



Battle of the Teutons

**Two bands.
One bad idea.**
Who had it first?
And why should
we care?

Text: Lucy Stehlik

Arnold Schwarzenegger: an unusual focal point for not one, but two bands. You couldn't make it up, but as we go about our daily lives, two bands are locked in a bitter struggle for supremacy. Kinda...

This is a story about two bands who share an unlikely conversation point: their lyrics are based solely on the films of Arnold Schwarzenegger. We'll try to keep it light, but there are dastardly deeds afoot and we're not the types to overlook injustice. While one band, ArnoCorps, the original 'Ahnold' band, touts their punk genius for peanuts, living hand to strudel in tireless pursuit of their art; the other, Tim Lambesis as Austrian Death Machine, rolls down banks of dirty money, worshipping Jesus as he laughs in the face of copyright infringements. It's something of a po-mo David and Goliath predicament, so it's going to be hard to hide our bias here. Pointless, you might say. So we won't.

Photo: J. Logan Barrier

THERE ARE SOME MARKED DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ARNOCORPS AND AUSTRIAN DEATH MACHINE – IN MISSION STATEMENT, IN SUBGENRE AND IN LEVELS OF AWESOMENESS (SUBZERO COOL TO SUBHUMAN WASTEGASH) – BUT BOTH BANDS STARTED WITH ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER AND MOVED OFF ON THEIR RESPECTIVE TANGENTS.

And ArnoCorps did it first.

In 2001, some San Francisco punktards came up with the idea to form a band in order to reclaim the Austrian folklore, which they believe Arnold Schwarzenegger sold out to further his movie career. ArnoCorps are (almost certainly) five American dudes, living out a warped alpine fantasy and are commendably dedicated to a gameplan which most people would have left scribbled on the beer coaster in the after-hours hellhole in which it was probably conceived. They are a bunch of thrashers who are quite possibly not of sound mind, but are definitely the kind of guys you'd want to organise your stag do. They have sued Hollywood for the abuse of Austrian folklore and lost. They claim that six members of their band have died. They claim to be Austrian, but that is pretty much definitely a lie (they're funny and have good taste in hardcore). And they've received critical acclaim and a cult following for their album *The Greatest Band of all Time*.

Austrian Death Machine, the glib, one-man spin-off project of false metal band (if one goes by Varg Vikernes's assessment criteria, and we do) As I Lay Dying's frontman and avowed Christian, Tim Lambesis promises formulaic metal, as if this is somehow noble.

So while Tim Lambesis promises and delivers high-polish, but intentionally mechanical metal, ArnoCorps deliver on heroics.

We spoke to them. It was fun.

Describe ArnoCorps sound to the uninitiated
Vielmehr: How do you describe perfect to virgin ears? Our sound is Action Adventure Hardcore Rock 'n Roll. We have influences from many genres to form our own, ArnoCore, invented for retelling the ancient tales of the Austrian Alpine communities.

What would you say was Schwarzenegger's cinematic highlight?
Holzfeuer: Let me tell you, out of respect for my dear late, great grandmother, I refuse to acknowledge any highlights, there. This guy, this Schwarzenoodle, totally changed the meaning and perception of so many heroic stories without ever giving credits to their origins. Come on, these tales have been passed down for generations! I personally was first beginning to learn these tales from my great grandmother, may Crom wrestle her soul, when I was still in my baby crib.

Vielmehr: That's one of our goals, to take these stories back for the people, to bring back the meanings and motivational power. When put into context, these sayings are as powerful as a bull that's on fire. When you hear Holzfeuer scream "Come on, I'm here! Kill me! Do it now!" you know right away its heroic meaning, the ballsy defiance takes over your body, you embrace the passionate belief in the action adventure lifestyle. But when you hear the same thing in a movie about cops and robots, there's no way to interact with that. With ArnoCorps, the people can join in. See?

ArnoCorps is pretty testosterone-heavy. Do you have any secret ballads for the Kindergarten Cop fans (i.e. women) out there?
Toten: Cops at school... what kind of questions are these there? We can't help to be so heavy with testosterone, that comes along with being so goddamn ballsy. But the women enjoy



Photos: Kelly Castro

ArnoCorps just as much as the men. Maybe more! I try to enjoy the women at our shows more than I do the men.

Holzfeuer: We don't have any songs targeted towards particular genders, but our next album will retell the ancient heroic tale of a red-haired Valkyrie warrior lady with fantastic legs and breast shapes.

Vielmehr: We're going to inspire all the lazy, hamburger-eating, cake-munching marshmallow asses out there in our new song *You Lack Discipline*.

You apparently tried to launch a lawsuit against some Hollywood studios on behalf of the Austrian people which accused the movie industry of "stealing the lore and mythology of Austria for plot material and dialogue in the Arnie films". How'd that work out for you?

Vielmehr: All we ever wanted was to do the right thing and get reparations for the people, but it's amazed us how few Austrians even realized their lore has been bastardized there.

Holzfeuer: In the end it didn't matter because the courts claim folklore and mythology is public domain. Come on! If it's public domain, then why are only select few profiting? They threw the whole case out in the street and the lawyer we were working with went missing.

Six ArnoCorps members have died. True, false, or in between?
Holzfeuer: I get so many angers when people say it is false. Let's get serious. The early days were full of trials and tribulations, we were young studs in very hard times and it is true that great contributors to the early days of ArnoCorps have passed away. But no one cries because their accomplishments are kept alive by the current lineup.

What do you think about Tim Lambesis' Austrian Death Machine?
Gellend: Come on, that stuff will make you soft, like marshmallow. Don't listen to it near a campfire, you'll end up with a red hot stick up your ass and feeling the wrong kind of burn.

Barrakuda: I want his skull. I want to shrink his head and put it on a Care Bear body and then mail it to his mother.



War! tried to get in touch with Tim Lambesis. He ignored us.

He says:

"Whenever a new band comes out I often hear it said, "That's exactly what you'd expect from a heavy band." I beg to differ. Austrian Death Machine is exactly what you should hear from a heavy band.

- A continuously fast paced tempo you can always circle-pit to...

- The obvious build up to a breakdown you'll know how to mosh to...

- Classic singalongs to pile up to and sing along with

- A guitar solo in every song

And yes... I would never leave out the obvious key component. Cliche vocals that sound really angry! None of this scary screaming with makeup.

Lastly, let move onto lyrical content. I've heard plenty of metal bands steal lyrics from angry fourth graders that hate going to church or don't want to clean their rooms. Now it's time to steal lyrics from the great minds of Hollywood screenwriters who at least made it to sixth grade. Don't miss listening to the hit track *Rubber Baby Buggy Bumpers*."



Holzfeuer: He needs to stick with his mallcore band and continue bastardizing music of the metals instead of someone bastardizing the tales of Austria, again. Can you believe this guy is making a tribute to an actor-politician instead of the original tales? The copycat is honouring the biggest copycat of all time!

Gellend: Goddamn low forehead, right there.

Toten: Sickens me.

Who are they?

Hello, I'm *Holzfeuer* and I do fantastic vocalizations for the people, right there.

Vielmehr Klampfe: Hand-to-string combat specialist on guitar, exactly.

Barrakuda: Handsome Inzo der Barrakuda. Guitar. Beauty. Girth.

Toten Adler: Ballsy bass-playing Toten Adler, that's me. I also swim the waters off Alcatraz, climb cliffs, play with the boobies.

Gellend Adler: Exactly. My name is Gellend Adler, I'm the greatest drummer of all time. I have many championships, but I remain modest.