

# Ivory Tower

The Official Newsletter of the Fates Warning Fan Club  
P.O. Box 31190, Hartford, CT 06103

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## Latest News from Fates Warning

### School is in Session or Musical Professors

Of special note for guitarists: Jim and Frank have been tapped to contribute a tune to a CD issued by "Guitar's for the Practicing Musician", the largest selling guitar publication in the world. The CD is entitled "Guitar's Practicing Musicians, Vol. II". It should be available in February. The recording offers examples of technique and musical construction, and features a range of artists and styles. The **Fates Warning** tune that will be included will be "At Fate's Hands", and will be remixed and reworked just for the occasion, emphasizing the guitar work, with new solos by Jim and Frank. They are both quite honored to be among those chosen to show what's happening on the cutting edge of music.

### Eurotour '90

It's time to hit the road again, and **Fates Warning** is teaming up with **Sanctuary** for a European tour. They will kick things off on October 27th in Athens, Greece. With 40 dates confirmed as of press time, this promises to be their biggest international tour yet, bringing them to some previously uncharted parts of the globe.

To our European friends: as we get updated information, we will send it directly to you. Give our regards to the band! Here is a loosely chronological rundown of countries they will be visiting: Greece; Germany; Poland; Austria; Hungary; Switzerland; France; the Netherlands; England; the Scandinavian countries.

### Party Tape Time!

There is a new service popping up in record stores in many parts of the country called "Personics", which enables people to make non-bootleg, digital quality custom cassettes for auto, party, and home use. The setup is basically a large electronic music library which dubs the tunes you request, in the order selected, on a cassette of exactly the correct length (for a fee, of course, which covers the cost of the cassette, the artist royalties and the dubbing service). If you have seen the display at your record store, be sure to take a closer look at the menu: **Fates Warning** is represented, too! And be sure to lobby for more **FW** tunes on this service.

## Editorial

It's hard to believe that a year has passed since the first issue of the *IT*, and yet, here we are, at Volume 2, Number 1! You'll notice that our little paper is beginning to grow. It has taken us a while to find our way - after all, the *IT* staff is made up of fans, not businessmen - but we feel that we are finally on track, thanks to your concern and support. The suggestions and comments that many of you have made will begin to materialize over the next several issues.

Looking back at our first issue is a humbling reminder that it is fans like you that give vitality to this effort, and we congratulate each one of you who has contributed to the founding of this club. Looking forward to the next year, we have good reason to be optimistic, and we hope that all of you charter members will stick with us. Now that those merchandise supply kinks are finally being worked out, we can really begin to concentrate on bringing to you the news, music and goods that can't be found anywhere else.

This issue marks the beginning of a period of transition not only for us, but for **Fates Warning**, too. The band is working on a new album with more support than ever from their record label, and it looks like they may not remain one of metal's "best kept secrets" for much longer! We expect that **Fates Warning** will *define* the sound of the nineties, and we congratulate all of you who have made that possible: you are part of our historic group - the special group of friends who will help push FW over the top.

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## Musicans Corner

*With this issue, we begin a new feature for all of you musicians. In this column the members of the band will share with you observations about music and the techniques and equipment that make up the special FW sound.*

From the rhythm section, Mark Zonder took some time to speak with us about his percussion set-up. Anyone who has seen the band perform knows that Mark's kit looks more like the turret of a battleship than, let's say, a standard Ludwig 5-piece set. With this massive arsenal he manages to coax out some light and airy sounds that seem to float on top of the titanic bottom end that earned him the nickname "Thunderchild". Mark says he's trying to live down that name, though. Why? Because FW's music is different. He says it gives him "lots of ways to develop parts" and interact with the other instruments, instead of just supplying the standard kick/snare bottom end sound.

Exploring the percussion soundscape, Mark uses electronics as well as acoustics both on stage and in the studio. With double kicks, ride and crash cymbals, electronic drums and lots of toms, it might be very tempting to overplay, but in **Fates Warning** control of dynamics and musical density is important. This is especially true of ride cymbals, whose sound can wash out the rest of the music in a sea of white noise. "Play 'em, don't

abuse 'em" is the approach Mark uses, riding high on the bell. A great example of his delicate hi-hat and ride work can be found on "Part of the Machine", on the "Perfect Symmetry" album. Because of the wide range of dynamics and pitches, ranging from the lowest fundamental of the kick to the highest overtones of the cymbals, inherent in percussion, maintaining the right balance is essential. Says Mark "Fates' music is well thought out - we don't just get together and jam." And this doesn't just refer to those tricky time changes; for Mark, listening is an essential part of playing: "The music goes in the ears, and out the hands and feet."

