

# DEAFORMATION



1989

# DEAF EYE

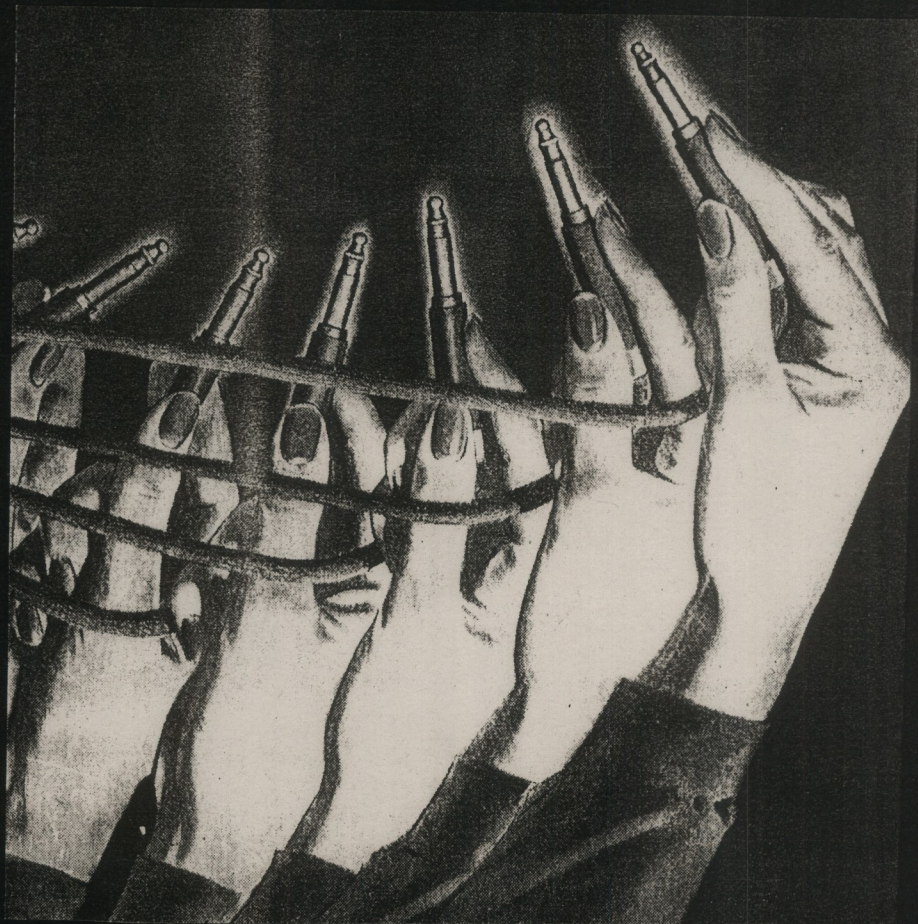
By Chris Phinney

I FIRST HEARD OF DEAF EYE THRU THE MADNESS OF THE POSTAL SYSTEM, WHEN ONE DAY A TAPE FROM DEAF EYE POPPED UP IN THE BOX! CURIOUS AS TO HEAR WHAT DEAF EYE AND THE TAPE M. FINNKRIEG-"DOWN THE POPPY STAIRS OF HEAVEN" WERE ALL ABOUT, I SLAPPED IT INTO THE TAPE DECK AND LO AND BEHOLD, I COULDN'T BELIEVE MY EARS! THE SOUNDS AND EXCELLENT PRODUCTION WORK OZZING FROM MY SPEAKERS AND ENVELOPING THE ROOM IN LIQUID SOUND! AND THIS WAS HOMEMADE MUSIC!! SO BEING A COLLECTOR OF FINE ELECTRONIC MUSIC I COULDN'T HELP BUT FURTHER INTO THE MYSTERIOUS REALM OF THE FINE GERMAN ELECTRONIC LABEL KNOWN AS DEAF EYE....



