

Board 44



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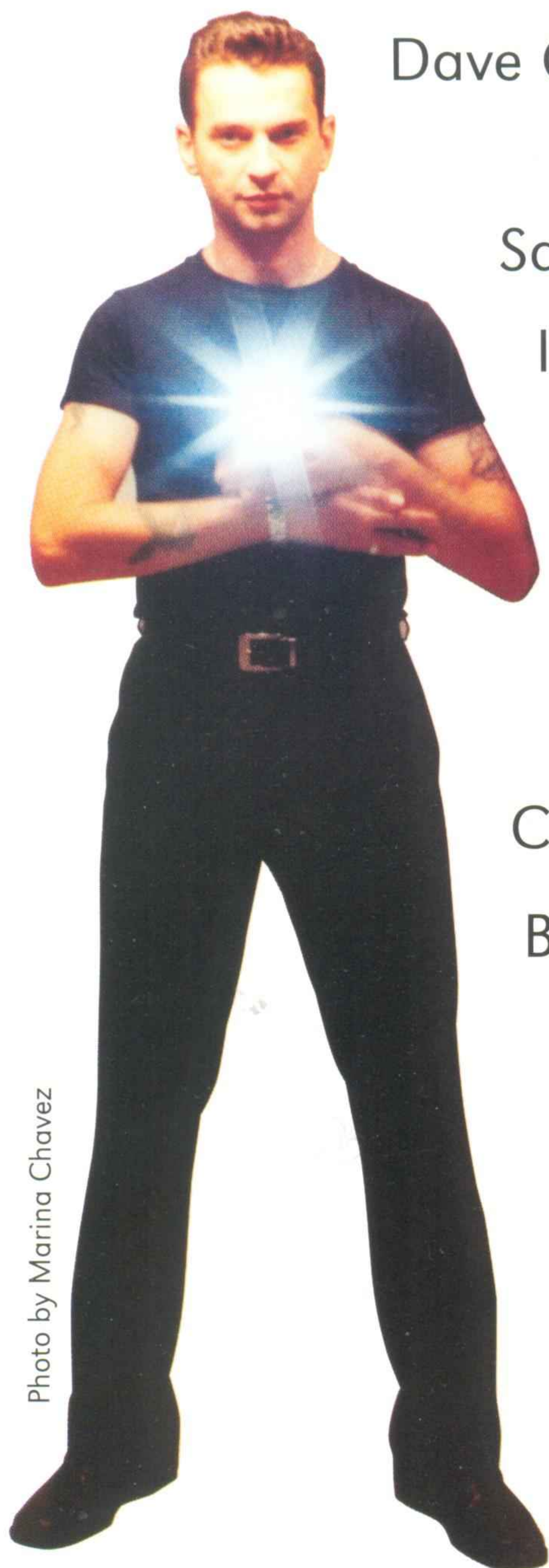


Photo by Marina Chavez

Cover photos courtesy of Bong.

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< < < Intro > >

## Hello and welcome to Bong 44 - our summer edition!

I am sure you will agree when I say the past three months have been very enjoyable, at least for those who attended this year's International Bong Convention in Basildon on April 15. Although it was some time ago, we're still receiving messages, letters, e-mails and photographs from those of you who came to celebrate 20 years of Depeche Mode with us. So you won't be too surprised that this issue of Bong is going to be more or less dedicated to this very special event....

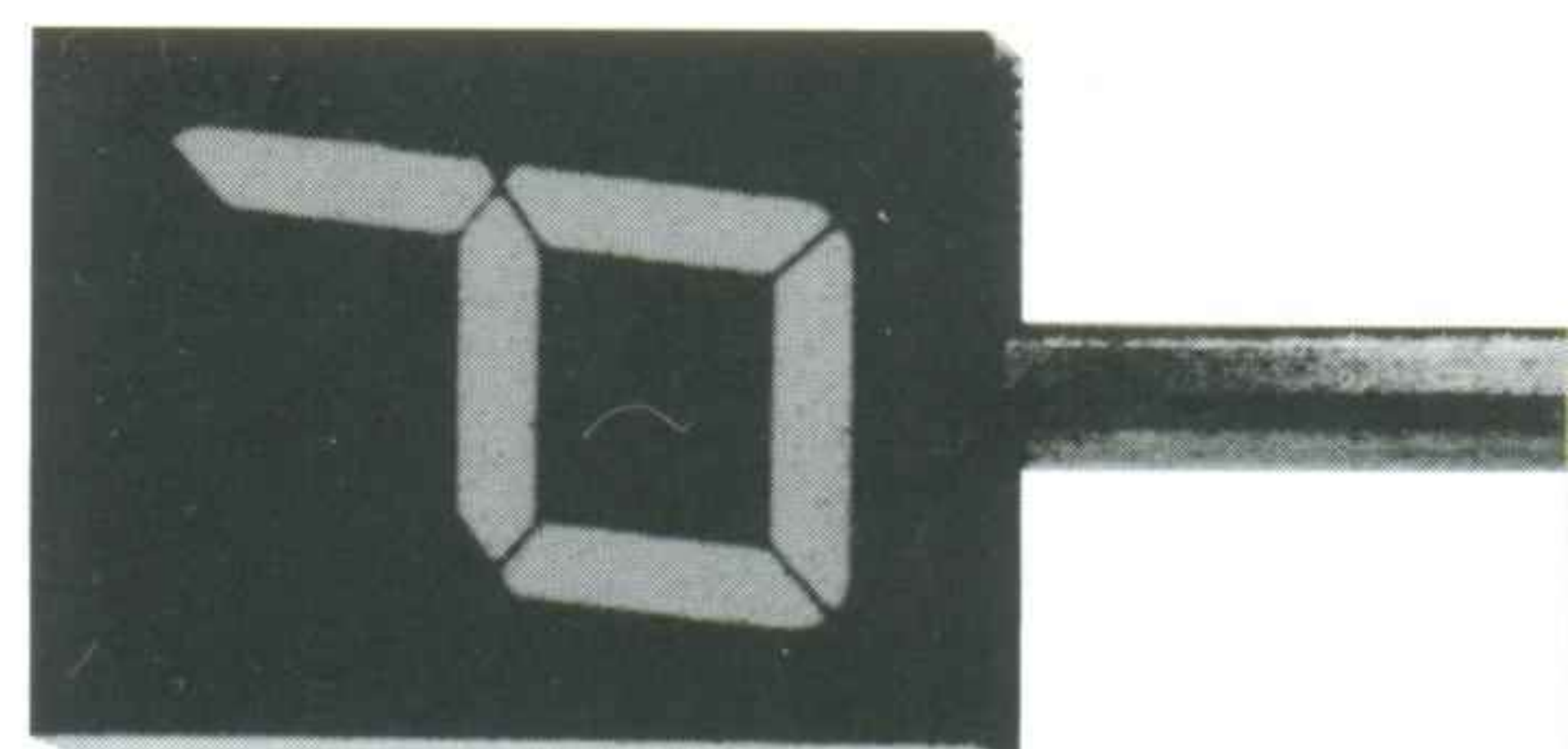
Although the Band members were not present, The Posthouse in Basildon witnessed a concert-like atmosphere created by more than 250 fans from all over the World, including Russia, Denmark, Italy, Switzerland, Sweden, Austria, Germany, France, the Czech Republic, the United States and of course, the UK.

The highlights of the night were the personal messages from each of the Band members -recorded exclusively for the event, revealing some of the band's future plans. Now there's definitely something to look forward to - not just a new album but also the possibility of a tour next year, as Dave suggested in his message. See Everything Counts for an up-date on the Band's recording plans.

We would like to thank everyone, on behalf of Dave, for all your lovely cards and messages sent to him for his birthday. He has asked us to pass on his thanks to everyone who wished him well.

This issue of Bong brings you the third and final part of our "Personal File" and this time it's Dave with a confession! We hope you enjoy an exclusive set of photographs taken during Fletch's visit to Prague back in February. As for the regular features, don't worry, they'll be back in the next edition - there just wasn't enough room this time!

Until September, keep moding!



# < < Pressed In Black > >

**Dear Bong,**

Today is the birthday of David Gahan. Therefore, my brother and myself, would like to wish Dave all the best today and in the future. The warmest wishes to his family and the rest of the Band. I hope that Dave will remain patient, smiling and happy in his personal life as well as his professional one. We hope that Dave together with Martin and Andrew will successfully finish a new record and we will see them again next year on tour. The best wishes to David again!!!

**Edgars Zilitis  
and his sister Kristine  
Riga, Latvia**

**Dear Bong,**

My best friend and myself had a great opportunity to go and see the projection of "101" movie which was played on a large screen in "La Villette" in the place we live. We were so surprised that there was, at last, a special evening dedicated to Depeche Mode, we just couldn't miss it! The movie theatre was full, mostly with fans. When the lights were switched off and the film began, the applause and cheering got louder. We were all very excited, especially us girls!!

But some of the passages in the movie made the audience react more than others: when Dave dances on stage, when he talks about the taxi driver, etc. But myself, I particularly screamed over the picture of Martin dressed only in shorts which seemed to be leather

shorts. Wow!! Such wonderful legs and beautiful chest, a perfect body in fact! The best moment of the show, really! But I can't be objective as I just love him!!

I cannot say the evening was as great as a live concert, but it allowed some fans to get together and have fun. I also found it more enjoyable to watch this movie on a large screen than on a small TV set. And what's more.....we were able to sing as loud as we wanted to. The evening was so good, if only there was another tour or concert filmed again, I would definitely go again, should any other projections like this be shown in the future.....It was a very special night, really!!

**Sandrine Schmitt  
Saint Germain des Fossés,  
France**

**Dear Bong,**

I have just received Bong 42 and believe me, I have no words to describe my happiness when it arrived and I was holding it in my hands, a happiness that began precisely on 5th August 1999, the day I received my first issue of Bong ever. Thank you very much for the wonderful photos, news, the calendar, Bong Poll, Personal Files, Mega Devotee File - yes, everything is absolutely wonderful!! It was a great surprise for me when I read in Martin's Personal File that his favourite perfume is Angel because it is my favourite one too!!

**Chiara Urraro  
Napoli, Italy**

**Dear Bong,**

Carrying on your subject of finding love through Depeche Mode I thought I'd write and tell you what happened to me.

I've been a member of Bong for about ten years now, and back in 1992 I put my name in one of your Pen Pals sections. I received a lot of replies but one, which stood out, was from a girl in California called Sarah. To make this story even more amazing Sarah only ever bought one issue of Bong and it was the one with my name in. At the time I was nineteen and Sarah was sixteen. We seemed to hit it off quickly and became good friends across the ocean. We were both seeing other people at the time so our relationship was purely platonic.

We first met in person when I went across to California with my friend James for two weeks in 1994. Ironically the first time I ever saw Sarah was at her sister's wedding. We've both since admitted our feelings for each other became more than friendship in those two weeks. However that was the last we were to see of each other for three years. We almost drifted apart until I received a Christmas card from Sarah in 1996. We resumed our friendship and I made plans, with my friend Peter, to visit Florida where Sarah now worked. On the last night of my stay I eventually plucked up the courage to tell Sarah that I loved her. It was the most nervous moment of my life. To my great relief I found out the feeling was mutual.

A year later I went back to visit Sarah. Even though we now both knew how we felt about each other the distance between us seemed destined to keep us apart. The red tape involved in order for me to live in America had already knocked that idea on the head. Just when it seemed like there was no hope everything started to fall into places. We had now known each other for six years and we were both very much in love. Somehow we both knew the time was right to make a commitment to each other. Sarah had looked into the possibility of moving to England. After finding out it was a lot easier than me moving to the US. Sarah made the decision to apply for residency in the UK.

We both knew we wanted to be with each other for life, and so on September 15, 1998 we were married overlooking a beach in Tampa Bay, Florida. It was the happiest day of my life. "Only When I Lose Myself" hadn't been out very long then and now every time I hear it, it reminds me of the week I got married. Sarah was finally granted her entry clearance and arrived in England on October 30, 1998. We're now both very happy together in our first home and have celebrated our first wedding anniversary.

So a big thank you to Bong and Depeche Mode because without you we wouldn't be together!!

**Graeme A'Court**  
**Northumberland, England**



Photo by Anton Corbijn

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**Dear Bong,**

I just wanted to drop you a line so I could have someone to share my misery with. About eight months ago I moved, and I packed all my Depeche Mode things into three huge boxes, and left them in my parent's attic until my new apartment was ready. To make a long story short, somewhere between my move, and my mom cleaning out the attic with three hired hands, my three boxes were thrown out (or stolen)! It still brings an ache to my heart to think about it. I had every single concert shirt in there (more than fifty), three ring binders full of magazines, original Bong issues that were still photocopy style...all my concert tickets and different memorabilia I have collected over the years. I mean we are talking the blonde years, when they were in Teen Beat and Tiger Beat! It is so sad. There are no words that can express my loss. The only thing I have left is the (2nd row centre) Singles ticket stub, and an autographed copy of "Ultra" (that I bought). Thank DM for at least that! No one understands my pain. I knew if I wrote to you, at least I would get someone to cry with me!

**Aimee Williamson**  
**California, USA**

**Editor's note:** We were so sorry to read your story. It must have been devastating losing all the memorabilia you have gathered over the years. Therefore we would like to ask anyone who feels they can perhaps help, to get in touch with Aimee on her e-mail address: [AWilliamson@peoplepc.com](mailto:AWilliamson@peoplepc.com) - maybe you can offer her a little something to start up a new collection. Thanks.

**Dear Bong,**

I'm just wondering why Depeche Mode keep on letting different people remix their songs, because since "Violator" the majority of the remixes have been very poor, for example "Barrel Of A Gun", "Home" and "Walking In My Shoes". I really like the way they change their songs live, like "Home". To be honest I don't think Depeche Mode like the majority of the latest remixes so why is it so difficult to find another way? The remixes of "Enjoy The Silence" and "Personal Jesus" are fantastic, and I'm sure a lot of fans are listening a lot more to the older remixes. I just think it's a shame that the latest singles have been destroyed with very poor remixes, and the value of the latest cd-singles has definitely decreased. There is just so much potential....

**Kim Silkeborg**  
**Denmark**

**Editor's note:** Unfortunately, remixes are a matter of personal taste. The band happen to like the remixes that get put out, but obviously they can't expect everyone else to.

**Dear Bong,**

I just wanted to let you know that I LOVE the Bong magazines. Depeche Mode is the only unique band out there. Thanks for having these magazines focused entirely on them.

I was wondering, is it possible that I can still order the very first issue of the Bong magazine? And last question, where can I order all the rare-import CDs of DM? I keep seeing all these rare CDs on e-bay and from other sites of people out there but all of them are mostly from the UK. Please tell me if I can order some of these rare CDs here

in the US or if I can order them from the UK, but it must be a reliable and secured site because I personally don't trust sites that are from far away places. Especially when it's from across the world. Please get back to me on this...Thank you so much!!

