

# Ivory Tower

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

Vol. II, No. 3

## Latest News from Fates Warning

### Unparalleled Success

The new **Fates Warning** album is out and it is extraordinary! Called "Parallels", it is a leap to an entirely new level for the band. The album features sparkling production from Terry Brown that really highlights the tight ensemble work, and the individual performances have never sounded better! Lovers of **Fates'** always profound lyrics and breathtaking solos will not be disappointed, but the album offers some surprises, too.

First, this album demonstrates that Ray has the best vocal midrange in rock. The next surprise is the balance of power and sophistication: this album is progressive without being self-consciously "artsy". It has drawn both from the best of the prog-rock sensibilities and the strength of metal to create an original sound that may be a beacon to guide music through the nineties.

Fans of **Fates'** most esoteric work might be a little surprised by how "listenable" the album is, but won't be disappointed by the mini-epic entitled "The Eleventh Hour" reminiscent of "The Ivory Gate of Dreams" or the drive of "Don't Follow Me". Most extraordinarily, much of the album breaks new ground that was just scratched at with "Perfect Symmetry". Bold and confident, there isn't a single weak tune on the album, and it has really caught the ears of the record industry. We hope that after six albums and almost ten

### News Notes

Local heroes Frank and Joe were guests of honor at a well attended "Parallels" listening party hosted by the Central Connecticut State University radio station just miles from the birthplace of **Fates Warning**.

The "Point of View" video made its debut of MTV's "Headbangers' Ball" on November 9th.

Did anyone catch the **FW** tune in the "Freddy's Dead" soundtrack?

years of honing their craft, **Fates Warning** will experience the breakthrough recognition they so richly deserve.

### First Release

The first release from the "Parallels" album is "Point of View". Both the single and the video are out. So far, industry reaction has been very good: one trade journal shows over 80% of reporting metal format stations across the country have added the single to their rotation; for some stations, this is the first time they have ever programmed **Fates Warning**.

The door has been opened but the in-rush depends upon you. Your requests will keep the momentum going.

The "Point of View" video is also ready for MTV. It was directed and produced by the same team that brought us "Through Different Eyes". MTV's programming is heavily request driven (democracy in its most basic form), so make your voice heard! It is time for a national groundswell in support of **Fates Warning**.

### Pop Quiz

Here's a pop quiz: What does **Fates Warning** have in common with **Madonna**? (See page 4 for the answer)



## To Our Members

In our last issue we said we would try to run a little less behind schedule. Well, here we are late again; I guess, as Dwight Eisenhower once said, "Things are more like they are today than they've ever been before". The tough thing about news is that it keeps happening, and lately it has been happening at a pace that we've been hard-pressed to keep up with. There have been many exciting developments to track, such as a new album, video, and single. Tour plans are being developed and, of course, there have been promotional appearances. The flood of your letters has kept us busy, too. But enough excuses.

Everyone on the *IT* staff was thrilled by the new album. We have a feeling that it is going to be BIG. **Fates Warning** will be touring in support of the album this winter, but as we go to press, the details have yet to be ironed out. It seems definite that the band will start in Europe, probably in early December, however, rumor has it that the band may wait until January to tour with a major act (whose name we can't disclose). No matter what the arrangement, we know that along with you steadfast supporters, there will be many new fans at the shows. These are very exciting times for everyone involved with the band, and it is our sincere hope that you count yourself among us, as your membership in the *Ivory Tower* is sign of special commitment to **Fates Warning**.

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### Access: All Areas - - Your Questions

- Q. D.H. from Wyoming writes, "What ever happened to John Arch? His singing and writing on those first three albums was pure genius."
- A. We have received many fan inquiries on the current activities of John Arch. The continued interest in this founding member of the band is certainly a tribute to his genius and his lasting contribution to the unique **FW** sound. Sadly for all of us, John has retired from the music business. He has married, and since settling down, has maintained a low profile. Out of respect for his desire for privacy, we feel it is better both to look backward appreciatively at his recorded work and forward to progress of the band he was instrumental in forming. While he has not had much contact with the other guys in the band of late, we are sure that he is still writing evocative poetry like that which can be found on **Fates'** first three albums.

