

# HELIOS CREED

Q. How did you go from being a minstrel and heavy metal performer to being a member of Chrome?

A. I was looking around for a band to record with and I stumbled across it. I was playing with the bass player at Gulliver's Pub. He was playing violin and I was playing folk music. He was playing bass in Chrome (the first album). He said they were recording an album called The Visitation. He was pretty off into ... ah.. He believed the Earth was the center of the Universe, this bass player. we used to have arguments about that. Or was it the Sun? He thought the Sun was the center of the Universe, one of the two. Anyway.. I always told him he was wrong, but we always used to have a lot of fun arguments about stuff like that.

And I go, I want to hear your record when its finished, though. They were the only band in San Francisco making a record on an independent label, their own label. When I heard it I wanted to be in the band really bad. I liked the title "The Visitation" because I was into UFOs. I always try to follow leads on any information leading to serious discussion about UFOs, any answers, anything like that. actually, it was listening to Rainbow Bridge that got me to explore this certain crater in Hawaii. I actually went there just because of that record, just to hike through the crater. I've hiked through it three or four times since I discovered it.

Q. Is there alien influence to the band. I always get that impression when I listen to it. It gives the feeling of rebel space guys.

A. I don't know if that was purposely done. We sort of went off into that. That's sort of what attracted me to the band, as well as the effects and stuff. Those two where related; that alien music would be almost incomprehensible to humans. Then we went in to make an album (I don't know if you remember it) called "No Humans Allowed", a totally non-musical album.

Q. That also came out as "Read Only Memory"?

A. Read Only Memory was part of No Humans Allowed.

Q. Now ROM was supposed to be a soundtrack to a film.

A. Yeah, I don't know if the film ever came out.

Q. Who was making the film?

A. Ian Turner. You know the Bauhouse/Chrome video that's for sale? He made the Chrome video.

Q. Now you had Siren, the Chrome label.

A. Yeah, that was Damon's label

Q. Then you got on Beggars Banquet in England. How did that happen?

A. We were already starting to sell a lot of records on our own label, right. We were trying to get on a major label, but we just kept getting turned down. Damon was in Europe and started talking to labels over there. Beggars banquet was interested in us, so we signed up to Beggars Banquet. We went on from there. They made a subsidiary label called "Don't Fall Off The Mountain". From that we went on to Faulty (Third From The Sun and the single "Firebomb"). Then we did Subterranean with "The Chrome Box" which was "Chronicles I & II" with all the older albums in a box. That was the last thing I did with Chrome.

Q. On "Alien Soundtracks" you have a song about a drug (I forget the name of it) Was that based on anything?

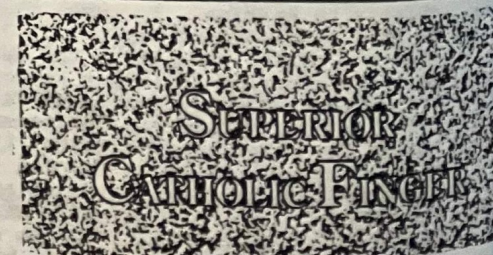
A. "ST-37". Yeah, its based on a product called ST-37. I don't know if you remember it; it was a green mouthwash back in the mid-'70s. We decided to pretend that it was a drug, sort of sister drug to LSD or something.

Q. Would you recommend the use of any drug in particular?

A. I think it should be up to the individual. If you are going to use drugs like speed, coke, acid and heroin you'd better be very careful (maybe not acid.. well, all those kind of drugs). I think people should be educated on drugs and not be criminalized. I think they should be educated and if they have a need to do drugs, be allowed to do them. I think education on drugs would be more beneficial than criminalizing people, because if people know what they're getting into they're more likely to be more useful than abusive, you know what I what I mean?



Foto: Helios Creed





Q. I was hoping that you would advocate total indulgence in drugs to promote creativity, or something like that.

A. Well, yeah, drugs can be used for that. You go back in history, the psychedelic has been used for thousands of years to inspire and for man to communicate with his god, you know, The Great Spirit. Its nothing new, but now its criminalized.