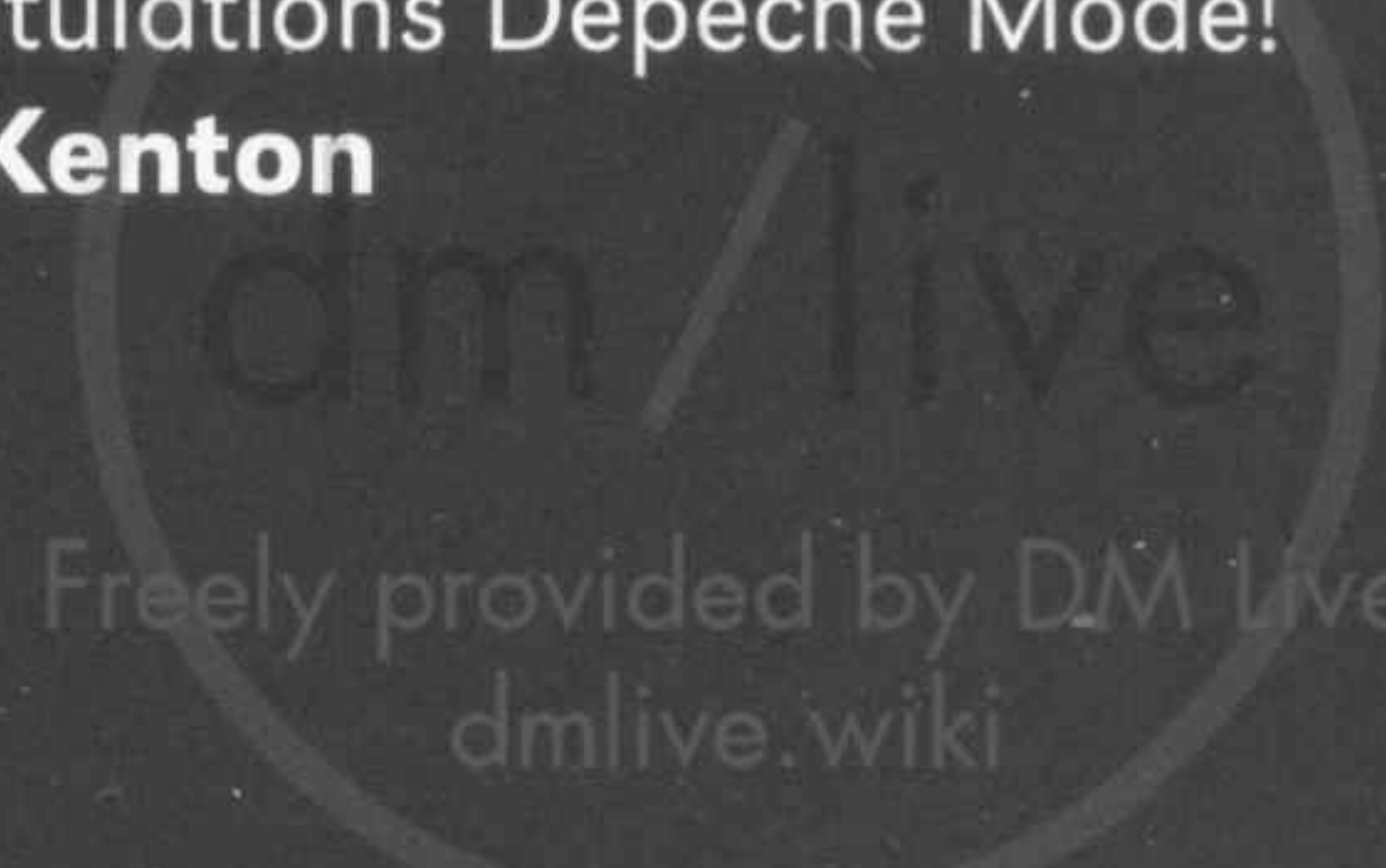
**Lesley Codilla**  
**USA**

**Editor's note:** Unfortunately, we don't have any of the early issues of Bong available anymore, although you could ask other fans and collectors by putting an ad in the Classified section of Bong - you never know your luck. As for rare-import CDs, you could try Mute Records' mail order department - The Mute Bank - at [www.mute.co.uk/store.htm](http://www.mute.co.uk/store.htm). They should have most of Depeche Mode's UK back catalogue.

**Dear Bong,**

Firstly, thank you for the superb magazine, lovely colour photos and very informative. I have been a fan for about 15 years but I only joined Bong last year, what have I been missing out on! Secondly, I'd like to congratulate the boys on 20 fantastic years, I often thought they wouldn't make it, what with all the trials and tribulations on the Devotional Tour but they came through it, still making excellent music and I'd like to wish them all the best for the next 20 years (we hope). Depeche Mode completely changed my life and I think their best album is "Songs Of Faith And Devotion". It's just so diverse, evocative and emotion stirring. I'd like to say thanks to them for helping me see through the bad times I had, through their music and for just being them. Congratulations Depeche Mode!

**Carol Kenton**



# Everything Counts >>

## Recording Plans

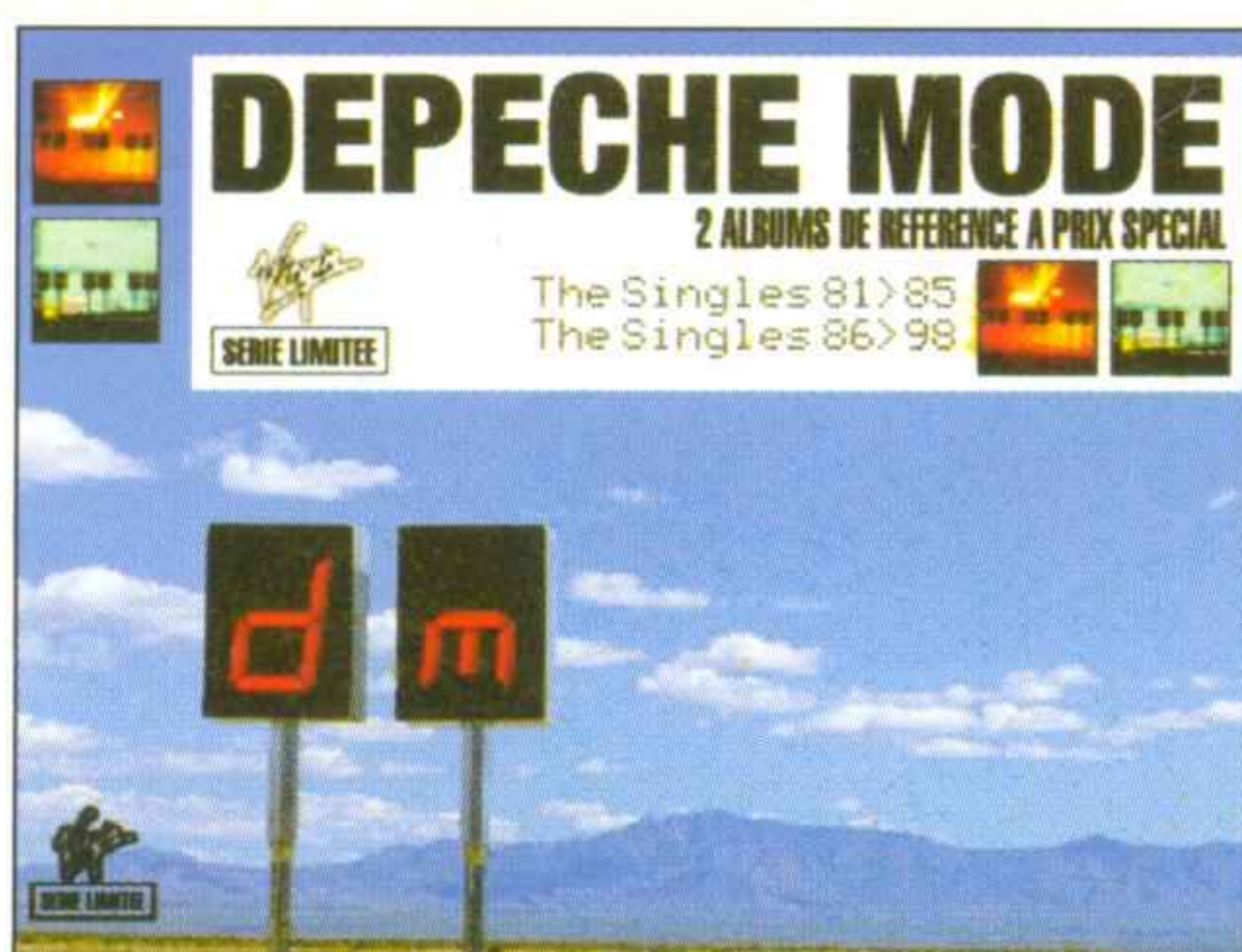
Since our last update, Martin has been writing more songs, and has several ready for the band to begin working on. It is almost certain, therefore, that the band will be recording during June and July, working in studios in both London and New York. Several producers have been under consideration, and although a decision is very near, we are unable to name names as yet. Watch the band's web site for late breaking news. Gareth Jones is still the man behind the mixing desk.

## Interview

Andy Fletcher and Daniel Miller of Mute were interviewed regarding Mute in a feature about independent record labels on Lemacq Live on BBC Radio 1 on March 27.

## The Singles 81>85 + The Singles 86>98

A limited number box set featuring both, "The Singles 81>85" and "The Singles 86>98" was released in France back in December 1999. A hard cardboard box contains the singles albums in their original packaging and the overall design uses some of the well known images from these albums. It is an official release and is still available from the French on-line music store [www.fnac.com](http://www.fnac.com)



## The Singles 86>98

"The Singles 86>98" went platinum in Germany last April. This represents sales



of over 500,000. Although the gold and platinum standards in Germany have recently been reduced to 150,000 and 300,000 respectively, "The Singles" album was released prior to this change, and that is why it seems to have taken so long.

## Leave In Silence

The intro and main riff of "Leave In Silence" was used throughout the track called "Tuttincoro" by RAF, the Italian DJ and producer Mauro Picotto. It was approved by Martin in April last year and he is also mentioned in the credits. The record is available on Media Records and the track can also be found on the double mix album "Tranceformer 2000".



## Top 10

The April 9th supplement of The Mail On Sunday (UK National paper) printed a chart of consecutive Top 10 albums. The results are as follows (see the chart below) >>>

## Top 20

The March issue of the British magazine Melody Maker published a Top 20 list of the most famous rock'n'roll hellraisers. Dave Gahan was listed on No. 17 but the complete list follows: 1. Kurt Cobain, 2. Shaun Ryder, 3. Keith Moon (The Who), 4. Richey Edwards (Manic Street Preachers), 5. Liam Gallagher, 6. Robbie Williams, 7. Keith Richards, 8. Courtney Love, 9. Marilyn Manson, 10. Jimmy Page, 11. Michael Hutchence, 12. Jim Morrison, 13. Tommy Lee, 14. Brian Molko (Placebo), 15. Ozzy Osbourne, 16. Slash, 17. Dave Gahan, 18. Nick Cave, 19. Cerys Matthews (Catatonia), 20. Martin Duffy (Primal Scream).

>>>

## CONSECUTIVE TOP-TEN ALBUMS

ARTIST/TIME PERIOD	NUMBER OF UK TOP-TEN ALBUMS
1= <b>ELVIS PRESLEY</b> 1958-1964	17
2= <b>QUEEN</b> 1974-1989	14
3= <b>THE ROLLING STONES</b> 1964-1971	13
3= <b>DAVID BOWIE</b> 1973-1981	13
5= <b>BOB DYLAN</b> 1965-1970 and again between 1974-1983	12
5= <b>DEPECHE MODE</b> 1981-1998	12
5= <b>MADONNA</b> 1984-1998	12
8= <b>CLIFF RICHARD</b> 1959-1964	11
8= <b>LED ZEPPELIN</b> 1969-1990	11
8= <b>ELTON JOHN</b> 1972-1978	11

Source: The Popular Music Database

## Top 300

On January 1st-2nd, the local radio station WLIR - 92.7 (formerly known as WDRE) in New York ran a program showcasing the Top 300 most popular songs. The countdown results were based on airplay, sales, and requests. Depeche Mode can be counted as the second most popular band amongst WLIR listeners with a total of ten songs in the countdown. The Cure came in first with eleven songs, U2 tied with Depeche Mode, and R.E.M. was third. The songs listed for Depeche Mode are as follows (high to low): #9 "Just Can't Get Enough", #34 "Strangelove", #48 "Enjoy The Silence", #63 "Personal Jesus", #86 "Route 66", #113 "Blasphemous Rumours", #132 "People Are People", #152 "Never Let Me Down Again", #191 "A Question Of Lust", #275 "Policy Of Truth". Congratulations to Depeche Mode!

## Top 400

One of Australia's well known radio stations Fox FM announced the Top 400 songs as voted in by their listeners back in March...and yes...Depeche Mode came in with "Just Can't Get Enough" at number 47.

## General

On February 11, the Portuguese TV Channel Sie broadcast another part of the singing contest called "Chuva de Estrelas" (English version of "Stars In Their Eyes") where the contestants imitate their favourite star. That night, one of them dressed up and sang like Dave in the video of "It's No Good". One member of the jury confessed he also is a Depeche Mode fan!!

A remix of "Useless" was used in its entirety, during one episode of the detective series called "Ochrance" (Protector) on the Czech TV Nova on March 5.

On November 16, MTV America aired a show entitled "Music, Myths and Mysteries", which talked briefly about David Gahan and how he had died for over two minutes. The segment was about musicians who overcame death.

On the morning of March 16, a snippet of "I Feel You" was played on the UK TV Channel BBC 2 Open University program about the digital future.

An interview with Anton Corbijn was shown on 8th and 10th December in a programme called "Musikbyran" on the Swedish TV Channel 1. Anton spoke about his photo gallery in Lund, Sweden and artists he's been working with, but mostly about Depeche Mode (when he first met them, what he thought of them, what he thinks of them now...). Also, clips of "Barrel Of A Gun", "World In My Eyes", "It's No Good" and the intro of "Strange Too" were shown.

A three hour long special called "Nightfile - Depeche Mode" was broadcast on the Italian TV Channel TMC2 on Sunday 23rd January. It featured many videos, the Band's history, live performances, two interviews with Martin (recorded in Italy in 1990 and 1993) and another one with Dave and Alan (1985) and special artwork by fans.



## Scan by Maudy

On January 31, the Danish TV2 showed a programme called "Den kvarte time" (Quarter of an hour). The programme was about the Danish health system. The backing music during the entire program were the instrumental parts of "Home".

The local channel in Zurich called Star TV had a 50-minute DM special on January 13. The programme was called "Egos & Icons" and it featured several excerpts from the "101" video and also parts of the VH1 special. There was also an interview from 1982 with Dave and Martin and another from 1993 with Dave. The special showed the story of DM till 1993.

On January 22, the German TV RTL2 used a part of "Barrel Of A Gun" and "Useless" as background music in the program called BRAVO TV Extra.

The Slovak TV Markiza used excerpts of "I Feel You", "It's No Good", "Personal Jesus" and "It's No Good" (Speedy J Mix) advertising their TV programmes for February.

On February 10, "Painkiller" was used as background music on Danish KANAL 2 in the program called "Extrem". The program was about selecting fighter pilot candidates for the Danish Air Force.

The Swiss radio station DRS 3 broadcast a DM special on February 19. The program was called "Kosmos" and was about music in the 80's etc. The special was approx. 20 minutes long and covered the entire career of DM, in celebration of their 20th anniversary this year. There were snippets from interviews with Martin and Alan; they also played their biggest hits prior to "Ultra". It seems that DRS 3 is a big fan of Depeche Mode, since they are still using "Blasphemous Rumours" as a jingle for the programme "Focus"...and this has been running for years now.

"Surrender" was used during a show called "Envoyé Spécial" on the French TV Channel France 2 in February. The programme was about soccer and money. Also "Behind The Wheel" was used twice in a car show called "Turbo" on the French Channel M6.

On March 10, "It's No Good", "Barrel Of A Gun" and "Walking In My Shoes" were used in the TV game called "Now or Never" on the Dutch TV Station VT4. The game challenges people with phobias about doing certain things or those with particular abilities...the songs were used as background music while a golfer drove the ball, with his club, from one city to another - across streets, woods, fields etc.

On March 11, the intro of "In Your Room" was used as background music during the consumer program called "Kassa" on the Dutch TV Ned. 3. It was used during a report about people who complain about certain things in their houses.

*Many thanks to Laura Iwanenko, Leígia Santos, Kay Reese, Carin Cullen, Lena Harell, Anna Florenzani, Claudia Sterlini, Brian Weihe, Martina Günter, Patrik Kardoheli, Gilles Braz, Steve Hickson, Kevin Jee, Anna Avekova, Mariska Heijnen, Judith Parker and to anyone else who sent in contributions. Please keep the information coming in and don't forget that Everything Counts!*

### Everything Counts Plus:

I came to live in St. Catharines in 1992 and the first time I went downtown, I was more than pleasantly surprised to see a clothing store at the corner of James and St. Paul streets. The sign read: Depeche Mode. To me, that meant only "my" Depeche Mode, the one and only. A few years passed after that and I learned that my favourite store will be torn down along with some others, to give way to modernising the downtown area. I found myself helpless to do anything to save it from destruction. The only thing I could do was to take this picture to remind me of the pleasant years and memories I shared with this store. Even though it doesn't exist any more, this picture is a constant reminder of my first encounter with Depeche Mode. **Petko Pavlicic, St. Catharines, Canada**



Photo by Petko Pavlicic

### A chance to win!

You also have a chance to win some DM related prizes for a short story/article and photograph showing how influential Depeche Mode are in our 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@tnet.cz](mailto:flexible@tnet.cz)

DM T-shirt and a badge go to:  
Petko Pavlicic from Canada.