DEAF EYE WAS FORMED IN FEBRUARY 1988 AS A RELEASE PLATFORM FOR THE HOMEMADE MUSIC OF M. FINNKRIEG AND HENRY HEKTIK, TOGETHER KNOWN AS SUBTLE REIGN. THE FIRST RELEASE WAS THE HENRY HEKTIK-MOTION PICTURE MUSIC-C-60, WHICH IS ALSO AVAILABLE IN THE UNITED STATES THROUGH AUDIOFILE TAPES. (AT/209-25 18 AVE./BAYSIDE, N.Y./11360) THE NEXT RELEASE WAS SUBTLE REIGN-23 INCHES OF PERPETUAL EXCITEMENT-C-60, THE FIRST FULL LENGTH TAPE OF THE BAND AFTER THE TWO TRACKS ON THE ECSTASY BY CURRENT LP FROM SCHIZOPHONIA. THEN CAME THE THIRD RELEASE M. FINNKRIEG-DOWN THE POPPY STAIRS OF HEAVEN-C-60. WHICH IS ALSO AVAILABLE IN THE UNITED STATES THROUGH HARSH REALITY MUSIC. PLANS FOR A C-60-TITLED DRIVE HE SAID WHICH IS EARLIER WORKS BY M. FINNKRIEG AND FRIENDS WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE EXCLUSIVELY ON HARSH REALITY. (HR/P.O. BOX 241661/MEMPHIS, TN./38124-1661) DEAF EYE WANTS TO SHOW THE WORLD THE MANY DIFFERENT SIDES OF ELECTRONIC OR AVANTGARD MUSIC. SO THEY HAVE STARTED RELEASING SEVERAL TAPES FROM OTHER BANDS/MUSICIANS. THEY KEEP THE MOST INTEREST ON THE U.S. ELECTRONIC SCENE, BECAUSE THEY FIND THERE IS A LOT OF NICE MUSIC HERE AND PEOPLE WHO REALLY COMMUNICATE!! SO NOW THERE ARE TWO MORE TAPES OF U.S. UNDERGROUND MUSIC RELEASED THE END OF NOVEMBER 1988. THEY ARE DEFO04-NOMUZIC-FILAMENTS FADING-C-90(ELECTRO'N'ROLL) AND DEFO05-ILLUSION OF SAFETY WITH DEAD TECH-CONFUSION-C-60(POST INDUSTRIAL). JUST OUT IN 1989 ARE DEFO06-MENTAL ANGUISH-A POTENTIALLY DAMAGING IMPACT-C-60, AND DEFO07-JEFF CENTRAL-BEST OF-C-60. ALSO FORTHCOMING IN 1989 ARE SOME VERY INTERESTING RELEASES. THEY ARE THE DEAF TRACKS COMPILATION, A COLLABORATION BETWEEN M. FINNKRIEG, HENRY HEKTIK & THOMAS SUTTER OF REGICIDE BUREAU IN WHICH THE BEST TRACKS FROM ALL OF THE SESSIONS WILL BE RELEASED ON DEAF EYE. ONE OF THESE COLLABORATIONS WITH TOM (WHO IS IN BERLIN FOR ONE YEAR AT SCHOOL) WILL SOON BE AVAILABLE OR MORE FROM INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST NETWORK. (I.T.N./5230-D TAMARACK BLVD./COLUMBUS, OHIO/43229) ALSO MAIL COLLABORATIONS ARE PLANNED WITH NOMUZIC AND MENTAL ANGUISH. PLUS A NEW M. FINNKRIEG C-60 OUT SOON. DEAF EYE IS ALSO GOING TO RELEASE A ANNUAL YEARBOOK WITH ALL THE SMARTEST PICTURES SENT IN WITHIN 1988 AND ALL THE FANTASTIC CONTACT ZONES. IT WILL BE AVAILABLE WITH EVERY TAPE ORDER

M.FINNKRIG MET HENRY THROUGH AN AD IN THE LOCAL "TIP" MAGAZINE (SIMILAR TO MAGS LIKE VILLAGE VOICE, LISTINGS OF ALL EVENTS LIKE CONCERTS, THEATRE AND CINEMA). HENRY WAS LOOKING FOR A MULTI-INSTRUMENTALIST FOR MUSIC IN THE STYLE OF CABARET VOLTAIRE, SEVERED HEADS AND ERIC RANDOM (JUST TO NAME SOME INFLUENCES) YOU CAN ACTUALLY HEAR THE INFLUENCES THAT THESE THREE BANDS HAVE HAD ON THESE TWO EXCELLENT MUSICIANS. ANYWAY M.FINNKRIG WAS SURE THAT HENRY MEANT HIM BECAUSE HE SAYS HE WAS UNABLE TO PLAY ANY INSTRUMENT (SURE DOES'NT SOUND LIKE IT.) SO THEY STARTED TO RECORD SOME MATERIAL AND RELEASE THE MATERIAL UNDER THE NAME OF SUBTLE REIGN. THEY WORK WITH THE FOLLOWING EQUIPMENT: KORG MS-20, ROLAND SH-101, CASIO SK-1, CASIO CZ-1000, KORG POLYSIX, ENSONIQ MIRAGE, TR-606, TR-505, DR-110, CR-78, DRUM MACHINE, 12 TRACK MIXER AND A FOSTEX A-80 8 TRACK RECORDER.



