

PUNK, HARDCORE AND METAL - THE SCUM ALSO RISES

Vol. 3 - #1 Issue 13 - December/January 2006-07 Absolutely FREE

U ABSOLUTE UNDERGROUND

**PANTERA'S VINNIE PAUL IS BACK
WITH A NEW LABEL,
DIMEBAG'S HOME MOVIES,
AND A NEW BAND!**

PLUS INSIDE!

TWISTED SISTER

WHYTE HOTT

HATEBREED

GREY ARMY

THE RED CHORD

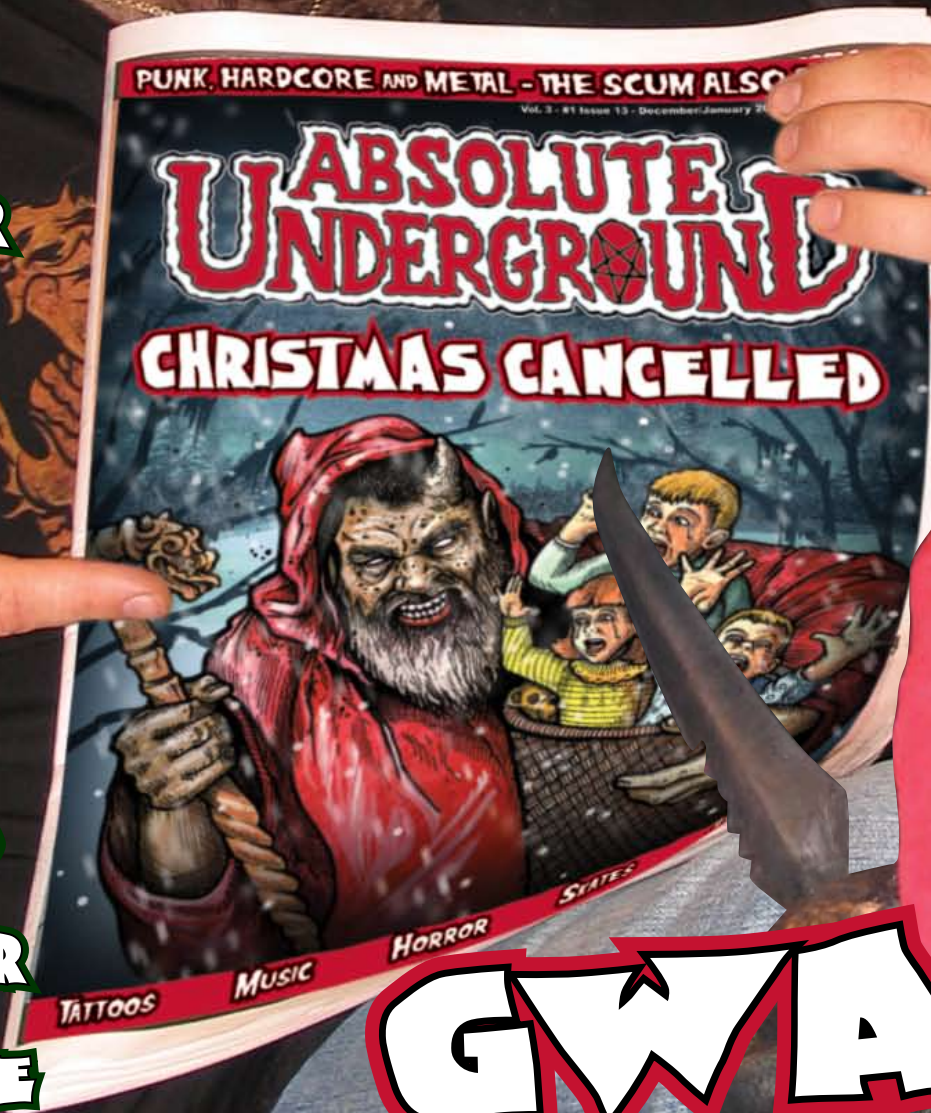
F#CK THE FACTS

SONS OF BUTCHER

MUNICIPAL WASTE

SCORCHED BANDITOS

DESTROY DESTROY DESTROY



GWAR UNMASKED!



TATTOOS

MUSIC

HORROR

SKATES

ART

VINNIE PAUL DOES IT ALL

PANTERA'S VINNIE PAUL IS BACK WITH HIS OWN LABEL, DIMEBAG'S HOME MOVIES, AND A NEW BAND!