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# fletcher in prague



"Hello Prague! This is Andy Fletcher from Depeche Mode! Let's rock'n'roll!"

It seems that this is going to be yet another exciting experience. We take it easy and head for the city centre where all the historical sights and buildings are situated. There is no way we miss the opportunity to have morning coffee at the art nouveau café to discuss plans for later on in the day.

FEBRUARY 24, 2000

Reviewed and photographed by Michaela Olexova

It is not very often you receive an e-mail that Fletcher is coming to Prague and would like you to call him at his hotel. It is usually for a photo session, tour, promotion or football match when Chelsea is playing but this time was different. And so you cancel all your previous appointments (which were not that important anyway) and you dial the number.....

Me: „Hi Andy, it's me. How is life?"

Andy: „Oh, hello! It's good to hear you."

Me: „When did you arrive? How long are you here for?"

Andy: „Well, it's just for three days. I am here with my friend, Rob. Do you think it would be possible for you to meet us and show us around the city?"

Me: „Yes, why not. I'll see you in about half an hour."



Spending about an hour walking around the centre, we start to think about having some lunch. I suggest several places where we can eat and the choice is made. Andy seems quite happy with it as well....



There is always time to do a bit of shopping in between coffee breaks. It's a bit chilly today but that doesn't stop us from going to The Old Town of Prague and wondering around the tiny streets, which offer just about everything that tourists like Andy and Rob might be looking for, including wooden puppets and famous green coloured drink Absint. The Russian wooden dolls are also very popular, although they have nothing in common with Czech history. But these days you can get the...  
politicians or football players that's probably the reason for Andy's interest.

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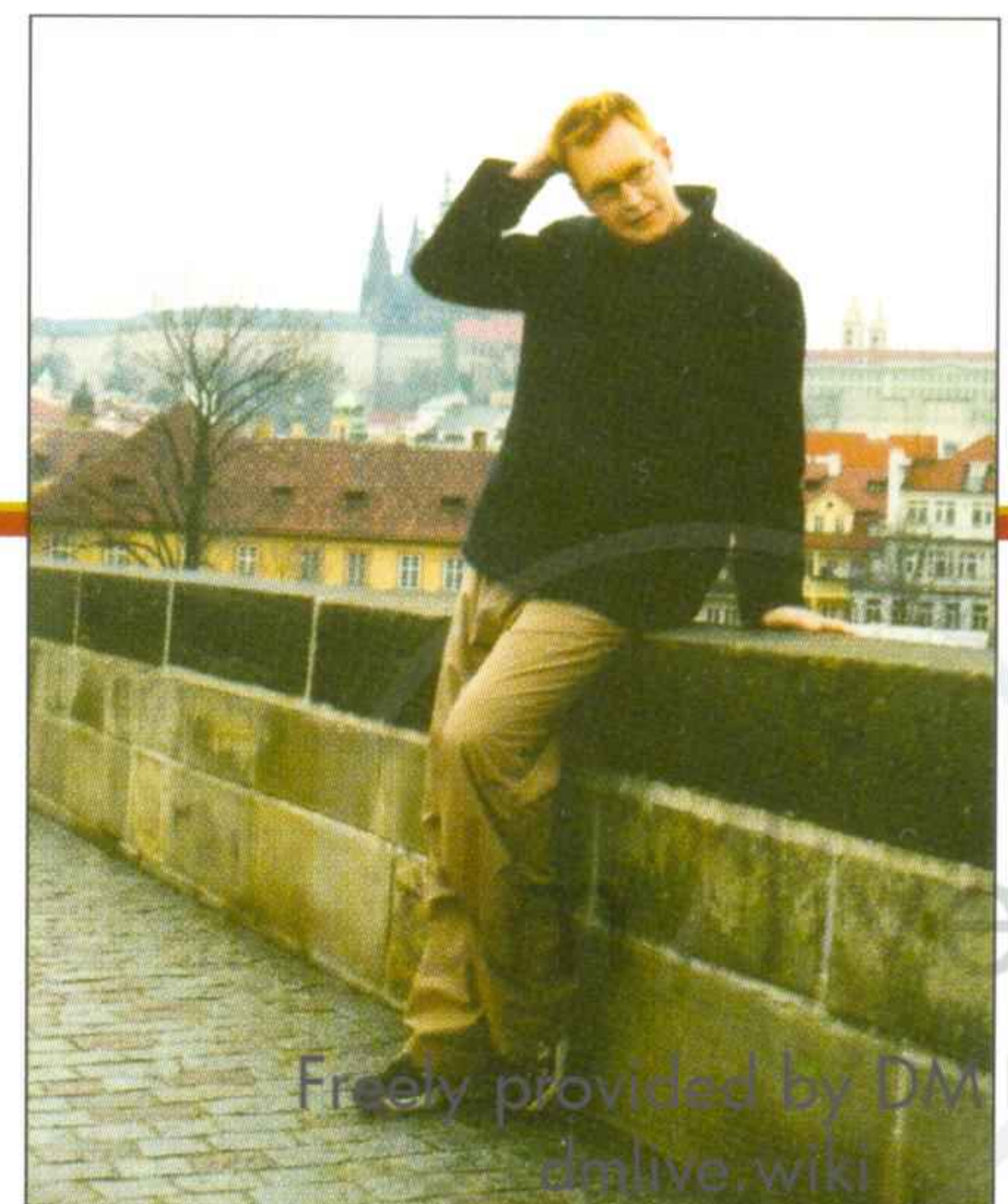


There is nothing better than a Czech beer in a traditional Czech pub with a brewery just round your table. Yes, believe me! Not many Czechs come here as it is always packed up with tourists and this was, in fact, my very first visit too. If you are not a vegetarian you feel like in heaven and so I suggest Andy to go for a roast duck and dumplings. There is enough time to talk about the recording of the new material and Basildon Convention while we are waiting for our food. It is funny how many memories you can recall when you need to....

George of the local Mute office organises dinner at 8pm, so I meet him, Andy and Rob in a nice and cosy restaurant with a selection of international food. Andy announces this to be a "men's night" and so I have to suffer some "men's jokes". Other than that, we talk about music, new albums, love, football and life in general....A night club is suggested when we are finishing our desserts and so we grab a cab and make our way to Radost, which is the club Depeche visited after their show in Prague, during the Devotional Tour. As it's a Thursday night, the place is half-empty so we have the dance floor to ourselves....a few more drinks then we say "good night" to each other. What a day that was!!!



We are full up and ready to hit the road again. I haven't done so much walking in ages, at least in the last few months - I think Andy and Rob feel the same! There is no way I let them leave Prague without crossing the famous Charles Bridge, which provides a spectacular view of Prague's Castle and most of the other hot spots. I am sure Andy hasn't been here since the photo shoot with Anton Corbijn back in 1988 for the "Strangers" book. It is late afternoon and has started drizzling. So Andy decides to call it off and meet later on in the evening for dinner - after we've all had a much needed rest.



# BONG CONVENTION 2000

**Dear Bong,**

My boyfriend and I just want to say how great, excellent and fantastic the evening in Basildon was for us. It felt like all Depeche Mode fans were one big family! To hear the messages from the band members was an extra surprise and it overwhelmed us. It was breathtaking what wonderful prizes you had to give away - though I didn't get any, but my boyfriend got a signed "Ultra" promotional CD!! Already can't wait for next year!!

**Nicole & Marcel  
Germany**

**Dear Bong,**

I want to tell you the convention was great and we are waiting for the next one. Hope to see you soon and congratulation to all your staff for efforts they do to have a brilliant night. And a big thanks for all foreigners present at Basildon.

**David Wasselin  
France**

**Dear Bong,**

Something to Do? There certainly was a grey sky over a black town - but instead of going crazy with boredom and feeling depression all around, the Devout put their leather boots on to attend Basildon's biggest party.... Ever!!

Feeling like guests at a wedding reception, we were entertained by competitions, karaoke and taped messages from Dave, Andy & Martin promising us a tour and album next year. As the evening wore on, the atmosphere became more akin to an 80's school disco. The dance floor was always full, and fans from all over Europe were sat at tables exchanging their Stories of Old: live concerts, record collecting and.....boring Basildon!

In the function room next door to the Convention, a smaller crowd had gathered to celebrate a 30th birthday party. When their DJ played "Just Can't Get Enough" some of us were kindly invited to join them - but we soon returned to the Black Celebration - which by this time had turned into More Than a Party! It's not everyday I get to dance with 200 fans who know all the words to Flexible!

The finale of "Everything Counts" should have marked the party's end, when everyone was expected to turn in for the night and Enjoy the Silence. Then the fire alarm went off, and we all had to evacuate. There was only one thing to do whilst waiting for the Essex Fire Brigade to allow us back inside: sing an encore of "Everything Counts" - but this time in our

pyjamas, in the Great Outdoors, freezing cold at 1.30am! Now This Is Fun....!

Everyone I spoke to over breakfast the next morning had thoroughly enjoyed themselves, and It's Just A Question Of Time until we do it all over again....

**Alan Morgan  
England**

**Dear Bong,**

Just a quick note to say thanks for a superb night at the convention in Basildon. My brother and I travelled from Leeds at 9.30 that Saturday morning hoping to get there around 1 o'clock giving us a bit of time for a wander around Basildon, the home of our heroes.

But it wasn't to be, we were caught in traffic on the, yes you guessed it, the M25. We actually got to the hotel about 4.30pm and checked in where we received our DM goody bag, which I thought was really generous of you.

So after the long journey, we had a shower, got changed and headed straight to the bar where we met loads of mode fans, and from then on had a memorable evening once again!

**Jason Fawcett  
Leeds, England**

**Dear Bong,**

We wish to congratulate you and all staff of Bong for the last Convention 2000 in Basildon. It was the first time we went (our husbands went last time) and we had the time of our lives. (We are very sorry, but our husbands are not allowed to go alone ever again!). The organisation and location were splendid. The atmosphere was devotional, even the fire-alarm was something never to forget. We'd like to say Hi to all the members we met and who became our friends. Thank you very much and see you next year!!

**Greet and Heidi  
Belgium**

**Dear Bong,**

Having been a member of Bong for many years, in fact since about Bong 5, I thought that it was about time that I contributed to the magazine. I guess, however, that this letter may well be less praiseworthy than most of them regarding the Bong Convention 2000.

Firstly, I should say that I have been to most conventions since they were started and have thoroughly enjoyed every single one. Well, I have to say that this year's one was no different, except for one thing that I will come to later.

A group of nine of us assembled at a local pub before arriving at the hotel at about 5pm. Immediately, we were confronted with hordes of leather clad and darkly dressed "modees", all seemingly engaged in energetic conversations. Somewhat eagerly awaiting the start. As we filed into the main room, I was hit by a sense of "Youth club Disco" and not the usual awe of entering The Camden Palace. That excused we soon got underway with some great Mode tracks and set about filling out our Mastermind quiz forms. It wasn't long before enough beer had flowed our way that we were strutting our stuff on the dance floor. The evening continued, of course, with superb music, some more beers and a really great selection of hot and cold food. The food was very good and so was the organisation of the competitions and raffles, in fact, I won a Depeche Mode songbook. The highlight of the evening for me was when my girlfriend and I had our request read out and played: "For Bernie and Monika from Sweden - Shake The Disease - Message: Lovers devoted to each other forever."

What can I say, I thoroughly enjoyed the whole evening, and appreciated the swap to a Saturday night. However, I must stress my disappointment that none of the Band bothered to show up. I know that it was written on the tickets and that they haven't attended before. But this was a special celebration of twenty years of Depeche Mode and I thought deserved a little more recognition to the fans from the Band than a short audio message. There were so many people from all over Europe - England, Scotland, Italy, Germany, Austria, us from Sweden, to mention a few. I understand that security is an issue, but after all we are the life blood of Depeche Mode - the true, loyal fans. I can't help feeling that they let us down.

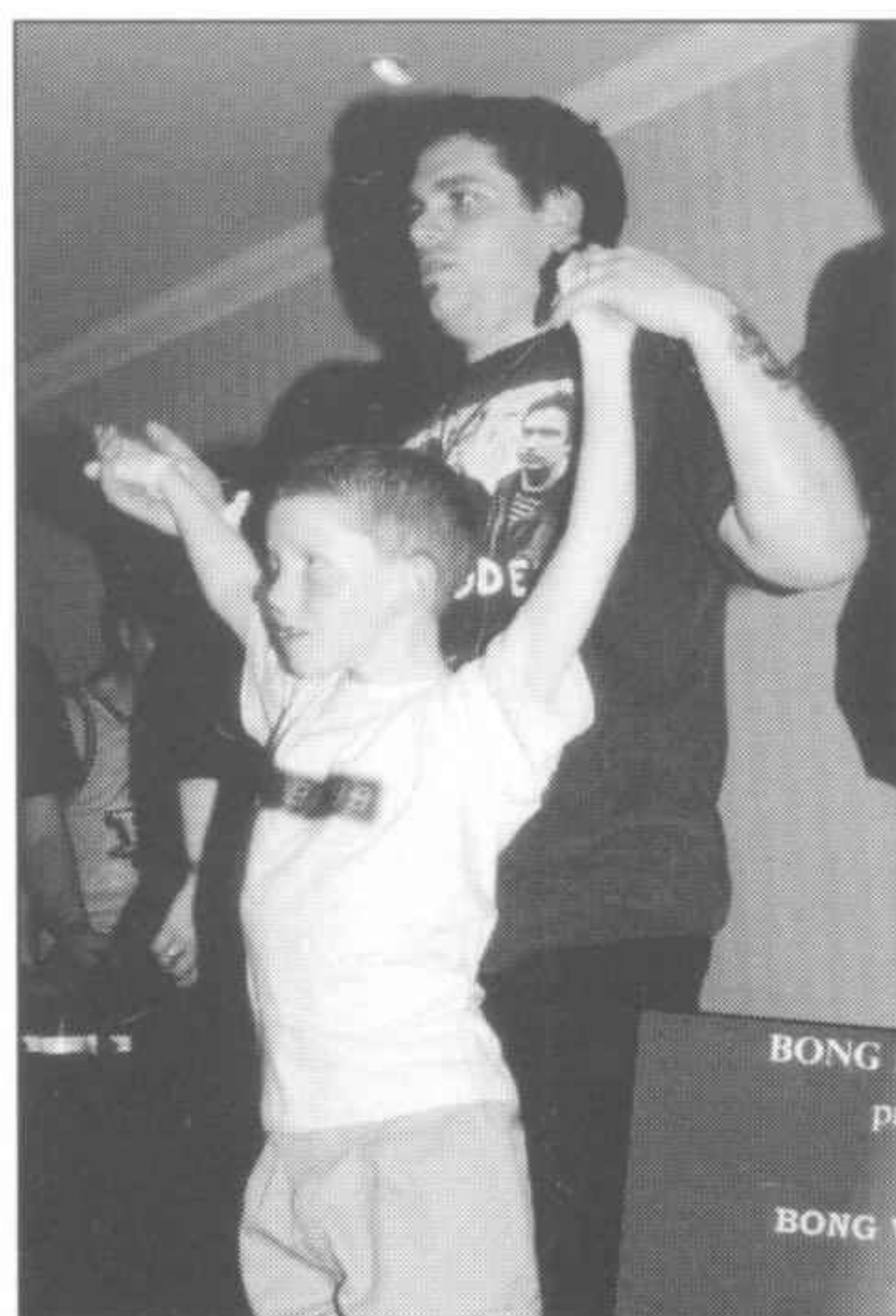
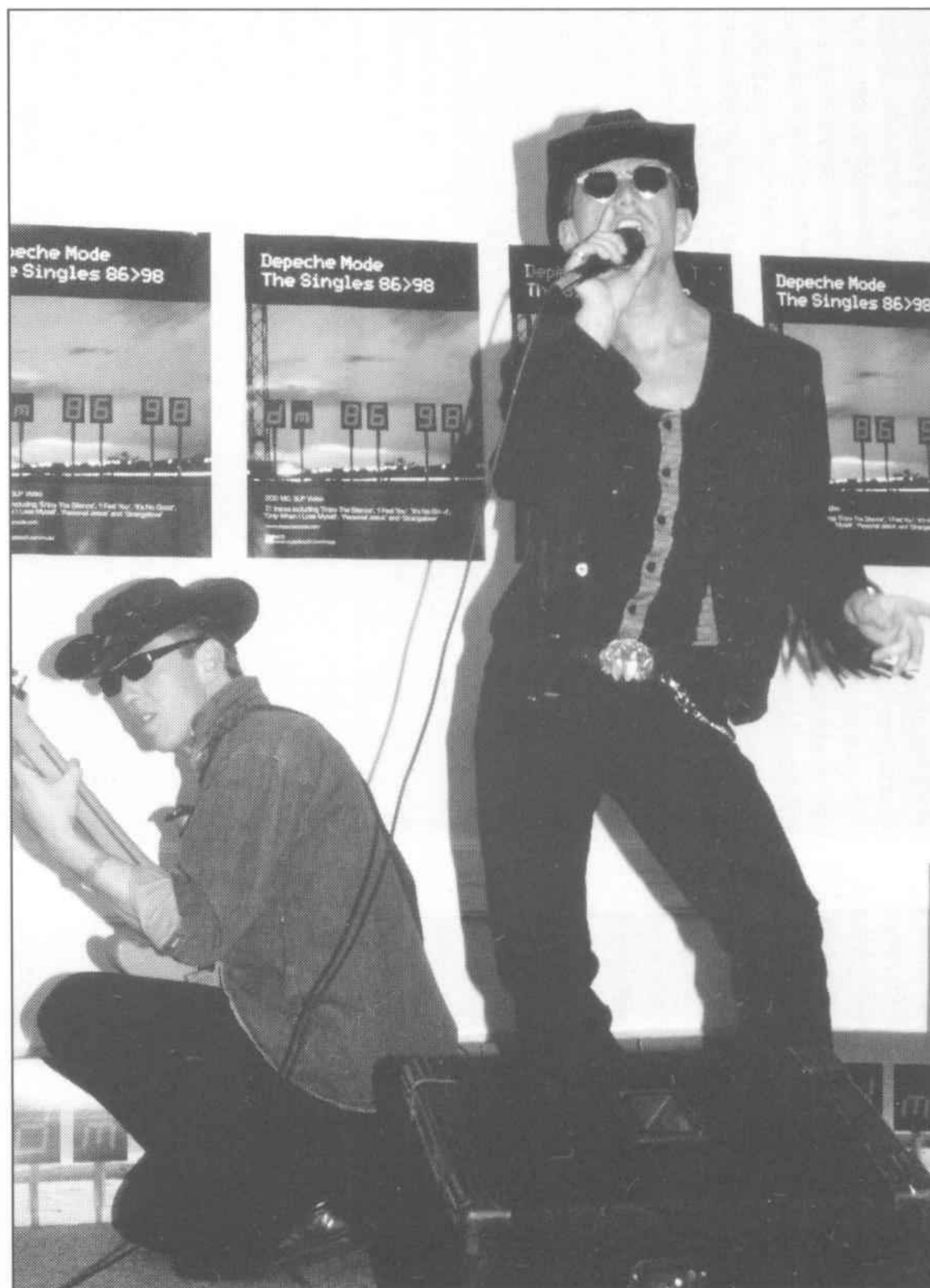
**Bernie Fuller  
Göteborg, Sweden**

