



SEVENCHURCH

NEWSLETTER THREE

8th July 1992

Good Mourning Brethren,

Welcome to our congregation. Plenty of news to tell you all in this first, full length newsletter so if you're sitting comfortably, let's begin.

First, of all you may have noticed that at the top of the page we have a new Sevenchurch logo. We decided to change the logo to make the name more readable and also we feel less cliched. Let us know what you think.

Since the last Newsletter Sevenchurch have spread their severed tentacles far and wide, and we now have contacts from all over the globe. This began with two great demo reviews, first in Metal Forces and then in Metal Hammer Thrash Magazine. Since then we have had letters from Australia, Malaysia, USA and Japan to name but a few and also a great response from Europe and Britain. The first run of 250 demos soon ran out and now the second batch is steadily disappearing. We have also done many interviews with fanzines. We will try to keep you up to date with press clipping when they come out.

On the live front we have two more gigs lined up, one for July and one for August, the dates are:

Friday July 17th — The Jericho Tavern, 56 Walton St, Oxford. Tel: 0865 54502. Support: Walk On Water.

Saturday August 8th — The Pennyfarthing, St. Ebbes, Oxford. Tel: 0865 245007.

We are all looking forward to playing live again after nearly two months and intend to make them the best gigs yet Be there.

Be sure to grab a copy of the July issue of Curfew (The Excellent Oxford Local Music Magazine) featuring SEVENCHURCH on the front cover and an interview inside. Essential reading and a future collectors item.

I have good news for all of you who have asked about Sevenchurch T-shirts. Yes, they are coming at last We finally expect to have the new T-shirt available from the fourteenth. They are printed white on black on a one size fits all shirt The design features our new logo and an Oxford gargoyle, (as worn by Dave 'The Ghost Capel on the Curfew Cover). They will be available at the gig for £7.00 (or £8.00 inc. p. & p. by post), Cheques as usual should be made payable to 'Paul Oliver'. Don't wait too long though as the initial pressing was for just 50 shirts!

As I write this letter we are close to completing our latest epic. As yet untitled, the completed music clocks in at a staggering 15 mins. 15 secs, making our other songs short by comparison. This new song is a definite progression for the band but fear not the unmistakable Sevenchurch crunch is still much in evidence. Also featured for the first time will be the lyrics of Martin Spear who is holed up in his dark abode composing even now. Meanwhile David Smart is already busy evolving the music for the seventh song, bound to be special by number alone.

One last tantaliser before I go, we can tell you that certain record companies are hovering like vultures around the dead at the moment and it may be sooner rather than later that Sevenchurch are signed up. Good Omens indeed!!