By Chad Persley

Photos Compliments Of Chad Lee

During the early 90's, rising up from the grunge and gangster rap, came a band that "topped the charts", re-wrote sales records and brought RESPECT back to the heavy metal genre. The band was Pantera. Ten years of kicking ass, a burned out lead singer and a new side project from the founding members one couldn't help but think Pantera would be back... someday. But two years ago in what stands out as Rock n' Roll's most horrific senseless murder brought those thoughts came to an mournful close.

At the outset of a six city Western Canada signing tour to pimp his Pearl signature snare, Absolute Underground was lucky enough to speak with Vincent Paul Abbott - brother and best friend of the late "Dimebag" Darryl Abbott and founding member of Pantera and Damageplan. We spent time with him at his Hotel Lobby, a Box Suite at a Calgary Hitmen hockey game, and at the Casino where he let us in on what he is up to with his record label, Big Vin Records, his new projects (Dimevision DVD & Rebel Meets Rebel, a release of recordings of himself, Dime, Pantera bassist Rex Brown and the outlaw of country music himself - David Allen Coe) and his new band HELL YEAH featuring members of Mudvayne and Nothingface.

AU: So what's up? What's a day in the life of Vinnie Paul like these days?

Vinnie Paul: Man it's been busy, busy, busy, it's been the best thing in the world for me and it's helped keep me sane to this point. I got to believe that I need to keep moving forward and I need to keep doing everything me and Dime always dreamed of doing, cause nobody would be as disappointed in me than Dime if I just fucking folded up shop and quit... and I felt like that for a long time... about eight months of miserable darkness.

Then it came to me that we had that record done (Rebel Meets Rebel), we were thrilled with it, we planned on putting it out soon as Damageplan was established, we just didn't want to confuse the fans anymore by just jumping the gun and throwing it out there. It was a record that Dime was really proud of, both of us were proud of, David was proud of it. It has some of Dime's very best guitar playing on there, and at about the same time that I decided to put that out, Rita - Dime's longtime girlfriend said we should do a Dimevision DVD, a tribute, something the fans would enjoy... and I thought it would be difficult at first, but when we started going through the footage it made me smile, it made me laugh, it just made me happy like he was still around. It was the first time I felt excited again and wanted to move forward. Then instead of dealing with a major label, going through Atlantic or some other label I have dealt with in the past, I said "fuck it" I am going to put it on my own fucking label, see what it's like on the other side of the fence and give it the personal touch that these things deserve. If I give it up to some other label and they don't give a fuck about it, it's just gonna end up in the trash and I didn't feel like these things were anything to be wasted. So that's why I started my own label and put em out, Dimevision is Gold in Canada and the United States, Rebel Meets Rebel is nearing 100,000 units which was my goal on that, so I am very happy about that right now.

AU: Has Big Vin Records signed any bands yet? Someone established or up n' comers?

Vinnie Paul: I have about five or six thousand demo tapes at my office... and I haven't heard what I am looking for. I am looking for something that sticks out like a sore thumb. I don't care if it is metal, rock or what it is, but it has got to be different. Sounds different,

looks different, smells different, IS different and that's what I am looking for.

AU: So is this a call-out for the next big thing? People should send in their demos?

Vinnie Paul: Oh yeah, fuck yeah man! All you got to do is go to my website www.bigvinrecords.com and there is an address to send them to or www.myspace.com/bigvinrecords and leave your music on there and I have people who listen to the stuff all the time.

I am doing more than just music... the first thing I am putting out is a comedian named The Chinaman and this guy is fucking gonna tear the world a new ass when people fucking see him, he is fucking hilarious. That ninja is crazy and that is all there is to it, that's all I am gonna tell you about him - he's good.

Rebel Meets Rebel are The Cowboys from Hell, Dimebag, Vinnie Paul and Rex Brown, formerly of Pantera as well as the Outlaw of Country Fucken' Music David Allen Coe



I am also doing a Christmas music release with my dad which is something I really wanted to do for a long time, was work with my dad again. He just

produced a Christmas record with this chick named Lisa Lane and it is a phenomenal Christmas record, but no one gives a fuck about Christmas records but I thought I would do him a favour and put it out on my label.

So those are my first three or four products on the label and hopefully I will find some band that just kicks fucking ass and I will be able to give them all the knowledge and stuff I learned along the way and try to get them where they want to get.

AU: I watched the Dimevision DVD last night... was the footage all stuff you had seen before, like he showed it to you after he recorded it or was it all brand new to you?

Vinnie Paul: A lot of it was all brand new to me. Dude, you know... I knew my brother well, I thought I knew him inside and out... but I didn't know about the firecrackers in the house dude. I would of kicked his ass if I would of known that shit - crack me the fuck up. But that was Dime, that's the thing that makes what happened to him so ironic and really that much more horrible to me is that he couldn't do anything to hurt himself while he was here. The fireworks, he never lost a finger, never put an eye out, he never got in a car wreck... the dude was fucking out of his mind half the time, he loved to fucking drink, play his guitar and do all that... it just doesn't make any sense.