**Dear Bong,**

Just wanted to write to say thank you very much for the Depeche Mode Convention. It was my first ever, and I thought it was the best weekend of my life.

I met fans of all ages and countries and there was no attitude to who was the best fan? Who's seen the most concerts or who's got the most records? The atmosphere all weekend was spot on. It just goes to show that Depeche Mode are not only the best band in the world, but we are also the best fans in the world!!

**Gary Edwards,  
Cheshire, England**



# DIARY OF THE BONG CONVENTION



Reviewed and photographed by Michaela Olexova

### Why Basildon?

I really cannot recall when we actually started to think about having another Bong Convention, but it must have been quite some time ago... is my memory that bad?! Although I am quite curious as to who originally suggested Basildon for this one. We are always playing with different ideas and you know how it is... once something really good has been mentioned, you can't get it off your mind. As we were going to celebrate 20 years of Depeche Mode, the most natural and obvious choice was Basildon - the place where it all began...





### Nearly there...

...that's what Lynn and I were thinking after spending almost six months trying to put this convention together. Almost all of her conversations began with the words: "I am up to my neck in hotel stuff, invoices, tickets, train time-tables, tube and local maps..." - these all needed to be sent out in time and we had to make sure everything ran according to plan. Once this was all sorted out, we tackled the easier tasks such as the programme of events, trivia questions for the mastermind quiz, and office stock clearance for all the fabulous prizes to be won. Last but not least, we hoped to get Dave, Fletch and Martin to record a personal message for this special event. We also needed them to help us with "some places of interest" around Basildon - realising later, that Basildon has changed quite a bit over the last 20 years, with old buildings being pulled down, replaced and renamed. Fletch told us that even their old school had been moved and renamed. So after much deliberation we decided not to go for A Depeche Mystery Tour - although some devotees did organise a mini-tour of their own.

### One more coffee, please

Imagine it is three days prior to a big event and there are still tons of things to do. What would you do? Yes, ask for one more coffee and pray for more time. That's how we felt on the Wednesday night, while we were trying to fill over 250 welcome bags and envelopes with freebies, instructions, wristbands, competition entry forms, raffle tickets, etc. We must have played every Depeche Mode album that night and we slowly started to get excited. There were so many free promo CDs, T-shirts and DM badges, we were able to give everyone who attended a little something to keep as a memory. It already felt very special, but there were still some hours of non-stop work ahead of us. Thursday's tasks were much the same - and once the last tape with Dave's message had arrived from New York, we packed all the boxes and waited for the van transporting everything from the office to Basildon, ready for the next day (Friday). No turning back now...

### Welcome Basildon!

... we arrived at the hotel, situated in Basildon's Festival Leisure Park, and met the hotel staff to discuss our ideas and plans for the weekend ahead. We were so relieved after this meeting, as they were all so helpful and understanding to all our needs and requirements. The duty manager and the receptionists

eventually became indispensable. We set up our little check-in desk, as the boxes with our stuff had already arrived - there were already some devotees wondering around reception and the hotel bar. All was set ...and eventually after more than six hours, several drinks, coffees and sandwiches, we ticked the last name off Friday's accommodation list. Time to go to our rooms and get ready for a night out, we were open to any ideas, but the night club just around the corner from the hotel seemed to be favourite. Unfortunately not for everyone, as there was a strict dress code and some of us couldn't get in. This included me and my jeans, so I returned to the hotel with Gavin and Tom (my mates and big helpers) and joined other fans who'd decided to spend the evening in the bar. That night was really funny, we all played really stupid games and trivia pursuit!!! Do you know the colour of the Central Line on London's underground? Or do you know how many parts of human body hide in the lyrics of Depeche songs etc., the more we drank, the funnier it got!!



### Let's have a black celebration

I woke up on Saturday morning and I could already feel butterflies in my stomach. The day we'd talked about for so long was finally here, and I was just thinking and hoping that everything would go off OK. A quick shower and breakfast, then back behind our check-in desk ready for the last of the arrivals. Pete and Tim, our DJs, turned up on time to set up their gear in the hall, while I got Tom to help me fix my small photo exhibition to the walls, which featured a selection of the Band's photographs from various occasions. Everyone warned me the pictures wouldn't stay there until the end of the night, but I hoped they would survive the first two hours at least - but they didn't. I would like to say that the next time you take anything from the walls, please don't leave the blue-tac behind, it doesn't look nice. It was only lunchtime and there were already some eager fans trying to sneak in. We had just finished our sandwiches, when the hotel manager arrived on duty - we then went through some more details for the night. We also had to sort out the special Depeche Mode mixed drinks that I came up with and give the bar staff the instructions and promotion stands. They were so sweet and ready to do anything for us! One final meeting with Tim and Pete about the programme of the night and we were all set. The light-check in the hall looked really impressive. When I returned to our desk, quite a few fans had just returned from their own little excursion to where DM used to hang out, plus a quick detour to their former childhood homes. That's devotion!



### DM Look-alikes

(looks like a German invasion!!)

#### Dave look-a-like:

Chris Gawlikowski, Germany

**Prize:** Signed Promo CD of Ultra

#### Martin look-a-like:

Marcel Kochert, Germany

**Prize:** Signed Promo CD of Ultra

#### Fletch look-a-like:

Andre Klewin, Germany

**Prize:** Signed Promo CD of Ultra

WINNERS OF THE NIGHT

WINNERS OF T

WIN

### Mastermind

(looks like another German invasion!!)

**1. overall winner:** Daniela Vorndran, Germany

**Prize:** Gold Ultra Disc (to be signed and dedicated by the Band members)

**2. runner-up:** Martin Schröder, Germany

**Prize:** Dinner for two at Fletch's restaurant Gascognes

**3. runner-up:** Mario Topp, Germany

**Prize:** Dinner for two at Fletch's restaurant Gascognes



WINNERS OF THE NIGHT



### Karaoke

(looks like England is on the defence!!)

**1. overall winner:** Mark Sykes, England for "Home"

**Prize:** Gareth Jones' Gold Disc + Signed photo of DM

**2. runner-up:** Simon Walters, England for "A Question Of Time"

**Prize:** Singles Promo CD + Signed photo of DM

**3. runner-up:** Paul McMillan, Scotland for "It's No Good"

**Prize:** Singles Promo CD + Signed photo of DM

THE NIGHT WINNER

### Big Raffle

**1. overall winner:**

Daniel Cox, England

**Prize:** Signed artwork for Ultra + Ultra Songbook + Ultra Interview CD



RS OF T NIGHT



### DM Remixes

**1. overall winner:**

Marcus Hook, England

**Prize:** Signed DJ Shadow Remix 12" Vinyl

**2. runner-up:**

Tibo Machate, France

**Prize:** Strangers Book + Signed card

**3. runner-up:**

Richard Turton, England

**Prize:** Strangers Book + Signed card

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**Time really flies**

At about 5 o'clock I realised we have about half an hour before the convention kicks off. Great!!! Would I have enough time to get changed at all? Lynn rushed to her room and had about ten minutes to get ready before I did the same. Thank God we had our 'bouncers' Darren and Mark at door to keep everything under control. The lobby was fully packed with devotees who just couldn't wait to get in and, we opened the doors right on time at 5.30. There was nothing to stop us and I had a quick drink to loosen up a bit before I got on the stage with my welcome speech...It wasn't that bad after all. One song followed another and we gave away some prizes in the first of many raffle draws of the night. A quarter of an hour later I announced the Depeche Mode Look-alike Contest, which we all found really amusing. Although he didn't win, I thought 6 year old Thomas from England was the sweetest Fletch-alike of all...and I wasn't the only one. After we had filled our empty stomachs with the fantastic buffet, which was included in the tickets, we continued with another raffle draw and Mastermind competition. There were ten contestants who made it to round two, however the final five questions proved to be so difficult, that no-one got more than 3 correct, so we had to pick three winners from round one. Like to try your luck? Read on. At about 10 o'clock we played the last message, which was from Martin. I have to tell you the atmosphere amongst the crowd, as each one of them played, was extraordinary. You could feel the electricity and it went so silent each time we put a tape on. By this time, I'd started to think that I must have gone mad making the schedule so busy and including all those contests in the programme. I was running around like a lunatic and every spare second I found in between, was so precious to me. But I somehow found it enjoyable...am I weird or what?!? As always, the ever-popular Karaoke didn't let us down, and our four judges had a hard time deciding who should win. We had to ask the audience in the end, whose choice was clear enough...Right after that, the devotees got our lovely DJs busy with their music requests and it wasn't until one hour later when we announced yet another contest. This time the fans had to guess the names of six songs, excerpts of which were mixed together. A hard task but not for the die-hard fans. There was just enough time to play a few more numbers before the final "Everything Counts", sung by each and everyone, like one big choir - which was a very touching end to a very special night.

**Just Can't Get Enough**

It was 1 o'clock in the morning and we were leaving the hall, making our way to the hotel bar for a goodnight drink. It was hard to believe it was all over. I was trying to gather my emotions, while everyone kept telling us how much they enjoyed themselves. We were all up for some more fun at the bar, when the fire alarm went off. Was someone playing a joke? We were asked to leave the hotel building, go into the car park and wait for the fire brigade to arrive. Eventually they discovered it was a false alarm, and the crowd presented them with a very loud acoustic version of "Everything Counts" as they departed from the Leisure Park.

**See you next time...**

The following morning gave us all one last chance to see everyone and say our goodbyes - to old and new friends. A late brunch was organised, just for our convention party, in the same hall as the convention the night before. The atmosphere was charged and you could still feel the spirit lingering.....See for yourself next time!!

**PS** - We would like to thank Dave, Fletch and Martin for their enthusiasm, help and co-operation in getting their personal messages to us in time, also for providing us with some of the fantastic prizes. A special thanks also goes to the Band's manager Jonathan Kessler and JD Fanger from the London office, for their support and help with this event. Last but not least we would like to thank BRAT our web master, for the karaoke CDs and Michael Lopatis of Mute Records for supplying us with some prizes.

**PROGRAM  
OF THE NIGHT**

5,30

**Doors open**

5,30 - 6,30

**Music**

6,00

**Intro**

6,00 - 7,00

**Music**

7,00

**Raffle at 7  
Message by Fletch**

7,00 - 7,15

**Music**

7,15 - 7,45

**DM Look-a-likes**

7,45 - 9,00

**Buffet - Yummy!!**

9,00

**Raffle at 9  
Message by Dave**

9,00 - 9,30

**Music**

9,30 - 9,45

**Mastermind**

9,45 - 10,00

**Music**

10,00

**Raffle at 10  
Message by Martin**

10,00 - 10,30

**Karaoke**

10,30 - 11,00

**Music on request**

11,00 - 11,10

**Big Raffle**

11,10 - 11,30

**Music on request - cont.**

11,30 - 11,40

**DM Remixes**

11,40 - 1,00

**Music**

1,00

**End**





## BAND'S MESSAGES

first played in Basildon  
(also available in audio format on [www.depechemode.com](http://www.depechemode.com))

**DAVID:** "Hi this is Dave, and I'm sitting in a cafe in New York, and I just wanted to say Hi to all of you over there in Basildon, at the convention. I hope you're having a great time. Hopefully, by the end of this year we'll have finished a new record. We're going to start recording in June. Martin's written some great songs already, and I just wanted to say Hi. And we'll see you all again next year, when hopefully we'll be out on the road. All right. See you, Bye."

**FLETCH:** "Good evening Basildon. Good evening the DM convention. This is Andy Fletcher, the best one-fingered keyboard player in the world - probably. Got a bit of a sore throat. Chelsea are doing very well so I've been doing a lot of singing and cheering. Have a good time, and don't waste Basildon. See you soon."

**MARTIN:** (Bass line in the background) "Hello this is Martin. I'd like to welcome you all to wonderful Basildon. Sorry I can't be there, but as you can hear I'm in the studio at the moment, working on some new stuff with Gareth, and one of my friends Paul. I hope you all have a great time, and I'm sure you've got lots to do. I don't know if you've seen the sights yet - all those wonderful sights there are in Basildon - all those historic places. Anyway, have a great time and see you soon. Bye."

## SPECIAL DM MIXED DRINKS

Have a go in mixing these special Depeche Mode drinks at home, and taste what the bar tenders treated us to in Basildon. It's easy!!

