong Shop	27

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STOP PRESS ! STOP PRESS ! STOP PRESS !

BONG Convention March 2002

The hotel, which we have booked for the convention on March 30th next year, has reduced its prices, by £10.00 per package – see website for details. If you have already booked, the deduction will be made on the final invoice, which will be sent out in January 2002.

INTRO

Welcome to the 50th issue of Bong - which is also our Christmas edition.

While we were putting together this issue and looking back over past editions, we realised how lucky we've been, by experiencing the unique bond that has been created amongst fans all over the world. We've seen your support of not only the Band, but of each other, we've seen you becoming friends, lovers and some of you have even got married. How often do you see fans of other bands travelling across the world to get a glimpse of their idols - Australia calling Germany or Argentina calling France? We've also been lucky enough to have seen some of the most magic moments in the Band's career.

Although, this is our 50th issue, we didn't want it be purely a tribute issue as there is still so much to say about the recent "Exciter Tour", so we compromised and left out some of the regular features, in order to fit in all the exclusives collected on tour, as well as some live photos and a 2002 calendar. We hope you will enjoy "The Best Of Bong" (which is a selection of bits and pieces published over the past several years) as much as we enjoyed putting it together.

But best of all, is the limited edition commemorative interview CD, which was produced exclusively for Bong members by BBC London 94.9FM. See page 5 for details.

This is also our last opportunity to remind you that there are still a few tickets and rooms left for The International Bong Convention 2002, which is being held in Basildon on Saturday March 30. So if you haven't booked yet, hurry up or you'll miss out on a DM night full of music, videos, dancing and competitions.

Finally, we would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy 2002!

Until March - keep moding!



Photo by Tomáš Martinek

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EXCITER TOUR

The total weight of all the tour equipment the Band carried around during their "Exciter Tour" was 95 tons.

A 747 freighter plane was used to transport the equipment across the continents and freighted a total of 20,000 kilos. Also, it took six trucks to carry the gear once it was on the ground.

The size of stage on which the Band performed each night, was 220 sq meters.

There were a total of 50 people travelling with the group and an additional 60 local people would be hired as stagehands, runners and catering helpers.

The Band have sported some quite original outfits on stage. Sara Freegard and Luke Brennan designed Martin's clothes, and he had about 10-12 outfits in total, the designs were identical except some were black and some were white. David's clothes were designed by Harwood and he had about 10-15 suits in total. Fletch went shopping with the wardrobe co-ordinator Alison McLaughlin and bought his stage clothes.

Martin played numerous guitars on stage - mainly Gretsch and Gibson. The keyboards Martin, Fletch and Peter used were all Yamaha and Christian played Sonor drums.

Dave's favourite backstage beverages included various teas and diet caffeine free coca-cola. Martin and Fletch on the other hand went for beer and white wine. The most popular backstage food appeared to be Vegetarian Samosas.

The total number of people the Band performed to in the US and Europe reached 1.2 million!!



Photo by Tomáš Martinek

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BONG 50 Commemorative CD

July 1989 was a momentous month for me. And it was all down to my friend Neil sneaking along a copy of "101" to Cornwall when he joined me on my family holiday.

As two eager and naive 15 year olds, we played it on heavy rotation until it would practically play no more. On our return to Nottingham I found myself in several record shops purchasing everything I could from Depeche Mode's back catalogue.

Sitting on the bus heading home looking at the bags of vinyl, I realised just how big an impact that album had had on me.

Nowadays, my record collection is 12 years larger. It includes almost every track ever released by Depeche Mode - not because I felt a duty to buy it for the purpose of being able to display a complete collection - but simply because I liked the music.

Little did I know that more than a decade after that memorable hearing of "101", I would get to make the first radio programme to document the band's journey from Basildon minnows to stadium-filling world domineers. It would be an experience I'd never forget.

During the making of the programme I collected over 8 hours of footage, a huge percentage of which has never seen the light of day. That is until now.

The CD included with this 50th edition of Bong magazine is a compilation of some of those unheard clips, and it is a gift from Martin, Fletch and Dave to say thank you to their most loyal fans across the globe. It is exclusive to subscribers - it cannot be obtained anywhere else.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Fletch, Martin, Dave, Alan, Vince, Anton and Daniel for allowing me to use their excerpts. Also thanks to Gary Crowley for his help with the interviews and for presenting the programme and lastly to Shaun Cannon whose assistance has been invaluable.

Finally, you can still hear the documentary on depechemode.com if you missed it. And tell your friends about it. You never know what impact it might have.

Tony Wood

BBC London 94.9 FM

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Please note, that each answer is a separate track on your CD, for example the answer to question 1 is track 1 etc.

VINCE CLARKE - recorded at Mute Records, London

1. What got you into music and start a band?
2. How did you meet Fletch and Martin?
3. How did synthesisers end up becoming part of the band?
4. What was it that lead you to want to leave Depeche Mode?
5. Has the success of the group surprised you?

DANIEL MILLER - recorded at Mute Records, London

6. Why do you think Depeche are so successful in Europe?
7. Did the band's success in America surprise you?
8. Can you recall your initial reaction upon hearing "Enjoy The Silence"?
9. Did touring ever concern you, especially when Depeche started getting bigger?
10. How important do you think it was that the band completed "Ultra"?
11. Where does "Exciter" find Depeche Mode?
12. Why have they lasted the course for so long?
13. What has working with the band meant to you?

ANTON CORBIJN - recorded at Corbijn Studios, London

14. How did you first get involved with the band?
15. Do you think your work fits well with Martin's music?
16. How would you explain your relationship with Depeche Mode?
17. What do you view as your best work?
18. Do you have any favourite Depeche records?

ALAN WILDER - recorded at Alan's home, West Sussex

19. Can you remember the audition you had to take before joining the Depeche touring wagon following Vince's departure?
20. Is it fair to say that the band were pioneers of sampling?
21. Do you believe that the band's internal tensions during the recording of "Black Celebration", was ultimately what made it such a great record?
22. How did the band decide which tracks they would release as singles?
23. What was the reason behind selecting the Pasadena Rose Bowl for the 101 concert?

24. How do you recall the recording sessions for "Violator"?
25. Were the band happy with "Songs of Faith and Devotion"?
26. Do you feel proud of your time with Depeche Mode?

FLETCH - recorded at Mute Records, London

27. Why do you think the Depeche phenomenon took off in the US?
28. Can you recall your memories of the 101 gig?
29. How did Depeche decide which singles to release from "Violator"?
30. Looking back what memories do you have of recording "Ultra"?
31. Does it bother you that the UK Press on the whole don't embrace you as much as their foreign counterparts?
32. What influence do you think Depeche have had on music?
33. Why have the band, and your success, lasted for so long?

DAVE GAHAN - recorded in London

34. Who inspired you to want to join a band?
35. Are there any defining moments that spring to mind when you reflect over the last 21 years?
36. If there was one image to encapsulate your time with Depeche Mode, which one would it be?
37. What would you say each of you bring to the band?

MARTIN GORE - recorded in London

38. Are you conscious of not duplicating what you've done in the past? Does it get harder as time goes by?
39. What sort of music were you listening to and being influenced by, prior to going into the studio to record "Exciter"?
40. What sort of themes have been covered in "Exciter"?
41. Which bands were inspiring you to want to be in a band?
42. How would you sum up the relationship Depeche Mode have with their fans?
43. How would you describe your present relationship with each other?
44. You've suggested that Depeche are seen as outsiders. Would you have it any other way?
45. In view of the band's history, how do you think you have managed to stay together?

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Photo by Tomáš Martinek



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ASK DEPECHE MODE



Photo by Anton Corbijn

How often do you get an opportunity to ask Depeche Mode what it's like to live on the road for several months? In the last issue of Bong we encouraged you to send us a question which you've been dying to ask Dave, Fletch or Martin. We selected twenty of them, which have been answered, and as promised an autographed tour programme is on it's way to Jan Jensen from Denmark, whose question was chosen by the Band as the most interesting one. Congratulations!!

I can only imagine that living on the road is a mixture of excitement, exhaustion and satisfaction. But everyone needs a good laugh from time to time, so I wondered who the practical joker is, and what is the most memorable prank played on the band or individual member whilst living on the road? (Dean Fisk, England)

Martin: Peter Gordeno has got to be the wittiest one of all. He can definitely make you smile if you are having a bad day and make some smart comment to cheer you up. Though Peter was the funniest, Jez Web, our guitar tech played a very funny joke at the last show in Mannheim. While we were performing "Personal Jesus", he came out with a giant-sized mobile

phone and pretended to be making a call - it was hysterical. Jez has also got to be one of the funniest people on tour with us.

What's the weirdest thing that happened to you on the road? (Shelley Blair, N. Ireland)

Martin: Many weird things have happened to us on the road, too many to count. One of the things I do remember though was when we were in Russia and there was a fan that waited outside the hotel the entire time we were there, and he looked exactly like I did in the 80s - with the same hairstyle and clothes. The funny thing was, she was a woman. We then began calling her Martina whenever we saw her.



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How often do you see your families (on average) when you're touring, and do your kids easily get free from school if they fly over to see their dad? (Willy Maten, Holland)

Dave: We try to see our families as much as possible, but it is not easy to get the children out of school. They are limited on vacation days like every other child, and since they have so many other activities as well, it makes it more difficult. Many of our children did come out at the beginning of the tour, but then after September 11, many plans changed. Fletch's children came out a great deal throughout the European leg, but since Martin's and my children live in the US, the tragic events were unfolding and we wanted to wait and see what happened.

Do all the band members soundcheck or just some of you? (Oscar Sanchez Molina, Spain)

Fletch: All of the band members soundcheck.

Who and when decides what the night's setlist is going to be like? Is it decided just before going on stage or planned weeks ahead? (Jan Jensen, Denmark)

Dave: Our set list varied a little throughout the tour, but the majority of it stayed the same. This was chosen before the tour began in June.

Who decides which songs Martin performs on the night? (Jan Jensen, Denmark)

Martin: I decide which song I am going to perform, and it really just depends on what I am feeling like that day. At the beginning of the tour, I tended to keep to 2-3 songs to switch around, but during the European leg, I brought in many more songs that I felt like playing, ones I had not played in such a long time.

You haven't played "I Feel Loved" since the show in Leipzig, Germany. Why have you stopped playing this song, especially since it was a single release? (Lars Peter Kongsni, Denmark)

Dave: "I Feel Loved" is a difficult song to sing vocally, and it began to strain my voice too much.

What would you, as a band say is the most fundamental difference (both good & bad) in life on the road of a DM tour in 2001 compared to say a tour back in 1981? Be it: playing stadiums as opposed to clubs; staying in 5 star hotels as opposed to hostels; travelling by limo as opposed to travelling by tube? (Mario Moodley, England)

Dave: Life is very different on the road now, just as you said with playing in large venues and staying in nicer hotels. Also, our mentality is different and we are able to appreciate what we have and what we do. And it is nice to see the fans that have grown up with us along the way.

What is it like coordinating older material with the new stuff of "Exciter" and presenting it with such finesse and new life as you have so far on the "Exciter Tour"? (Bruce F. R. Santillanes, USA)

Fletch: We really enjoy our new songs and have a great time singing them live. We also still enjoy playing some of our older songs, so the combination works out great. The older songs represent us just as much as the new ones, and I think all of the music together shows where we are today.

I read that one of Fletch's interests is reading. What do you like to read besides your newspapers?

Fletch: I am fascinated with world history, so many of the books I read are about that, whether it be historical leaders or wars, etc...

What do you take home with you after being away for so long? (Marijke Gummels, Holland)

Martin: We all try to take home some gifts, from the countries we've visited, for our families and friends.

What is usually the first thing you do when you get home after the tour is over? (Marijke Gummels, Holland)

Fletch: The first thing I do when I get home from tour is to try to sleep and get back into a normal schedule. Since our nights are so long on tour, you never truly get caught up on all your sleep - so complete rest and relaxation is always something that you need to do once you get home.

What does a fan have to do to get a backstage pass or talk to you in person? (Marijke Gummels, Holland)

Martin: Not too sure...

What are your favourite games or other fun activities on tour? (Marijke Gummels, Holland)

Fletch: One thing we do love to do is to play table football. We have one in our "Pub" backstage and we ALWAYS play before a show. This is something that we did on the last tour as well.

Do any of you have rituals before you perform such as meditations, eating a certain meal, wearing the same pair of socks etc.? (Mike and Rebecca Henriksen, USA)

Dave: I tend to do the same thing every night before a show which is to take some time to rest and relax, then I work out, then right before I go onstage, I do 30-40 minutes of vocal exercises.

The tour backdrop videos are really amusing...is Anton free to do as he pleases with his visual ideas, or do you have any input with suggestions? (Sarah Schaschke, England)

Dave: Anton pretty much has free reign to do what he sees best, but we always have the final approval and decide whether we like it or not. Anton knows us very well and we know that he will come up with amazing things. We have also given him our ideas at times too, which he will play around with.

What belongings do you take in your suitcase when you're on the road? (Suzanne Miskelly, England)

Martin: I take the basic things like clothes, stereo, books to read...

How do you keep your voice in top condition on such a long tour, which takes in so many countries around the world? (Ian Miller, England)

Dave: I try to take great care of my voice and am constantly exercising it and making sure to be healthy. If I do start to feel that it is a bit strained, I drink tons of tea and vitamins and try to rest as much as possible.

How do you decide where and where not to tour apart from throwing a dart at a map of the world? (Ian Miller, England)

Fletch: We work with our agent who helps us actually book the tour and figure out the most logical route and most important areas we need to go to in order for our fans to have access to us.

Do you work out on gym equipment and do you take such equipment on the road with you and what type? (Patricia M. Sesoko, USA)

Martin: We work out in the gyms in our hotels - we do not take any equipment with us.

dm/live

EVERYTHING COUNTS

Freelove

The release of the third single from "Exciter" was postponed from October 22 (as previously stated in BONG) to November 5. The US fans, however had to wait until December 11. The new single is numbered Bong 32 and comes in the usual package of several different formats on CD and 12", completed with a great choice of remixes, details and MP3 files of which are again available at: www.depechemode.com

This time we've been treated to a special format of a DVD single featuring live recordings of "Freelove", "Breathe" and "The Dead Of Night" from the American leg of the "Exciter Tour" (First Union Center, Philadelphia - June 30, 2001) as well as four 30-second video clips that include a "meet & greet" before a concert, footage of "Black Celebration" live, David from the set of the "Freelove" music video, and a soundcheck of "In Your Room".

The latest single has only been out for a few weeks, but has already found its way into many international sales charts, reaching the following highest positions: Poland (1), Italy (3), Spain (3), Denmark (5), Finland (11), Eurochart (19), Germany (8), Greece (24), Norway (27), UK (19), Sweden (20), Spain (3).

