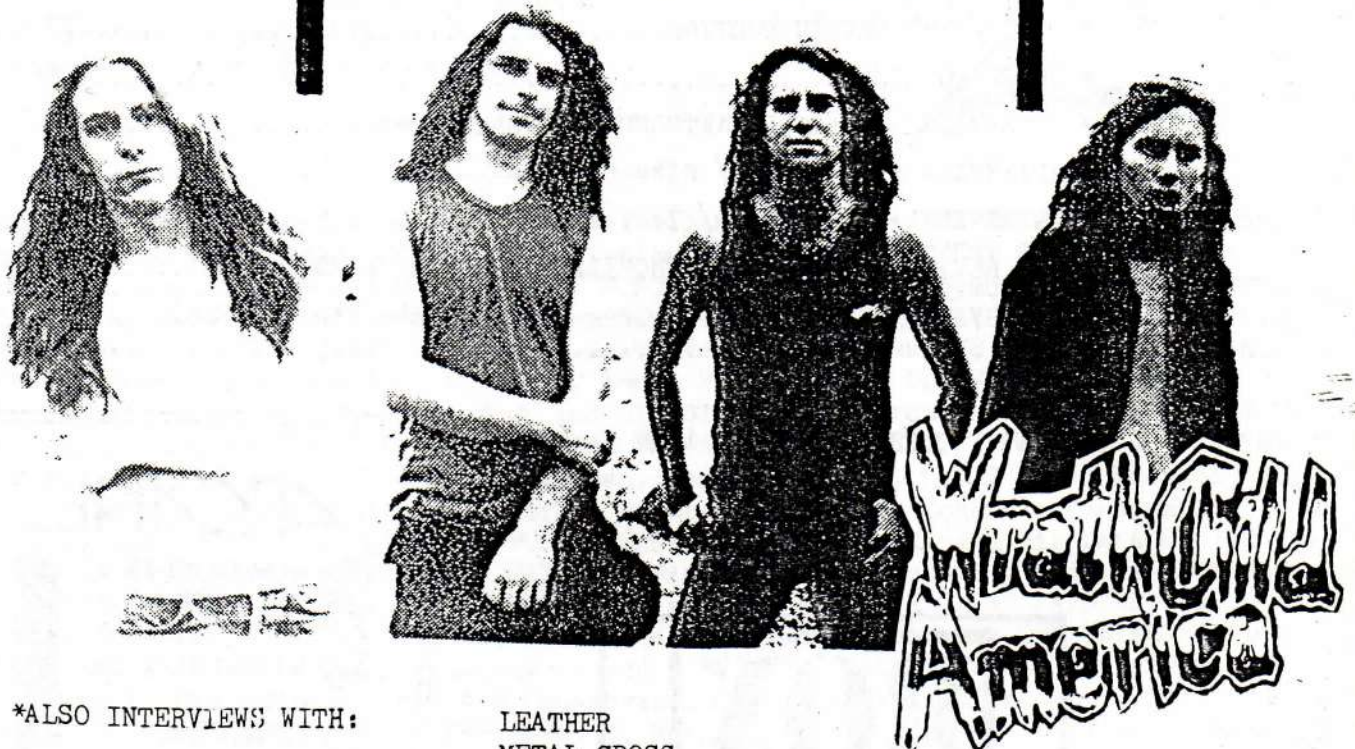


the future is power metal

POWER PACKER



*ALSO INTERVIEWS WITH:

FATES WARNING
KRAZE

LEATHER
METAL CROSS
SOLITUDE AETURNUS
DEAD ON

WHIPLASH
ICED EARTH

*PLUS ALBUM/DEMO REVIEWS AND OTHER INTERESTING STUFF


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NO. 3

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Welcome to yet another issue of POWER PACKER. If you've been with me since the beginning I'm sure you'll be able to see the changes in my 'zine. First off the biggest change - my layout. I'm sure you will agree with me that this issue is far superior than anything I have done before. I think I have finally gotten the hang of this. I am really happy with this issue and my accomplishment since issue #1.