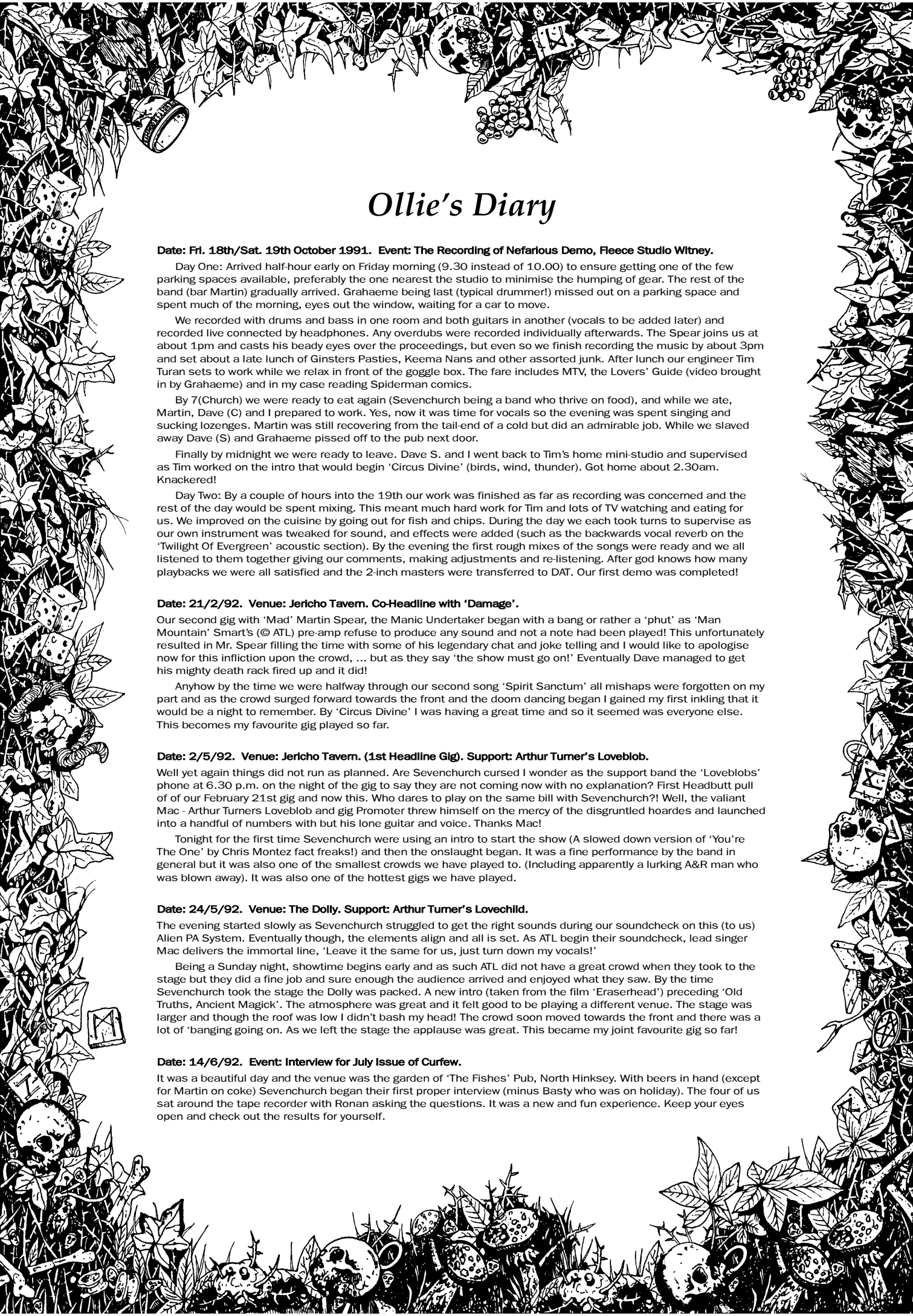
Until next time, I wish you well,



Ollie, for and on behalf of SEVENCHURCH.

P.S. Send all your comments, questions and suggestions to:
SEVENCHURCH, 83 Hurst Rise Road, Botley, Oxford OX2 9HF.

www.sevenchurch.co.uk • info@sevenchurch.co.uk



Ollie's Diary

Date: Fri. 18th/Sat. 19th October 1991. Event: The Recording of Nefarious Demo, Fleece Studio Witney.

Day One: Arrived half-hour early on Friday morning (9.30 instead of 10.00) to ensure getting one of the few parking spaces available, preferably the one nearest the studio to minimise the humping of gear. The rest of the band (bar Martin) gradually arrived. Grahaeme being last (typical drummer!) missed out on a parking space and spent much of the morning, eyes out the window, waiting for a car to move.

We recorded with drums and bass in one room and both guitars in another (vocals to be added later) and recorded live connected by headphones. Any overdubs were recorded individually afterwards. The Spear joins us at about 1pm and casts his beady eyes over the proceedings, but even so we finish recording the music by about 3pm and set about a late lunch of Ginsters Pasties, Keema Nans and other assorted junk. After lunch our engineer Tim Turan sets to work while we relax in front of the goggle box. The fare includes MTV, the Lovers' Guide (video brought in by Grahaeme) and in my case reading Spiderman comics.

By 7(Church) we were ready to eat again (Sevenchurch being a band who thrive on food), and while we ate, Martin, Dave (C) and I prepared to work. Yes, now it was time for vocals so the evening was spent singing and sucking lozenges. Martin was still recovering from the tail-end of a cold but did an admirable job. While we slaved away Dave (S) and Grahaeme pissed off to the pub next door.