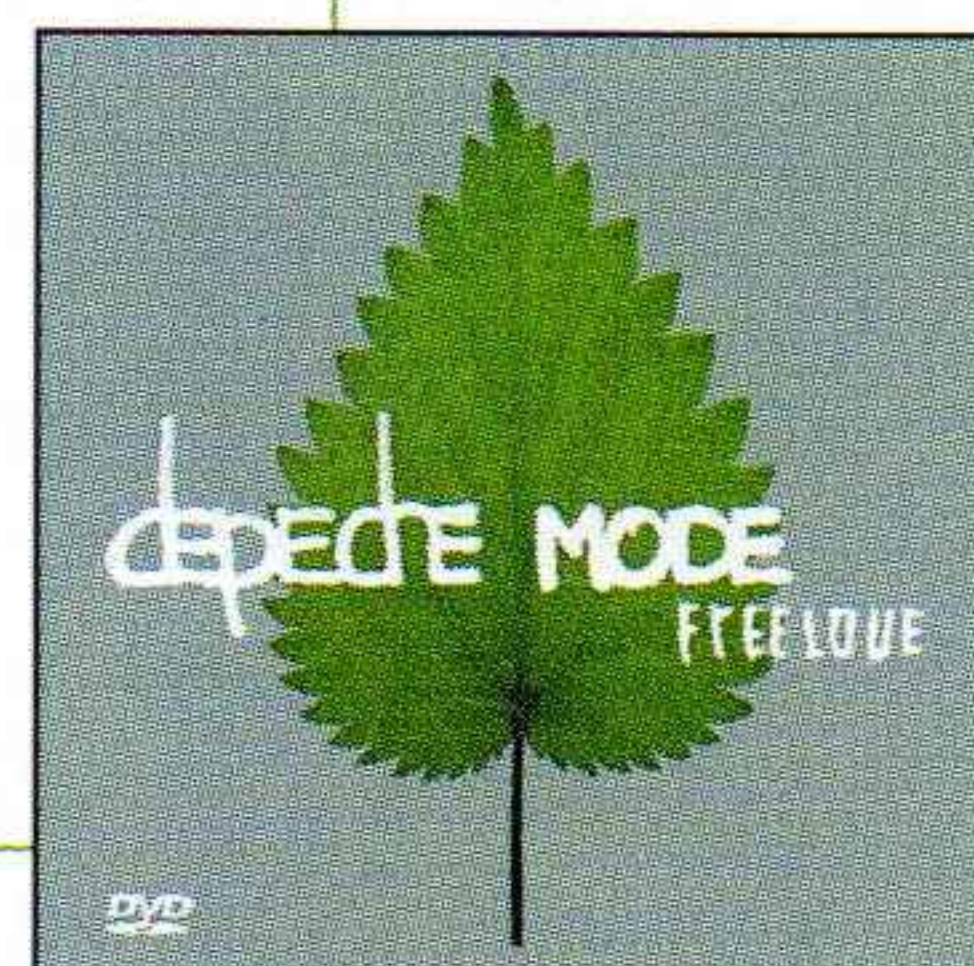
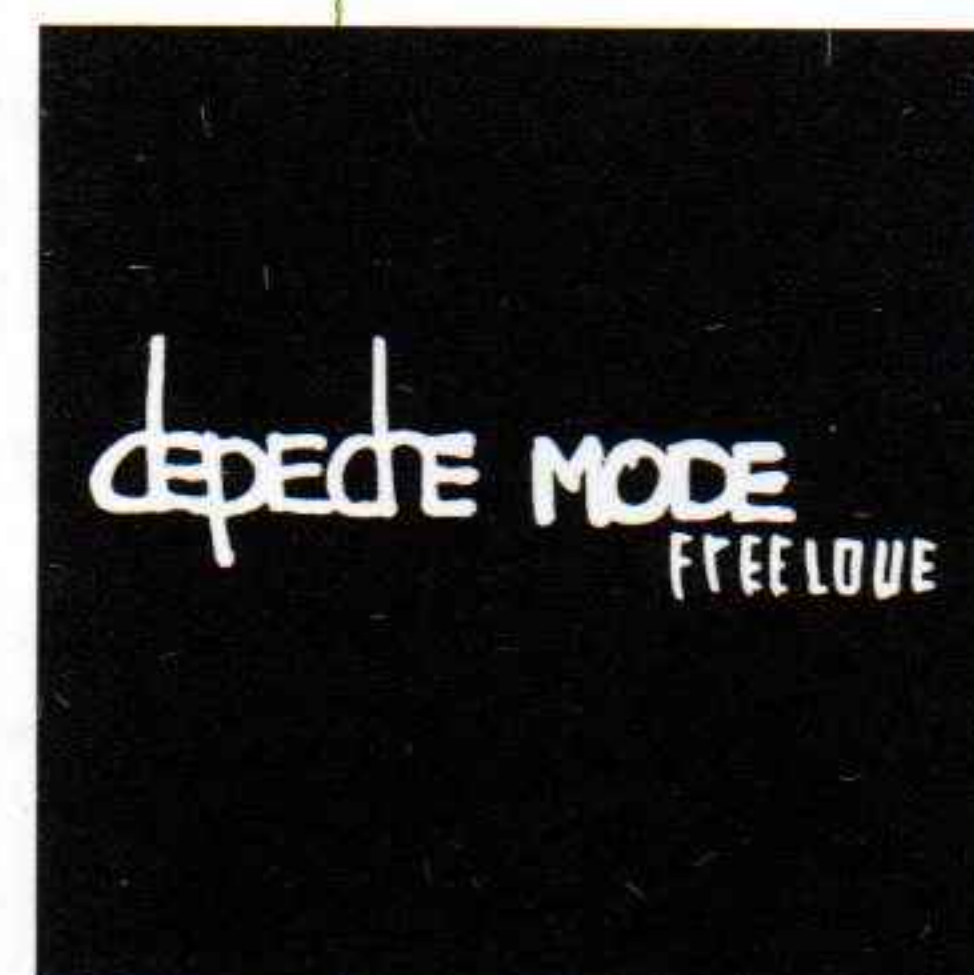
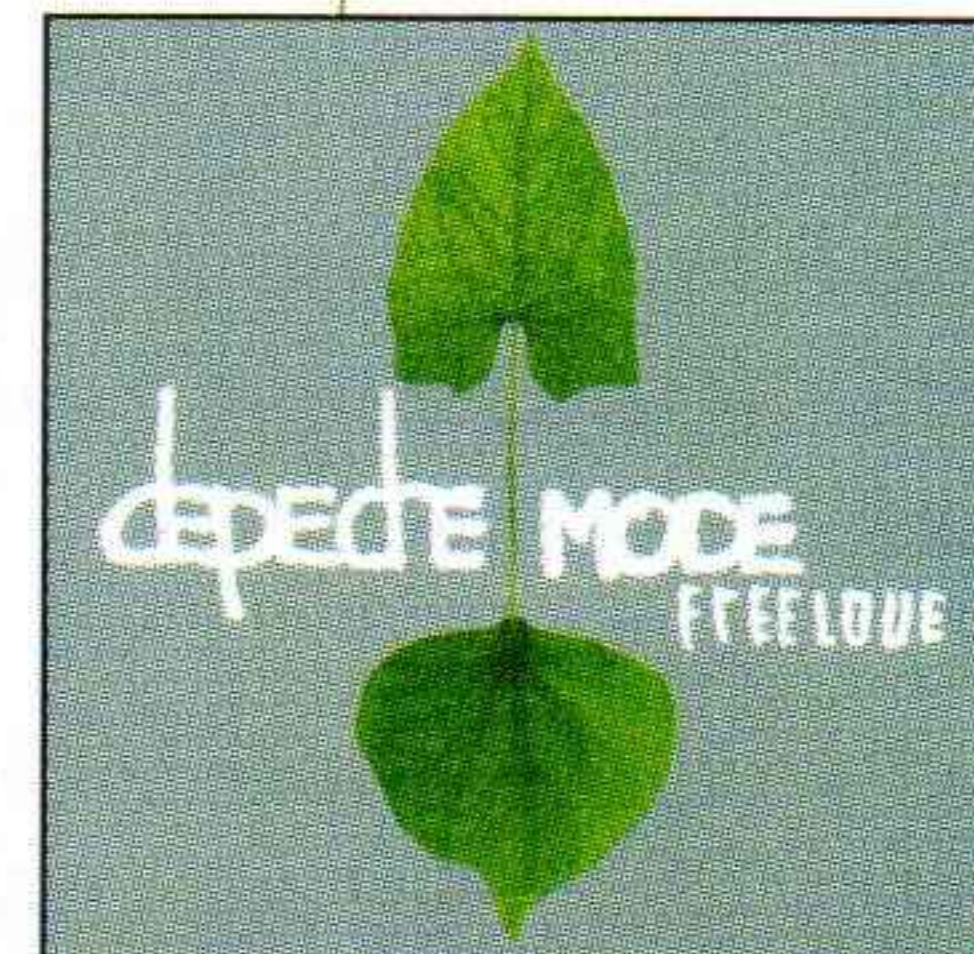


Photo by Tomáš Martinek

Meet & greet, Prague, September 4, 2001



Photo by Tomáš Martinek

Dave and Jonathan in Prague

MTV Europe Music Awards

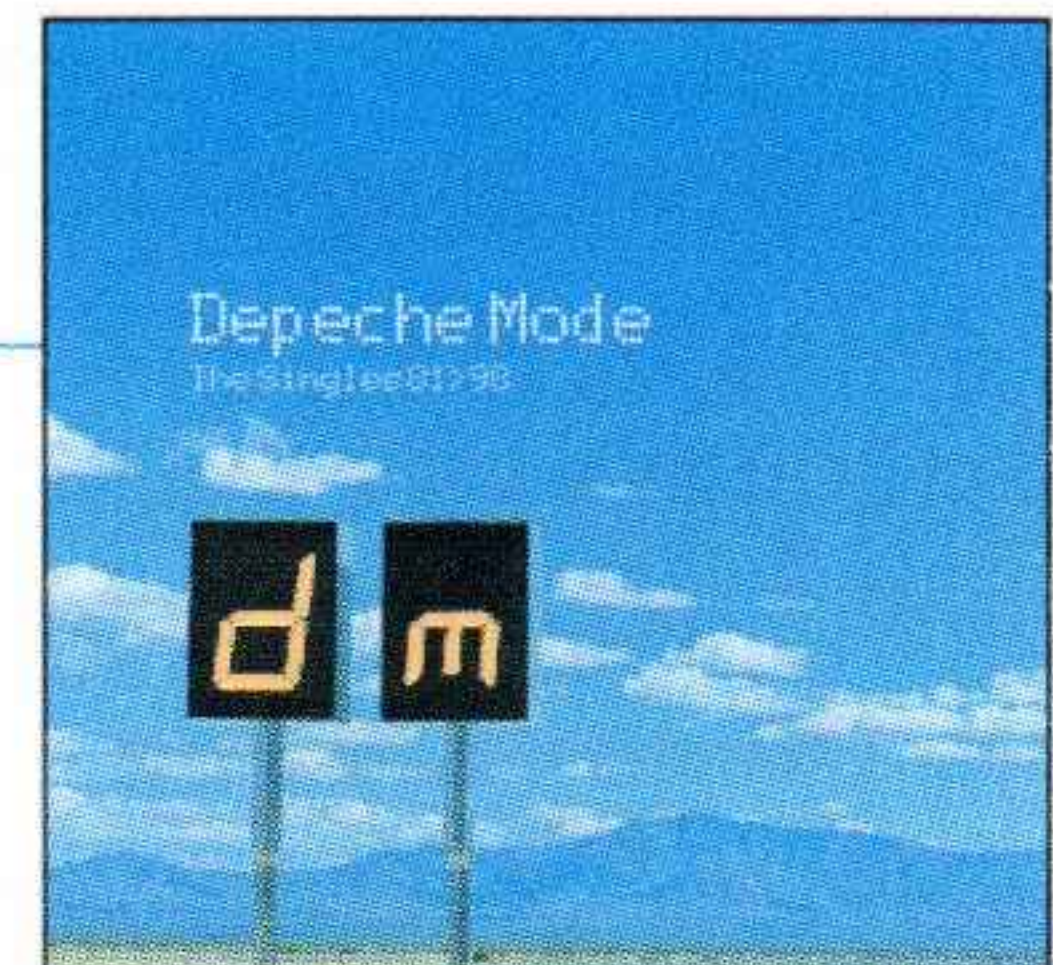
Hopefully you didn't miss the brilliant live performance of Depeche Mode during this year's MTV Europe Music Awards held in Frankfurt on November 8. The Band performed the old time classic "Never Let Me Down Again" and without a shadow of a doubt, the guys simply stole the show. Although, Depeche Mode were not nominated for any of the awards, the official DM web site was, it was selected by MTV Europe as one of only five web sites up for Best Band Web Site. It was a new category this year and other nominees included Daft Punk, Gorillaz, U2 and Limp Bizkit who were voted the overall winner in the end.

Goodnight Lovers

The filming of the video for the new single "Goodnight Lovers" took place on November 7 in Frankfurt, Germany during the Band's stay for the MTV Europe Music Awards. It was, once again directed by Australian director John Hillcoat. The release date for this fourth single out of "Exciter" is set for February 4, 2002.

The Singles 81>98

The special limited edition three CD box set "The Singles 81>98" (LCDMUTEL5) out on September 3, 2001 in the UK contains the previously released singles compilations of "The Singles 81>85" and "The Singles 86>98".



Exciter Tour DVD

Although, this is not the official title and the release date is yet to be announced, this eagerly awaited live DVD of the "Exciter Tour" is sure to become a part of your DM collection soon. The Band decided to film both shows in Paris under the direction of Anton Corbijn, who was also responsible for the "Exciter Tour" stage design. The live footage will be completed with some extras, such as rare personal interviews with all three band members and their fans, so we are in for a lot of surprises.

ON ROAD **with**

DEPECHE

MODE

**① Prague, Czech Republic (September 4)**

I couldn't believe the Band finally made it to my hometown. I wasn't able to travel to the States to see them at the concert this time around and so I was eagerly awaiting to see them perform in Europe. It was so different to the other times when I either attended the rehearsals or was involved in the tour for one reason or another through Bong. I had no idea of what to expect, of course, apart from what I had overheard or covered in Bong. I was determined to enjoy that moment as I used to years ago and was making sure no one spoils this moment for me. I was rewarded with a memorable night, which I am going to treasure for a long time.

Michaela Olexova, Bong

② Berlin, Germany (September 6)

I have just come back from Berlin and have to say that the concert was absolutely fantastic, such a great atmosphere. The fans all started off by doing the Mexican wave, although I thought this was for football matches only!! This was way before any of the music started. The stadium filled up pretty quickly and it was a sit anywhere basis, which I think, was brilliant you could choose your seat, none of these stuffy British rules. The music got under way at around 7.00pm with a superb performance from Fad Gadget. I don't think the Germans knew how to take them, as they are a little weird!!! Finally, Depeche Mode came on at around 8.00pm. The noise from the crowd was electric and everyone immediately stood up on the benches that we were sitting on. There were arms flying everywhere, especially to "Never Let Me Down Again". Martin sang a selection of slow songs which may I add were breathtaking, especially a slow version of "Sister Of Night". The mixture of "Exciter" and older stuff certainly got the crowd going and the ones that stick in my mind were "Black Celebration" and "I Feel You". After an exhilarating performance from Depeche Mode, they finally

finished at 10.00pm. I can now say that this DM concert was out of this world. Thank you Dave, Martin and Andy.

Dawn Akerman, Slough, England

③ Leipzig, Germany (September 9)

That night was really amazing but all I can remember is a four hour drive from Prague to Leipzig and back, rain, huge open air arena, rain, crowd of 70,000 fans, rain, a cup of tea backstage, rain, huge video screens and massive stage, rain, Depeche Mode in their woolly hats, scarves and coats performing on stage in, yes, rain and wind...with me trying to take the photos!! How much worse could it get??

Michaela Olexova, Bong

④ Vienna, Austria (September 11)

A weird day that was! I left home around lunchtime accompanied with two of my long time friends and fans of Depeche Mode. We were looking forward to our private DM tour to Vienna, Budapest and back but just when we were approaching Austrian borders I received a phone call from a friend of mine telling us that two airplanes struck the WTC in New York. I would have rather stayed at home and watch the CNN all evening for the latest news but then after the show I realized what a healing effect the DM music had on me that night and was so grateful I could share those moments of shock together with the Band and other fans...

Michaela Olexova, Bong

⑤ Budapest, Hungary (September 12)

Why does it have to rain every time Depeche Mode play the open air? The show was again fantastic but being cold through the whole show, I appreciated returning back to the hotel right after the gig for the after show party which happened to be a great night out. The local club Garage

Scan by Maudy

was a really cool place to hang out till the early hours and my special thanks go to Lajos of the Hungarian Fan Club who was taking a great care of myself and the rest of the bunch.

Michaela Olexova, Bong

⑥ Munich, Germany (September 29)

It was a great choice to go to Munich and see all those familiar faces again!! There were a lot of fans I got acquainted with along the tour and it also seemed that everyone who has ever been a part of the DM camp arrived in Munich - the question is: was it because of the two great DM shows or the Oktoberfest?? I surely had a lot of fun at both, and although I am not a big fan of beer, I joined the Band and the crew at the special party held in the beer hall. The food and atmosphere were fantastic and I even had a dance with Anton Corbijn!!

Michaela Olexova, Bong

⑦ Paris, France (October 9)

Not only I have seen Depeche Mode live for the first time but it was also the first show ever I attended!! It was so incredible for me...it was like a dream come true!! I hope they come to Argentina soon so I could experience this unique moment once again. I still find it difficult to describe what I felt but it will surely live on in my heart forever!!

German Burini, Argentina

⑧ London, UK (October 17)

I felt compelled to write a little "thank you" to the lads after just witnessing one of the best live shows ever. I have seen the Mode on many occasions and have been a fan since 1981, but October 17 at Wembley Arena will be a day long remembered in my house. As usual myself and my wife were excited as a mouse at a cheese convention, on our way down the M40 to the gig, screaming the lyrics to all the classic Mode songs pouring out of the stereo and wondering if the guys were looking forward to us as much as us. The show kicked off brilliantly with Fletch and Martin strolling on to "Dream On", and then the familiar buzz of "Dead Of Night" started up and proceeded to accelerate (thus accelerating our pulses), and then there he was! The coolest bastard in the world! My idol! Davey boy! From here on, everything was just like a dream... The setlist was very unexpected in places with quite a few mellow tunes back to back like "When The Body Speaks" and "Waiting For The Night" which were wonderful to hear live, and not forgetting all the classic numbers too. I have to say it was the most animated that we've seen the guys on stage, and this was making us even more excited by the minute. But just when I thought the night couldn't get any better, on comes "Black Celebration" which I've not heard live for a long time and took me back to my younger years in a second. I don't know what it is about this song but it always makes a deep impression on me, and I'm so thankful to Depeche for it. I could go on forever about the show and how stylish and beautiful it was, but all I'll say is please come back soon and please, please, please release a live video this time round.

Paul Emery, Thame, England

⑨ Manchester, UK (October 20)

I've got to say, cause I am still on a high, that Depeche Mode were bloody fantastic in Manchester last night and loads better than Wembley last Wednesday. It was well worth the seven-hour journey being stuck in traffic on the M6. I took my 61yr old father with me last night as he has pestered me for 18yrs to take him with me, so when the "Exciter Tour" tickets went on sale I got him one. I felt Manchester was far enough away from home to be seen with your father at a DM gig... Anyway he loved it!! He was clapping and all that all the way through. I got increasingly worried though as "Never Let Me Down Again" approached and I thought I would have died if he had started the arm swaying. He never shut up on the way home. Obviously, a night he won't forget in a hurry!! The thing is, though, he is on for taking my Mother next time...Help!! Anyway, doing it all again tonight at the NEC and taking my girlfriend tonight. It will be the first time she has seen Depeche Mode. She has been converted like she had a lot of choice really in the past two years she has been with me. My 29th DM UK gig tonight and still can't wait!!