If you can remember back in issue #1 I wanted to include all types of metal. Well, I have since trashed that idea. I am making this a power and doom metal 'zine. I was going to add "America's Only Power Metal Magazine" but I wasn't if I was the only one here in America.

Again I apologize for any mistakes you may find as I am still not the worlds greatest typer. I know I have done better than issue #2 in this department so now its onto the others.

Well, I hope you like what you see and read. I'm still trying to make this as good as I can. Again I stress that POWER PACKER is only going to get better.

Write to me and tell me what you think of the new and improved POWER PACKER. I greatly appreciate your comment as I can use them to better my magazine. Help spread the word around about POWER PACKER.

Take It Easy,



A thanx goes out to the following..... Eric Weingartner and ASTOROTH, Frein Management, Marked Management and BURNT OFFERING, Christian Linderson and COUNT RAVEN, Mike Corona and DEAD ON, Bruce Greig and DESECRATION, FORCE MAJEURE, Greg Seymour and ICED EARTH, Tim Landis and KRAZE, Leather Leone, Roger Roop and LOUDMOUTH, Rob Littleford and his brother-The VACABONDS, LUNATTICK FRINGE, Steve Harris and MESSIAH, Angel Fuentes and MERCYNARY, Mogens Olesen and METAL CROSS, Monte Humphrey and OLIVER MAGNUM, Peter Clemens and SHADES OF GREY, Joe Warner and SINISTER, John Perez and SOLITUDE AETURNUS, Peter Furulid and SORCERER, Robert TenWolde Jr. and TRANSGRESSOR, Brad Givens and Terry Carter and WRATHCHILD AMERICA, Chip Seligman, Combat Records, Metal Blade Records, Sal Treppiedi and Noise International Records, Roadracer Records, Concrete Management, Vicki Dee, Derek Wills and his ANTI-POSER FANZINE, Ken Kurowski and his DAMAGED INK FANZINE, Sebastian Dzialuk and his DEATHCORE FANZINE, Mike Gunderloy and his FACTSHEET FIVE, METAL FORCES MAGAZINE, Jeff Vanderclute and his METAL MELTDOWN FANZINE, Eddie Vermeiren and his METALLINE FANZINE, John Sasaki and his MUSIC FROM THE UNDERGROUND, Susan Hodges and ROX MAGAZINE, Eddie Boyd and his SICK THRASH FANZINE, Richard C. and his WILD RAG!, Chris Karmoil and AIR Management, Steve Harris and VALHALLA, Tony Bono and WHIPLASH, Jim Matheos and FATES WARNING, Ronny Eide and his MORBID MAGAZINE and EMPYR, Colossal Records.

A special thanx goes out to the following.....Rossi Dudrick, all you readers, my mom because without her this issue would not have been so good.

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USA

NEWS:

I'm sure everybody has heard this but if you haven't than I guess I'll be the first to break it to ya. The New Jersey power/speed metal band HADES have broken - wait a minute! Now I hear that they're back together. The only original member though is Ed Fuhrmon who was the guitarist. Rounding out the new line-up is Henry Robinson on bass, Steve Cohen on drums, Mac McGovern on vocals and Mark Paris as the second guitarist. Meanwhile, Dan Lorenzo (guitar) has teamed up with other New Jersey musicians to start up NON FICTION. Alan Tecchio has gone on to become vocalist for WATCHTOWER..... Speaking of WATCHTOWER, they have signed a deal with Noise Records. Expect their new album to be out in the near future. Noise in the meantime has plans on re-releasing their first album.....The gods of progressive metal, CRIMSON GLORY, have signed a new deal with MCA Records. MCA is expected to re-release the bands Transcendence album along with an U.S. tour starting in October.....ACE FREHLEY's new album, Trouble Walkin, is expected to be released in October on the Megaforce/Atlantic label. Ex-KISS drummer Peter Criss is expected to be making a guest appearance on the album playing drums..... TOXIK are currently set to release their new album, Think This, on Roadracer Records in September. They have added to the line-up Charlie Sabin on vocals and John Donnelly as second guitarist..... The all-girl power metal band, ICE AGE, have finally settled down on a new line-up. Joining the three remaining members is vocalist Debbie Gunn (ex-ZNOWHITE/SENTINEL BEAST) and Italian guitarist Isabella Fronzoni. They are currently recording a new demo with hopes for a record deal..... CANDLEMASS has finished work on their fourth album titled Tales Of Creation. It will be released through Music For Nations label in Europe and Metal Blade Records in the U.S. It is set for a September