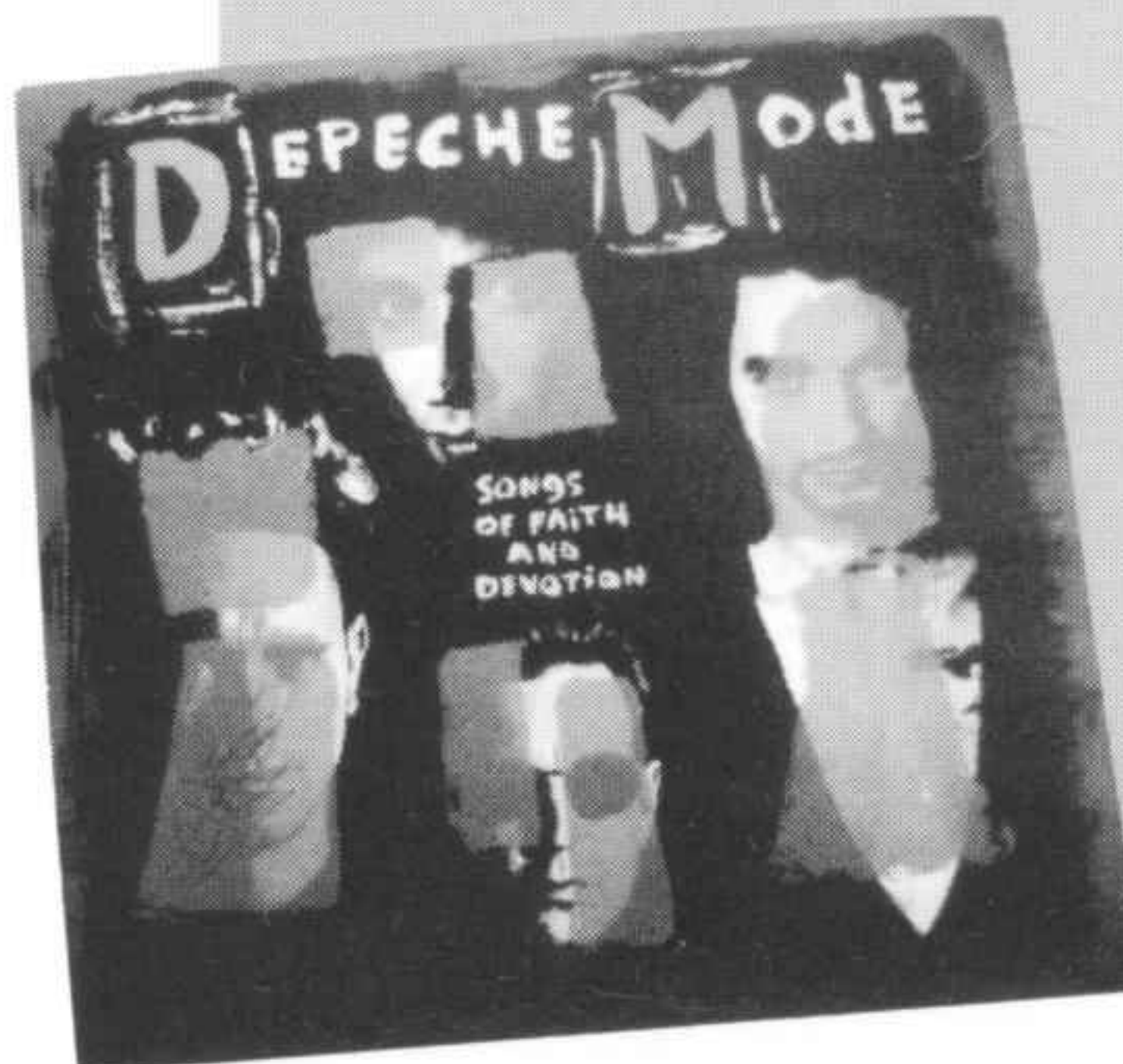
<b>AGENT ORANGE</b> Vodka & Orange Juice
<b>ICE MACHINE</b> Vodka & Lime Juice & Ice
<b>SWEETEST PERFECTION</b> Gin & Tonic
<b>BLUE DRESS</b> Vodka & Blue Curacao & Lemonade
<b>STRANGELOVE</b> Whiskey & 7 Up

## TOP 5 OF THE NIGHT

1. The amazing international crowd
2. Pete and Tim (our DJs)
3. Karaoke
4. Acoustic version of "Everything Counts" at the car park
5. Ice Machine (mixed drink)

## MASTERMIND COMPETITION

Here are those tricky questions in the second round of Mastermind. No-one could answer them all correctly in Basildon, can you?



It'll be a lot easier now, since you can go to your archives for the answers, but we're still going to give away a promo card of the "SOFAD" cover signed by Martin as a prize. Post your answers to the usual address as soon as possible, and you could be a winner!! Closing date: July 31

1. What is the name of the "Behind The Wheel" remix that you can find on L12 BONG 15?
2. What was "Work Hard" the B-side of?
3. What is the real name of the producer Flood?
4. What band covered "I Feel You" on the tribute album "For The Masses"?
5. What band did Depeche Mode support at The Bridgehouse when discovered by Daniel Miller?

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# dave gahan

PERSONAL FILE

<b>Full Name</b>	David Gahan
<b>Date of birth</b>	9 <sup>th</sup> May 1962
<b>Place of birth</b>	Epping
<b>Star Sign</b>	Taurus
<b>Colour of eyes</b>	Green
<b>Colour of hair</b>	Brown
<b>Height</b>	5' 11"
<b>Family details</b>	Wife: Jennifer, Sons: Jack & Jimmy, Daughter: Stella Rose
<b>Hobbies/Interests</b>	Painting and Skydiving
<b>Previous job</b>	Landscape labourer / Paperboy (Basildon Evening Echo)
<b>Previous bands</b>	The Vermin (infamous for drummer who played biscuit tins)
<b>Favourite cities</b>	New York City
<b>Favourite country</b>	Italy
<b>Favourite food</b>	Malaysian
<b>Favourite drink</b>	Espresso
<b>Favourite part of your body</b>	Knees
<b>Favourite sport</b>	Cross Country Running
<b>Favourite colour</b>	Green
<b>Favourite perfume</b>	Hi Karate
<b>Favourite designer</b>	Katherine Hamnett
<b>Favourite film</b>	The Jerk - Steve Martin
<b>Favourite book</b>	The Metamorphosis - Franz Kafka
<b>Favourite TV station</b>	Comedy Central
<b>Favourite radio station</b>	104.3FM & 88.3FM (New York)
<b>Favourite magazine/papers</b>	Q Magazine/The New York Times
<b>Favourite song</b>	What's Going On - Marvin Gaye
<b>Favourite DM song</b>	Condemnation
<b>Favourite album</b>	Too numerous to mention, but: Led Zeppelin 1/Darkside Of The Moon/London Calling/Sticky Fingers (See also Favourite song)
<b>Favourite DM album</b>	Songs Of Faith And Devotion
<b>Favourite video</b>	Sabotage - Beastie Boys
<b>Favourite DM video</b>	Walking In My Shoes - Anton Corbijn
<b>Favourite DM Remix</b>	Useless - Escape From Wherever: Parts 1 & 2! by Barry Adamson
<b>Favourite DM Lyrics</b>	Sister Of Night/Condemnation
<b>Favourite singer/band</b>	Marvin Gaye/Iggy Pop/Chris Cornell/Billie Holiday/ Gavin Friday/Rolling Stones (See also Favourite albums)
<b>Biggest niggle</b>	Waiting at airports
<b>What do you like best about being in the band?</b>	Performing live
<b>What do you like least about being in the band?</b>	That we don't explore new musical directions as much as we could, with live musicians, as well as electronics.
<b>If you could be any famous historical figure, who would it be and why?</b>	Hieronymus Bosch (15 <sup>th</sup> Century painter)
<b>Is there anyone (artist) who you would like to work with in the future?</b>	John Frusciante/Victor Endrizzio
<b>What one thing would you take if you were stranded on a desert island?</b>	A helicopter



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am...wil

# Dangerous

Written by Martin L. Gore

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The things you do  
Aren't good for my health  
The moves you make  
You make for yourself  
The means you use  
Aren't meant to confuse  
Although they do  
They're the ones that I would choose  
And I wouldn't want it any other way  
You wouldn't let me anyway

Dangerous  
The way you leave me wanting more  
Dangerous  
That's what I want you for

Dangerous  
When I am in your arms  
Dangerous  
Know I will come to harm

The lies you tell  
Aren't meant to deceive  
They're not there  
For me to believe  
I've heard  
Your vicious words  
You know by now  
It takes a lot to see me hurt

And I couldn't take it any other way  
But there's a price I have to pay

# Happiest Girl

Written by Martin L. Gore

© 1990 Grabbing Hands Music Ltd/EMI Music Publishing Ltd

Happiest girl I ever knew  
Happiest girl I ever knew

Wanted to feel the joy  
Flow between our lips  
Wanted to feel the joy  
Flow between our hips

Happiest girl I ever knew  
Why do you smile the smile you do

Happiest girl I ever knew  
Happiest girl I ever knew

Wanted to feel the joy  
Pass between our eyes  
Wanted to feel the joy  
Pass between our thighs

Happiest girl I ever knew  
Why do you smile the smile you do

And I would have to pinch her  
Just to see if she was real  
Just to watch the smile fade away  
And see the pain she'd feel

Happiest girl I ever knew  
Happiest girl I ever knew

Wanted to feel her joy  
Feel it deep within  
Wanted to feel her joy  
Penetrate my skin

Happiest girl I ever knew  
Why do you smile the smile you do

# Satellite <<

The addresses below are printed for your information only. These fan clubs are unofficial and therefore BONG takes no responsibility for their activities. If there is a fan club in your area, a DM party or convention being organised we'd like to hear about it. Please, send us all the details to the BONG address.

**The Hungarian DM FC**  
Budapest  
Petöfi Csarnok  
1146 Zichy M.U.14  
Hungary

Mode Evolution  
3 Marne Avenue  
Walton  
Peterborough  
PE4 6AJ  
England

**Devotees - DM FC**  
Rua Manuel Mendes, 21-3A  
1800 Lisboa  
Portugal

DM fans in Riga  
E-mail: roman@parks.lv  
www.parks.lv/home/roman

**DM Club**  
Linda Andreasson  
Norrskensq. 21  
37151 Karlskrona  
Sweden

Devotee MODE  
42, Rue Armand Carrel  
62970 Courcelles-Les-Lens  
France

**DM Devotees**  
A.D. 1154  
Vilnius 1  
2001  
Lithuania

A la Mode  
E-mail: pcyopick@titan.tcn.net  
www.tcn.net/~pcyopick/alamode

**Danish DM FC**  
Boys Say Go!  
Brian Valentin  
Ryttervaenget 16 l.th  
6400 Sonderborg  
Denmark

Faith And Devotion  
Uilenstede 160-1144  
1183 AN Amstelveen  
The Netherlands

**Hot Wire**  
German fanzine  
c/o Andy Drabek  
Allendestr. 66  
08062 Zwickau  
Germany  
E-mail: HOT-WIRE@t-online.de

Empty World 2  
Paltholmterrasserne 78 F  
3520 Farum  
Denmark

**Devotion**  
Apartado 5265  
47080 Valladolid  
Spain

De.Mo.  
Poltavskaya st. 2-45  
603024 Nizhny Novgorod  
Russia

**Shake The Disease**  
Stefan Bülter  
Paul-Grasse-Str. 23  
D-10409 Berlin  
Germany

Depeche Mode Friends  
P.O. Box 239  
160 41 Praha 6  
Czech Republic  
E-mail: info@dmfriends-silence.cz  
www.dmfriends-silence.cz

**UK Moders**  
www.egroups.com/group/ukmoders  
E-mail: ukmoders-owner@egroups.com

Depeche Mode Fan Club Italia  
Manuel e Paola Girone  
E-mail: dpm72\_99@yahoo.it

**Club For The Masses**  
Suipacha 463 (6-B)  
(1008) - Capital Federal  
Bs.As. - Argentina  
E-mail: dm\_arg@hotmail.com

Ultra DM FC  
c/o Giovanna Siragusa  
C.da Conte, Coop Conte  
sc.2 int. 1  
98168 Messina  
Italy

**Movement Of Faith**  
Atenen, 8, 1°  
08720 Vilafranca Del Penedes  
(Barcelona)  
Spain

Satellite - Canadian FC  
P.O. Box 63527, RPO Capilano  
North Vancouver, B.C.  
V6V-1J4  
Canada

**Musings For The Masses**  
UK fanzine  
c/o Red  
14 Hob Hill  
Stalybridge  
Cheshire SK15 1TP  
England

The Estonian Depeche Mode Fan Club  
P.O. Box 26, 72202 Turi  
Estonia  
http://edmfk.cafe.ee

**Black Day**  
c/o Szymon Derucki  
ul. Wegierska 18/21  
65-638 Zielona Gora  
Poland

The Estonian Depeche Mode Web  
www.depechemode.ee  
ilja@depechemode.ee  
Ilja Judeikin  
P.O. Box 6016  
Tallinn 13 502  
Estonia

**If You Want**  
Depeche Mode  
P.O. Box 23  
678 01 Blansko  
Czech Republic  
E-mail: kysa@renegade.cz

DM fans in Czech Republic  
E-mail: marekf@depechemode.cz  
www.depechemode.cz

## Moding Birmingham

MUSINGS FOR THE MASSES PRESENTS ...

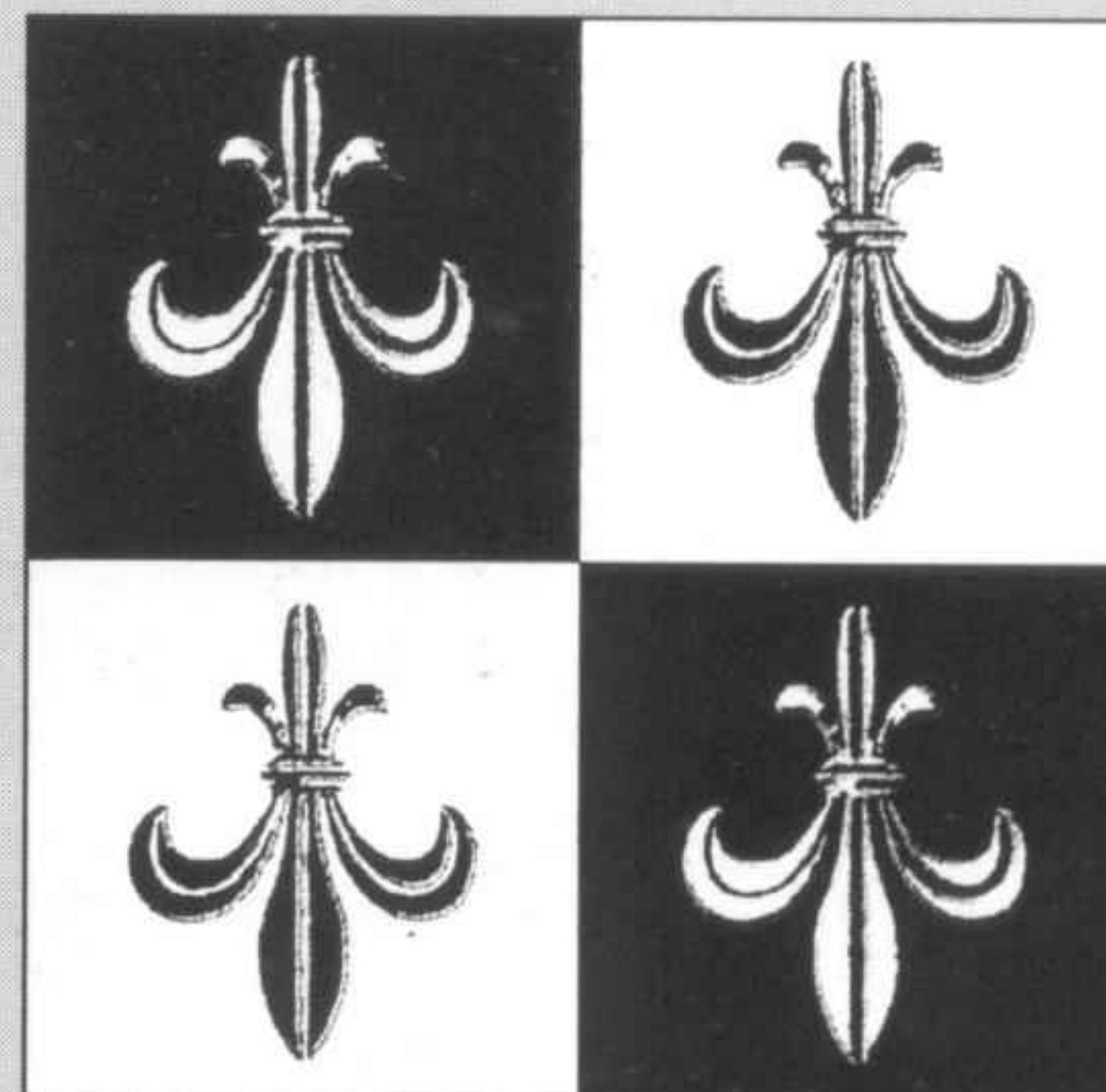
### "PARTY FOR THE MASSES"

