

# Ivory Tower

The Official Newsletter of the Fates Warning Fan Club  
P.O. Box 231190, Hartford, CT 06123-1190

Vol. II, No. 2

## Latest News from Fates Warning

### New Album has Canadian Accent

In keeping with the progressive nature of FW's musical explorations, the band has gone to the "Great White North" of Toronto, Canada to record their latest album. Not only are they working in the backyard of **Rush**, another great progressive band, but they've managed to scarf up a couple of the talents responsible for that Canadian trio's albums.

The album is being produced by Terry Brown, and Hugh Syme returns as Art Director; both have been responsible for **Rush** projects. Of course, we don't expect any change in Ray's vocal style, but this album is shaping up to be their most important release to date. The album is being released as a Warner/Metal Blade cooperative project, and should have a much higher radio profile and great label support.

As for Toronto itself, it seems to be a great place to record an album (although the band members tell us prices are almost as high as their spirits!). A special "Thanks, eh?" goes out to all of you north of the border who have shown your support for the band.

### Thanks for the Memories . . .

After a European tour that could only be described as unforgettable, we caught up with some members of the band stateside to get the

### News Notes

Fate intervened in the Persian Gulf this past few months, and we received some correspondence from operation Desert Shield. It's nice to know that our boys in Kuwait wanted to keep cool in **Fates Warning** tee shirts!

Stay tuned for the "Guitar's Practicing Musicians, Vol. II", available this July, featuring the remix of "At Fates Hands", by Jim and Frank.

**Fates'** upcoming release will be handled by Warner Brothers, so expect to hear a lot more of the band on the radio.

inside story. Here are some of their impressions.

**Fates Warning** and **Sanctuary**, their tour companions, got off to a great start in Greece where they were literally mobbed by fans. Judging by the mail that we have received from Greece, we believe it, too.

As the tour progressed, their adventures became more and more picaresque, and some interesting dietary constraints developed, but the band had plenty to distract them from the rigors of travel and the little hitches that arose. They got to see

some truly beautiful sights on the way as they travelled through the Alps for the first time, and Frank observed that no matter how distant a place is from home, there always seems to be something familiar, whether it's the look of the farms on the rolling hills, or the people they met at gigs.

Naturally, a club full of fans is one of the best sights of all (especially when seen from the stage), and the band's heartfelt thanks goes out to everyone who made it to their gigs. The road manager probably summarized the effort everyone gave to this tour most effectively when she said "I did my best." Coming off of this tour, the band was anxious to get cracking on their new album, so that when they tour in support of that project, they can do it even better.

## To Our Members

At the *Ivory Tower* we do pay attention to your letters, and what a lot of them have said lately is that you are very upset that the newsletter is so late. We know that the subject of fan clubs that take the money and run (or just sit and do nothing) is a touchy one, so we present to you, with our humble apologies, a very late volume II issue 2, with our assurance that all four issues of volume two will come out.

Looking at this issue, we have a new page one feature called "News Notes." It will be a collection of brief news items, rumors from well placed sources and quick observations. We are also including contests in this and future issues, and of course, we will continue to update you on the band's activities.

On the subject of the band, this is shaping up to be a very busy year. After recovering from what proved to be an unforgettable tour, Fates is in the studio working on their latest, as yet untitled, album. Jim's solo effort is on its way onto a label, and the FW contribution to the "Guitar's..." CD should be available as of press time. With Warner label support, there should be more video activity, too! So, we hope you can stick with us and read about it as it happens.

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### Access: All Areas - - Your Questions

- Q. D.S. from Wisconsin writes, "By the way, is the 'autographed' pic of Fates real, or do you pay someone to forge their signatures?"
- A. You get only the genuine article from us. Unlike other clubs, we don't use cheap lithographs and printed 'auto graphs.' The signatures you see on the photograph are indeed the real thing! In fact, we don't know of any other fan club that offers such a high quality color photo with genuine signatures. (Do we sound like Lee Iacocca?)