release in Europe but we here in the states will have to wait till January 1990 to see it in the stores.....Vocalist Ann Boleyn lead HELLION are currently working on their latest release titled The Black Book. Along with the new album comes a book written by Ann Boleyn to coincide with the album. The book and the album are scheduled for a September release.... It seems all is not well in the BLIND ILLUSION camp. Both Larry Lalonde and Les Claypool have left the band leaving the only remaining member of BLIND ILLUSION, Marc Biedermann, to himself. I'm not sure if the band is still on the Combat roster but things aren't looking good for the future of Marc and BLIND ILLUSION.....Florida metallists SAVATAGE are expected to come out with their new album titled Temptation Revelation on Atlantic Records. Their last release, Halls Of The Mountain King, put them on the doorstep to success so maybe this one will do it for them.....I don't know exactly what's going on between OMEN and Metal Blade Records but in a couple of weeks Metal Blade are set to release a new OMEN compilation album compiling the best songs from OMEN's first five albums. The new album is called Teeth Of The Hydra and is set for an October release. so buy it and let's make sure OMEN stay around.....L.A. power metallists STEEL PROPHECY have had a change in their line-up. Replacing Dominic on guitar is John Paget while Rick Mythiasin is the new vocalist. In the meantime, STEEL PROPHECY are set to release their new demo in either October or November. To contact the band you can write to: Tru Star Entertainment c/o Vicky Dee, 12226 Victory Blvd. #150, N. Hollywood, CA 91606 USA.....Does anybody out there know what's up with New York's RIOT? Haven't heard anything from them in a while and their Thundersteel album was a killer.

Wrathchild America

When a band usually starts out they have to climb this big wall to be able to get a chance at stardom. A band will start out broke and stay broke unless they happen to get over this wall. The band being featured here, WRATHCHILD AMERICA, have gotten over this wall by signing a deal with Atlantic Records thus getting that buzz that can make or break a band. They've just recently released their debut album, Climbin' The Walls, and are ready to take that leap into stardom. The following is an interview with two of the members of WRATHCHILD AMERICA, Brad Divens and Terry Carter:

So, tell us a little bit about WRATHCHILD AMERICA and its line-up. Terry: "Well, basically me and Shannon started the band a while back - around when we were still teenagers. We were very young and were basically a cover-song band. We went through countless line-ups trying to find the right combination until we had found what we thought was "the" line-up which was me and Jay Abbene on guitars, Shannon Larkin on drums and Brad on bass and vocals."

Your now called WRATHCHILD AMERICA due to the legal hassles with the other WRATHCHILD in the U.K. Tell us about the final agreement between you two? Brad: "Well, we bent over and grabbed our ankles, wasted \$13,000 dollars and got fucked." Terry: "But we got to keep the name WRATHCHILD which was what we wanted to begin with." Brad: "Yeah, that was the cool part of the deal. The final agreement

between us two is that we get to keep the WRATHCHILD name but instead of just that we have to change our whole name in which we chose WRATHCHILD AMERICA. Now, \$13,000 dollars later, its settled." Terry: "But in that time span we got a shitload of press so personally it didn't hurt to much."

Its obvious that you two don't like eachother but in your own words tell me what you really think of them. Terry: "Shit, you should have figured it out by now. They are a bunch of homosexuals!" Brad: "Yeah, a bunch of homosexuals that write some of the shittiest music around. Next!..."

You've recently released your debut album, Climbin' The Walls, through Atlantic Records. Tell us about the album. Terry: "The album is basically a run through of all different types of music. When I listen to it I can hear stuff like blues, speed, jazz, heavy metal, etc. which is really what we're like. We all have our own influences - we just combine them to make one and that is WRATHCHILD AMERICA."