SEPTEMBER 30<sup>th</sup> 2000  
EDWARDS NO 8 NIGHTCLUB  
BIRMINGHAM

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### 8PM - 3AM

TICKETS £5.00 IN ADVANCE  
OR £6.00 ON THE DOOR  
NO DRESS CODE



FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO PURCHASE TICKETS PLEASE CONTACT:-  
BILLY BOB - 0121 783 8089 - EMAIL - billybob@euphony.net  
OR  
RED - 0161 303 8804 - EMAIL - wayne.davenport@virgin.net

CHEQUES MADE PAYABLE - SEND SAE TO -

A MATTHEWS - 54 BEAUFORT AVENUE, HODGE HILL, BIRMINGHAM, B34 6AE  
OR  
L DAVENPORT, 14 HOBHILL, STALYBRIDGE, CHESHIRE, SK15 1TP

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I am now 32 years old and I have been a very big Depeche Mode fan since 1984. Very few can say they have a copy of all 42 Bong Issues and even the newsletters published by the Depeche Mode Information Service before Bong was born, can they? I had a chance to meet the band three times. During the "Devotional Tour", right after the amazing show Depeche Mode performed at the Forest National Hall in Brussels, Belgium on May 25, 1993, I went to the Conrad Hotel where the Band were staying. Some fifteen fans were already waiting there. Anton Corbijn was the first one who arrived. He was taking pictures during the whole evening. Then two black Mercedes arrived at midnight. Martin and Alan ran quickly into the main lobby without a word. Fletch and Dave stopped by the fans and both kindly signed autographs to everyone. Dave seemed a bit exhausted but was very happy with his performance and the reaction of the Belgian crowd that night. Just before another Devo-



tional concert at the Sporthalle in Cologne, Germany on July 22, 1993, I decided to go in front of the Hyatt Regency Hotel. I couldn't see Dave, but Fletch, Alan, Martin and Daniel Miller, who was there for Martin's birthday celebration the following day, arrived at 6pm. They left one hour later and headed for the venue. All four of them were very kind and signed autographs to the fans. I took about twenty pictures of the guys in Brussels and Cologne, but there wasn't one featuring myself with the Band. But most importantly, I managed to get the most valuable item for my DM record collection, which contains 600 records now - a UK promo sample of "Enjoy The Silence" autographed by all four members, Anton Corbijn and Daniel Miller!! During "The Singles Tour 86-98", I was the lucky winner of a competition organised by a Belgian Radio Station called Radio 21. My best friend Charles and myself received the meet and greet passes to meet the

Band prior to the show at the Forest National Hall on September 22, 1998 - my tenth Depeche Mode concert since 1985. At 7.30pm, ten lucky winners of various competitions were invited to enter the hall by staff members of the record company that distributes DM records in Belgium. After several security checkpoints, we went into the VIP bar where we had a drink or two. At 8pm, Fletch, Martin and Dave entered the bar. Martin and Fletch were in a very good mood, shook hands and talked to everyone. Dave was very quiet and seemed to be already concentrating on the show that was to begin one hour later. The meeting with the fans lasted about 15 minutes and the three guys signed pictures for everyone. The official photographer took pictures of this event, which remains one of the most fabulous souvenirs in my life.

**Vincent Legros**  
Spa, Belgium

*If you met Depeche Mode or one of the band members and would like to share your experiences with the other fans, this is your chance. We are giving you an opportunity to tell us when and where you met the Modes and under what circumstances. You can send us full stories or simple details, whatever you prefer. We would also appreciate any photographs you have that we could print as it always makes the page more interesting and will prove to everyone that you were really there! Please be assured that we will take a good care of your photos and return them to you on your request. Don't forget to mark everything with your name and address.*



Darren Walters was lucky enough to meet Andy and Martin at the similar occasion during "The Singles Tour 86-98" and here is the proof!



# >> Pen Pals

**Antje Beck**  
**Askanische Strasse 92**  
**06842 Dessau**  
**Germany**

I am a 25 year old girl from Germany and Depeche Mode fan since 1988. I would like to contact other fans from all over the world. My other interests include travelling (especially to England) and reading. Please, write to me in English or German. Reply guaranteed.

**Julien Kerlirzin**  
**44, rue de Paris**  
**94220 Charenton-Le-Pont**  
**France**

My name is Julien, I am 25 years old and an assistant director. I would like to thank Depeche Mode, especially Dave Gahan since he has always been like a virtual brother to me - my father left home when I was two years old. I would also like to say to Depeche Mode fans: For me, you are my sisters and brothers and I know that I am not alone on this planet. So, please, write to me!!

*If you'd like to correspond with other Depeche Mode fans, send us a postcard with your name, address and a brief description of yourself and your interests. Please, mark your envelope "Pen Pals".*

# Contacts <<

I really have to give a huge thank you to everyone who replied to my ad in Bong 43. I simply cannot thank you all enough, for each and every one of your letters, which I have enjoyed receiving and reading. I shall try my hardest to keep writing to you all as you've all contributed to me finding myself. I have to give a big shout to Lorraine as she has become my own Personal Jesus. Thanx! While I am in a thanx mode I would also like to thank Lynn and Michaela for the Convention. I had the best time and can't wait for the next one. Also a MASSIVE THANK to Depeche Mode for the wonderful messages on the night of the Convention. I can't wait to hear the new songs you have for my listening pleasure (and it is a pleasure). You are my life!! Chris Thomson, England

To Andrew Winter: Thanks a lot for your surprisingly unexpected (and actually very welcomed) letter. I knew I wasn't quite right about that review of yours, but I realised it only when I had already



Martin Bevilacqua with Martin in Munich (1998)

posted my reply. My feelings always rule me, you know...But as I said: everyone is free to express his or her opinion, especially when no one seems to care about the mistakes at least...Well, I hope all misunderstanding is forgotten now! I really feel sorry about your friend Alex...And thank you very much again for letting me know your attitude! Stay devoted! With love from Svetlana, Moscow, Russia. If you still want to share some more ideas, you can e-mail me at: [svetie@mail.ru](mailto:svetie@mail.ru)

Many greetings and best wishes to Martin Bevilacqua, his wife Tina and their cute little daughter Sara from Tobias! Until next time...Ciao!!

It's time to spread my Strangelove to all my friends! An ultra big hug to my holy one Yasmin from nice Algeria (I had you right here by my side some weeks ago and I'm so looking forward to being with you again, my dearest honey!), a happy birthday to my best German sis Denise, Ultra greets to Katrin (I love our phone chats!), my new sis of night Diana, Gahan sisters Gea, Isabelle, Maren, Gorelovers...Faith (Are you okay? Please, get in touch again!), Susi, Nadine, Agnieszka, Wildergirls Michaela and Katka, my boys...Peter (our friendship means a lot to me!), Juan Jose, David, Sven, Pimpf (ha!), Craig and party people...Andre',Tessi, David, Karin and Michael. All my devotion and higherlove to Depeche Mode... I'm nothing without you!!! Hope to see you back on stage soon. Miss you, guys! Yours all, Nadine from Germany.

BONG CONVENTION 2000 !!! This is for all of you who were in Basildon. I am sure you remember the winner of the Martin Gore look-alike competition, as so many of you took photos of him. Well I am his girlfriend and I would really love to see all those photos. PLEASE be so kind and send me any spare copies you may have. Thank you all in advance. Write to: Nicole Kizina, Zunftwiese, Bochum D-344805 Germany.

*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".*

**Name:**

Patricia "Davy" Kienberger

**Age:**

26

**Address:**

Rueti, Switzerland

**How long have you been a devotee?**

Since 1982

**How long have you been a member of Bong?**

Since 1997

**Your first Depeche Mode record?**

"Leave In Silence"

**What type of memorabilia makes up your DM collection?**

Each CD single and CD album, vinyl maxis, vinyl singles, vinyl albums, cassettes, bootlegs and interviews on CD, videos, picture discs, books, tour programmes, photographs, postcards, stickers, pins, scarves, T-shirts, tour jackets, autographs, reviews and interviews 1982-99, fanzines, posters, calendars, mugs, watches and clocks, key-rings, neck-chains, tickets and VIP passes, cap, etc.

**How many items**

**(approx.) make up your DM collection?**

2800

**Favourite items in your collection:**

Dave's autograph from Lausanne 1993

**Top three songs:**

"Blasphemous Rumours", "Walking In My Shoes", "Insight"

**Top three albums:**

"A Broken Frame", "Black Celebration", "Ultra"

**Top three videos:**

"Shake The Disease", "Stripped", "Everything Counts - Live"

**What's your favourite tour?**

Devotional Tour

**How many DM shows have you seen?**

Six

**What made you become a devotee?**

I became a devotee through my elder brother.

**Have you seen the Band or their members in person (when/where/how)?**

I saw the band members in person in Lausanne on June 3, 1993 in front of the concert hall and in Stuttgart on September 23, 1998 inside their hotel.

**Your message to Depeche Mode:**

I have always had a great time with your music and I am proud of being a devotee. Go on like this, if possible, for a long, long time....

This is a new regular feature in Bong, which is called "Mega Devotee File". We would like to encourage everyone who has found love and passion in Depeche Mode, collected memorabilia, and followed them throughout their career. Basically, we would like to hear from anyone who wants to share their devotion with the rest of us with words and photographs. Here are the categories to fill, but please don't forget to send us a photograph of yourself, including some snaps of your memorabilia collection. Please note that this is not a contest where we try to find the biggest DM fan, it would simply not be possible. The idea is to give everyone, who feels they are a mega devotee, some recognition. So speak up and each contribution printed in this section will receive a surprise gift from our office!

# Mega Devotee File



dm live  
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# < Classified >>



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 CAN NOT accept any advertisements for bootleg records, CDs, tapes, videos, etc.

Does anybody have the "Singles Tour 86-98" programme (Wembley Arena) that they wish to sell...wish I'd queued for longer! Up to £10 paid for a good condition copy. Offers to Gordon Walker, 17 Couch Green, Martyr Worthy, Winchester, Hants, SO21 1EA, England.

For sale: DM singles and albums. Mainly vinyls but some other bits besides, U.S. releases and limited editions. E-mail me at: semarshall@hotmail.com or write to: Sarah Marshall, 35 Hope Street, Liverpool, L1 9DZ, England (stamp appreciated).



I am very interested in obtaining good quality UK VHS format video recordings of Depeche Mode TV appearances from the 1990s. I already have a copy of their "TFI Friday" appearance, "O-Zone" interview and all "TOTP" appearances from this era. Send details and prices of any other recordings to: Andrew Baker, 85 Madison Avenue, Hodge Hill, Birmingham B36 8EQ, England.

For sale: complete set of Bong magazines, from Issue 5 up to 42. Will only sell as a complete set. Price including postage - £20. Please write to: Sharon Marshall, 34 Viscount Court, Eaton Socon, St. Neots, Cambridgeshire, PE19 3DH, England.

I would like to sell my collection of Depeche Mode memorabilia, incl. records, tour merchandise (1982-98) and much much more...Please write to: Roman Münch, Bonner Talweg 75, 53113 Bonn, Germany.



I am selling my Depeche Mode collection of videos, CDs, maxis, books, photos, etc. Please send I.C.R. or S.A.E. for details to: Mar Jimenez, Mitjana 1, 3-A, 29013 Malaga, Spain.

Depeche Mode Promo Box of "The Singles 86>98" for sale. The box includes the double CD of the singles, "The Interview 86-98" CD, the video "Depeche Mode - A short Film", the biography, the discography and the tour-dates from the last tour. Send your offers to: braveheart058@gmx.de

For sale: Two Depeche Mode records signed by Martin Gore, posters from the 80's and many photos. For more information, write to: Tobias Schulze, Am Stadtpark 48, 08261 Schöneck, Germany.

On sale: "The Videos 86-98" DVD (NTSC Version), never used, good price. Contact me at: stumm@skynet.be



IMPORTANT: Apologies to anyone who sent a reply to Sue's classified ad from Bong 42, as a printing error in the address might have resulted in some of the mail going astray. The correct ad is as follows....

Wanted Bong issues No. 1-13, 15, 17, 19, 25, 28, 30, 31, and 33. Plus any video footage, live concerts, TV and magazine interviews. Send details and prices to: Sue, 30 Cornbrook Road, Aylesbury, Bucks HP21 8QD, England.

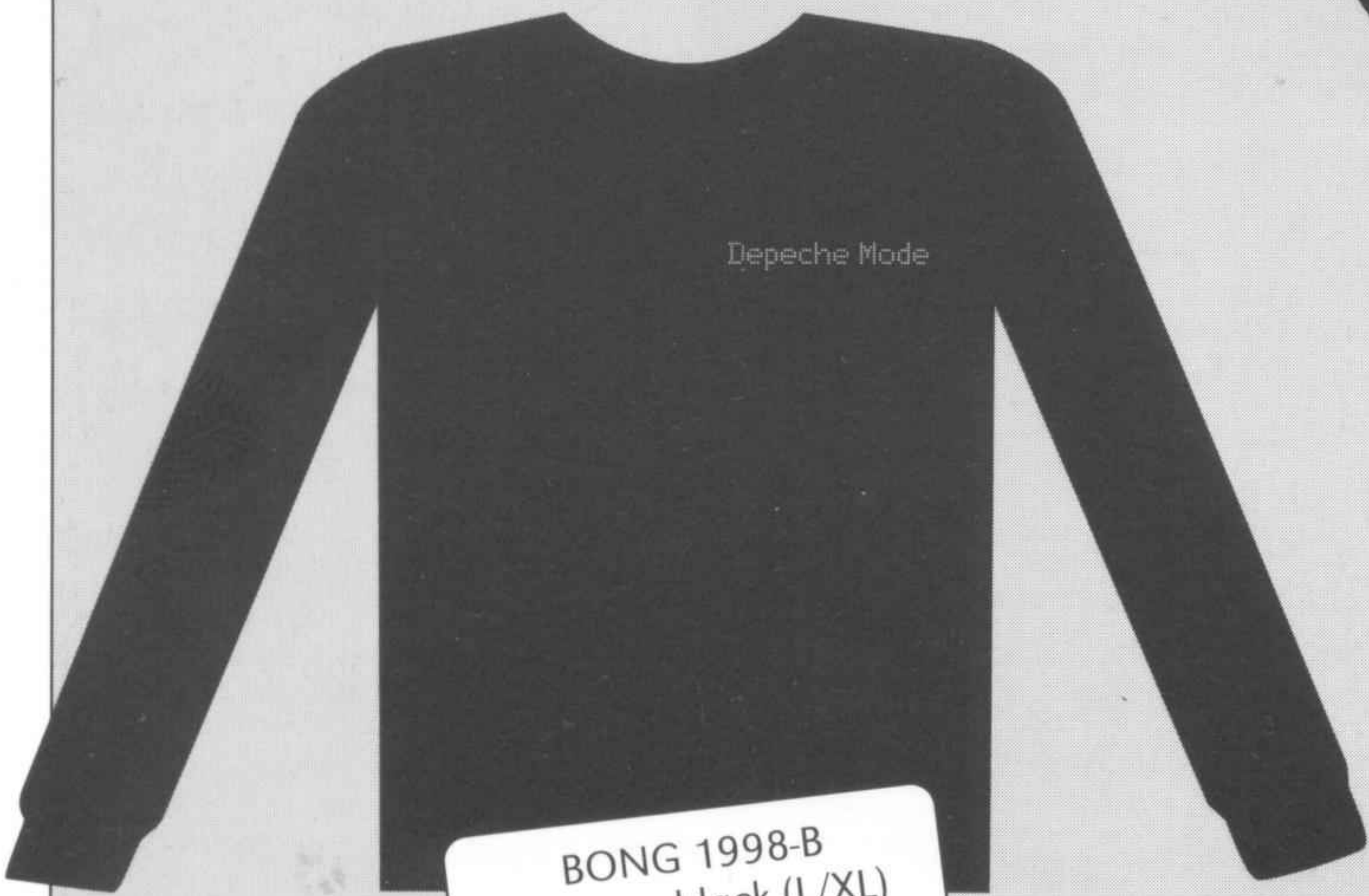
# BONG



BONG 1994  
(purple on grey)



BONG 1995  
(white on black)



BONG 1998-B  
white on black (L/XL)



BONG 1998-A  
red on black (L/XL)  
red on navy blue (XL)