Ian Cook, Stratford-On-Avon, England

⑩ Birmingham, UK (October 21)

I'm sure that I'll be one of many praising the band on their superb "Exciter Tour". The Birmingham gig was nothing short of stunning. Particular highlights, for me, were a breathtaking rendition of "Sister Of Night", by Martin, and the amusing visuals, especially for "It's No Good". In spite of the ill-informed reviewers, there is a very definite sense of humour present. Perhaps, a little blacker than most. My one issue really relates to the crowd. In the English arena gigs, the fans had the choice of seating, or standing tickets. This was the first chance, since Crystal Palace in 1993, that I'd had the opportunity to be a bit closer to the band. However, as I progressed closer to the front, the more disappointed I became. It seemed that people had chosen their vantage points based only upon their ability to be able to take photos. Come on - I've seen the Mode five times in 11 years. That's not really too often and I'm one of the lucky ones. I know that being reserved is a fairly English trait, but this was ridiculous. As "Enjoy The Silence" began, I decided to move closer to the front since nobody was moving in my area. In my effort to embrace the atmosphere, I was greeted by a Neanderthal who considered it appropriate to attack me with his elbows. It appeared that I had encroached on an area, which he felt obliged to control. Purchasing standing tickets does not provide a divine right to command six square feet of space. The hordes being assisted by the St John's Ambulance (where would we be without them at gigs?) at Crystal Palace will attest to that. What I'm trying to say is that I'm a huge fan, who felt thoroughly disillusioned by a few others. I thought that we were all on the same side, and in this together...

Paul Vine, Lincoln, England

JANUARY 02

MO	7	14	21	28	
TU	1	8	15	22	29
WE	2	9	16	23	30
TH	3	10	17	24	31
FR	4	11	18	25	
SA	5	12	19	26	
SU	6	13	20	27	

FEBRUARY 02

MO	4	11	18	25
TU	5	12	19	26
WE	6	13	20	27
TH	7	14	21	28
FR	1	8	15	22
SA	2	9	16	23
SU	3	10	17	24

MARCH 02

MO	4	11	18	25	
TU	5	12	19	26	
WE	6	13	20	27	
TH	7	14	21	28	
FR	1	8	15	22	29
SA	2	9	16	23	30
SU	3	10	17	24	31

OCTOBER 02

MO	7	14	21	28	
TU	1	8	15	22	29
WE	2	9	16	23	30
TH	3	10	17	24	31
FR	4	11	18	25	
SA	5	12	19	26	
SU	6	13	20	27	

NOVEMBER 02

MO	4	11	18	25	
TU	5	12	19	26	
WE	6	13	20	27	
TH	7	14	21	28	
FR	1	8	15	22	29
SA	2	9	16	23	30
SU	3	10	17	24	

DECEMBER 02

MO	2	9	16	23	30
TU	3	10	17	24	31
WE	4	11	18	25	
TH	5	12	19	26	
FR	6	13	20	27	
SA	7	14	21	28	
SU	1	8	15	22	29



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APRIL 02

MO	1	8	15	22	29
TU	2	9	16	23	30
WE	3	10	17	24	
TH	4	11	18	25	
FR	5	12	19	26	
SA	6	13	20	27	
SU	7	14	21	28	

MAY 02

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TU		7	14	21	28
WE	1	8	15	22	29
TH	2	9	16	23	30
FR	3	10	17	24	31
SA	4	11	18	25	
SU	5	12	19	26	

JUNE 02

MO		3	10	17	24
TU		4	11	18	25
WE		5	12	19	26
TH		6	13	20	27
FR		7	14	21	28
SA	1	8	15	22	29
SU	2	9	16	23	30

JULY 02

MO	1	8	15	22	29
TU	2	9	16	23	30
WE	3	10	17	24	31
TH	4	11	18	25	
FR	5	12	19	26	
SA	6	13	20	27	
SU	7	14	21	28	

AUGUST 02

MO		5	12	19	26
TU		6	13	20	27
WE		7	14	21	28
TH	1	8	15	22	29
FR	2	9	16	23	30
SA	3	10	17	24	31
SU	4	11	18	25	

SEPTEMBER 02

MO		2	9	16	23	30
TU		3	10	17	24	
WE		4	11	18	25	
TH		5	12	19	26	
FR		6	13	20	27	
SA		7	14	21	28	
SU	1	8	15	22	29	

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

the story of DEPECHE MODE

Enjoy the concluding part of a two-hour documentary "The Story of Depeche Mode" first broadcast on May 7th at 3.00pm on London Radio Live 94.9, which was produced by Tony Wood and narrated by Gary Crowley, both fans of the band for many years. Those of you with Internet access can hear the documentary in its entirety on the website www.depechemode.com. So the story continues...

...After "Violator", the band decided to have a year apart, in which time both Fletch and Martin became fathers, and Alan pursued his solo project, Recoil, by releasing an album entitled "Bloodline" - a collection of collaborations with various vocalists, including Moby. Dave Gahan had elected to leave London and moved to LA. When they all met up to start recording the next album, changes in the lead singer were apparent...

Fletch recalls: "During 'Violator', he was absolutely fine, he had his short hair. Then we didn't see him after the 'Violation Tour' for about a year or so. When he came to Spain at the beginning of recording 'Songs Of Faith And Devotion' he had long hair, saying we should become a grunge band, and disappearing into his bedroom for about four days at a time. So it was a real change."

"We needed to push the boundaries a bit and try and do something completely different from 'Violator'. I'm sure sub-consciously there was pressure there to repeat that success, and the obvious thing to do would have been to make a very similar record. None of us really wanted to do that. I think, between Flood, myself and Dave we all felt that we wanted to make it as different as we could, and surprise people with it," explains Alan Wilder.

Daniel Miller recalls the tension during the recording sessions: "It was a very difficult album to make. Dave was very much off in his own world. Alan felt that he wanted to get on with the album, and he didn't really need anybody else around to do it. The tension in the band was pretty bad - they weren't really talking to each other. I remember, they started off in Spain; they rented a house in Madrid and built a studio. Flood was producing again. I remember going out there a couple of weeks after they started and just walking into the house and there was such a bad vibe."

Dave's much publicised drug addiction was visibly affecting his health. Anton Corbijn was becoming aware of the frontman's problems: "I didn't realise how deep this state was that he was in. But I remember getting a call from Michael Stipe saying 'I've seen Dave and I think he needs help, you just need to give him a call'. I think some other people were shocked and thought it was Dave just going through a phase."

BBC
LDN

ON TV BBC ONE ON RADIO 94.9FM ONLINE bbc.co.uk/london

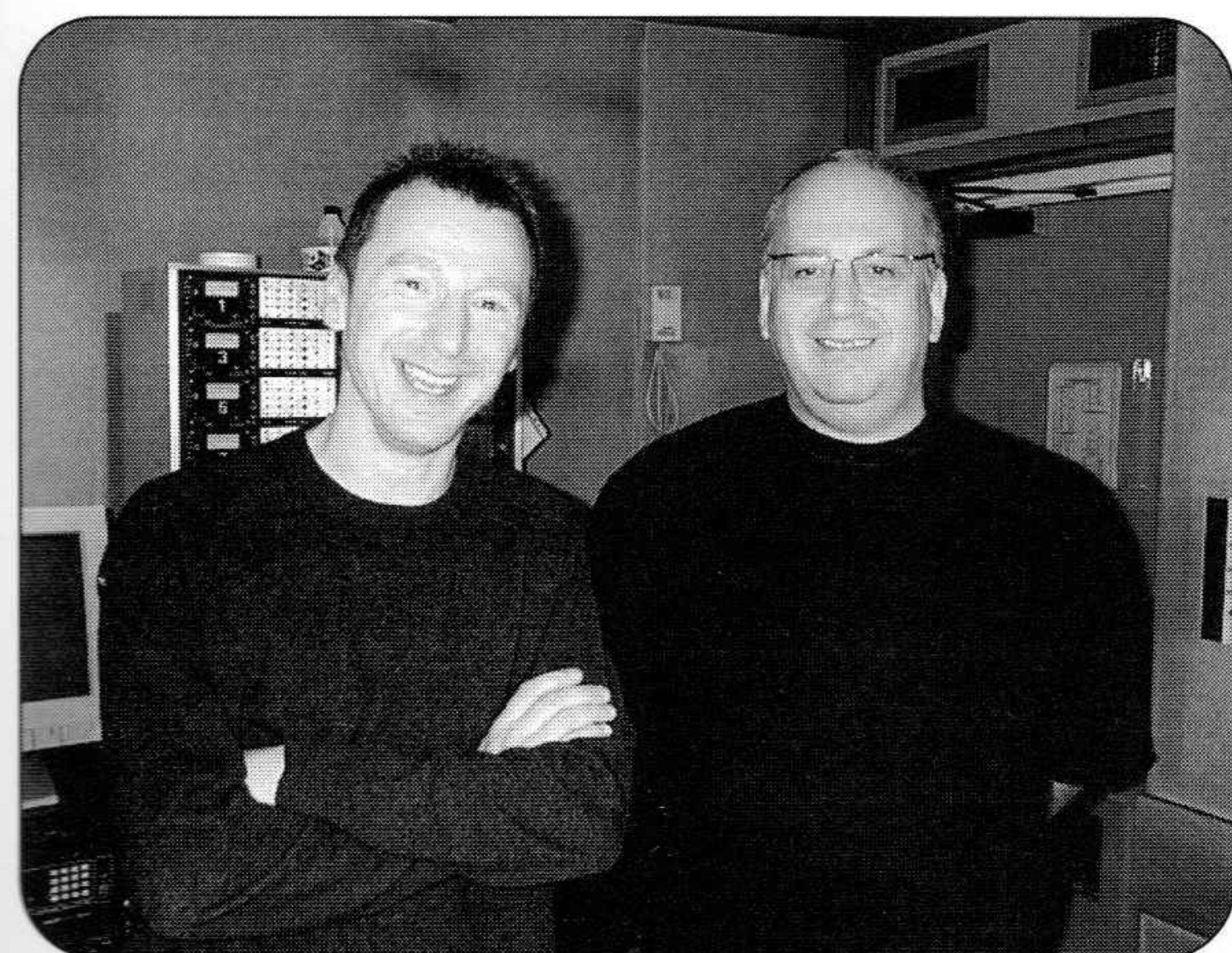
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Despite this, and Fletch suffering a second bout of depression and being forced to return to England, the album does get completed, and gives them their first UK number 1. As with "Black Celebration", the darkness and turmoil within the band was reflected in the sound of the record. With four successful singles to come from the album, Depeche launched the "Devotional Tour". The cracks were starting to show.

Alan Wilder: "It obviously did put a lot of strain on the band, and probably more than any previous tour, simply because it was twice as long. Anyone that has been on tour knows it's an endurance test and even though you can have great fun on the road it becomes this great endurance test to see if you can get to the end, it seems to take forever."

Daniel Miller: "Dave was obviously heavily on drugs at the time, throughout that tour. The band weren't talking to each other. You'd have Martin and Fletch going to the gig in one car, Alan would go to the gig in another car and Dave would go in another car. Dave didn't really speak to the other members of the band. The only times he saw the other members of the band was when they were on stage. The moment he got off stage, he went into his dressing room with his candles and everything, Alan went into his dressing room...it was a very, very unhappy situation. Fletch was finding it very difficult, he was having personal problems; they were all having a lot of problems. I was extremely worried. When it came to a decision about doing a second American tour I tried to put my foot down and said 'I don't think you should do this, you should absolutely not do the second half of this tour'."

So against Daniel's advice, and Fletch's wishes, Depeche DID go ahead with a second tour of America. Alan explains the main motivation behind



Gary Crowley with Daniel Miller

the decision: "I think if one is truthful, it was financial. There weren't many other reasons that I could think of that why we'd want to do it, except that we did play a few territories that we wouldn't normally have gone to, like South America. But I think, if you weigh everything up, the sensible decision would have been, we don't need to do this, let's just stop."

At the end of the tour, Martin married his partner Suzanne and Dave disappeared back to the States. But the experiences of recording "Songs Of Faith And Devotion", and the subsequent tour had put so much stress on the band that something had to give. The last man in was the next to go. Alan announced his departure in May 1995: "I think my decision to leave the band came during the making of that album. I can remember one or two occasions during the recording that stick vividly in my mind, particularly those first sessions where I thought 'this is just not enjoyable, this is last time I want to be in this situation'."

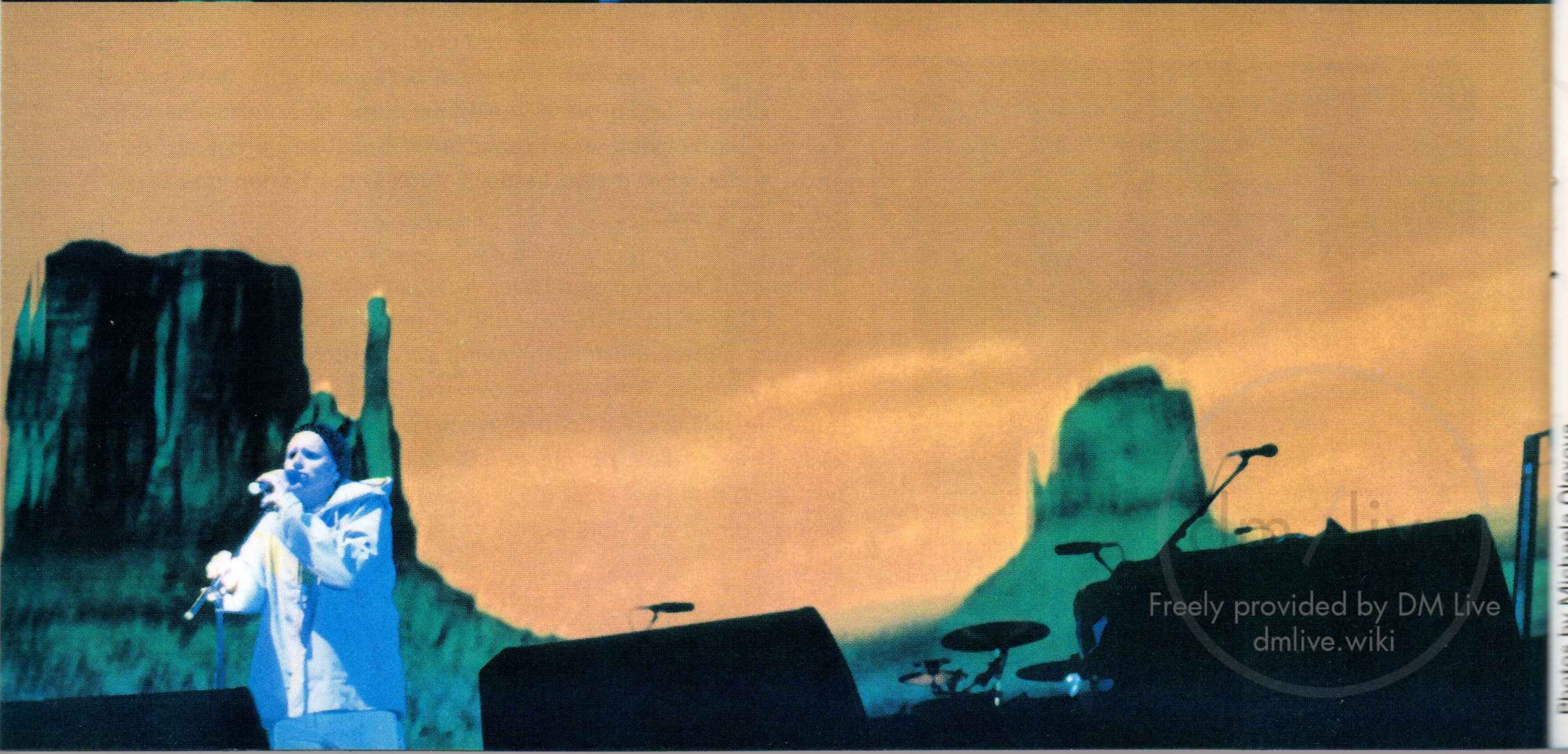


Gary Crowley with Andy Fletcher

Defiant as before, when Vince left, Fletch explains that Alan's decision to leave was not going to cripple Depeche Mode: "We just had a meeting - Martin, me and Alan, and he just announced it. I personally think he felt that there wasn't going to be another Depeche Mode album, and he thought he'd get his bit in first, and of course considering the state Dave was in at the time, at any point we could have got a phone call saying he was dead."

Dave's situation was still deteriorating. He came through an attempted suicide. DJ Richard Blade heard first hand that Dave had tried to take his own life: "I had a phone call from the paramedic and he called me and said 'you might want to know this, we've just admitted Dave Gahan for multiple lacerations'. I was recording his phone call and then I asked what his name was and he said he wasn't allowed to give it and that officially he wasn't allowed to be making the call, he was a medical personnel and those records are privileged. So I never revealed his name and never played that call but thank goodness I recorded it because I went on the air and I announced it and I said 'I think Dave Gahan has tried to commit suicide'."

As Depeche fans the world over watched with worried eyes over the slide of Dave Gahan, there would be more upheaval to come. Dave suffered a cardiac arrest following an overdose, in which he died for two minutes. Although recovering, Dave was charged for being under the influence of controlled substances - an event which Daniel Miller believes finally convinced Dave it was time to get clean: "The best thing that happened to Dave was his arrest. They forced him to go into rehab and told him if he didn't come out clean, he'd be



chucked out of America. I think his love for America and his desire to be able to work there and live there, plus he suddenly realised the impact everything was having on the band, I think helped him through that."

All of this was going off at the same time the band were working on their next project. Miller had suggested a Greatest Hits compilation, and proposed they write a couple of new tracks to contribute towards it. They'd recruited Bomb the Bass's Tim Simenon as their new producer, and after promising studio sessions, Miller's plan was eventually sidelined. Fifteen painstaking months later, "Ultra" was completed. "Barrel Of A Gun" was to be the first single release - certain critics were quick to allege that Martin had written it for, and about, Dave Gahan.