Included on the album is a cover of "Time" which was originally done by PINK FLOYD. Who's idea was it to do this particular song and why one from PINK FLOYD? Terry: "Well, it was my idea and we all think that PINK FLOYD is a group that everybody likes, whether it be one song or a whole album. I've never met a person who didn't like them." Brad: "We didn't plan on recording it on the album when we went into the studio. Its just something that was decided on the spot.

Our producer, Mark Dearnley, had heard us play the song and suggested that we record it and include it on the album. We did "Time" basically because that was the best song of PINK FLOYD that we knew."

How did the deal with Atlantic Records come about? Terry: "Well, right after we parted with our bassist the four of us wrote four more songs, made a demo out of it and sent it out to all the labels. We waited for a while with nothing happening until a little bit later a few labels started contacting us. We got offers from Enigma, Combat and Restless. Then we got a call from Atlantic offering us a deal but then Capitol offered us another deal so we went back and forth between the two until finally settling with Atlantic basically because of their track record. Atlantic are now breaking a lot of bands who are signed to them. Another reason for signing with Atlantic was because the contract gave us 100% full artistic and creative control which means that they can't tell us what to write, what to record, how to look, how to sound, etc. - what we do is totally up to us."

glam so we changed to jeans and T-shirts but now..." Brad: "Yeah, now where dressing the same as everybody else. We wanna be different but its getting hard to. I think maybe we'll go onstage naked for a gig. Shit, that'll be different!" Terry: "Nah, we can't do that because WRATHCHILD U.K. already does it and quite well too!"

Doesn't the band fear that maybe the band would be put in a corner when it came time for Atlantic to start their promoting? Terry: "Well, their metal department, which is only about one year old, doesn't have that many new metal bands so there is no real competition when it comes to promotion. I guess it'll depend on our record sales. They have the option to cancel the contract if our sales become poor." Brad: "But I don't think we'll get lost in a corner. We've got a lot of potential in us!"

What are your thoughts about the current Baltimore metal scene? It seems to me that it's becoming a hot-spot for AOR men and labels. Terry: "Well, finally now! It had its rough days



Speaking of looks, I can remember back when the band first started out you wore glam clothes but now its jeans and T-shirts. Why the change? Terry: "It was because it started getting to the point where every band you went to see had make-up on and stuff like that. Then we saw that the glam look was becoming popular and that everybody was dressing

there for a while. It's gonna grow but I don't think it'll be the next L.A. or New York."

Are you originally from the Baltimore area? Terry: "No, not really. Jay, our guitarist, lives in Baltimore right now but the rest of the band lives outside of the city. Me and Shannon are originally from West Virginia. Its like

this - we couldn't say that we're from Martinsburg, W. Virginia because they would probably end up saying something like "Where the hell is that!?" See what I'm saying? We went ahead and decided to use Baltimore basically because everybody knows where Baltimore is."

What are the future plans of the band? Terry: "Wait and see how the album sells. We wanna get more weird too. We want to bring more musical influences in

our songs. We want to be unpredictable."

What about touring? Any plans for a tour? Brad: "Yeah, we're going out on the road with ANNIHILATOR and TESTAMENT in the U.S. It's gonna be ultra cool. This spring we hope to be heading over to Europe. We have no definite tour dates so keep a look out for us."

Any last comments? Brad: "Thanks for the interview! Dial 1-800-DIAL-MTV and request our video. Also tell that red-neck bastard Neil Clifford that we want our goddamn \$1000 dollars he owes us!" Terry: "Don't get to comfortable with what we're doing now because I can tell you now that our next album will be totally different from our first."

Expect big things from and for this band. They are definitely going somewhere so stick with them and wait. They're be up there with them big boys of metal real soon.