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## Question & Answer

- Q. A Wisconsin fan writes, "I was ... wondering if the guy in the [ Through Different Eyes ] video was from the Star Trek TV series."
- A. Actor Brescia Thompson was never on Star Trek; however, he does have the interesting distinction of being named after the anarchist who assassinated King Umberto I of Italy in 1900. By the way, the old photographs featured in the video are Mr. Thompson's own family pictures.

## Spotlight On: Ray Alder

The *IT* presents the first in the biographical series **Spotlight On**, which takes a closer look at the people behind the music.

The staff caught up with the band's affable vocalist by phone one Sunday afternoon to talk about his childhood and youth. Ray Alder was born on August 20th, 1967 in Hondo, Texas, a place he describes as "a one-horse town, with a population of 1500. The library and sheriff's office were all in one building!" Ray's family moved around a bit, finally settling in San Antonio, where he has been living for close to six years.

Ray first developed an interest in music when one of his brothers joined a hard rock band. By the time he was in the 7th grade, he was occasionally singing with the group. At age 17, Ray joined his first band, Bad News. "They were a real backyard party kind of band," he recalls. They performed for friends at private functions. Over the next two years, Ray moved on to several different bands, though he was not seriously thinking of pursuing a musical career. It was, in his words, "just something fun to do." In fact, Ray never even received any formal voice training. When asked how he does it, he replied, "I just open my mouth and yell!"

Ray's life changed forever when he learned that **Fates** was looking for a new lead vocalist. "Fates was my favorite band in the whole world," he recounts excitedly, "and John Arch one of my greatest influences, along with Judas Priest." When he saw an opportunity to perform with a group whose music he loved, he could not ignore it. Ray sent in a demo tape, and after several auditions, was tapped to replace one of his musical idols. He was 19 years old. He made his recording debut on "No Exit".

## Do the Write Thing

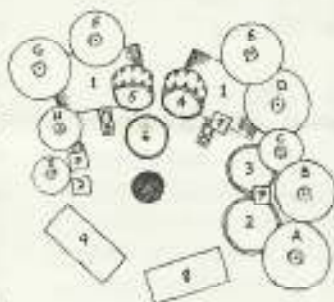
Some of you have written to the fan club expressing an interest in writing to other fans. We felt this was a good idea; after all, what better thing to have in common with someone than an interest in **Fates**? To get things started, we've included a few people below. If you would like to participate, drop us a line. Here's a great opportunity to get more closely involved with a network of people who, like you, are dedicated to the new metal of the nineties.

Troy Nesval / P.O. Box 1095 / Chelan, WA 98816  
John Utjsenovicz / Rte 1, Box 82 / Waynesville, MO 65583  
Chris DeMarco / 9405 Sherman Lane / North Royalton, OH 44133  
Milan Maltk / Savatovskaz / 90901 Skalica / Czechoslovakia

## Musician...continued from page 2

The music **FW** conceives is meant to be played by a cohesive unit, with a strong interplay of all the parts. The drummer must go beyond the traditional supporting role of timekeeper in this setting, and so the rhythm patterns Mark selects are often "not obvious choices". It might even take several listenings to hear how the pattern fits together. As if striking a balance between the extremes of a "human metronome" and a "lead drummer" weren't enough, the range of dynamics and sound density the **FW** employs provides a challenge of its own. Mark notes that the "spaces" - what isn't played - are just as important to the music as the actual notes. The way that tension builds and releases, or might pause to explode in a sudden change in dynamics, can be ruined by insensitive playing. Listen to "Chasing Time", on "Perfect Symmetry" to hear it done well.

While an artist may have a wide range of colors on his palette, he won't apply them all at once, using one type of brush stroke or texture; in the same way, while Mark has a wide range of percussion resources to call upon, he uses them sparingly, keeping his ears wide open. With the wide range of dynamics and timbres Mark coaxes out of his percussion, and the level of interaction and interweaving with the other instruments he achieves, perhaps the nickname "Thunderchild" really doesn't quite describe all he contributes to the band's sound.



