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FOLKWAYS IMPORTS

Fanzine still a musical 'Plague'

By Kaly Soto
Oregon Daily Emerald

It started innocently enough. It was the summer of 1988, and University student Ted Hinds and his brother Dan were living in a cheap house with two other friends and attending school. All four had a deep interest in music. One evening as they were sitting in Dan's bedroom playing computer games they began to kick around the idea of starting a "fanzine."

With their genuine interest in music, and their collective knowledge of the history of music, the team was sure it could produce a product that filled a particular niche that was not being filled.

They were historians of rock 'n' roll as much as they were fans. Hinds was influenced by the likes of Black Sabbath and Blue Oyster Cult. The result was *The Plague*, named for an obscure album by a band from northern England called the Demons with Pink Floydish tendencies.

The closest campus location to find *The Plague* is Face the Music.

A band called Mysstress graced the cover of the first issue, which was "low budget," but a quality read, Ted Hinds said. In that first issue the magazine featured mostly interviews with local bands. Only about 50 copies of the first issue were printed and distributed.

When Hinds and his colleagues began *The Plague*, many independent record labels were also



NORMAN MESMAN/for the Emerald
University student Ted Hinds (left) and his brother Dan started *The Plague* music fanzine five years ago.

just starting out, so they began to network with the owners of these labels.

One such label was Road Runner, which was owned and operated by Monty Connor.

"At the time Monty was running the whole show, and we established a relationship with him. As he grew, we grew. Now we can get anything we need by a Road Runner from him because the relationship is already there," Hinds said.

Because of its ability to network and the quality of writing, *The Plague* is able to obtain interviews with many of the music industry's biggest and brightest stars.

Hinds said his most difficult interview thus far was Gene Simmons of Kiss.

"He is extremely intelligent,"

Hinds said. "He has his bachelor's degree, and he used to teach high school before Kiss got famous. In addition to that, he also wrote for major magazines, he owns skyscrapers in New York, and he manages Liza Minnelli. I wanted to bring out that side of him, and he would have no part of that. He wanted to control the interview, so it was kind of a tug of war."

Hinds' best interview experience appeared in article form in last month's issue of *The Plague*, an interview with John Bush of Anthrax. One of the things that makes Hinds so successful at interviewing is the attitude he takes toward his subjects.

"It's about respect," he said. "I treat them as if they were mil-

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