(Drinks are here... thanks to Ruth Dorey, Vinnie's PR. Coordinator of West Coast Tour and "Krusher", Vinnie's traveling head of security - crown / coke for me and vodka/soda for Vince.)

AU: Is David Allen Coe playing the Rebel Meets Rebel stuff on his own?

Vinnie Paul: He does... but in his own way, really country-fied. He's a fucking great dude, an obvious match when we met. Dime met him first, they had a great conversation and Dime gave him a Pantera DVD and later that night he was driving around on his bus and he threw the DVD in and it floored him. He said it was like discovering the Beatles to him, he had never even heard of Pantera and it blew him away and he called up Dime at like 3 in the morning and said (In Vinnie's best DAC impersonation) "Man, you dudes are the fucking outlaws of fucking heavy metal and I am the outlaw of country god damned music", so they had a great talk and before you knew it they were talking about writing songs. So the next time he was in town he brought his bus over to Dime's house, we got drunk, got all nice and comfortable then we went into the basement and started jamming. This went on for like a 4 year period we would hook up when we had time, write a few songs then go back and tour hook up again then we had a full record. Other people have dabbled into this type of shit, like Metallica and Garth Brooks but we did the full meal deal, we made a record that was full of character, life, integrity, honesty, there was no record company, producers involved, no expectations, it was just four of us from totally different genre's in music and time periods in life getting in a room together and jamming. The result was really magical and it really comes through in the music.

AU: So are you itching to get back on the Road?

Vinnie Paul: Yup, I wish I could tell you exactly when. I have recorded a record with some guys, there are some rumors on the internet, it is a kick ass record, it will hit the street in March, it will be big, strong and I am looking forward to getting back on the road and kicking some ass.

AU: Well the Rebel Meets Rebel would fit perfect for Stampede.

Vinnie Paul: We are definitely looking at something like that. That would be a kick in the ass, you know they have more cowboys here than in Texas. I have learned this over the years.

But they are Wal-Mart cowboys.

There are a lot of cowboys on this road.

AU: What about the 2nd Damageplan album that was recorded but not released any plans for that?

Vinnie Paul: Yeah, its still there. It's the kind of material that would put us back on the map of where we wanted to go. The first Damageplan record we felt like we had to create another sound outside what we were known for with Pantera. We wanted to expand and not be pigeoned into being balls out all the time. Dime changed his guitar sound, I changed the drum sound, we didn't want people to see it as Pantera with two other guys - that wasn't the point. The point was the other guys didn't want to do Pantera anymore, in particular Phillip and we had no other choice, here's me and Dime, two of the most revolutionary metal musicians out there - sitting at home doing nothing. We want to fucking jam, so that's why we put a new band together and our goal was a different band, different sound and keep kicking ass. After we toured with the first

record we knew the fans really liked the aggressive stuff – that’s what they are into, so the second record that’s what we focused on. We wanted to make our “Vulgar Display of Power.” For any band, their second record is usually their best record, that’s when the magic happens. So we got a lot of it recorded, but when the time is right I will dig it up and put it out but for right now I am happy those that are out (RMR & Dimevision), and I need to keep moving forward instead of moving backwards. There will be a time when it is right to put Damageplan out.

AU: On the Dimevision, in early '84 where Pantera was a 3 piece, were you in cover band mode at that point?

Vinnie Paul: Fuck yeah, that’s where we started. We have always been honest, we were a cover band, the best cover band in the world. Three sets a night, we played the south-west circuit, sometimes 4 sets a night, we made a living, we paid for our sound and lights, our road crew, we all made \$125 a week and we played all our favourite songs. Black Sabbath, Judas Priest, Iron Maiden, Kiss, you name it.

AU: But you would squeeze in a few of your own?

Vinnie Paul: One day my dad, who is a musician and also owns a recording studio said “You guys are great, but will never go anywhere unless you write your own songs.” But back then you couldn’t play bars unless you did play

you sitting here talking. So they invited me to one of their games and I was all over it and I haven’t paid for a ticket in Dallas since then.