Daniel Miller: "Nobody thought they were going to make it through that album. Even I, for the first time, wasn't sure if they were going to make it. I felt there was a really good chance, but I started having my doubts because of what was going on. I think the fact that they did was a shock to everybody who was close to the band, and to the media, who were watching with interest."

Sensibly, the band decided not to tour the album. Dave was well on his way to recovery, and after "Ultra" sold three million copies worldwide, it was time to revisit Miller's suggestion of another compilation. "The Singles 86-98" was launched in October 1998, supported by a successful five-month tour.

Which brings us to Depeche's latest album - "Exciter". Recorded in Santa Barbara, New York City and London, "Exciter" finds Depeche Mode content, and happy with each other - and it shows in the fresh feel of the record.

Martin: "I think we've always made weird pop, and I think it's a great example of that. I don't think it fits into a defined musical category, but we never have, so that's not a particular worry. I just like being able to make music that's different, and if it's successful as well, then that's good."

The band brought in Mark Bell as the album's producer - a man who has previously worked with many other artists, including Bjork. But had writing new material got more difficult for Martin over the years? Martin explains: "I think it does get harder because your quality control goes up. You know there's a certain standard that you've got to achieve each time. We've got such a history behind us now and we can't let ourselves down. We have to make sure what we release is worthwhile, otherwise there's just no point."

Editor of Time Out magazine and London Live presenter, Lee Davies, although a self-confessed Depeche Mode fan, says this eagerly anticipated follow up to "Ultra" is already receiving positive reviews amongst the music press: "I think critically the new album seems to be quite well received. I think partly because they seem to have been through the mill again - having lost Alan Wilder - I think the critics are quite up for giving them a bit of an easy ride on this album. Having said that, the album isn't bad, and I think it actually surprises people because it seems quite assured musically. "Ultra" was in a way quite a mess, it was quite full on, it didn't quite know where it was going. With this album, very interestingly, it does sound like a mixture of all the sounds they've done in the past, yet it manages to stay contemporary. I think that critics have reacted very well to that."

"When The Body Speaks", is one of the many highlights from new album, "Exciter". The band are extremely proud of their new collection of songs as Martin Gore and David Gahan explain. "Exciter" is a blend of Martin's unusual songwriting approach together with their constant need to re-invent themselves.

Martin: "I think most of my songs are about relationships in some form or other, but not in a bland way. There's always a twist to the songs, and there's always some kind of suffering. They're not just out-and-out pop songs."

Dave: "I'm very proud of the work that I've contributed to this record, and I want people to hear it. I've really enjoyed singing on this album too, and I've enjoyed it more because I'm in a good place, I feel really content. Yes, I want it to sell millions of copies, I'd love to pick up a Grammy next year, and get an MTV award. I'd like to pick up a Brit award - I'd be lying if I said I didn't - but if it doesn't happen, c'est la vie...we've made a great record and we're going to go out and tour. I know our fans are really loyal and they'll be coming out to see us. There's not much else you can really ask for. I'm doing what I want to do in my life."

With Anton Corbijn on board again to design the stage sets and visuals, Depeche will soon be unleashed on the "Exciter Tour". No doubt the fans will be out in their droves to catch a glimpse of the Basildon boys again when they play here in London in October - and for those who haven't seen Mode in concert, it's fully recommended.

So the long journey from Basildon minnows to stadium giants, although rocky at times, has been an enjoyable one. From that first meeting with Daniel Miller, through the departures of Vince Clarke and then Alan Wilder, Depeche Mode have often had to take knocks on the chin, but have never really fallen down or had to brush themselves off. And even when the odds were stacked against them, their unique chemistry pulled them through. Ever modest and down to earth, Depeche have been surprised at times by their popularity and success. Whilst those around them are not surprised at all.

"Exciter" will be Depeche Mode's 10th studio album. And after a career spanning more than 20 years, selling over 50 million albums worldwide, the Depeche Mode legacy is one of this country's proudest and most successful products.

BONG THE BEST OF BONG

50



Dave Gahan KROQ Radio Interview, Bong 14

Richard Blade: How does the lead singer of Depeche Mode spend his birthday? Dave: Well, being 21 again (laughter), we went out last night to a Mexican restaurant and drank a lot of strawberry margaritas.

Ask Andy, Bong 17

Do you sing? "I think I sing better than the others seem to think."/What's the best and worst thing about being on tour? "Best-meeting people. Worst - Tour Manager's questions."/If you were reincarnated, which historical figure would you like to be? "Julius Caesar."

Ask Martin, Bong 18

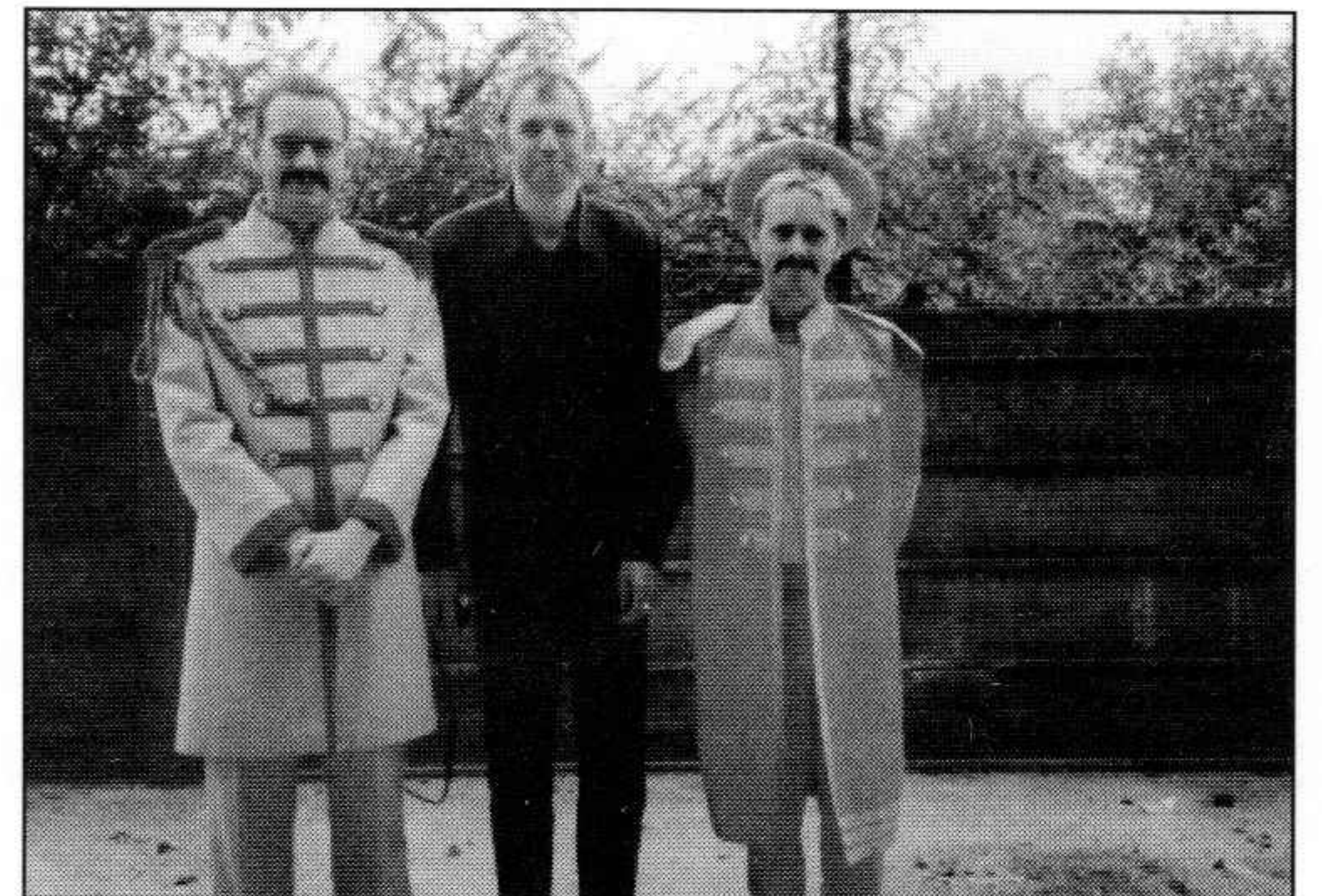
How long did it take you to write your first song and how old were you? "About one hour when I was 13."/Any regrets, career-wise? "Leaving my job at the bank."/If you were not a member of DM, what do you think you'd be doing? "No idea. I'd be a tramp maybe."

Ask Dave, Bong 19

Do you ever get nervous before shows? "Sure, sure, sometimes, maybe, well no."/Who is your favourite Actor? "Beavis, Bart Simpson."/If you could change the world, what's the first thing you would do? "Make it flat."

Ask Anton, Bong 22

How do Depeche Mode compare to other bands and artists that you have worked with over the years, such as U2? "It's a much longer name."/What was the hardest video to film and why? "The first video 'A Question Of Time', because it was the first time I did my own camera work, there was no money for anything and apart from Alan, the band only wanted to turn up for 3 hours. Also "I Feel You" had some problems but they were weather related."



Ask Daryl, Bong 23

How did you meet the band and got to work with them? "At school and growing up in Basildon. I offered to hump equipment for them in return for beer."/In general, what do you think of the DM fans? "I'm intrigued by their obsessiveness, and moved by their passion."

Daryl's Devotional Diary, Bong 23

September 7th, Quebec: Went to court with Dave today. All charges were dropped. We were so happy we bought ice-lollies on the way out of the courthouse and appeared on the front cover of the local newspaper eating them. You've gotta laugh, ain't ya? Dave did a very good show tonight, considering he had done some bird.

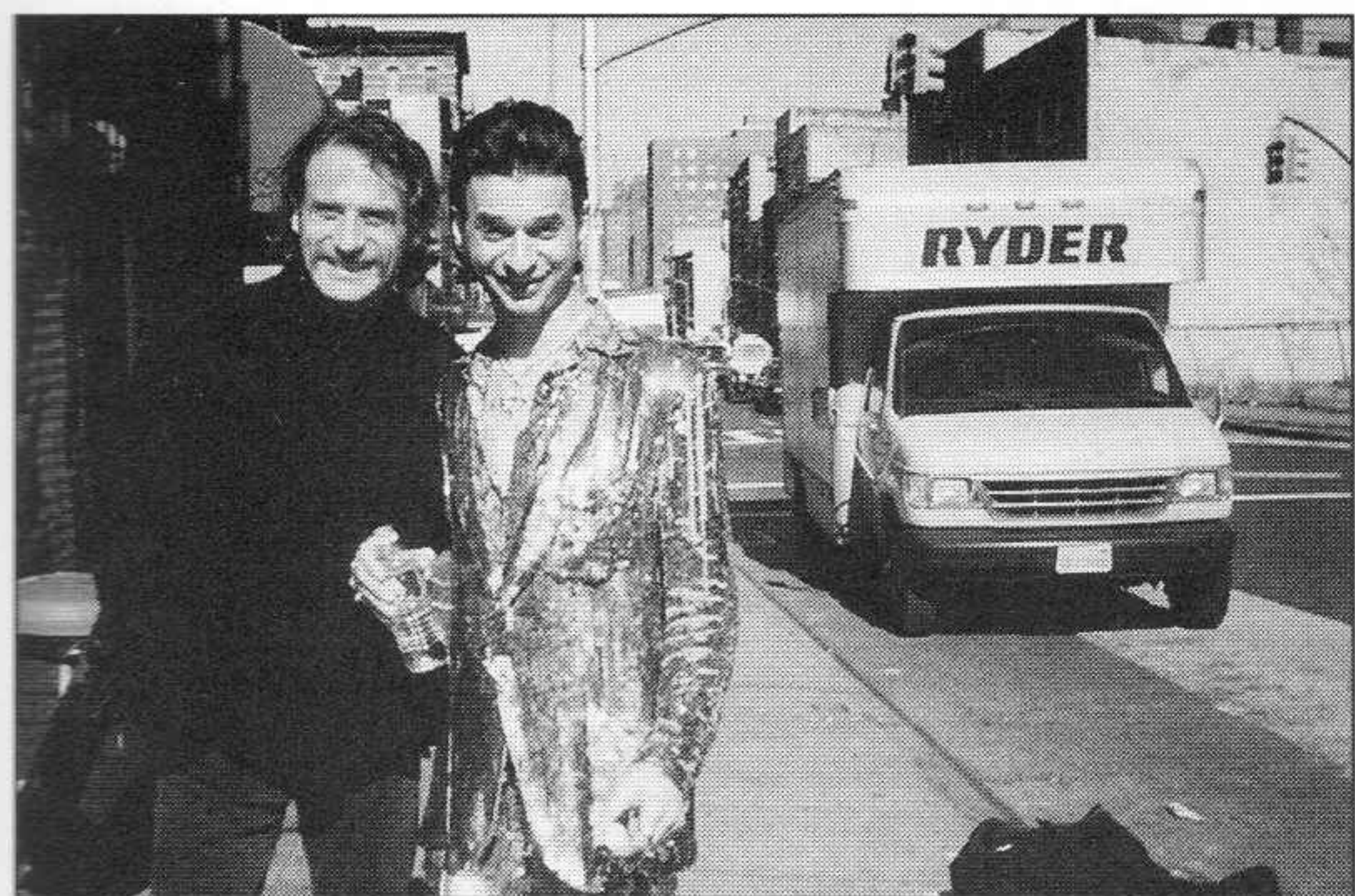
Ask Daniel, Bong 24

What advice would you give to a band that is just starting out? "Be clear about what you want to do. Don't be fooled by the music industry, work extremely hard and don't compromise (too much!!)"/What (or who) made you want to start up a record company? "Me. I wanted to put out a single that I had made."

Any Second Now, Bong 24

"It's really odd, at first you think God, imagine being on TOTP, imagine being in the top ten, but it all changes when it begins to happen. When we got into the lower charts we thought it was good for a while, but then we thought well it's no good unless we get into the Top 40. Then we thought well it's no good unless we get into the Top 20..." (Depeche Mode, August 1981)





Marek Lieberberg Celebrates 25 Years In The Music Business, Bong 26

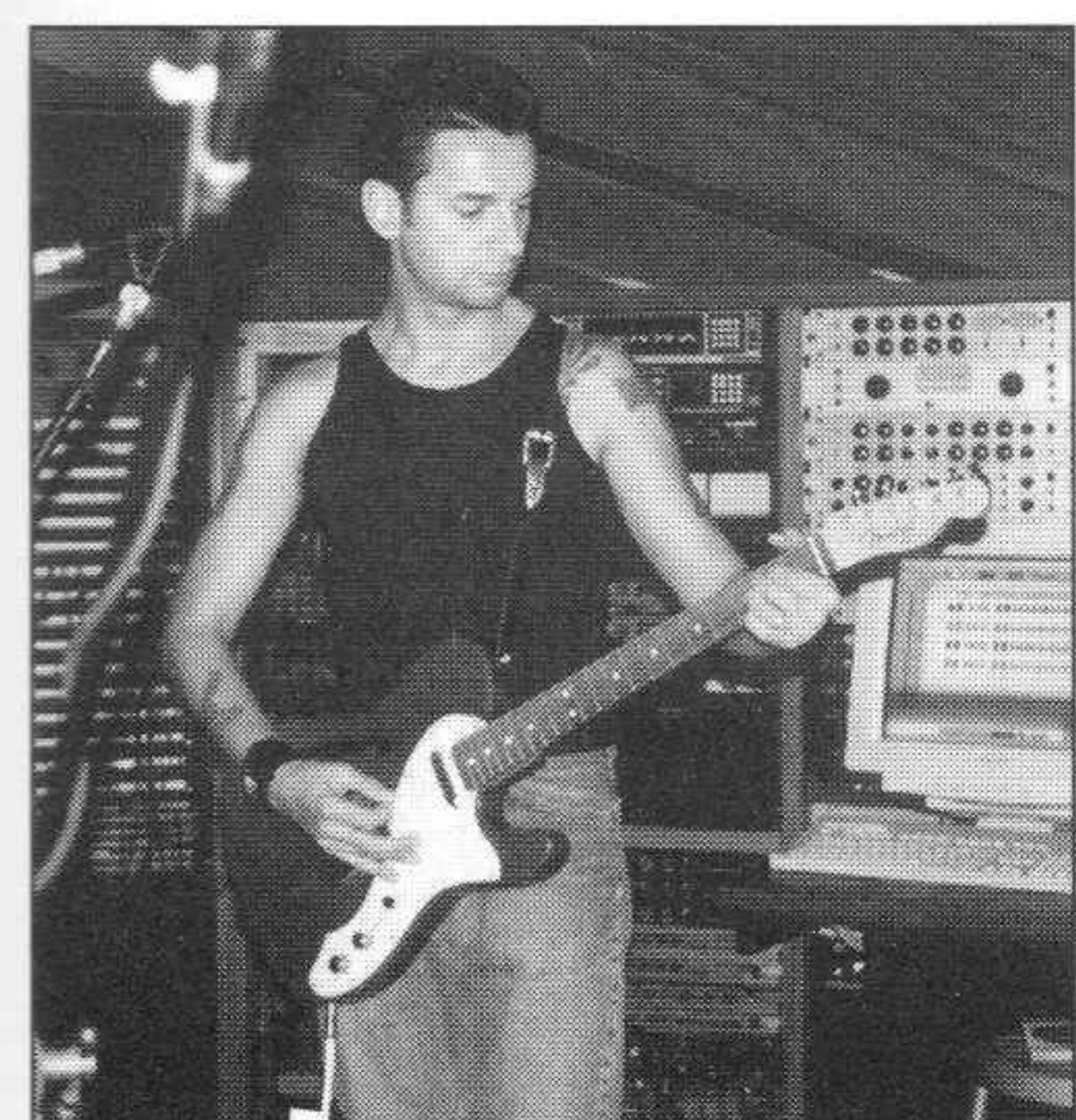
...As the wine began to flow, so did the conversation. In some corners you could see deep, intense business discussions going on, with deals being struck and hands being shook. In other more jovial quarters Martin had set fire to his shirt (and skin) and managed to effortlessly break a very expensive marble table completely in half (I vouched for him - he barely leant on it...). The rest of the organisation? JD, Fletch and I were our usual respectable selves. Jonathan Kessler, as always, protested intense jet lag, but I'm sorry Franksy, you do not get jet lag while crossing London and your behaviour was inexcusable.... (Daryl Bamonte)

In Search Of Depeche Mode, Bong 30

Is there a target audience you want to attract with this album (Ultra)? Martin: No, not really. My soul brothers and soul sisters, that's my target audience (laughs)./Name one thing you are most proud of. Fletch: I suppose we have always been considered the underdogs, especially over here in England. So it's good to show people, year after year, that we have got something to offer.