Finally by midnight we were ready to leave. Dave S. and I went back to Tim's home mini-studio and supervised as Tim worked on the intro that would begin 'Circus Divine' (birds, wind, thunder). Got home about 2.30am. Knackered!

Day Two: By a couple of hours into the 19th our work was finished as far as recording was concerned and the rest of the day would be spent mixing. This meant much hard work for Tim and lots of TV watching and eating for us. We improved on the cuisine by going out for fish and chips. During the day we each took turns to supervise as our own instrument was tweaked for sound, and effects were added (such as the backwards vocal reverb on the 'Twilight Of Evergreen' acoustic section). By the evening the first rough mixes of the songs were ready and we all listened to them together giving our comments, making adjustments and re-listening. After god knows how many playbacks we were all satisfied and the 2-inch masters were transferred to DAT. Our first demo was completed!

Date: 21/2/92. Venue: Jericho Tavern. Co-Headline with 'Damage'.

Our second gig with 'Mad' Martin Spear, the Manic Undertaker began with a bang or rather a 'phut' as 'Man Mountain' Smart's (© ATL) pre-amp refuse to produce any sound and not a note had been played! This unfortunately resulted in Mr. Spear filling the time with some of his legendary chat and joke telling and I would like to apologise now for this infliction upon the crowd, ... but as they say 'the show must go on!' Eventually Dave managed to get his mighty death rack fired up and it did!

Anyhow by the time we were halfway through our second song 'Spirit Sanctum' all mishaps were forgotten on my part and as the crowd surged forward towards the front and the doom dancing began I gained my first inkling that it would be a night to remember. By 'Circus Divine' I was having a great time and so it seemed was everyone else. This becomes my favourite gig played so far.

Date: 2/5/92. Venue: Jericho Tavern. (1st Headline Gig). Support: Arthur Turner's Loveblob.

Well yet again things did not run as planned. Are Sevenchurch cursed I wonder as the support band the 'Loveblobs' phone at 6.30 p.m. on the night of the gig to say they are not coming now with no explanation? First Headbutt pull of our February 21st gig and now this. Who dares to play on the same bill with Sevenchurch?! Well, the valiant Mac - Arthur Turners Loveblob and gig Promoter threw himself on the mercy of the disgruntled hoardes and launched into a handful of numbers with but his lone guitar and voice. Thanks Mac!

Tonight for the first time Sevenchurch were using an intro to start the show (A slowed down version of 'You're The One' by Chris Montez fact freaks!) and then the onslaught began. It was a fine performance by the band in general but it was also one of the smallest crowds we have played to. (Including apparently a lurking A&R man who was blown away). It was also one of the hottest gigs we have played.

Date: 24/5/92. Venue: The Dolly. Support: Arthur Turner's Lovechild.

The evening started slowly as Sevenchurch struggled to get the right sounds during our soundcheck on this (to us) Alien PA System. Eventually though, the elements align and all is set. As ATL begin their soundcheck, lead singer Mac delivers the immortal line, 'Leave it the same for us, just turn down my vocals!'

Being a Sunday night, showtime begins early and as such ATL did not have a great crowd when they took to the stage but they did a fine job and sure enough the audience arrived and enjoyed what they saw. By the time Sevenchurch took the stage the Dolly was packed. A new intro (taken from the film 'Eraserhead') preceding 'Old Truths, Ancient Magick'. The atmosphere was great and it felt good to be playing a different venue. The stage was larger and though the roof was low I didn't bash my head! The crowd soon moved towards the front and there was a lot of 'banging going on. As we left the stage the applause was great. This became my joint favourite gig so far!

Date: 14/6/92. Event: Interview for July Issue of Curfew.

It was a beautiful day and the venue was the garden of 'The Fishes' Pub, North Hinksey. With beers in hand (except for Martin on coke) Sevenchurch began their first proper interview (minus Basti who was on holiday). The four of us sat around the tape recorder with Ronan asking the questions. It was a new and fun experience. Keep your eyes open and check out the results for yourself.