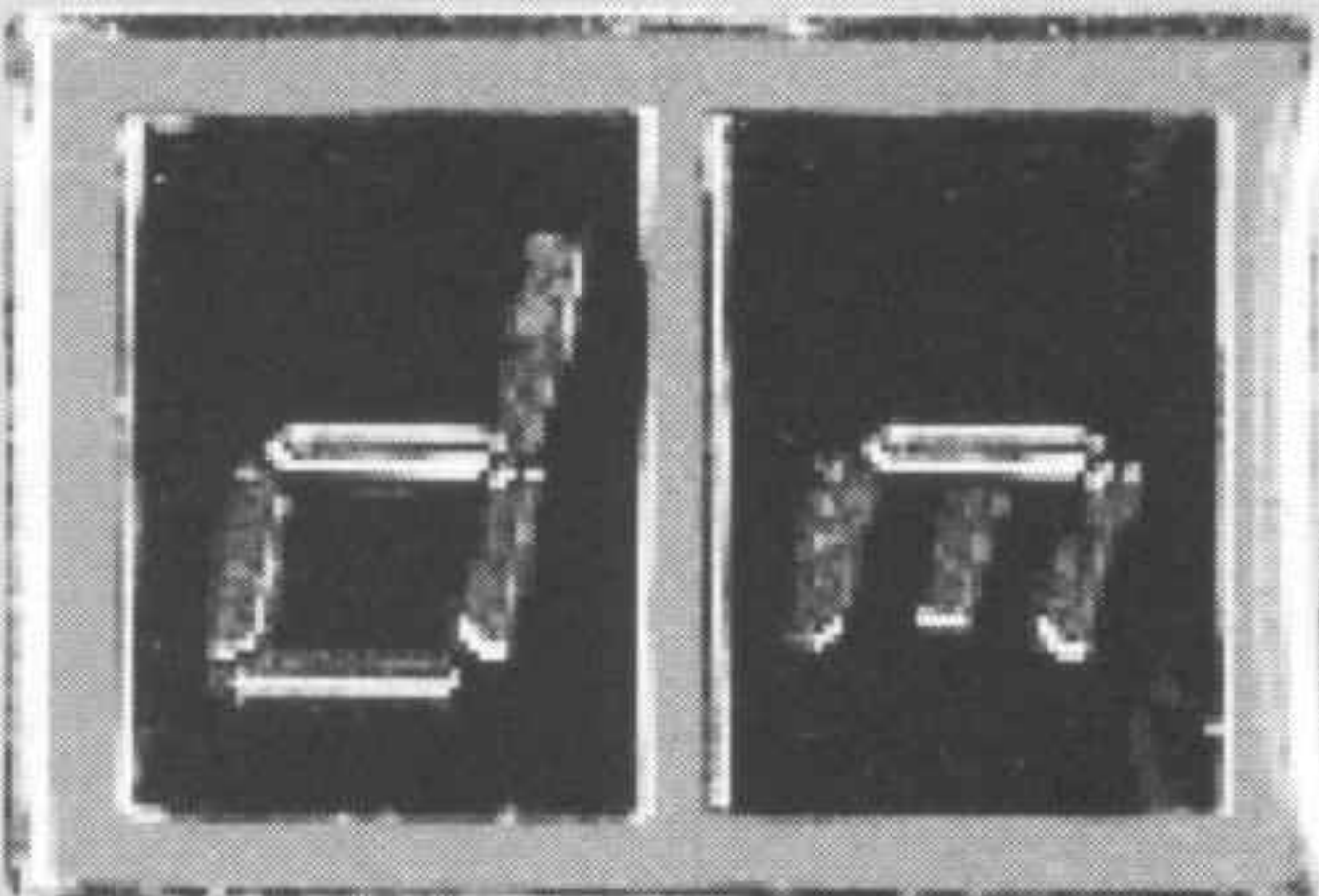
**EXCLUSIVE TO BONG**



**DM watch**  
Limited edition

### Black DM badge

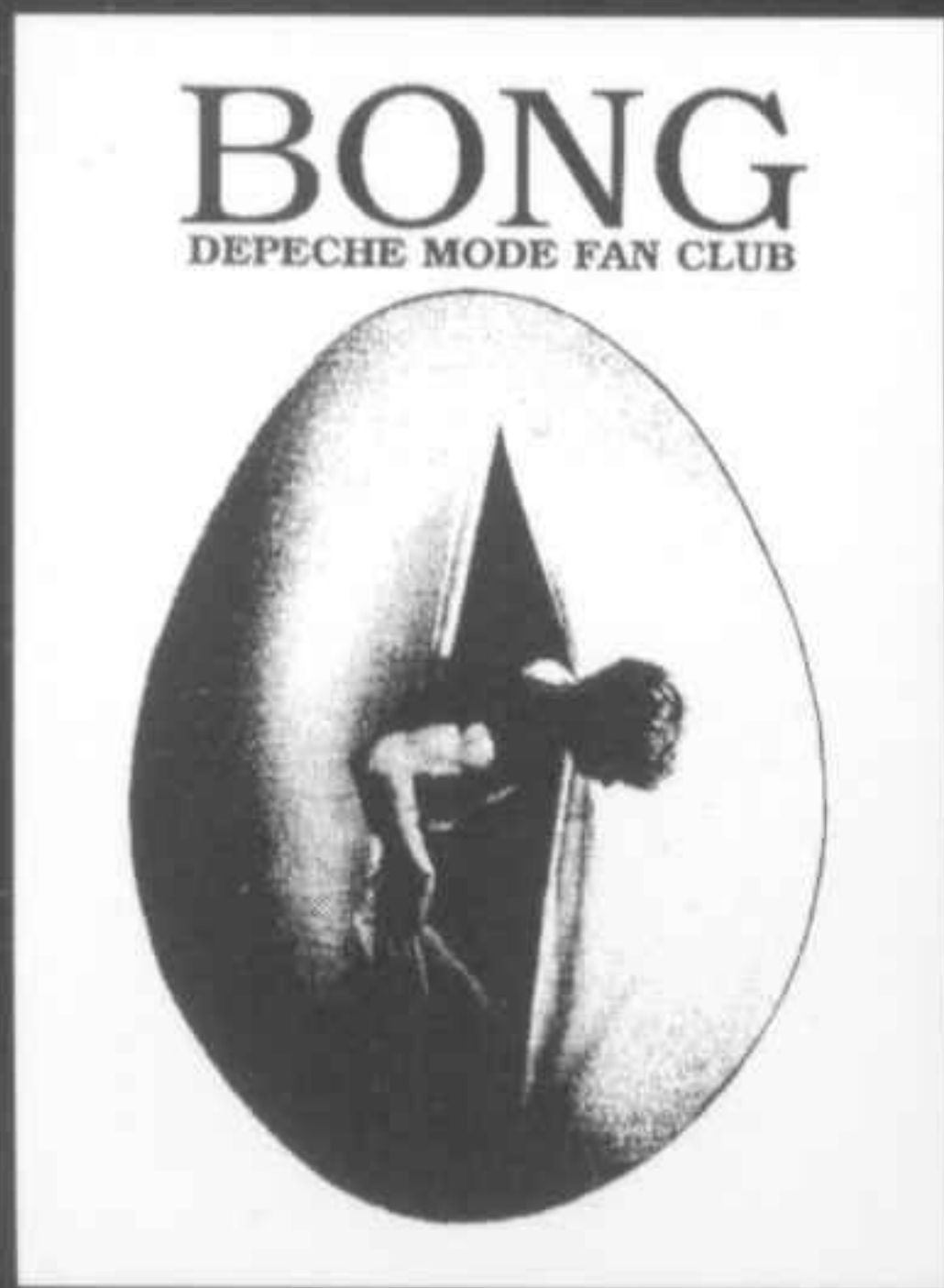
This item can also be purchased  
in the DM store on our web site:  
[www.depechemode.com](http://www.depechemode.com)