Depeche Mode Press Conference In Cologne, Bong 36

How many people can we expect on stage on the new tour? Martin: At the moment, Tim, our producer, wants to come on stage with us for a couple of songs and scratch - whatever that is. We're not sure.



The Singles 86>98 by Martin Gore, Bong 37

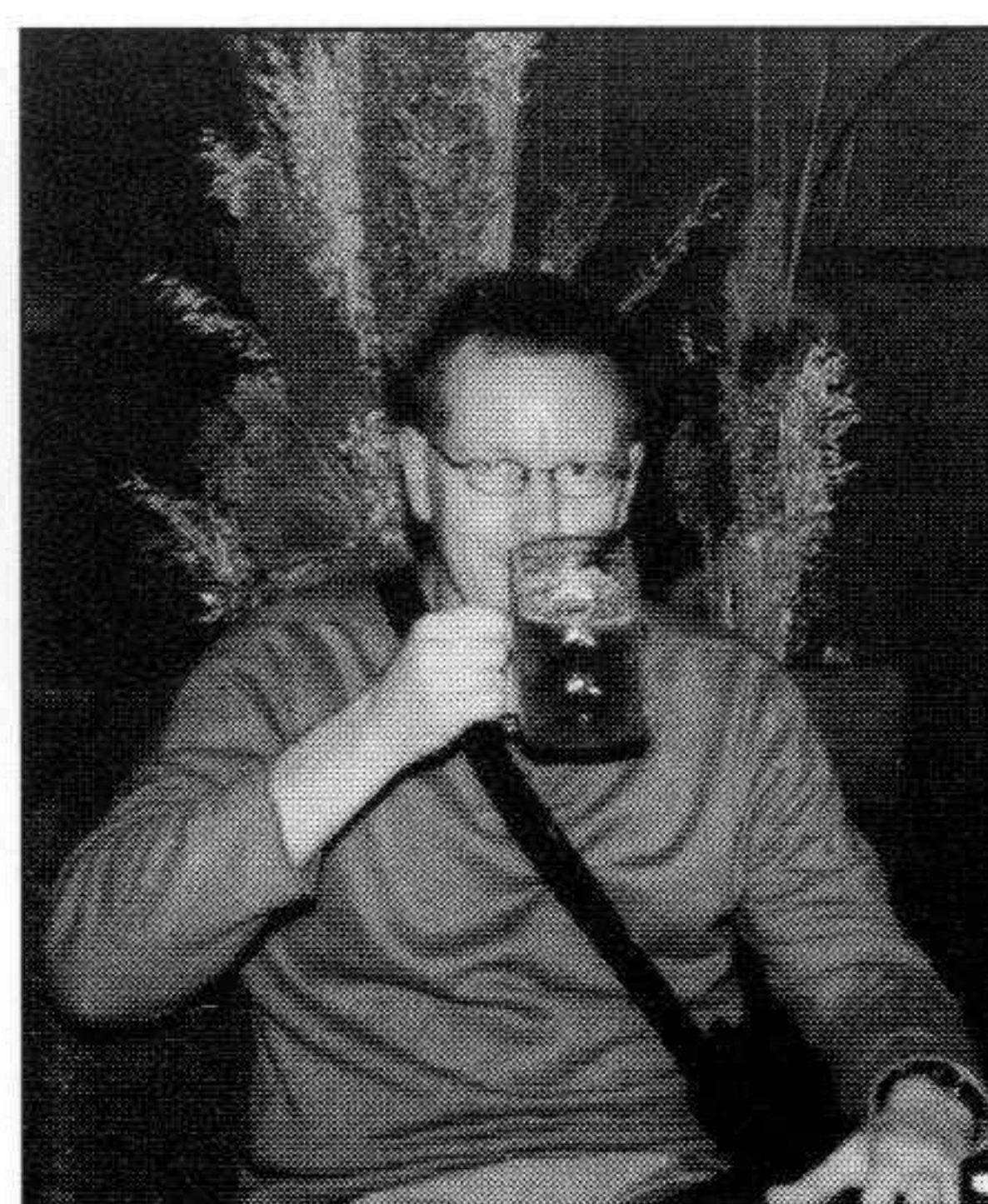
"A Question Of Lust" - This track has always been almost like an old 50s or 60s classic pop song. It's a really good song to do live and it's got a great melody. I joked with the others about it the other day, saying that I think The Beatles stole the melody from me....

Singles Diary, Bong 40

September 27th, Milan - Our short but sweet visit to Italy ends here in Milan. Martin has his wife and daughters out for the show. His eldest happily tickles the ivories during sound-check and having heard Fletch's son sing a rousing version of "Postman Pat" in rehearsals the Depeche Mode legacy seems likely to live on. After the show the band, in true rock fashion, leave to a waiting plane to return to Britain. (Jez Webb)

Fletch In Prague, Bong 44

There is nothing better than a Czech beer in a traditional Czech pub with a brewery at your table. Yes, believe me! Not many Czechs come here as it is always packed with tourists - this was, in fact, also my very first visit. The place is heaven, but only if you are not a vegetarian. After some deliberation, Andy goes for the roast duck and dumplings. There is enough time to talk about the recording of the new material and the Basildon Convention while we are waiting for our food. It is funny how many memories you can recall when you need to... (Michaela Olexova)



What's Up Fletch, Bong 46

What was it like when you first heard the new material? Does it always surprise you? Fletch: That's one of the highlights of being in the group. Listening to demos for the first time is always exciting. Some of the demos you like immediately and some you like after a while.



Behind The Scene With Anton Corbijn, Bong 47

When you are asked to come up with an idea for the album artwork, does it help to listen to the new material or does it take something else? Anton: Yes, it is the new material, the title and what the band say about it. The word "Exciter" sounds like a typical Martin word and has a sexual meaning in a way...and that sort of pictures on the album too, but at the same time it's quite a broad nature and it goes down the core of things. I think the music is a bit like that as well...it's quite relaxed...it has beautiful sounds and it's a very different Depeche again.



WHEN BUDAPEST MEETS DEPECHE MODE



Reviewed by Michaela Olexova
Photo by Robert Broj

It doesn't happen that often when your favourite band comes to town to perform during their tour and within a couple of days you are in a venue next door, trying to relive the concert atmosphere at a fan club convention. If you were in Budapest in September you could've experienced both, which is exactly what we did...

We didn't have to think twice when Lajos Borbely, the head of the Hungarian Fan Club of Depeche Mode, contacted us back in June with an idea of organizing another convention in Budapest. Why do I say "another"? It was a few years ago when we got together with Lajos for the first time to hold The International Bong Convention in the Hungarian capital, which was a big success and attracted the attention of many fans across the country and even abroad.

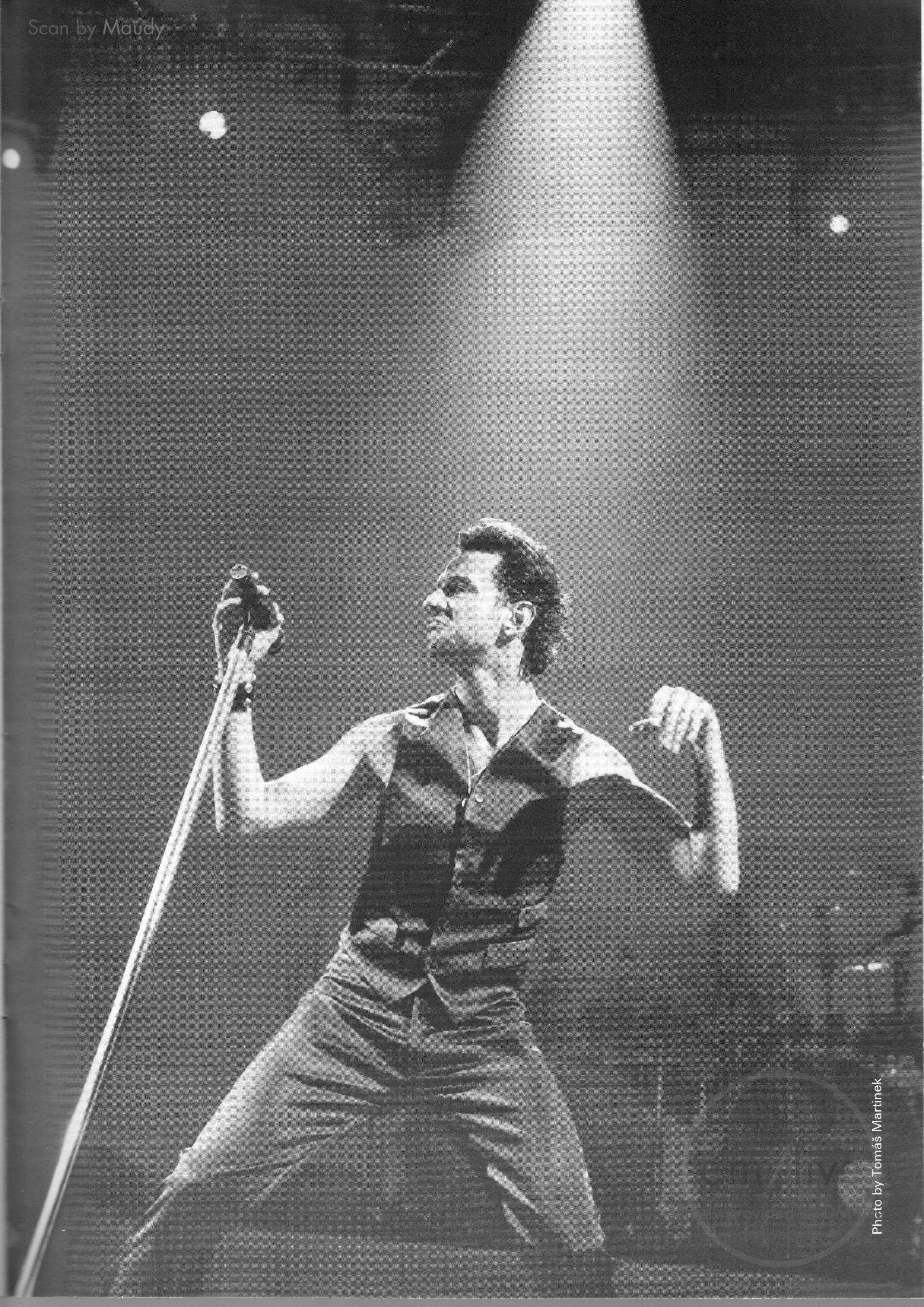
We started making plans immediately and set the date of the convention two days after the DM show...how appropriate? The invitations were sent out to the local members of Bong weeks in advance. The posters and flyers advertised the event across the country. We managed to collect some promotional stuff from Mute, which together with some signed photo cards of the Band, made nice prize packages for the contest winners.

A few weeks before the convention, just when we were about to book the flights, Lynn had to cancel the trip, and so it was only my two friends Robert (a long-time DM fan), Carlos (Bong's graphic designer) and myself who made it to Budapest for the Depeche Mode show and the fan club party in the end. We were greeted by Lajos and his friend Gabor upon our arrival and treated like royalty during the three days of our stay in the city. But the convention night was yet to come....

Fan club conventions in Budapest are so different to the rest as they already have a tradition of several years and the enthusiasm of Lajos and his team is rewarded by a regular attendance of approx. 1 000 fans at each of the DM nights they organize. The one on Friday 14th September was no different. We were advised not to turn up at the venue earlier than 10pm because it usually gets crowded much later...it is just because the fans are used to that.

It wasn't difficult finding the venue as there were already groups of fans hanging out in front of the Petofi Hall and to my surprise many more were already inside on the dance floor or by the bar. We were shown around briefly by Lajos but then he disappeared for the most of the night as he was busy...I didn't blame him as I know what it takes to be responsible for an event like this. We wondered around for a while sipping our Coronas and taking in the atmosphere. I was generally impressed by the amount of fans dancing and singing to Depeche Mode music...they were even following Dave on the video screen with the arm waving during "Never Let Me Down Again" and it almost felt like the real show for a moment. The selection of the danceable remixes and video images was very well done and the blown up images of Anton Corbijn photos from the tour programme made a nice decoration throughout the night. The several contests run over the night gave an opportunity to distribute the DM prizes brought over from London and I was quite amazed to see that there were many fans from abroad among the crowd...in fact, one of the first winners was a bloke from England!!

All in all, we had a great night out...a night that celebrated Depeche Mode and their music. I cannot wait for the one held by Bong on March 30th, 2002 in Basildon!!



BLASPHEMOUS RUMOURS

DM Fans

"We must have the most devoted fans in the world. They are manic. I'm always disappointed when I go see another band play. Their audiences are never the same as ours."

**Martin Gore, www.yahoo.com
(November 8, 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.

Exciter

"Unfortunately, Gore's songwriting on the album is a bit uneven. For every "Dream On", there's "The Dead Of Night". It's a great rocker that suffers from rhyming lyrics that sound forced: 'We're the horniest boys/with the corniest ploys/who take the easiest girls/to our sleaziest world.' No voice, not even Gahan's, can save a song from lyrics like that."

**Gabriele Grubka, The Buffalo News, USA
(July 10, 2001)**

Exciter Tour - Wembley

"Gahan has stripped off his shirt, and proceeds to spin across the stage with comical, sweaty abandon, shouting 'Hello London!' as if he's never been here before. His sheer happiness in his work is hard to resist, as he leads crowd-clapping so synchronised it gives fresh life to the old comparison between stadium shows and Nuremberg rallies. He won't rest until we're singing the new single 'Freelove' as if we've loved it all our lives."

**Nick Hasted, The Independent, UK
(October 22, 2001)**

The 80's Bands

"I can't say who's best. A lot of acts that were around in the early 80's had a certain individualism, and bad haircuts. But at least everyone tried to be different from each other. In the last few years there's been a lack of individualism around."

**Fletch, Ministry
(November 2001)**

Exciter Tour - Wembley

"With platinum-selling newcomers like Linkin Park obviously so much in debt to this behemoth of electronic music, the Mode are becoming almost as influential as The Beatles. But it's unlikely any of the young pretenders will ever reach the Mode's heights of glorious silliness - just look at the way Dave Gahan preens around the stage. It's so camp."

**Neil Thomson, NME
(November 3, 2001)**

Exciter Tour

"Visually, too, the concert is perfectly constructed. Anton Corbijn's set design starts off starkly minimalist - just a few leaning rectangles made from striplights and spotlights - but it changes and grows, subtly, as the show progresses. Towards the end there are some smart videos: 'In Your Room' is backed up by a goldfish swimming in sky-blue water; on the first crash of beats, a shark enters the water too. You spend the whole song waiting for it to eat the fish."

**Sam Taylor, The Observer, UK
(October 21, 2001)**

Regarding Bono

"We've swapped stage moves. I've stolen some from him, he's stolen some from me. We take the piss out of each other. U2 are awesome - one of the few live bands you can watch and go away feeling you've experienced something."

**Dave Gahan, Evening Standard, UK
(October 12, 2001)**

Exciter Tour - Wembley

"Surely, it's not possible that Depeche Mode are about to become cool again? Sure, they're back to grind out the same dark sexual pomp that they've been playing for the last 20 years, but the funny thing about tonight is that among the hordes of late 30-something leather-jacketed computer programmers there's a smattering of east London fashionistas."

**Neil Thomson, NME
(November 3, 2001)**

Exciter Tour - Wembley

"It's impossible to look at the still-spindly Gahan without imagining him as a sulky teenager at an Essex bus stop. And one look at the white, suburban, working-class, sussed crowd that fills Wembley tonight, and their roots seem within touching distance. You can take the boys out of Basildon. But Basildon has come to them."

**Nick Hasted,
The Independent, UK
(October 22, 2001)**

Exciter Tour - Wembley

"...it didn't take long before Dave Gahan transformed himself into the archetypal adrenalin fuelled frontman, tempting the crowd with his snake-like hips, performing like Jagger, Morrison and Hutchence rolled into one."

**Nick Mannion, www.icrunch.com
(September 2001)**

Exciter Tour - Wembley

"Is it just me or does Dave Gahan seem to be getting sexier and sexier? Certainly nothing beats a good dose of guaranteed year round LA sun to banish those winter blues, but where have all the tortured, dark, melancholic trademarks of the Essex boys evaporated to? With their current Exciter tour finally finding its way to our fair Isle, their new album is clear verification as to how far Depeche Mode have come - both personally and professionally."