### From the Depths...

From deep in the archives, we finally recovered them! There are just seventy un-owned "No Exit" tee-shirts left on earth, and we have them. We will make them available to YOU on a "first come, first serve" basis for \$15 each. There is a mixture of sizes, so be sure to specify. (Unless you tell us otherwise, we will try to find a near match if we have run out of your size.) Whether you want to commemorate Ray's first album, Steve's last, or just revel in **Fates'** hardest driving recording, this is the shirt for you.

### Musicians' Corner

In this issue, we will take a look at some of the hardware that Frank used to produce his remarkable sound on "Parallels". Although computer-aided editing and motorized consoles bring a high level of control and accuracy to the production of an album, what comes out can sound no better than what the musicians put in. Each member of the band has put much thought, listening and effort into developing an individual and yet harmonious sound, Frank being no exception. Listening carefully to any of the band's albums reveals not only thoughtfully woven musical threads, but great attention to the textures of each of those threads. This texture is part expression, part technique and part technology. We will cover the fundamentals of technique and the difficult issue of artistic expression in future issues -- for now, lets look at the nuts and bolts.

Here's the bad news: while it's possible to sound great for cheap, the results are just as likely to be awful or inconsistent. For a professional musician this can be frustrating at best and disastrous at worst. Precise and reproduceable control of sound from track to track or gig to gig means the artist can concentrate on playing instead of fiddling with knobs. To this end Frank has abandoned his old pedals for rack mounted digitally controlled effects. Being able to preset effects loops and then call them up from a single foot control not only cuts down on tangled wires and multiple stomping, it makes possible literally dozens of effects combinations and settings that can be tailored down to individual phrases in songs. There are very few bands in music today that pay as much

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attention to tonal coloration and expression as FW, and while effects are no substitute for expression, careful control of effects allows that expression to come through unimpeded.

On "Parallels", every element in the sound path, from the pick to the amplifier, was given consideration. There are basically four guitar sound qualities captured on the album: acoustic, clean, semi-dirty and dirty. Each sound required a different combination of instruments, effects and amps. Frank's choice for acoustic is an Ovation Elite with built-in pickup and EQ. Thanks to its graphite neck and body geometry, it has a clear, ringing tone that doesn't get lost in the din.

Also heavy on the graphite was the Steinberger Frank used in combination with a G-K Solid State head for ultra-clean sounds. The band was looking for the exact opposite of the warm sound of an old guitar through a tube amp, and this was it. In addition to having one of the best tremolo systems ever designed, this high-tech graphite neck guitar has seemingly endless sustain. Because of the stiffness of the material, it does not "absorb" as many frequencies as a wood neck. As a result, every note has a much richer overtone series and an almost brittle sound. These unique qualities would be lost passing through a vacuum tube, so the G-K was a natural choice.

The warm, semi-dirty sounds were achieved with, as you probably guessed, an old guitar through a tube amp. You can't get the sound that comes from seasoned wood and pickups mellowed by

time in any other way. In this case, the guitar was a Gibson ES-345 semi-hollowbody rewired in mono with the tone controls by-passed, and the amp was a Mesa/Boogie Mark IV. Frank said that even running clean, the old Gibson has a special distortion.

Finally we come to the dirty sound, used for many of the rhythm tracks and most of the leads. The best guitar around for the task was a Jackson Custom model with a Stealth body. The neck is very playable, and the body features a beautifully sculpted cutaway. Frank used the semi-dirty amp combo and a rack of effects. The main element of the effects arsenal is a pair of A.R.T. Multiverb 3's. They offer a wide range of features, including harmonization, hall effects, sampling, distortion and EQ. The settings are programmable and come with presets. Equally versatile is a Rane MIDI programmable EQ, which features multi-channel mixing capability and digital interface. Keeping noise down is a Hush unit. Power conditioning and distribution are supplied by a Furman -- all this with a couple of rack spaces to spare. Finally, all the effects loops are actuated by a single "smart" pedal board, making life a little less confusing.