### We've Moved! (Sort of...)

Just a quick reminder that the *Ivory Tower* has a new P.O. Box number and Zip code. Our new address:

The Ivory Tower/Fates Warning  
P.O. Box 231190 Hartford, CT 06123-1190

Special thanks go out to Jill Sutherland for her help with this and every issue of the *Ivory Tower*. Without her support, the *IT* would still be a silly looking one page cut-and-paste job.

### Musicians Corner

In this issue, we'll maintain our focus on the rhythm section and talk with Joe DiBiase about the bass. Known to his friends as "Bones," Joe is a founding member of **Fates Warning**, and has experienced much of his musical development in this context. As a veteran of thousands of miles of touring and an important part of FW's sound, Joe has much to say about the role of this often under-appreciated instrument.

As all us bassists are quick to point out, the bass line is the foundation that supports just about every musical phrase ever written, from Bach to rock. Unfortunately, just like the foundation of a building, bassists seem destined to remain buried in musical obscurity, thumping away on the E and A strings. Joe successfully rises above this fate (no pun intended) because his role in the band is different: often working as another melodic voice, his lines interplay beautifully with the guitar parts, offering a thicker, darker sound than a guitar played in the same range. While this melodic style departs from the more traditional role of the bassist, it is part of a great tradition, too, with roots all the way back in the classical music of the Baroque period (17th century).

Essential to this style is writing the parts so that they complement each other. This is something that can't be done by jamming, and all of the Fates songs are carefully arranged in what Joe

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## Musician...continued from page 2

says is a very democratic process. Jim might start with the skeleton of a tune, then the whole band participates in fleshing out the details over the period of a month. Asked if he is ever tempted to compose independently, Joe replies "it would be a hopeless cause" for him, and since 90% of the bass parts are his, he is quite happy with his role as a co-arranger.

How does he come up with his parts? There are no shortcuts here: Joe carefully hones his ideas over many listenings, playing off of the drums and guitars. About Mark's drumming, Joe minces no words, saying "he's extraordinary. He plays interesting rhythms, and there are always a couple of choices to play off of." Because Mark has an uncluttered sound, there is more room for the bass.

Joe's playing has evolved with the band, but he has improved his chops the old-fashioned way -- through practice. He spends his free time practicing, and it is a source of enjoyment for him when not on tour or in the studio. Not that being in the studio is a source of enjoyment...

"Putting together a recording is a nerve-racking experience. You work on a project night and day. Every mistake is heard. After laying down the initial track you go back and punch in corrections." And this can be an arduous process. By way of example, Joe says he did 25 takes of "At Fates Hands," going section by section to fix mistakes. A frequently neglected minority, bassists often experience the frustration of discovering that their instrument got lost somewhere in the mix during post-production. Joe was quite pleased with his treatment on "Perfect Symmetry," however, since both producers also play bass, and have an appreciation for its role in the music. Between Mark's airier style and a better balance with the guitars, Joe's parts really came through.

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## Our First Contest

Here at the *IT*, we thought it might be about time to test your knowledge of **Fates Warning**, so we've prepared a simple quiz. Naturally, there is a prize involved - in this case, a copy of the band's new CD to each of five winners. Of course, roadies, band members and their families are ineligible, but they can probably be bribed for answers (just kidding!). So here we go, and good luck! (p.s.- please read the rules).

- 1) Where is Brocken, and what is it?
- 2) What is Frank Aresti's middle name?
- 3) Where was Ray Alder born?
- 4) What was the original Fates Warning lineup?
- 5) What was Fates Warning's first video?