**Ailsa Mellor, What's On, UK
(October 17, 2001)**

Exciter Tour - Wembley

"Live, the switches between styles meant some clumsy shifts in tone for Gahan, and although he managed at times to sound both delicate and wounded, it was his gruff anarchic tones that came across best. When Gore started singing 'Breathe', his vocals paled in comparison, even when he was lit up on stage in strident ultraviolet with a sweeping backdrop image of the Grand Canyon."

**Kathleen Wyatt, The Times, UK
(October 19, 2001)**

Exciter Tour

"Ahhhh, Depeche Mode. Awesome from the very first moment. There are some bands that seem to create a presence with their music and Depeche Mode have always created a very God-like vibe. Their lyrics have always contained snippets of spiritual truth and when you see thousands chanting 'Personal Jesus' and feel the vibration that it creates, the biblical quotation 'Whenever two or more are gathered in my name' can't help but pop into the mind."

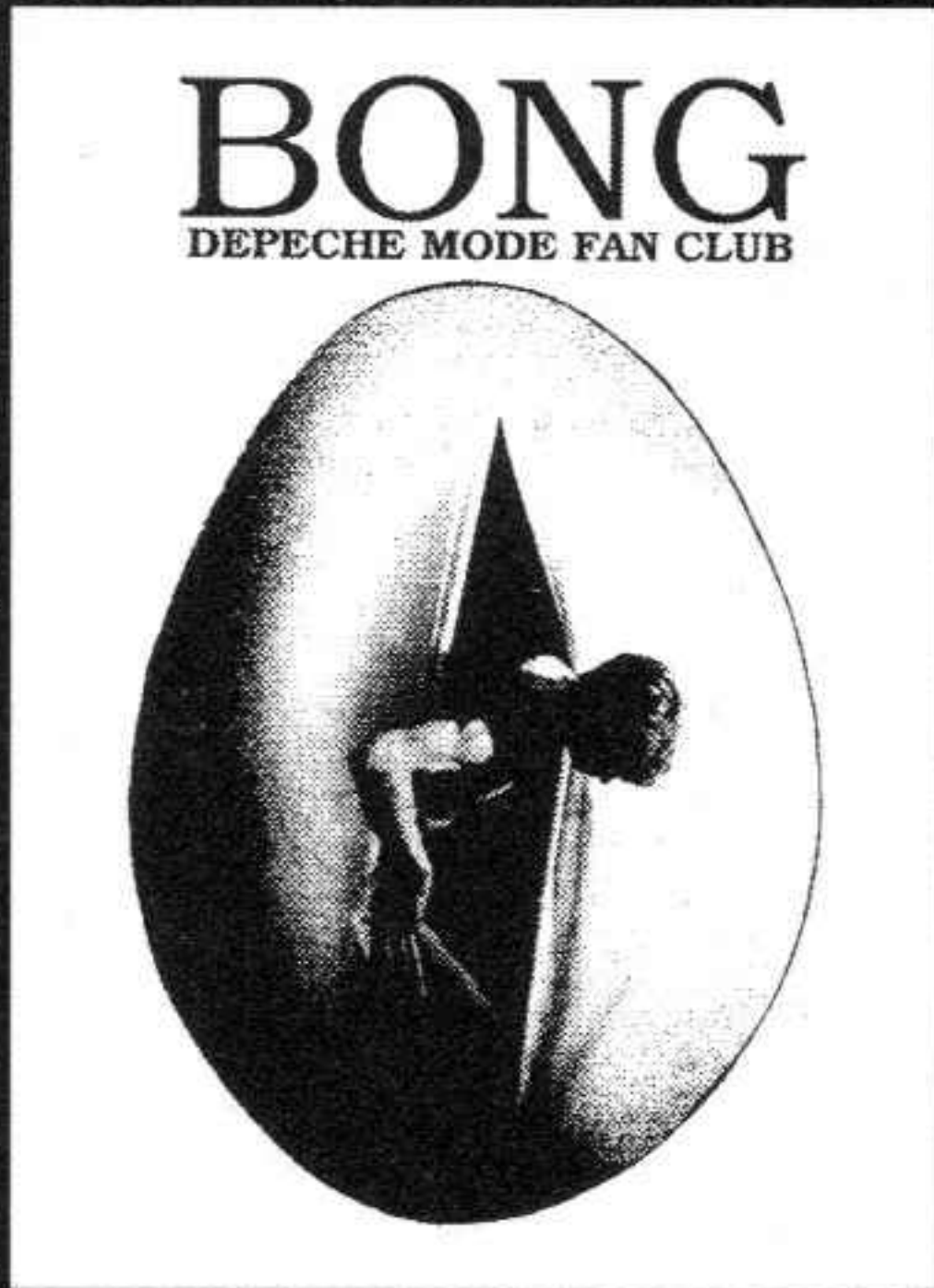
**Helen Mackle,
Tip Sheet, UK
(October 25, 2001)**

Exciter Tour

"Forget the disappointing showing for 'Exciter' in the UK and the US, Depeche Mode clearly peddle a kind of internationally recognised synth-rock Esperanto. How else do you explain securing the top spot in Belgium, Greece and Sweden, not to mention their sell-out tour of the entire Baltic region, with no tickets left for shows in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania or St. Petersburg in Russia? Wrap up warm, Mr. Gahan."