I am really close with Ludz, and me and Dime wrote a song for them that helped Dallas win the Stanley Cup. It was the day before the playoffs started and we were golfing, me Ludz, Brett Hull and Mike Modano. Ludz said they wanted a song to help get them pumped up before the game. I said man the game starts in 24 hours do you think I can do it? So I went home woke Dime up at like 5 in the afternoon banged out this song in a few hours, the next day I dropped it off in his mailbox at his house and didn’t hear back, I called him all day but didn’t hear anything back. Then I went to the game... and as soon as I went through the doors I heard my drums I was like fuck yeah and it was the biggest charge of my life.

When they won the cup, in Buffalo, Ludz gave me a call from the plane at like 3am and said we are bringing the cup to YOUR house. I called my buddy who manages the strip club in town told him to bring the girls and we had the official fucking



Dimevision, a collection of Dimebag Darryl's personal home videos went Gold in Canada, he is missed by many

covers. So we were the first band that was able to work in our own. We would play all the popular covers, the middle set would be our set, and the third set we would play all the really popular metal songs and bring the house down. We would sell our shirts and records and we eventually went from playing three sets to one set of just our songs. That stuff was the real deal and people that know Pantera today never knew about our past but with Dimevision it gives them the chance to see it.

AU: So there are more in the works?

Vinnie Paul: At least threeeee (Dime's favourite number). Rita and Bobby Tongs just started working on #2, should be ready in the summer or fall of next year. The thing was with my brother, one of the most important things was to get things on film and capture the moment. His rule was to get things on film for a) he would get off on it and b) he knew other people would enjoy it, and it would make him happy. That was his thing, he loved to entertain the people.

AU: Well you are in Canada and Hockey is the lifeblood of the nation. I heard you are a huge hockey fan, how did you get into it being from Texas of all places?

Vinnie Paul: My first experience with hockey was as a little kid, 14 or 15 and we used to have the Dallas Blackhawks and the Fort Worth Red Wings. Minor league hockey, my dad took us to those games, like three bucks a ticket, we enjoyed it, but then they left.

Then the Stars came to Dallas. I never went or anything but heard a lot of hoopla about it. So one night I was in a brand new fuckin strip club – of course, go figure - Craig Ludwig and Richard Matvichuk were in there. I met them, I was with Jerry Cantrell too and Ludz was the coolest fucking guy I ever met in my life. Athletes usually have these attitudes especially football and baseball players but hockey players in general are the coolest people alive. I don't know if its cause they are Canadian or just humble – I have only met one or two hockey players who were rotten - its just like me and

Stanley Cup party at my house.

The last time Pantera played Edmonton we opened the show with the Dallas Stars song in the Oilers arena I was sure they were gonna boo us with the Dallas/Edmonton rivalry so intense but they cheered us, it was cool.

AU: So what do you like about coming to Canada?

Vinnie Paul: The people really fucking friendly, really genuine. This time of year I like the weather but there is no snow. I get here today and it is the same temperature as Dallas.

Another thing I like about Canada is that they were the first place to really embrace Damageplan. We did Ok in the States but once we got up here for all our shows, the fans were kick fucking ass, they were into it, they understood what me and Dime were doing what we had to do – we would of done Pantera for fucking ever, that was our goal, our dream, our baby, but Phil just lost the course and that was all there was to it.

AU: I was at two of the last Pantera shows, in Vancouver with Slayer and Static X, the I flew back to Calgary and caught you guys again ... the best part was that huge metal Pantera logo with the fire coming out of it.

Vinnie Paul: That was a very expensive item to haul around, we didn't make a penny on that tour, but it was awesome and that was all that mattered. We still have that thing, it's in a warehouse somewhere in Los Angeles, haha.

AU: Phil was saying on stage that those shows were being filmed for another Pantera video. Are those still coming down the pipe?

Vinnie Paul: There may be another video from Pantera, there is plenty of footage there. I know I have interest from Atlantic to put one out, I know the fans would be into it so we'll see. But like I said I am glad that these others are out and I am glad I can start living again and move forward.

www.bigvinrecords.com www.rebelmeetsrebel.com

Vinnie Paul's Excellent Canadian Adventure

Fri. Oct 20th	Calgary - Mothers Music	4-6pm
Sat, Oct 21st	Edmonton - Long & McQuade	4-6pm
Sun. Oct 22nd	Prince George - Electron Sound & Percussion	4-6pm
Mon Oct 23rd	Kelowna - Wentworth Music	4-6pm
Tues Oct 24th	Vancouver - Pacific Drum Centre	4-6pm
Wed Oct 25th	Nanaimo - Music Maxx	2-4pm



Calgary, AB, Mothers Music



Edmonton, AB, Long & McQuade



Prince George, BC, Electron Sound & Percussion



Kelowna, BC, Wentworth Music



Vancouver, BC, Pacific Drum Centre



Nanaimo, BC, Music Maxx