### MARK ZONDER

Drums: G.M.S.  
1. 24" x 16" bass  
2. 14" floor tom  
3. 14" floor tom  
4. 12" mounted tom  
5. 10" mounted tom  
6. 14" x 16" cymbal  
7. Cymbals  
8. Snare drum  
9. Kick  
AUX: S 500 sampler  
Simmons A101 snareless  
Simmons 3PM 8 track  
Rochco SPX 90 multi-effects unit  
Roland SRV 2000 digital reverb  
Sampla GX-3 sequencer

Roland TB 303 drum machine  
Alesis MIDI pitch bend  
Fender power amp  
Jaco Coosa power controller  
Cymbals: Zildjian  
A. 20" ping  
B. 18" China  
C. 14" closed hi-hat  
D. 20" Earth ride  
E. 16" crash  
F. 16" crash  
G. 17" crash  
H. 17" x 22" hi-hat  
I. 14" China  
Mark Zonder also uses Drum Workshop TE pedals and kick stands, and Pro-Mark 18 history drum rods.

## Discography

- 1984 Metal Massacre V "Soldier Boy" <sup>N.O.B.</sup> MB 1079
- 1984 Night on Brocken ST 71103
- 1985 The Spectre Within ST 72088
- 1986 Best of Metal Blade, Vol. I  
"The Apparition" ST 72117  
<sup>T.S.W.</sup>
- 1986 Awaken the Guardian ST 73224
- 1986 River's Edge (Soundtrack)  
"Kyrie Eleison" ST 73242  
<sup>A.T.G.</sup>
- 1987 Best of Metal Blade, Vol. II  
"Prelude to Ruin" ST 73255  
<sup>A.T.G.</sup>
- 1988 Best of Metal Blade, Vol. III  
"Ivory Tower" ST 73319  
<sup>N.E.</sup>
- 1988 No Exit ST 73330
- 1989 Perfect Symmetry ST 73408

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## Burning the Midnight Oil

After a year filled with interviews, videos, national and international tours, moves from the East Coast to the West Coast, and changes and growth for all members of the band, **Fates Warning** is getting back to business, the business of music composition, that is. Even as FW prepares for its Autumn tour of Europe, Jim and Frank are at work on the next album.

As yet untitled, the project is something everyone in the band is talking about: This album promises to be their finest effort yet, with a more cohesive music unit and stronger support from their record label. Behind-the-scenes changes with the band and their label bode well for this album. And though it's been a year since the band's previous release, it looks like their new album will be well worth the wait.

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## Wedding Bells

The bells are ringing for Jim Matheos, who tied the knot in October. The Staff of *IT* wish Jim the very best for a happy marriage.

P.S. Everyone else in the band is still a committed bachelor.

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## Kiss of Death

High priest, the man you look for  
prays in the garden tonight.  
Conceived by immaculate conception,  
King Nazareen creator of light.  
Healing cripples,  
gives sight to the blind,  
transforms himself,  
he's not of our kind.  
I know this begot by a kiss,  
he knows not that he's been defied.

Demon lords won't you ride with me,  
mount your horse to Gethsemane.

Judas Iscariot, money man and thief of Judah  
tell me haven't you dined with the man  
and preached with him in Galilee.  
You deny being one of the twelve,  
wish to trade your king for gold.  
Thirty silver pieces be your reward  
and may your rotten conscience never grow old.

I am in you, you are in I.  
You have defied me,  
I see through your eyes.  
Beware the kiss of death.

Pharisees I fall to my knees,  
we must nullify the contract we have made.  
I have pined, defied innocent blood  
and returned the silver pieces you've paid.  
What's this you say, who is he to us,  
see to thyself you greedy man.  
The place of the skull  
is where lies your king.  
We have washed our hands.

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## More Midnight Oil

There is another album in the works from the FW camp. Jim Matheos has just gone into the studio to work on a solo album. Don't be alarmed, this is not the beginning of a new band. Jim will be exploring an area of music which has been hinted at in segments of FW albums, but could not be presented in a metal release. It's a little known fact that Jim and Frank used to practice classical guitar duets together, and that both he and Frank have worked on acoustic compositions. This solo effort will highlight that type of composition, and as Jim says: "It's totally different from **Fates Warning**". Expect to hear guitar, violin, and cello on this recording. Jim anticipates licensing the release through an acoustic label (such as Windham Hill). We bet that Jim will turn on a whole bunch of New Age music listeners to progressive metal!