I would be remiss if I did not mention a couple of items without which there would be no guitars on "Parallels": Frank used Dunlop Derlin 1.4mm picks and Dean Markley Blue Steel strings, .009-.045 gauge.

Obviously, there is a difference between having the tools and knowing how to use them. In future columns we will learn how Frank puts this equip-

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## The International Metal Line

Share your enthusiasm with other fans from around the country and the world! These *IT* members have told us they want to receive letters from other **Fates Warning** fans. If you want to join the network too, just drop us a line and we'll include you on the list as well.

Ethan M. Tompkins/ 52 Bancroft Avenue/ Milford, MA 01757  
Duane Johnson/ 3050 West Ball #91/ Anaheim, CA 92804  
Cheech Carrero/ 65 Glen Avenue/ Port Chester, NY 10573  
Scott Carney/ 70 Corey Avenue/ Blue Point, NY 11715  
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



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ment to use, and how he approaches the guitar as a performer and composer. We will also take an equally in-depth look at Jim's writing and performing activities.

Frank Aresti's equipment on "Parallels":

guitars:

- Ovation Elite acoustic
- Steinberger
- Gibson ES-345 (album only)
- Jackson custom model guitar with stealth body

amplification:

- Mesa Boogie Mark IV
- ADA bipolar power amp as backup
- ADA preamp (live)
- G-K Solid State

other rack equipment

- Rane MIDI programmable equalizer
- 2 - A.R.T. Multiverb 3's
- hush unit
- Furman power conditioner

et cetera:

- 1.14mm Dunlop Delrin picks
- Dean Markley Blue Steel strings, .009-.042 gauge

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## Answer to Pop Quiz

**Fates Warning** and **Madonna** both have an album mixed in "Q-Sound", the latest advance in production technology.

Q-Sound offers vastly improved audio imaging from stereo speakers. Where a normal recording "locates" instruments from left to right between the speakers, a Q-Sound recording offers three dimensional imagery, with the sound seeming to come from in front of, behind, wider than, even above the speaker locations. And it manages to do this with no special adapters or processors. Under the right conditions, it will produce a "sound stage" that approximates an actual stage, with precise locations of instruments, and solos that travel around the room.

To take advantage of Q-Sound, you must be careful about speaker placement and find the "sweet spot" (usually a point midway between the speakers, about 1.4 x the width of the speaker placement away). It will be worth the effort -- I heard one of the solos fly in from another room! Needless to say, the band takes advantage of Q-sound, and we hope you can too.

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## Contest Winners

Thanks to all who entered our first contest. Many of you researched your answers quite thoroughly, and we were impressed with your knowledge of the band. Just about everyone was stumped by Frank's middle name, but as that was sort of a trick question, we didn't hold it against you. We are pleased to announce the five winners who will each receive a "Parallels" CD are:

Arthur Gonzales of Ft. Huachuca, Arizona  
Raymond Harrigan of Torrington, Connecticut  
Henry Montano of Tucson, Arizona  
Dawn Morton of Columbus, Ohio  
Sarah Ann Samorano of Tuscon, Arizona

And now, the long awaited answers to our first contest:

1. Where is Brocken, and what is it? Brocken is the tallest of the Hartz mountains in central Germany, long associated with witchcraft, walpurgesnacht, and other unsavory supernatural things.
2. What is Frank Aresti's middle name? A trick question. The "X" that appears in his name on "Awaken the Guardian" signifies he has no middle name.
3. Where was Ray Alder born? Hondo, Texas.
4. What was the original **Fates Warning** lineup? John Arch, vocals; Jim Matheos and Vic Arduini, guitars; Joe DiBiase, bass, Steve Zimmerman, drums.
5. What was **Fates Warning's** first video? "Silent Crises," from "No Exit."

Watch for more contests in future issues of the *IT!*

## 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
- 1991 Parallels 9 26698-2