AT THIS POINT, THE CONVERSATION BECOMES PERSONAL, BUT TURNS BACK TO THE SUBJECT OF DRUGS

A. Perhaps records contain energy, you know, what I mean; you put it on and you can feel the energy that was going on at the time. Perhaps with that energy and your mind and perhaps a mind altering drug, you might be able to experience extra-terrestrial beings inside of you. Or maybe experience a vehicle or maybe a soul-body experience with the help of either silence or music.. like the indians. They used to take peyote and beat on drums. They would transcend the body within. But then we figure these extra-terrestrial beings, they're not staying still either. They're evolving and growing like we are. They must have real neat ways of communicating with us beyond just sightings and stuff, talking to us face to face. I'm sure they have other ways to communicate with us.

When I was in Hawaii, the reason I went was to look for a UFO, that was my whole reason- to contact one of these beings. I really don't talk about it much, but.. I was with a friend of mine, we were on top of a hill on the windward side of the crater and we did actually see one hovering over our heads for just a few seconds. And it took off and went the other way. I remembered the experience and he remembered it. It seemed like this knowledge came into our heads... for two or three seconds we knew all this stuff and then it was gone. But it stored in our brains to come out later on. Ever since then I seem to flashback on that and I know little bits and pieces, you know. We were tripping heavy on mushrooms too, but we'd both seen and both felt the same thing. Its to the reader's discretion whether they want to think I'm a nut or think I'm for real.

Q. At the Rainbow Gathering (a national yearly hippy gathering) there was a group that claimed psychedelics would put you "in tune" for extra-terrestrial contact.

A. Yeah, I believe that. I was very interested with the people that were involved with the UFO thing, until I decided it was better that I investigate on my own without too much outside information. Throughout the years (which was a good fourteen years ago that this thing happened to me), the information that I think is stored in my brain somewhere.... **TAPE RUNS OUT**

## LETTER WRITER REVEALED

In the last issue of OTDE I reprinted a very strange letter that I had received. It seemed to be from someone claiming to be the Green River Killer. The most obvious explanation for this letter was that it was a hoax, as I stated when I printed the letter in OTDE 6/7. I printed the letter letting the reader decide what it meant. I thought that if it was a hoax, it was probably written by someone I knew. I had two major suspects in mind. Some time later, another friend told me that one of my suspects had told a girl that he had met at a bar that he had written a hoax letter to a small circulation magazine. He immediately became suspect number one. Much later, out of the blue, suspect number one confessed to me that he had written the letter, thus making it a confirmed hoax.

Let me tell you a little about the letter writer. He aligns himself with CSICOP, a skeptics organization. This is not the first time a skeptic has perpetrated a hoax. It seems that when a septic circulates a false document or creates a hoax of some kind, they will see this as a good thing because it teaches paranormalist a lesson. But if one of the paranormalists is shown to be a hoaxer, it's just another example of how flawed they are. If either one were interested in the truth of the matter, they would not perpetrate hoaxes. No matter what the reasons given for doing a hoax, there is one thing that a hoax is sure to do- muddy the water. If one were honest about investigating unexplained phenomena, presenting false information for whatever reason would not be the thing to do.\*

The interesting thing here is that the subject of the letter is not something that most people would consider kind of silly, like Bigfoot or UFOs or something like that, but one of the biggest unsolved serial killings in the United States today.

Who is the person who wrote the letter, you may ask? Well, I will tell you... next issue. Why am I waiting till the next issue? 1. To build suspense and 2. to give the letter writer a chance to write in and tell his why he did it. I am hoping he will write and give his motivations.

\* But wait, I can hear you say, isn't OTDE a big disseminator of false misinformation? Well, it may contain information that is not true, but I don't create that information, and I am neither a true believer nor a true disbeliever.