ACCORDING TO M. FINNKRIEG IN THE LAST TIMES HENRY AND HIS INTERESTS HAVE GONE DIFFERENT WAYS A BIT. WHILE HENRY LAYS MORE EMPHASIS ON DOING EVERYTHING IN THE WAY OF A LIVE RECORDING, FINNKRIEG IS GOING MORE INTO EXPERIMENTING ONLY WITH SAMPLING. HE PLANS ON SELLING ALL HIS INSTRUMENTS AND JUST START WORKING WITH SAMPLING AND A COMPUTER. IN HIS CASE FINNKRIEG SAYS HE DOES'NT NEED THIS LIVE FEELING, HE JUST LIKES TO WORK THINGS OUT IN A MORE INTELLECTUAL WAY. FINNKRIEG PUTS THE MOST INTEREST ON THE SOUNDS, AND REALLY DOES NOT FEEL LIKE A MUSICIAN, MORE LIKE A PAINTER DOING MUSIC AND USING SOUNDS SIMILAR TO COLORS.



FOR THE FUTURE AND NOW DEAF EYE THINKS IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO HAVE A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ALL TAPE PRODUCERS, BECAUSE THE CONDITIONS ON THE MUSIC MARKET ARE CHANGING EXTREMELY FAST. IN A FEW YEARS IT WILL BE POSSIBLE FOR EVERYONE TO RELEASE HIGH QUALITY TAPES, BECAUSE THE PRICES FOR DIGITAL RECORDING EQUIPMENT IS GOING DOWN. THE PRODUCTION QUALITY WITH A RECORDABLE CD, WILL BE ON THE SAME PLANE AS THE RELEASES OF THE HUGE MEDIA CONCERNS. SO DEAF EYE THINKS IT WOULD REALLY BE NECESSARY IN ORDER TO HAVE THE BEST DISTRIBUTION POSSIBILITIES AROUND THE WORLD, WHICH MAKES DEAF EYE AND THE REST OF US HOMETAPERS INDEPENDENT FROM THE INDUSTRY. FINNKRIEG THINKS IN THE DIRECTION OF CHANGING OUT RELEASES AND SENDING OUT THE CATALOGUES FROM OTHER LABELS, IN ORDER TO GIVE PEOPLE THE POSSIBILITY TO ORDER A TAPE SAY IN GERMANY WHEN ITS ONLY AVAILABLE IN THE U.S.A. HEY SEND 3 DM (ABOUT \$2) IN STAMPS TO DEAF EYE FOR A DEMONSTRATION TAPE. I WOULD LIKE TO AD THAT DEAF EYE IS HEAVILY INTO NETWORKING WITH OTHER LIKE MINDED INDIVIDUALS, SO IF YOU'RE LIKE MINDED OR JUST PLAIN INTERESTED DROP DEAF EYE A LINE AT DEAF EYE/RATHENOWER STR. 46/1000 BERLIN 21/WEST GERMANY. A SELF ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE IS BOUND TO GET YOU A CATALOG. OK SO DO YOURSELF A FAVOR AND CHECK OUT DEAF EYE TAPES IN WEST GERMANY, YOU WILL BE GLAD YOU BOTHERED!!! GRAPHICS COURTESY OF DEAF EYE!!! LAYOUT BY YOURS TRULY.

electro - cottage

\*\*\* TAPE OF THE ISSUE \*\*\*

HENRY HEKTIK  
*Motion P. Music* (cassette)

Carl Howard challenged me to name the influence on this tape. Well, *Motion P. Music* has the resonating ambience of Eno's *On Land*, the Eastern flavor of David Sylvian's *Words With The Shaman*, and the funky beat of Cabaret Voltaire's "Yashar" or "Slugging For Jesus." But to analyze this tape is to take the fun out of it. While most of these cassette releases have a feel that smacks of do-it-yourself, *Motion* is so exquisitely put together that you just get lost in the joy of *sound* and forget everything else. This is the best cassette I've heard in the past six months. Easily.