AIIEEEEEE.....IT'S ALIVE!!!



SEVENCHURCH
Jericho Tavern.

The sight of a subdued, almost coy, Martin Spear, complete with trousers and crucifix was enough to send many a mosher into a state of irretrievable mortification.

This is a whole new bag of spoons from the former Madamadam frontcase. The vocal style has mysteriously changed from the unpredictable nasal shriek and, or, monotone bellow to a mid-Surrey commuter belt Oxbridge drawl: we're talking death metal here kids.

Sevenchurch are slow. The songs are long; very long - we're talking four songs in a little over forty minutes - but rarely do they repeat a chord sequence or riff (in the same number). These, perhaps, are 'pieces' rather than songs. Everything is orchestrated, A.T.L.

precise and most certainly in its place. There is no room for error at all and if you're in a band with someone tagged 'Man Mountain' Dave Smart then error wont come into your vocabulary too often one would imagine.

It's as difficult to pin this down as a whole hole fulla pigeons but something like 'classical doom death rock' is as near as a chimpanzee gets to a typewriter: although they'll kill me if they can catch me I would love to see them improvise a little, or even construct a song live on the spot.

A full foot to the floor wipe out will surely come soon but, in the meantime, if you've a confession to make, make it at the Sevenchurch or be forever cast into the mystic eyes of time.

6.12.91

CURFEW

OXFORD'S MUSIC MAGAZINE

DEMO-ZONE

SEVENCHURCH

As if right on cue to show 'Watertrutz' just how it should be done here come Sevenchurch, fresh from their near victory on the Friday Rock Show rock war. The band may have recruited Martin Spear from Madamadam (the ••• saddist has Oxford has seen) but they are as far removed, in metal terms at least, from his old outfit as you can get. Sevenchurch deal in 'beats per hour' and are perfect for headbanging to on moogadon.

Two tracks, both around the nine minute long mark will give you an impression of the sheer, brilliant overblown pomposity of Sevenchurch. This is DEATH METAL and you better believe it.

Being no expert on the subject I couldn't even begin to compare Sevenchurch to any other current band but this kind of thing dates back to Black Sabbath at their Satanic best; and further to Wagner's hellish twenty four hour long operas. Martin may yet find himself singing at Sadlers Wells in the not too distant future as he combines corrupt operatic with Gregorian solemnity as he delivers some of the most fantastically ludicrous lyrics ever to have music put to them. Robert Plant eat yer heart out.

Underpinning Martin are some backing vocals straight out of the Evil Dead and thunderous, death-laden guitars that go chugga chugga boom a lot but I do get the feeling that Sevenchurch have a sense of humour for all their demonic facade and 'Circus Divine' is almost cheerful in an apocalyptic kind of way.

As slow and steady as the march of time itself, as heavy as a dreadnought and as tight as a duck's splinter Sevenchurch are metal as it ought to be and they're gonna be huge.

Contact: 0865 725221
Star rating: ****

METAL FORCES

MARCH 1992

£2.75

ISSUE 70

SEVENCHURCH



Any bands who wish to be included in "Demolition" should send a tape, photo and full band biography to: METAL FORCES, Suite 16, 46-48 Osnaburgh Street, London NW1 3ND, England.
If demos are available to the public please give all relevant information including cost of postage to foreign lands.

"We understand that you have a particular passion for acts that spew forth morose malevolence", reads the letter that accompanies this two-track demo tape. And how right SEVENCHURCH are! I am indeed someone who enjoys a severe Doom analysis. As such, what this Oxford-based band have to offer I find exceptional and quite the best demo tape I've heard in ages.

SEVENCHURCH are (above, l-r) Grahaeme Bastable (drums), Dave Capel (rhythm guitar/vocals), David Smart (lead guitar), Ollie (bass) and Martin Spear (lead vocals). They proffer a mixture of ultimate, intense Doom that owes something to CATHEDRAL, SAINT VITUS, BLACK SABBATH (inevitably) and COVEN, as well as pitching in an almost medieval attitude and styling. The result is incredible. The two cuts on their "Nefarious" demo, viz "Circus Divine" and "Twilight Of Evergreen", are both lengthy tone poems, allowing for an infection of reddened mystic pastures that sees the very portals of Hell swung open to reveal inner contents of malevolence and melodramatic impalement.