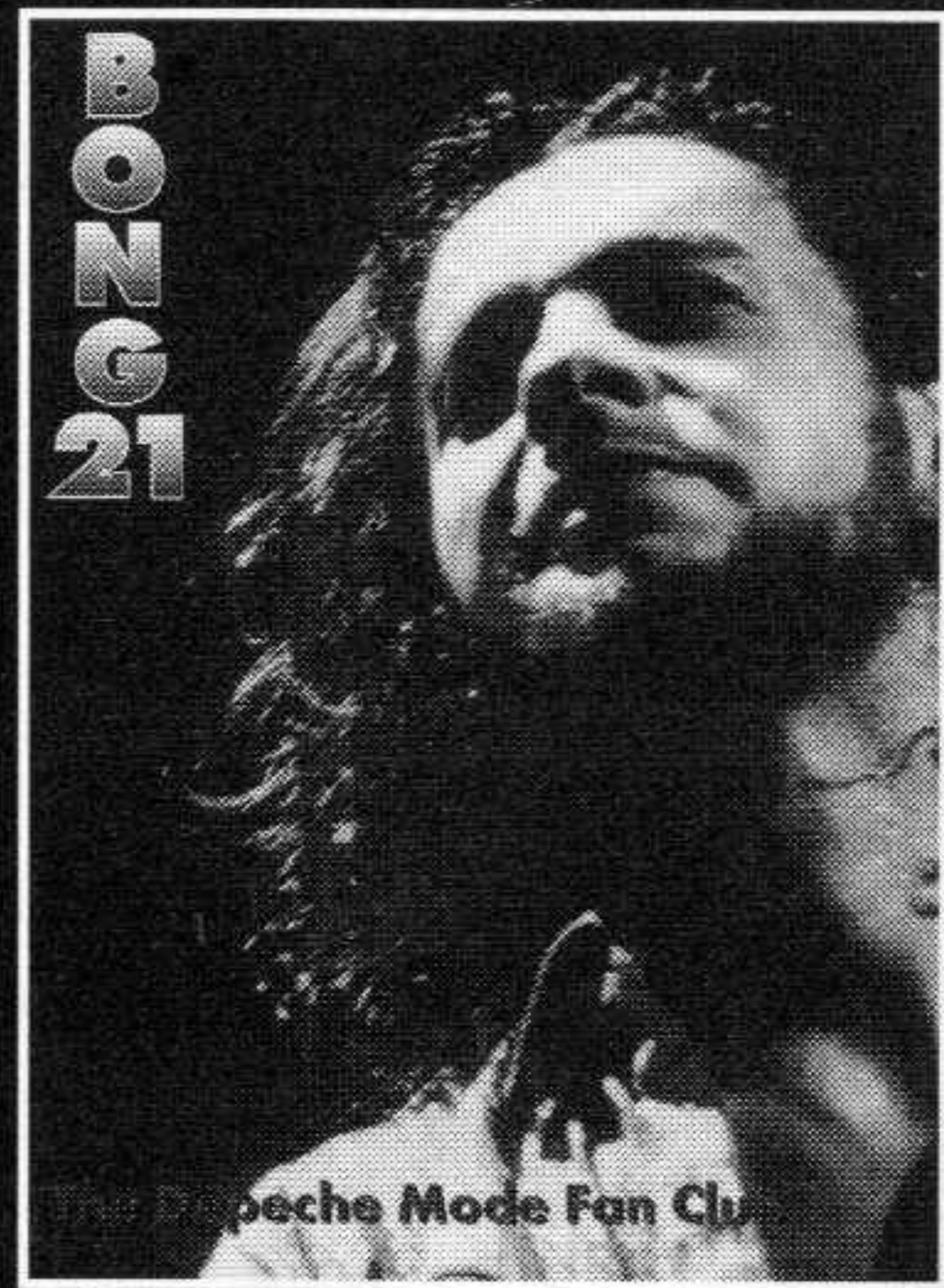
**Q Magazine
(November 2001)**

BONG 14



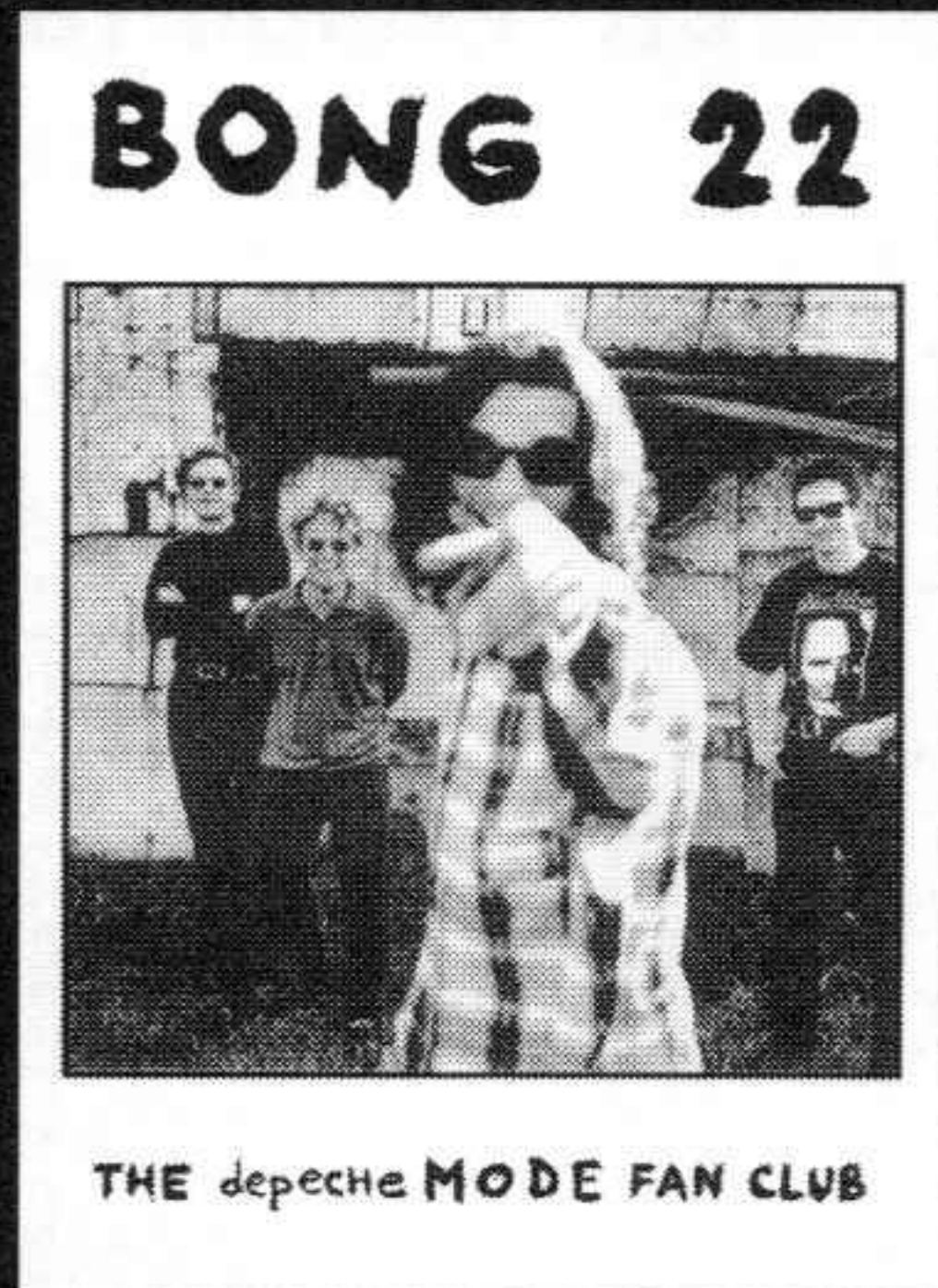
A4, b/w

BONG 21



A4, colour

BONG 22



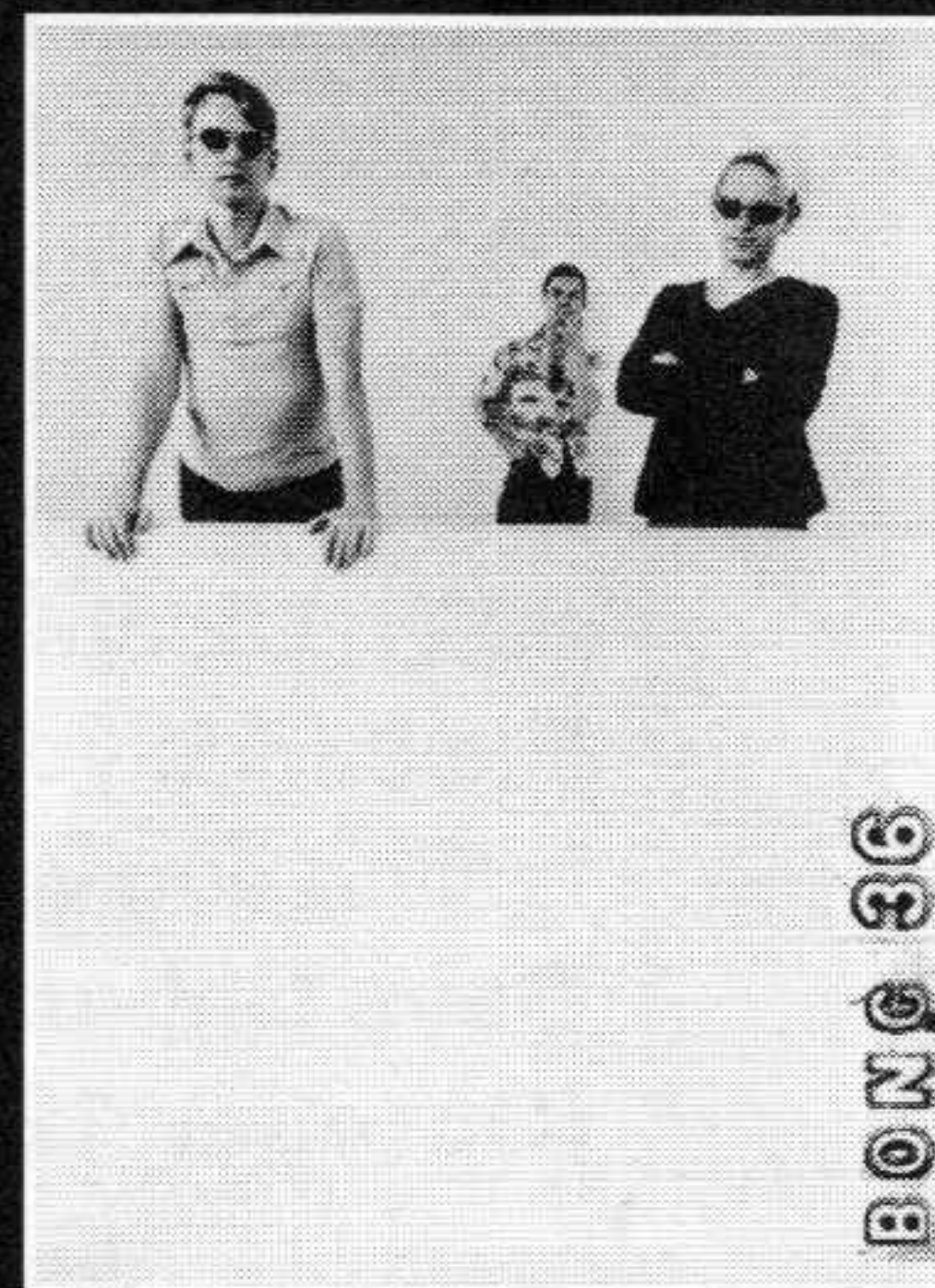
A4, colour

BONG 35



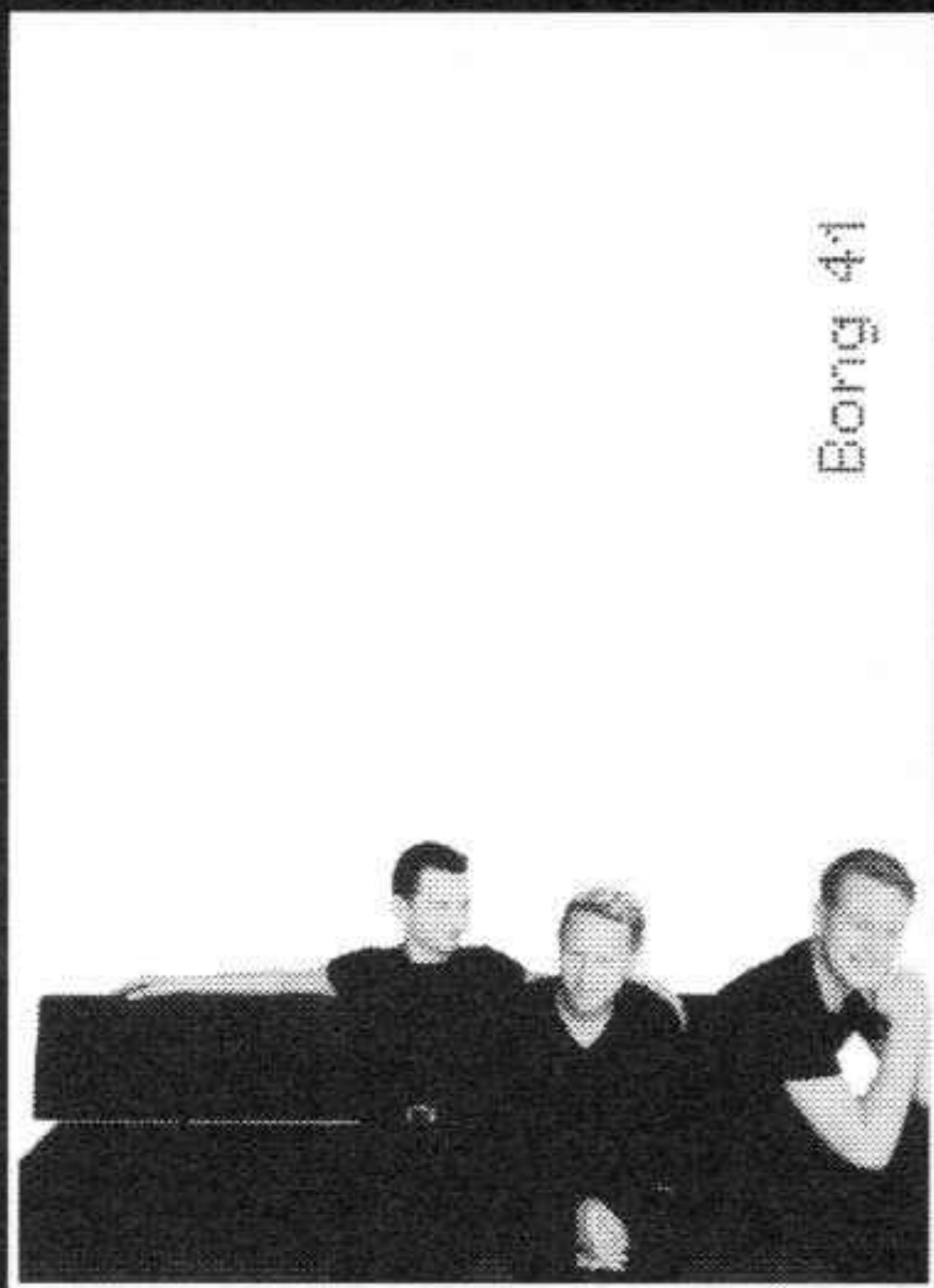
A4, colour

BONG 36



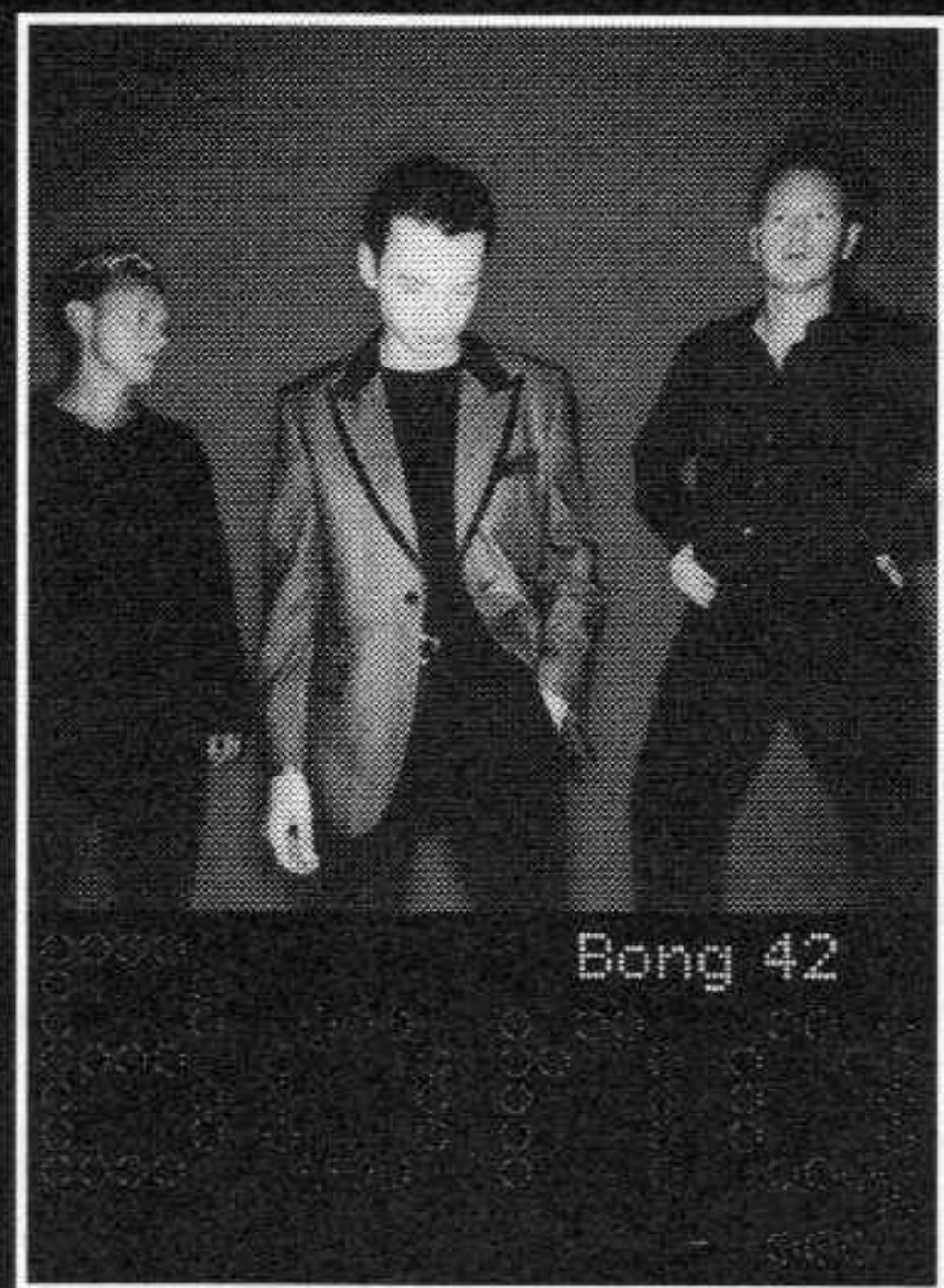
A4, colour

BONG 41



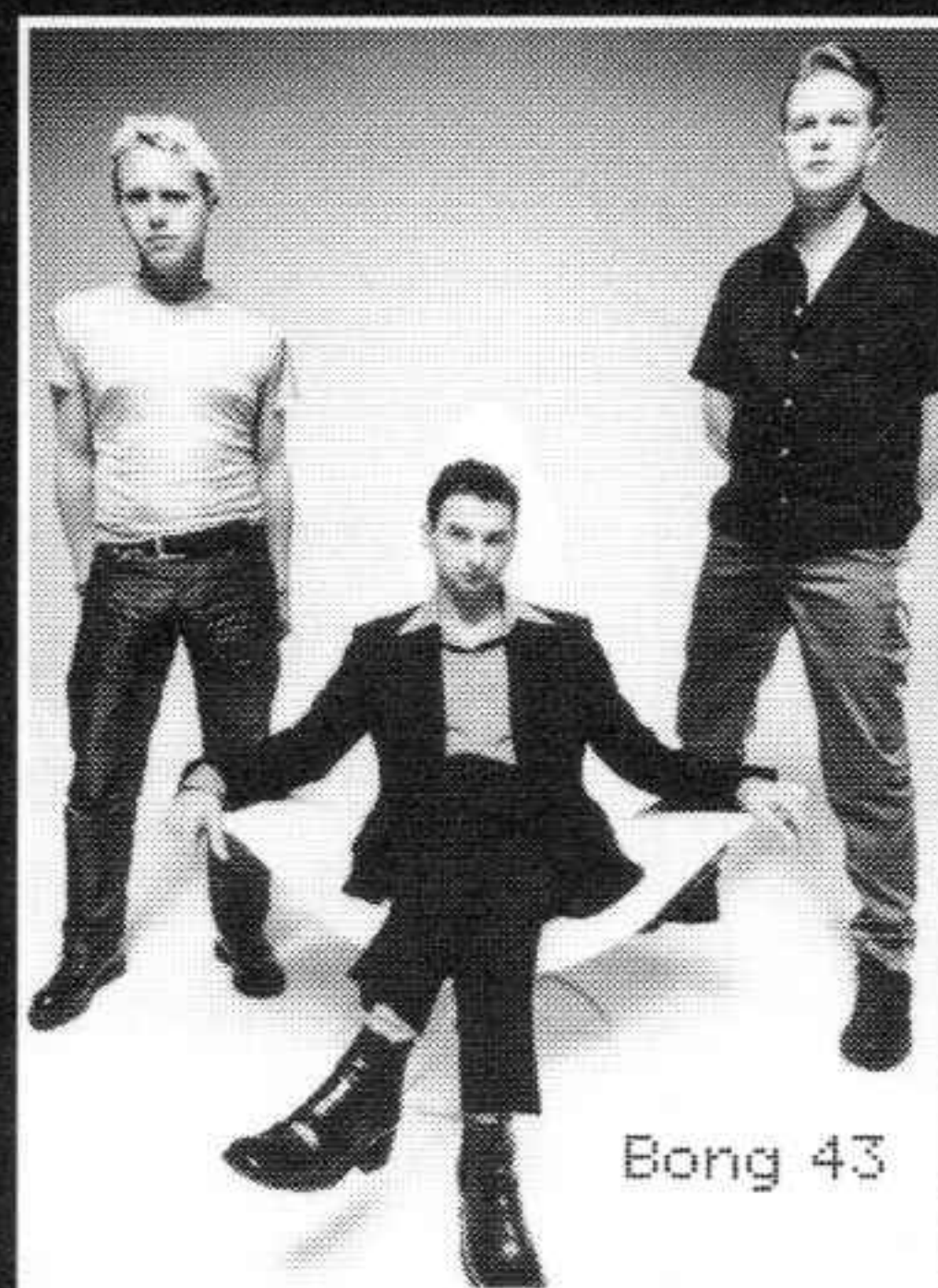
A4, colour

BONG 42



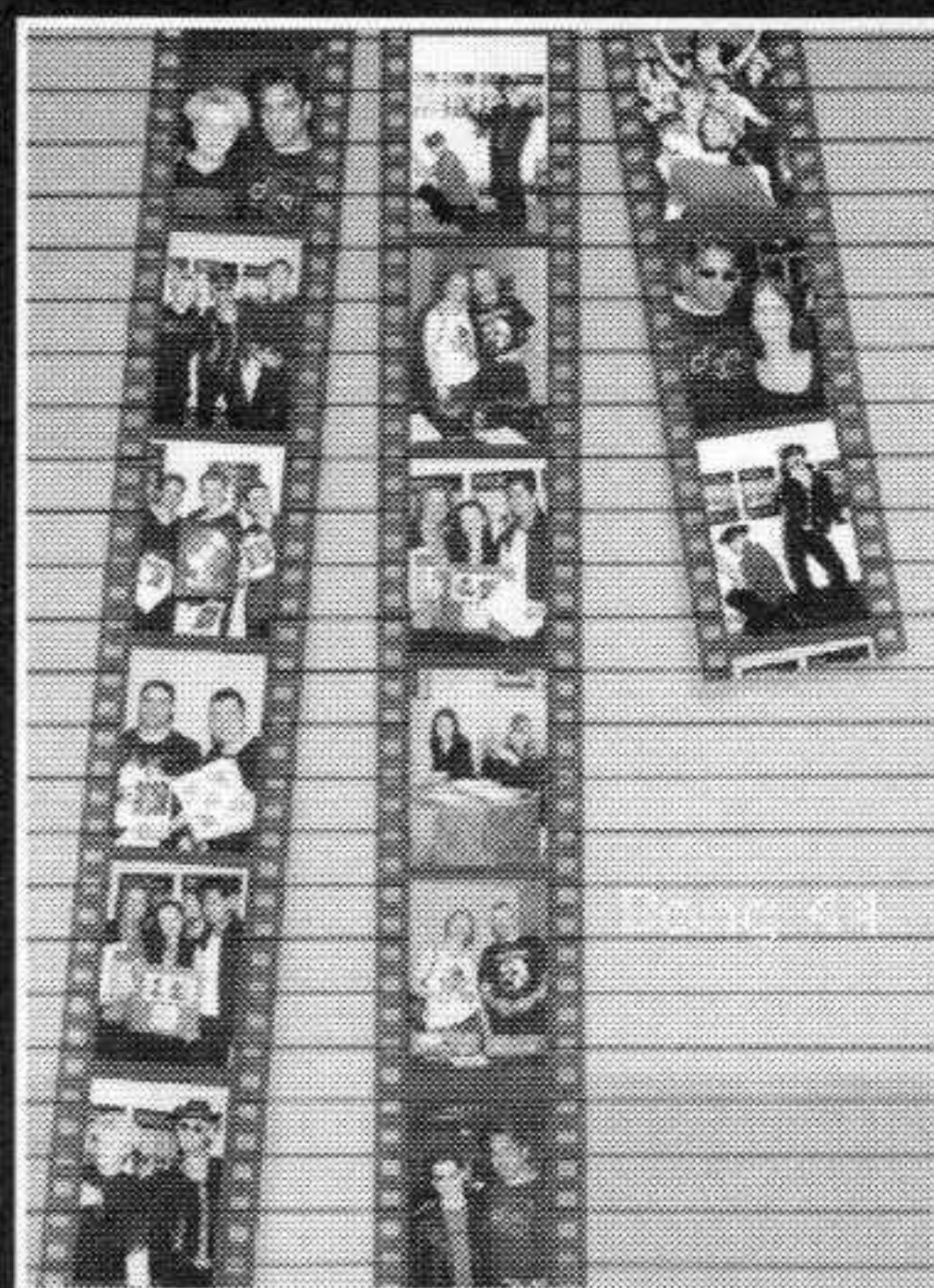
A4, colour

BONG 43



A4, colour

BONG 44



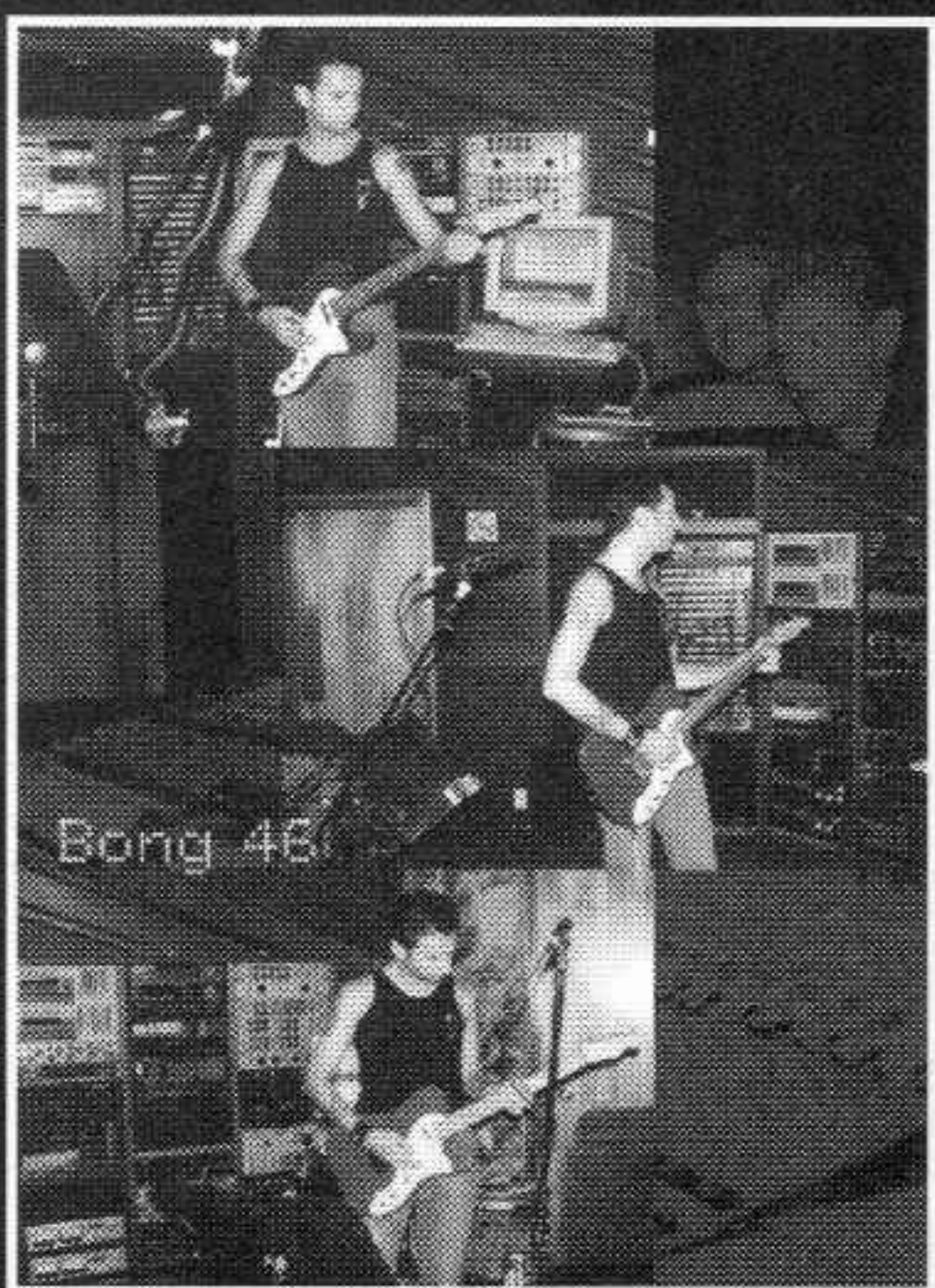
A4, colour