file 13

# MUSIC



Henry Hektik  
*Motion P. Music*  
60-min

*New rage music with bits of industrial-type tape loops at times. Instrumentation consists of guitars, bass, low-end synthesizers and effects. This tape lives in the world of background music that occasionally grabs your interest. The structures of these works are varied enough to keep this on my play list with a good sense of peaks and anti-peaks. These works also show an obviously experienced attention to detail upon giving it a serious hearing. Recommended electronic music.*

gajoop 'zine

**ILLUSION OF SAFETY/DEAD TECH: *The***

*Best of Illusion of Safety and Dead Tech C*

This is some pretty frightening stuff, about as industrial as it gets. The working technique is largely based on samples and the use of loops to provide structure and rhythm. These loops are maniacal in tone, well chosen and combined to present a truly disturbing image that allows no room for escape. The competency of this band's use of found vocals is above reproach as is their generation of rhythms. Added to this is some of the most bent synthesizer and guitar manipulations that I have heard to date. These are some of the most powerful works in the exploration of such deviant realms that I have heard, comparable to the best bands of its kind. If you like Maybe Mental or Test Department, IOS/Dead Tech is your ticket to hell. (Compacency)—Nathan Griffith

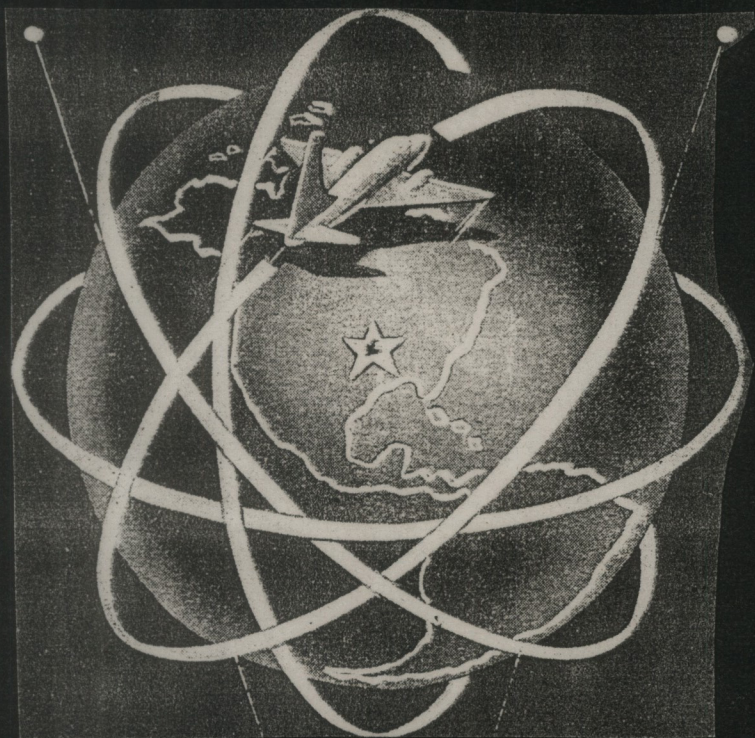
sound choice



**MENTAL ANGUISH: A POTENTIALLY DAMAGING IMPACT - cassette.**

Mental Anguish is the solo project of Chris Phinney. Like many cassette artists Phinney's energy and commitment is limitless but sometimes his ideas struggle to keep up with his ambition. This tape consists of eight songs which range from attempts at rhythmic rock-based structures to sequenced cut-ups to spacey psycho drones. On this outing Mental Anguish fares better on the latter two. On "Sword Of The Will", "Wash My Tears Away" and "This Pin Stands For Jesus" drums are meshed with synthesizer sequences, guitar, vocals and other sounds to achieve mixed results. The drum and synth parts pull and collide with each other, sync for a couple of seconds, then veer off once again on independent courses. The result is a curious stasis. Also, sometimes the ideas are stretched out too far for too long a time. "Love Surgery" and "Incidents" work a little better. The floating quality of the synth sequences coupled with the jarring cut-ups and vocals makes for raw, albeit interesting listening. The high points are "Yeah, That's The Way You Do It" (featuring Phinney's daughter Molly Ann), "Heed The Call Of The Martians" and "Hollow Head" - Mental Anguish at their best. Dark, minimal and droning with a tension and development that gives these songs a course and destination. These three songs are the Anguish for me - pure and brooding. A pair of glowing eyes in your basement. Sometimes repetitious and raw, this tape constitutes the direct approach of Mental Anguish and when that approach works therein lies the appeal of Mental Anguish. (Harsh Reality Music and Deaf Eye Tapes/ Rathenower Strasse 46, 1000 Berlin 21, West Germany) RM

electro - cofrage



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