WRATHCHILD AMERICA
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Music From The Underground has released issue number six (6)! We have interviews with FORBIDDEN, ANNIHILATOR, APPARITION, APOLLO RA, DESTRUCTION, ROXX GANG, as well as AXEMASTER, SAFYRE, and MACHINERY. Each interview asks articulate questions that are not usually asked, questions that s o m e t i m e s stump the bands. We reviewed demos by such artists as DEFCON, FESTER, E V I C T I O N, BLACK RITUAL, W E A P O N S, LEVIATHEN, and ICE AGE. Plus over 40 more. Each review is well thought out and gives a scale rating. M.F.T.U. is a good way to see what is new and up coming in the heavy metal music industry. We have over 70 comprehensive album reviews including MR. BIG, WASP, MADBALL, METAL CHURCH and BADLANDS. You get in depth interviews with six acts, over 120 reviews and full feature stories. All overseas orders are three and a half (3.50) U.S. dollars. New enlarged issue. M.F.T.U., P.O. Box 3314, Stony Creek CT 06405. U.S.A.

FATES WARNING

Right now ballads seem to be what every band strives for to include in an album. Most of today's bands put ballads on their albums so that they could have something different than the rest of the songs. FATES WARNING have done the exact same thing but instead of just one song they have made practically a whole album out of ballads. Their latest release, Perfect Symmetry, is almost all ballads but this doesn't effect the album's listenability at all. In fact this is the best album in recent months to come out. FATES WARNING have done the perfect album! The following is an interview with Jim Matheos, guitarist for FATES WARNING:

Let's start by you telling us about your new drummer Mark Zonder. "He use to be the drummer for a band called WARLORD who were on Metal Blade a couple of years ago. He did some of the drum productions for Night Of The Brocken and Awaken The Guardian so we were acquainted with him. We liked his style a lot so after we decided to look for a new drummer he was our first choice. We really didn't do any auditions because he was the man we wanted."

So what happened with Steve Zimmerman? "Basically the change of our style of music aquired someone who was a lot more technical and proficiant with his instrument. Steve really wasn't progressing like the rest of the band."

Tell us about your new album, Perfect Symmetry. "Well, we're real happy with it. We think it's our most mature thing we've done. It shows a lot of progression from No Exit. We expanded our music and ideas as to not just be another metal album. A good example would be "At Fate's Hands". In that song there is keyboards and violin which made it different than the regular metal songs. Yeah it has a ballad feel to it but that was just the way it turned out. We knew we wanted to do something different so we just went with whatever we wrote.

Some people might think its a less heavier album than No Exit but I think where it lacks in the heavyness it makes up for in melody and just emotion overall."

Let's talk about the cover of the album. I think it's one of the better one's of the past couple of months. It's real thought provoking. It looks like a perfect symmetry but if you look at it closely the statue's shadow is different. Explain to us the cover. "Well, we did want it to come across as looking the same but also being different in places. The underline concept of the cover is the idea of how fine art is being turned out at a factory pace. It's sort of representative of today's metal scene. Like how all these bands are popping up from all over the place with record deals and such. The cover was picked because it is symmetrical in that the guy is relatively the same as the Venus is symmetrical in the odd sort of way because she has no arms and represents an idealistic view."

How's the relationship with Metal Blade Records been now that FATES WARNING has a name for itself? "Great! We've been with them for a while now. It has been a great relationship between us two. Our bands name may have grown but so has the name of the label. They treat us real good."

Back to the album. On the song "At Fate's Hands" you got Kevin Moore of DREAM THEATRE to do the keyboards. How



did that come about? "Well, Kevin has been good friends with us for a while. They're like all our favorite band and we're like all their favorite band. When the slot came up for a keyboardist we wanted him to do it so we asked since he was such a great musician. He accepted our offer and went into the studio with us and recorded it. We think he did a great job."

Any plans on shooting a video? Your last video, "Silent Cries", didn't get much air play on MTV. "Yeah, we just did one a couple of weeks ago for "Through Different Eyes" which should be debuting on MTV in the near future. As for "Silent Cries", yeah it didn't get much air play but I think this one will be a lot different. The song is more accessible and the video comes across a lot better. We had a bigger budget this time which enabled us to do a lot more, like some conceptual ideas we had."