There is no doubt that in their chosen field of Doom-esque molten Metal, SEVENCHURCH are a true discovery. Someone should sign them up right away and get them working on a full album. I cannot recommend this tape highly enough.

For further information, write to: SEVENCHURCH, 83 Hurst Rise Road, Botley, Oxford OX2 9HU, England.

MALCOLM DOME

METAL HAMMER
EXTRA

MAY 1992

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HM 695
BK 144

DEMONS

IN THIS ISSUE WE'VE LOOKED AT SOME OF THE BEST OF THE ESTABLISHED BANDS IN THE WORLD OF THRASH AND ITS OFFSHOTS, SO IT SEEMS FAIR THAT WE SHOULD REVIEW SOME OF THE SACKLOADS OF TAPES THAT WE GET SENT FROM BANDS HOPING FOR THE BIG BREAK. THE QUALITY OF SOME OF THE TAPES WE GET IS POOR, BUT AS THEY SAY, ITS THE SONGS THAT COUNT...

EAT

IN TOUR REPORT BOLT THROWER ROCKERS BAND HAZ ROCKIT

**FOUR TOTALLY NEW POSTERS:
SLAYER, TESTAMENT, SUICIDAL TENDENCIES, ENTOMBE**

CD REVIEW
OXFORD'S MUSIC MAGAZINE

AIIEEE...IT'S-ALIVE!!!

SEVENCHURCH
Jericho Tavern

Ecctly, everything kept happening in sevens that evening and no-one could explain the black stormclouds hovering over the Tavern, omens and signs my brethren. The Lovebobs turned out to be false prophets and failed to appear so it was up to Mac of Kintyre, the original Alistair Crowley lovechild to pave the way. And he sang in riddles, and verily he was 1889'. But then, lo, a slowed-down into tape heralded the visitation and, yea, Sevenchurch were among us.

These guys make Black Sabbath sound cheerful. They actually play those guitars with the strangely angled heads but, forget Metallica's - a mere cartoon - THIIIS is serious. In the midst of the leather trousers and slow-motion headbanging lurks the gateway to another world: you don't want to go there but Dave 'Man Mountain' and his boys are going to tell you what it's like. Too late to leave now!

And, who better to host this holiday-in-Hell stockshow than lead singer Martin Spear? Short-haired, his only nod to metal imagery an Ozzy-esque crucifix, this truly one possessed brother. Jez Coleman from Killing Joke is the only person I've seen looking this haunted. Silver face paint and down-turned grinaaces, puppet-like movements and terrified stares - everything reinforces the impression of a tormented clown figure dancing on the end of a rope. When Martin puts a finger to his ear we know he is not really getting the pich of those deep vocal grunts - he is in fact receiving messages from some private demon. Scare-cel!

Meanwhile the drummer (in shorts, baseball cap and BLACK GLOVES) is thrashing several shades of slow malevolence out of his monolithic kit; the bass player is doing some guttural background chanting and the guitarists are playing chords burred by medieval monks for being too salaric.

Roll up! Roll up for the circus of nameless horrors! Visit the Pit! (but no noshing here - wrong pit suckers). Drink deep of the cobwebby gloom! But, enter not lightly, ladies and gentlemen, for Severnchurch may well be not just a band but a whole way of death.

Herbert P. Lemoncraft

ROCK By Richard Thompson

I CAN reveal that local thrashers **Sevenchurch**, who have played to packed audiences at the **Jericho Tavern** and **Dolly** recently, are being hounded by various record companies including **Noise** and the revamped continental label **Mausaleum**.

Guitarist Dave Smart informs me that there will be a lot of thought put into signing to the right label and original plans to get an album out by the end of summer will now not happen.

As soon as I get more news you will be the first to know!

OXFORD

STAR