**The rules:** Purchase of merchandise not necessary. Fill out the name/address section at top of merchandise order form; write your answers on the back of the form. Mail to "The Ivory Tower, P.O. Box 231190, Hartford, CT 06123-1190," or use return envelope provided. To be eligible for drawing, your entry must be post-dated July 1 or earlier. Winners will be drawn from a pool of contestants with five correct answers. In the case that fewer than five entries have all answers correct, those that do will be declared winners, and remaining prizes will be awarded in a drawing made up of entrants with four correct answers. Drawing will be held July 15th. Winners' names and correct answers will be published in the next issue of the *Ivory Tower*.

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## The International Metal Line

The list grows! More IT members have told us they want to write to other members. If you want to join the network, drop us a line and we'll include you on the list as well.

John Belias/Mykinon 17/17235 Athens/Greece  
Debbie Seeger/2925 South Stigler Road/New Berlin, WI 53146  
Pat Verebely/1643 Moffet Road/Ceres, CA 95307  
Henk van Delden/Bavinckstr, 19/ 8266 CS Kampen/Holland  
Troy Nesval/P.O. Box 1095/Chelan, WI 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 3

Unlike recording, Joe looks forward to touring. There is no substitute for it: "You can take all the lessons you want, but the real lesson is on the road." Normally quiet and unassuming, he really comes alive on stage. While the band travelled in support of "Awaken the Guardian," he considers "No Exit" their first "real" tour. Of all of the aspects of being a working musician, Joe says being on stage comes easiest to him. It's easy to imagine why -- on stage, all of the elements come together, and the experience of bridging rhythm and melody, audience and performance, months of team work coming to fruition -- this can be immensely rewarding. "I love this. It's the most important thing in my life... I can't picture myself doing anything else." Those words speak for themselves.

Anticipating further improvement, Joe says "Every year, the band gets better... there has never been a backward step," although some steps have been bigger than others, like the changes between "No Exit" and "Perfect Symmetry." He expects the next album will be another step forward, a bit more uptempo, and and something new we can look forward to: the fretless bass. Jim has come up with some tunes that call for a fretless sound, and Joe is up to the challenge, happily practicing until it is time to hit the road again.

Joe DiBiase's Equipment:  
Guild Pilot, Fender Precision and Precision  
Fretless, G+K Head

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## Kyrie Eleison from "The Spectre Within"

Never thought my time was coming, Wasn't in my dreams. Twice I visioned I was falling down, Down to the ground, I screamed out loud, Woke on a cloud. Never really a holy man even though I understand the father son and Holy Ghost. He's the one that scares me most Ashes to rain you feel no pain.

Hell fire burns my conscience, My mind explodes. Spine is severed, blood runs cold confess the Deepest of sin, envision a king, With a white violin. Crucifix hung above my death bed begins To bleed. Imagination, luncacy, has he come to hear my plea, Grant absolution condone my sin.

The lady in black I ask what do you see. A glimpse in your glass what good Fortune for me. The lady in black said your lifeline is damned. The tarot of death card she held in her hand.

Kyrie Eleison Christe Eleison  
Kyrie Eleison Christe Eleison

Segments of my life flash through my mind, Things never seen. It must be fate warning me for now, The walls are closing in. Rosary in Hand, Last grain of sand. Here I go I start to fall again.

Try to scream I'm mute it is the End of my last fall. To the land of nevermore, Shatter her glass I woke on the floor.

The lady in black I asked what do you see. A glimpse in your glass what good fortune for me. The lady in black says your lifeline is damned. The tarot of death card she held in her hand.

Kyrie Eleison Christe Eleison  
Kyrie Eleison Christe Eleison

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## Fates Warning Discography

1984 Metal Massacre V "Soldier Boy" 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  
1986 Awaken the Guardian ST 73224

1986 River's Edge (Soundtrack) "Kyrie Eleison" ST 73242  
1987 Best of Metal Blade, Vol. II "Prelude to Ruin" ST 73255  
1988 Best of Metal Blade, Vol. III "Ivory Tower" ST 73319  
1988 No Exit ST 73330  
1989 Perfect Symmetry ST 73408