Any plans on touring here in the U.S.? "Yeah, we're gonna start rehearsing in L.A. like at the beginning of November which we'll start there and work our way across the country through November and December."

What happened with your European tour with METAL CHURCH? "Ouch! That was a weird happening. There was a problem with one of the member of METAL CHURCH, I think it was the drummer, so they just decided to cancel the tour. We were really looking forward to it too. Hopefully we can get hooked up with someone to go over to Europe."

What are your future plans for FATES WARNING? "Hope that our video gets good air play and to just tour all we can. We might be doing another video in the future but that's sort of in the air right now. Hopefully with this album we can get a bigger audience which is what we really need."

Any last comments? "Hope everyone likes the album and I hope people listen to it with an open mind. Don't expect to head No Exit part two because this is a lot different. We're happy with it!"

They may be happy with it but I'm fucking heads-over-heels for it. I admit to not being the world's biggest FATES WARNING fan but now I am. They have shown me that they definitely deserve what ever comes to them. The best album of '89?

FATES WARNING
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METALLINE issue 2 is out now! METALLINE is a new Belgian Underground Zine, written in English. It consists of 36 pages, A4 size and features ANACRUSIS, SINDROME, CONQUEST, XYSTER, TYNATOR, STYGIAN, HOLY MOSES, CYCLONE, IDLE THREAT, TORANAGA, DESTINY, ARCANE, HYD, SALEM, record/demo/live reviews, ... All of this for only US \$ 3.00, incl. Airmail Postage! Issue 1, featuring SOLITUDE MASQUE, ICE AGE, GAMMACIDE, ARCANE, ANASHI, record/demo reviews, ..., is still available at a cost of only US \$ 2.00! Send orders to this address: METALLINE | EDDY VERMEIREN | KOUTERSTRAAT 312 | 9120 DESTELBERGEN | BELGIUM. Bands interested to be featured in future issues should write to the same address; all kinds of Metal bands are welcome!!! We're also looking for both distributors and contributors worldwide! CIAO!

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Power metal, as of lately, is starting to become recognized by labels as a force in the metal scene. There are many bands, big and small, who are helping power metal take its place in the metal scene. One power metal band out of Pennsylvania, although still unsigned, should have no problem in leading this power metal movement. The band is KRAZE and with their very strong demo they should have no problem in securing an independent label deal. The following is an interview with Tom Landis, guitarist for KRAZE:

Tell us about KRAZE and its line-up. "KRAZE has been together approximately five years or so. We are a four piece band with Cory and me being the only original members. We've known each other for about eight years now. Cory Laity is our second guitarist and vocalist for the band. Kip Forbes, our newest member, is our bassist. He joined up with us in January of '89. Our drummer is Gary Leny who has been with us since '83. Although we've been around for a while, its only been in the last two years that we have been getting recognition from fans and fanzines throughout the world."

Now on to your music. I can hear plenty of ANTHRAX influences in your music - like stuff from their first two albums. I'm not one to compare but there is a big similarity especially with two of the songs off of your latest demo. Am I correct in stating this similarity? "Yeah, your almost correct. We grew up on that stuff - early METALLICA and ANTHRAX but we also grew up with the likes of KISS and U.F.O. Yeah, some of

our music does sound like ANTHRAX but in no way are we cloning. We just write what we write"

While on the subject of ANTHRAX, what do you think of them at the present day? "The new ANTHRAX? I still like them but I'd much rather listen to their older stuff but that's my opinion. ANTHRAX is at that stage where they could care less what people think about them because of their popularity."

What are your thoughts about the metal scene today? How long do you think its popularity will continue? "I hope that the metal scene doesn't stay in the out that its in. Every label seems to be trying to sign bands like GUNS N' ROSES. Some power metal and speed metal bands are getting some push, but not enough to make any difference in the underground. I mean its still all either thrash or glam. We hope that the industry will open up to bands like us. I think that in the future the in-between bands are gonna be the most sought after and take over the metal scene like thrash once did."