BONG 45



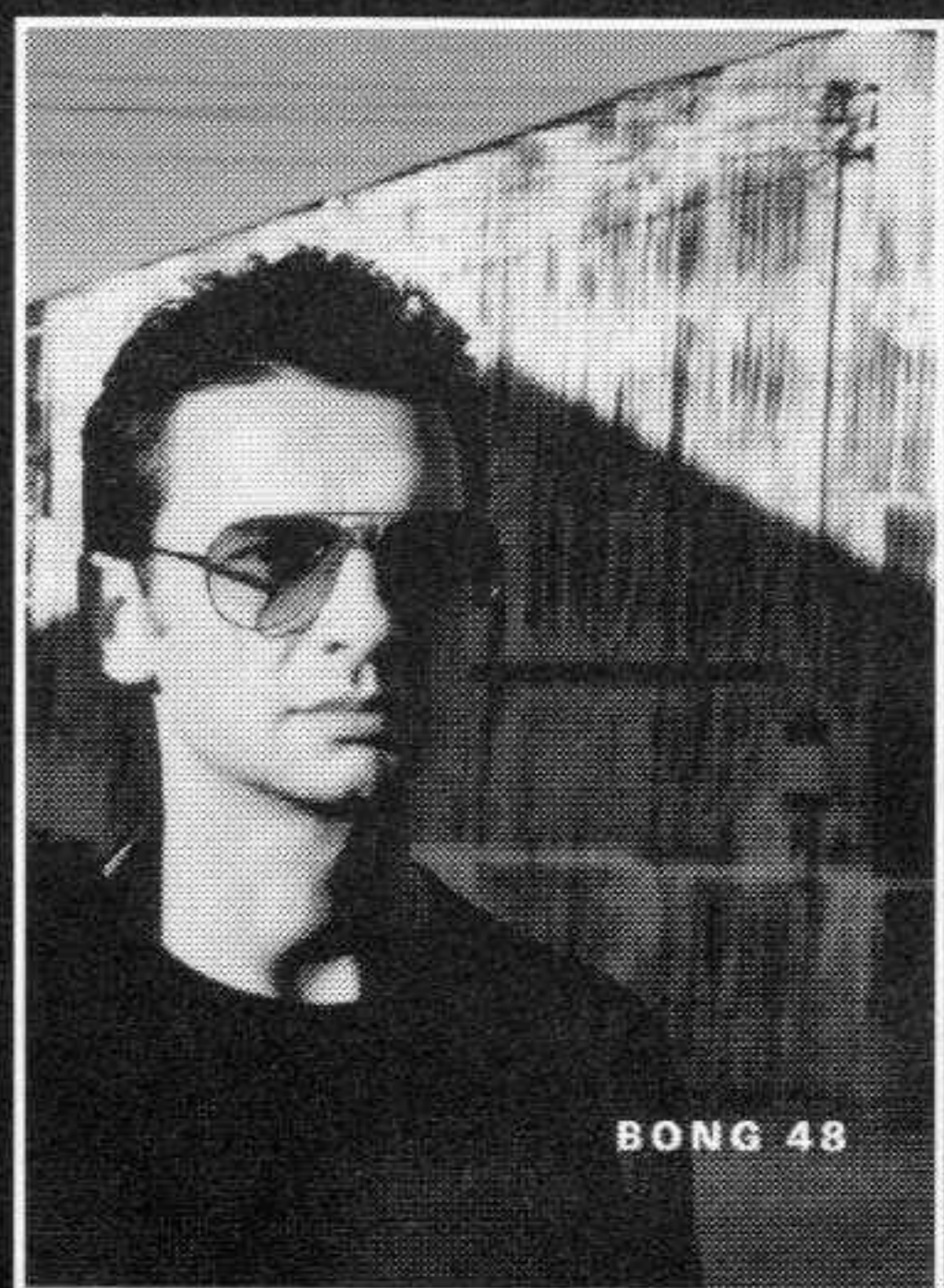
A4, colour

BONG 46



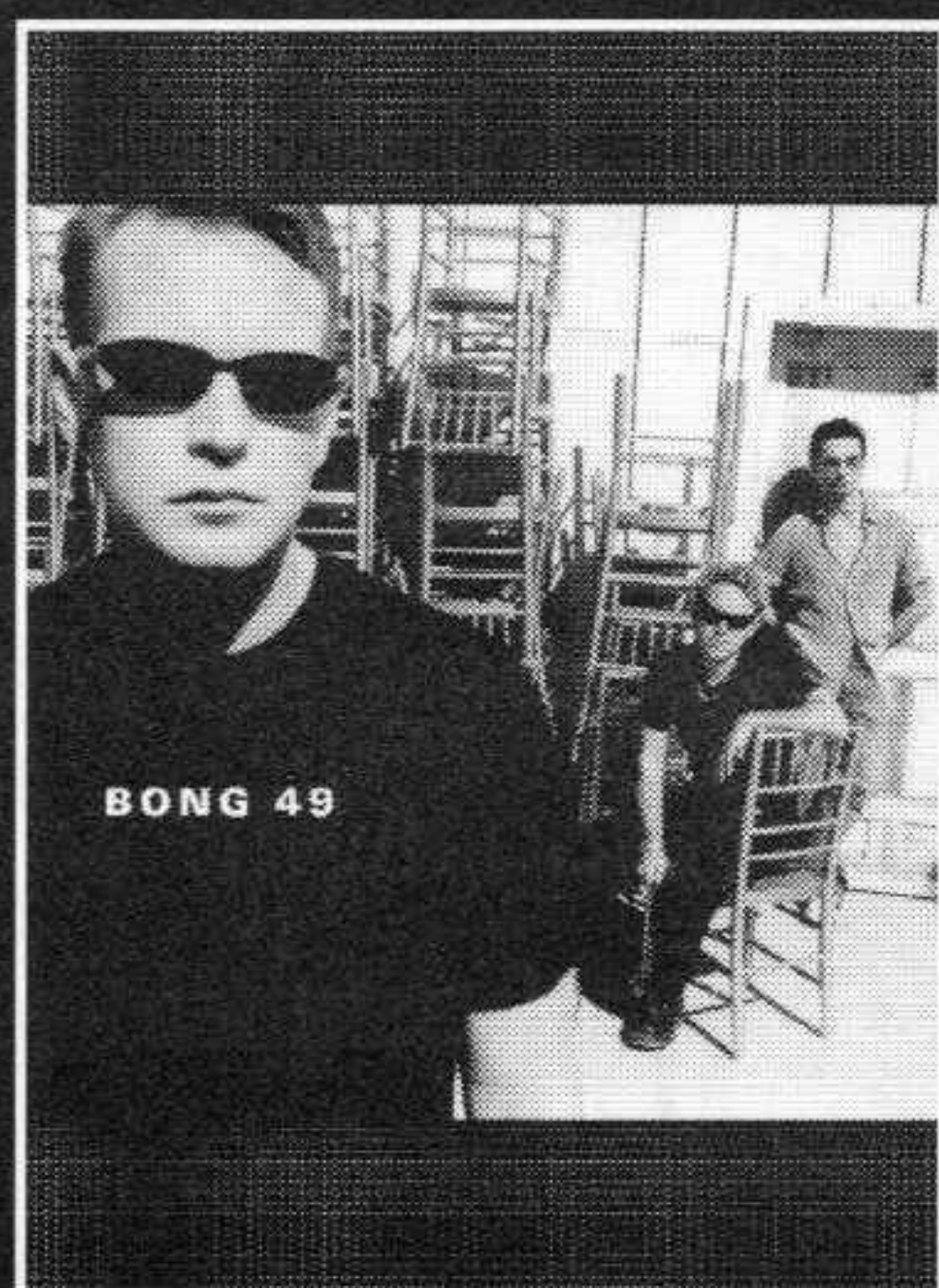
A4, colour

BONG 48



A4, colour

BONG 49



A4, colour

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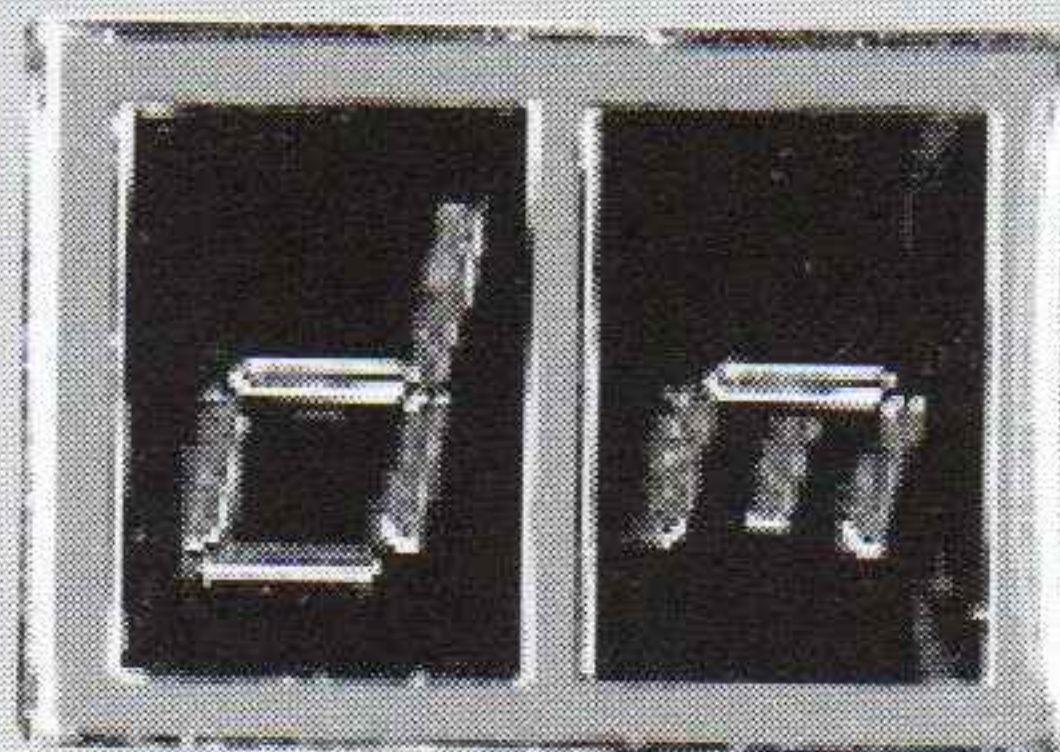


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(white on black)

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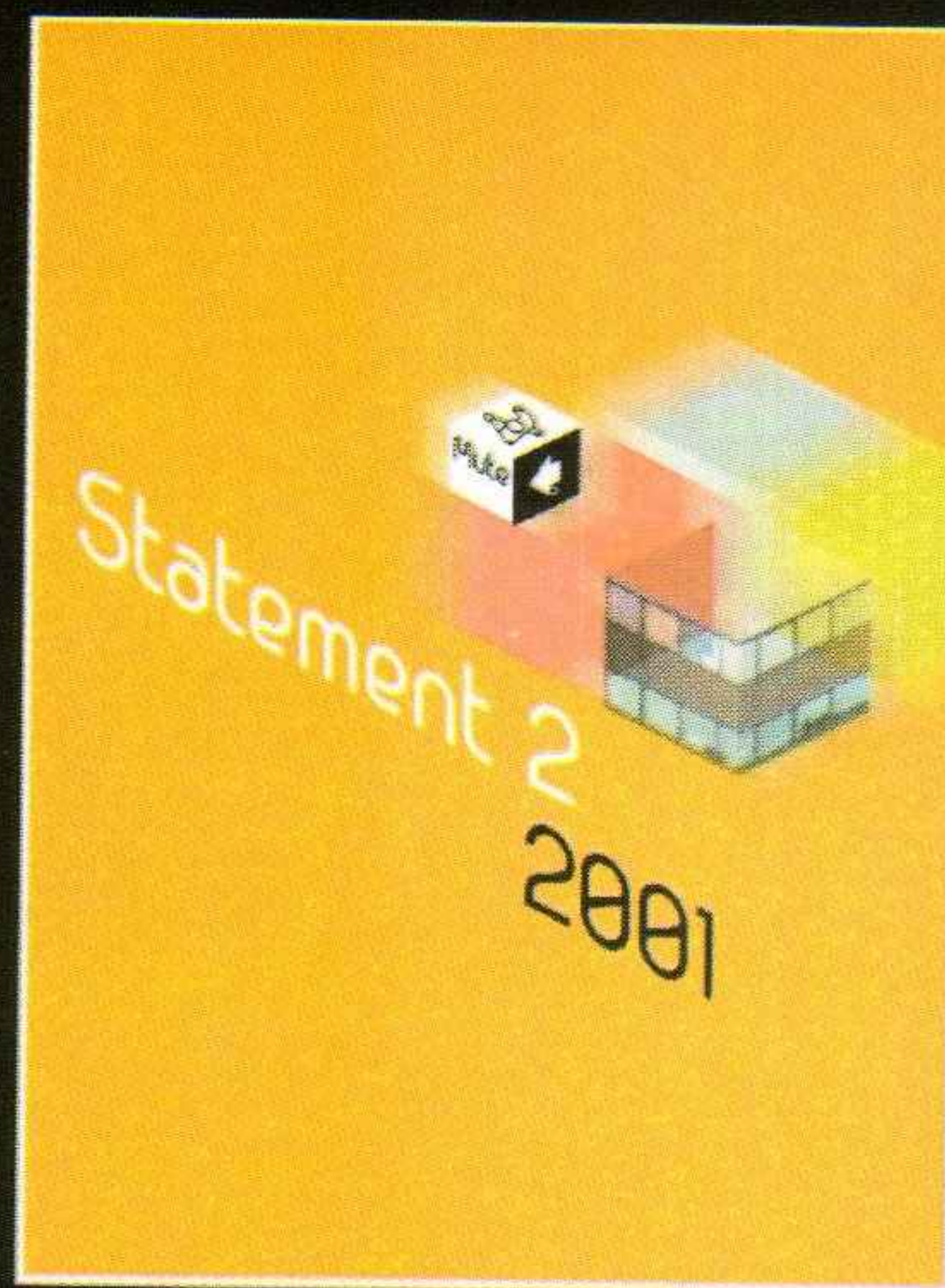


BONG 1994
(purple on grey)

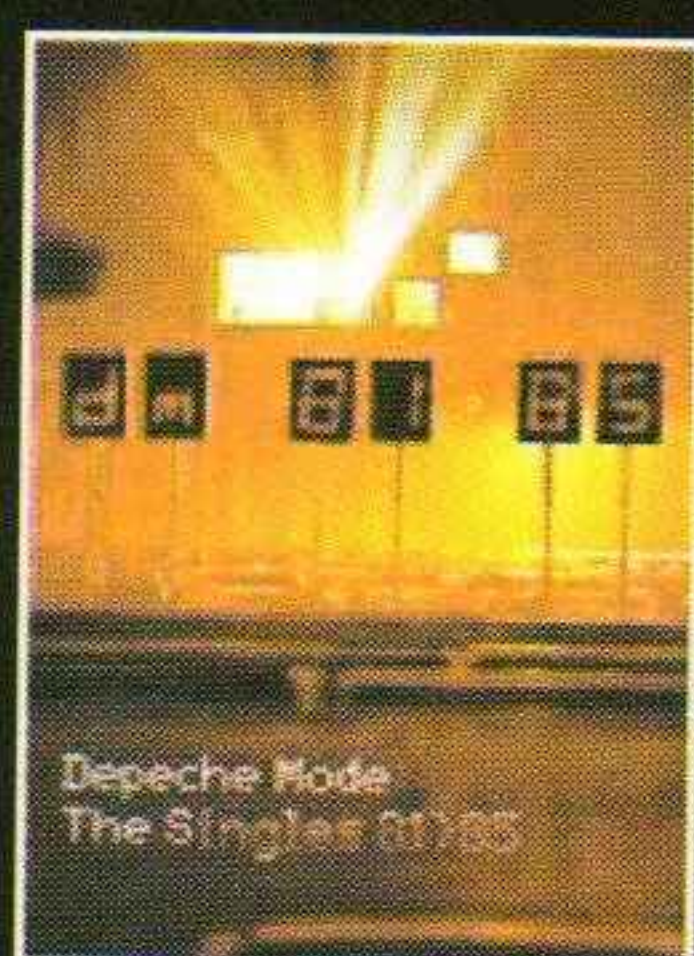
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