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**BONG 14**



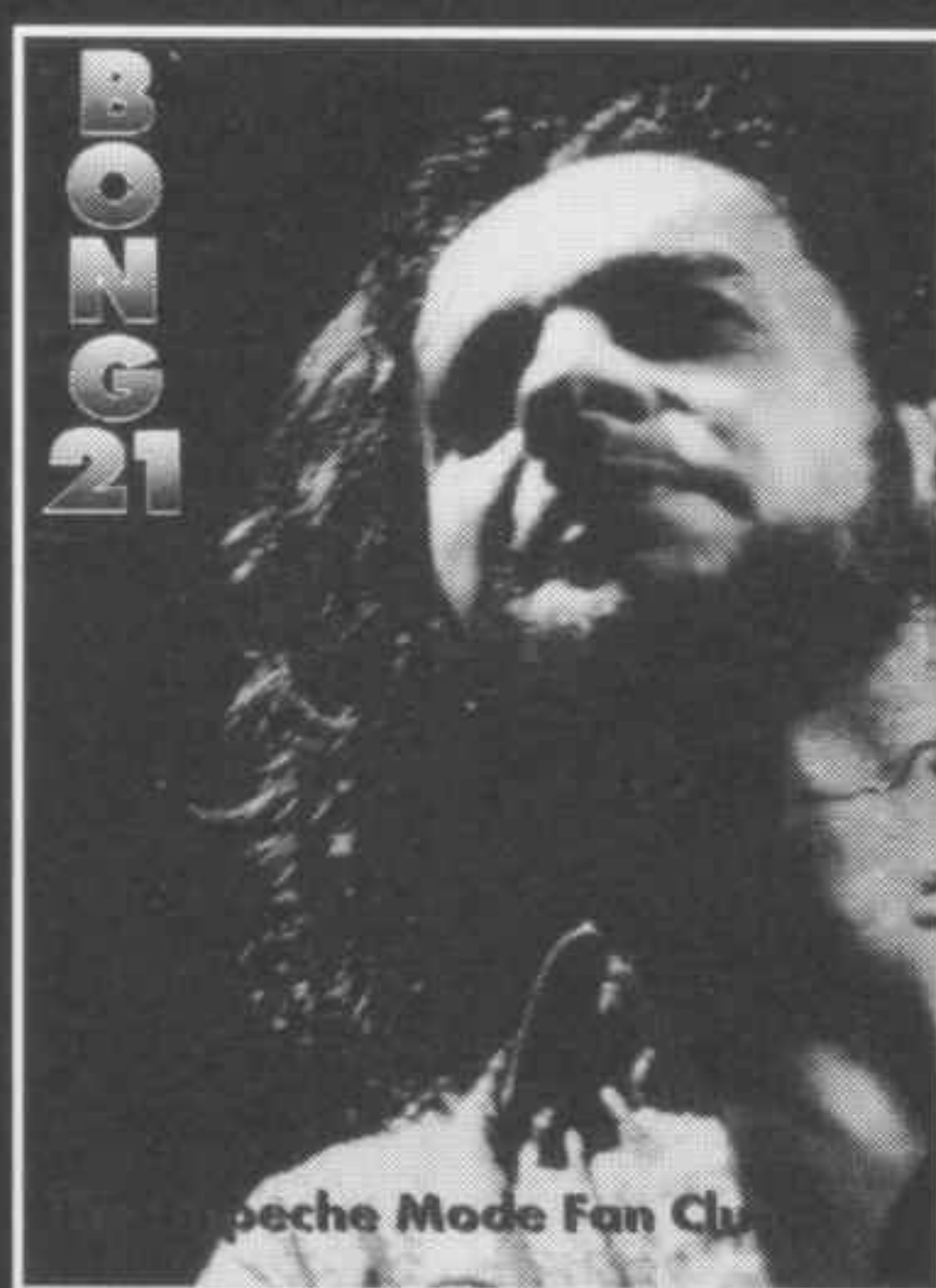
A4, b/w

**BONG 20**



A4, colour

**BONG 21**



A4, colour

**BONG 22**



A4, colour

**BONG 32**



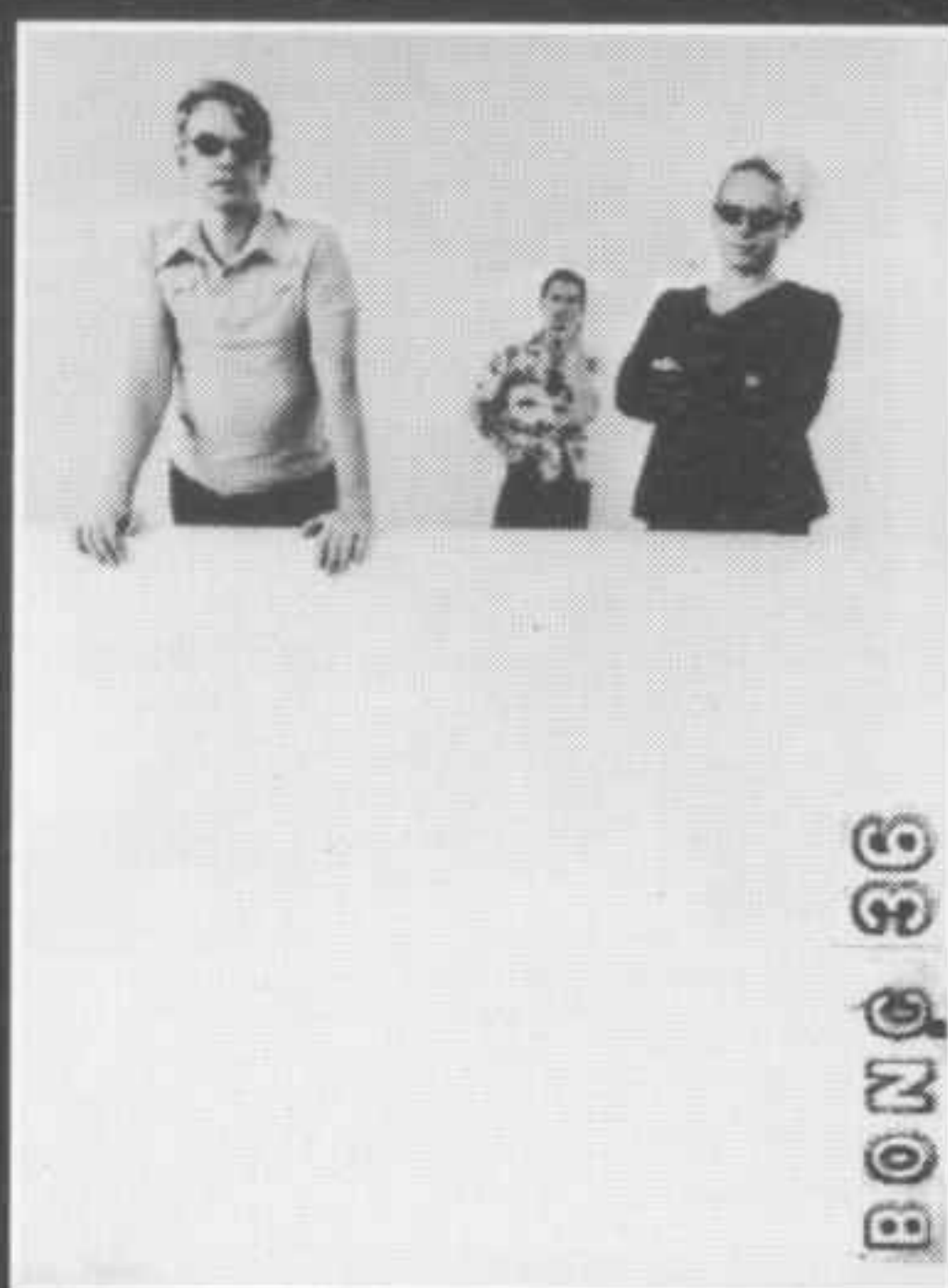
A4, colour

**BONG 35**



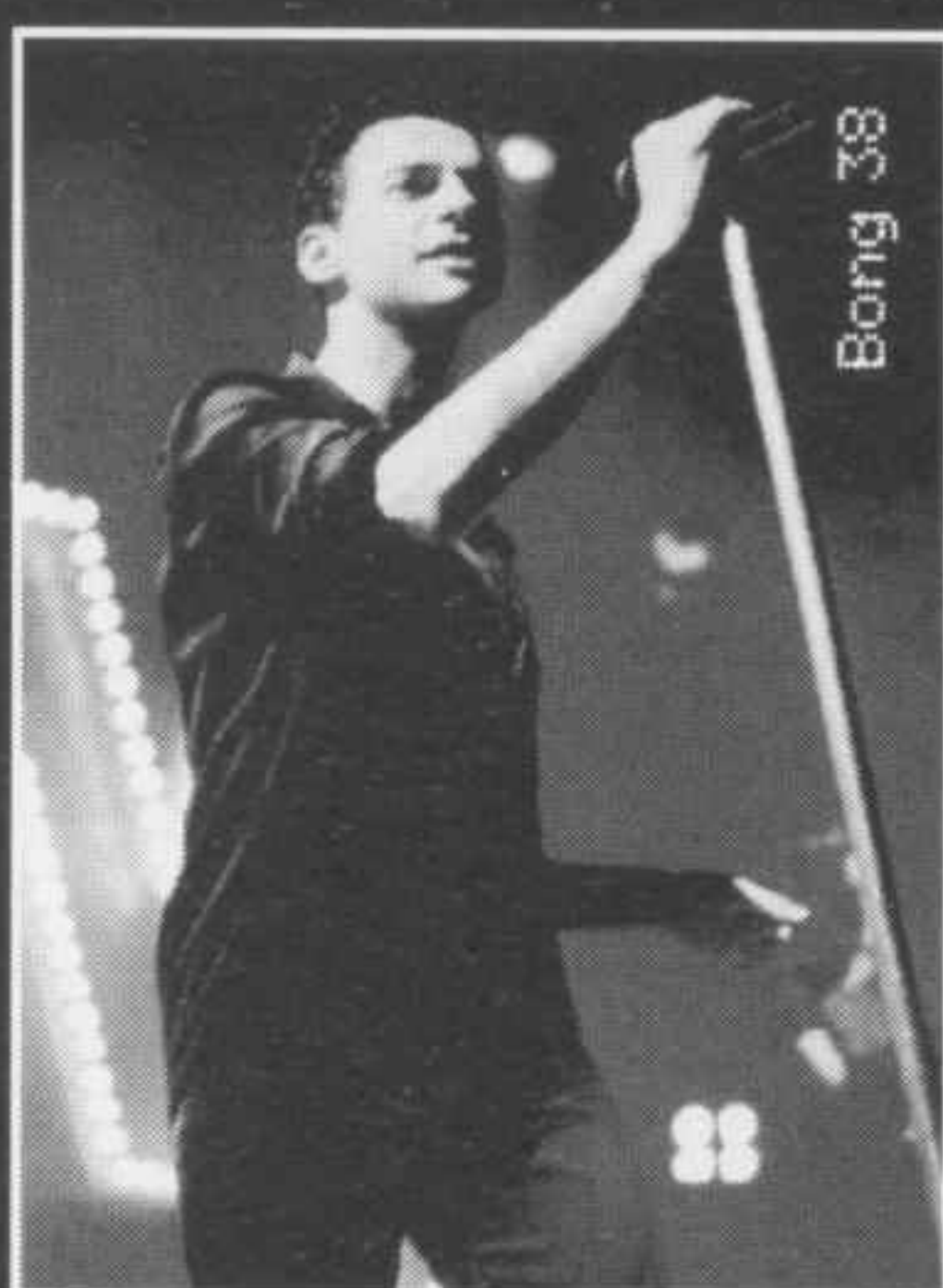
A4, colour

**BONG 36**



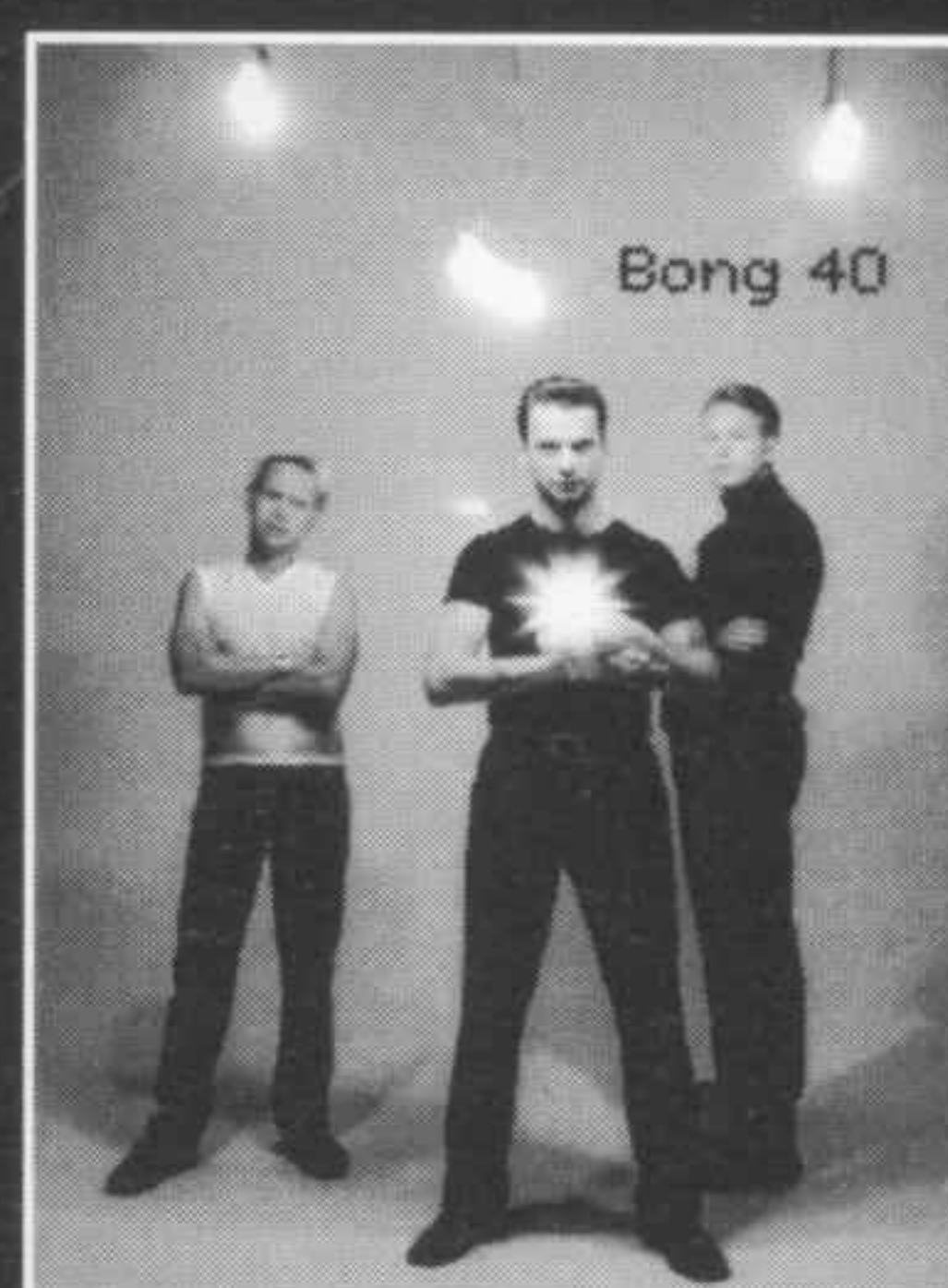
A4, colour

**BONG 38**



A4, colour

**BONG 40**



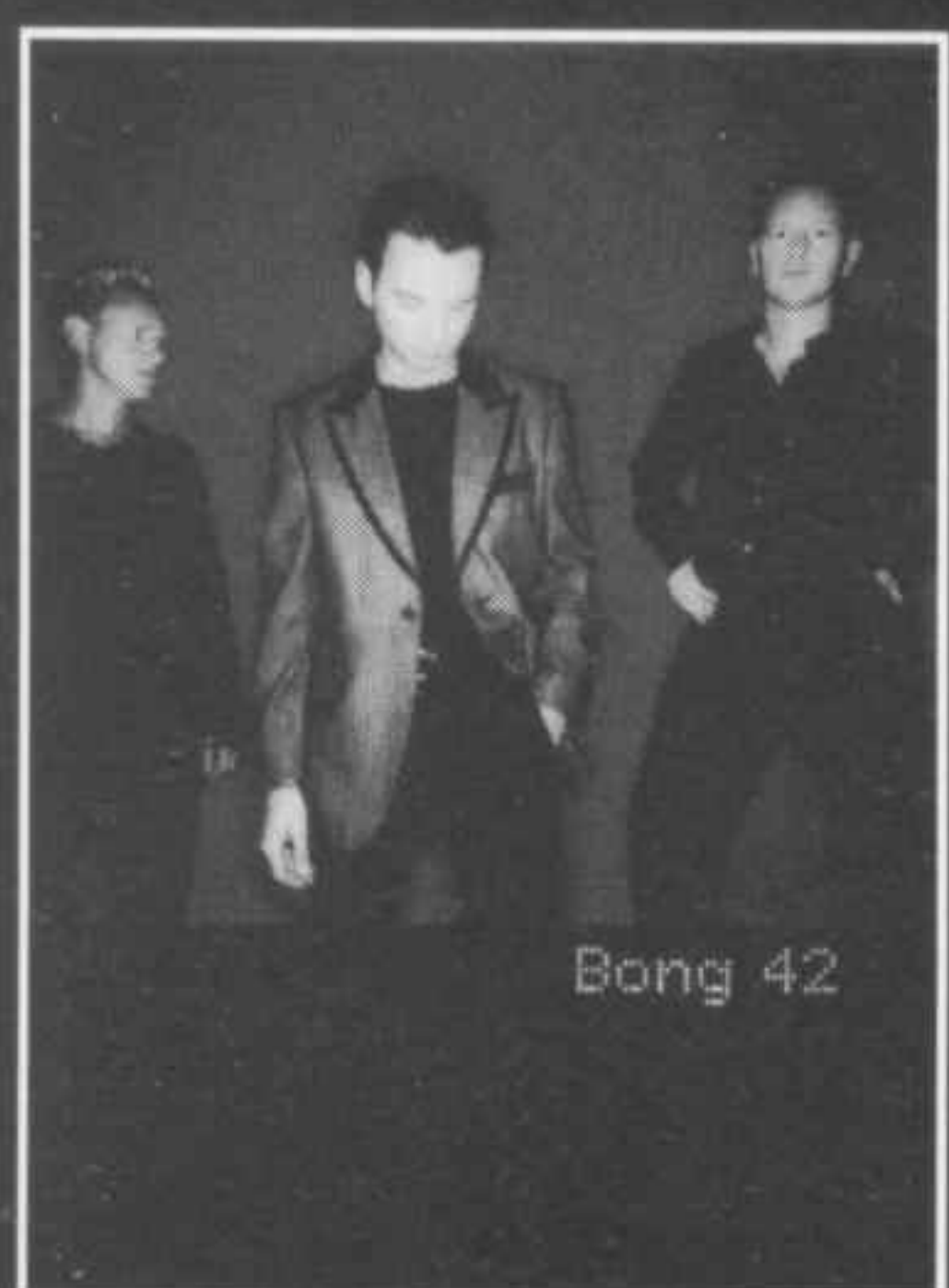
A4, colour

**BONG 41**



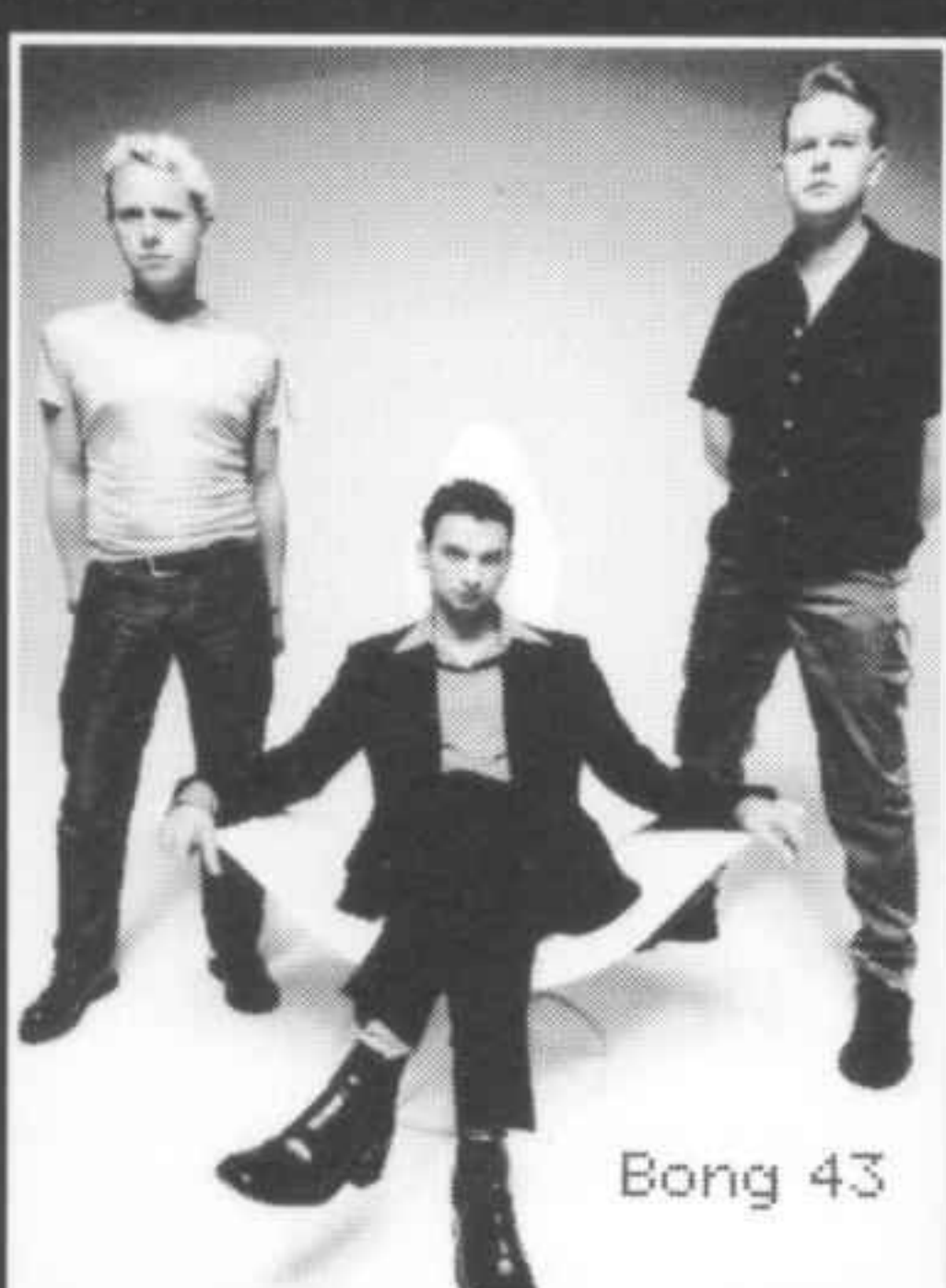
A4, colour

**BONG 42**



A4, colour

**BONG 43**



A4, colour

Item	Quantity	Price UK	Price Europe	Price O/SEAS	Total
Bong 14		£1.25	£2.00	£2.50/US\$4.00	
Bong 20		£1.25	£2.00	£2.50/US\$4.00	
Bong 21		£1.25	£2.00	£2.50/US\$4.00	
Bong 22		£1.25	£2.00	£2.50/US\$4.00	
Bong 32		£1.25	£2.00	£2.50/US\$4.00	
Bong 35		£1.25	£2.00	£2.50/US\$4.00	
Bong 36		£1.25	£2.00	£2.50/US\$4.00	
Bong 38		£1.25	£2.00	£2.50/US\$4.00	
Bong 40		£1.25	£2.00	£2.50/US\$4.00	
Bong 41		£1.25	£2.00	£2.50/US\$4.00	
Bong 42		£1.25	£2.00	£2.50/US\$4.00	
Bong 43		£1.25	£2.00	£2.50/US\$4.00	
Bong T-shirt 1994 (XL)		£5.00	£6.50	£10.50/US\$17.00	
Bong T-shirt 1995 (XL)		£8.00	£10.00	£11.50/US\$20.00	
Bong T-shirt 1998-A (L/XL)		£14.00	£18.00	£23.00/US\$39.00	
Bong T-shirt 1998-B (L/XL)		£15.00	£19.00	£24.00/US\$41.00	
Black DM badge		£4.00	£5.00/US\$8.00	£6.00/US\$9.50	
DM watch		£19.00	£23.00/US\$39.00	£27.00/US\$46.00	
			Total		

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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Country: \_\_\_\_\_

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THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF DEPECHE MODE

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Depeche Mode's official web site at:  
<http://www.depechemode.com>

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