Has there been any record label interest in the band? "Are you kidding? Atlantic and Elektra have called us up the other day and tried to make us an offer. CBS's new metal label told us to hold until they talk to us. Now you tell me if interest is coming? To be truthful though I must say that interest in the band is nil. I only wish all these major labels were calling us up. The bad news is that labels don't seem to know us but the good news is that KRAZE does have a song out on a compilation album titled Heavy Artillery. The song is "Devil In

Disguise". The album should be out this fall on Auburn Records. We are hoping that this album will gain us more exposure other than our demos."

Any plans for touring? "Well, first we are gonna concentrate on getting us a deal. Then after our deal we will start touring. We're hoping soon a label will give the band a deal so that we can tour. If we did get a deal than that's when album sales come into the picture - that'll determine if we get a tour or not! I'm pretty confident that we'll get something if we get a deal."

What are the future plans for KRAZE? "To put out a record and go on a world tour. We are concentrating on recording new material and sending out our promos to the labels - we hope to be signed by the end of '89."

Any last comments? "Yeah, thanks for the interview. Also thanks to all our loyal fans whom have supported us around the world. You both rule!"

KRAZE is a band worthy of your support and a record deal. Watch out for KRAZE in the future because I've got a



hunch that they just may be one of these hot new bands that the labels are looking for. I just hope that the labels get smart and start looking for bands with real music, non of this trendy shit. Cross your fingers and wait!

KRAZE
c/o TIM LANDIS
94 E. PENN AVE.
WERNERSVILLE, PA 19565
USA

Issue #2 of SICK THRASH 'ZINE is finally out and available to all of you deathmetal freaks!!! After your long, dreaded wait... You can actually read the bloody pages of Virginia's only SICK THRASH.... In this jammed pack issue, I feature interviews with godly bands like: DECEASED, AUTOPSY, INSECTICIDE, ISONCHRIST, VADER, FLASHING DEATH, PRIME EVIL, NUCTEMERON, IMPERATOR and WITPORN!!! Also, an article of EXECUTOR and a column by Sherman Jones of INSECTICIDE... Plus a ton of reviews of the sickest bands from all parts of the globe! Including: new MUTILATION, EXMORTIS, EPIDEMIC, SIC and more!!! So join my sickness today, each issue cost only US \$3.00 and it's well printed!!! Now get your pen and paper out and write to: SICK THRASH c/o Eddie Boyd 6172 Leesburg Pike #201, Falls Church, Va. 22044! OK, all death/thrash/grind bands out there that want some exposure, send your product along with some info about your band for review! Distributors write too! Support the world's deathmetal scene.....

POWER PACKER ISSUES

#1...Interviews with Confessor, Wargasm, Wench, Liege Lord, Rage, Restless Breed, Raven, Bitter End and Stygian. \$2.25 for U.S., \$3.00 elsewhere.

#2...Interviews with Witchmaster General Revelation, Thunder, Solitude, The Fury, Flying Skull, and Arcane. \$2.25 for U.S. \$3.00 elsewhere.

poweritorial

It's time once again for me to speak my mind about certain issue in the metal scene. This time though I would like to talk about a topic instead of criticizing it or giving it a thumbs up. The topic? What is power metal? I consider power metal as being metal that isn't fast yet very powerful but isn't slow enough to be wimpy, exception being doom metal. There's all types of power metal. There's melodic power metal, speed power metal and just plain power metal. To me power metal is an alternative to those who like their metal aggressive and heavy but not fast or wimpy.

Now, why hasn't power metal gotten the respect it deserves? People seem to think that power metal is only for a certain type of metalhead. Thrashers look down on it because its to wimpy and glamsters look down on it because its to heavy. If this is the case than explain to me how bands like METALLICA, MEGADETH, TESTAMENT and ANTHRAX can be so popular. I consider these and many others power metal bands yet these four are popular among everybody - thrashers, glamsters

etc. So why haven't other power metal bands gotten popular? The answer? They started out as being either thrash or labeled as thrash which brings me to another point.

Has anybody noticed how many thrash bands are slowing down their music to have a more heavy sound? I could go on and on naming bands with recent releases that are much slower than their previous recordings. This is where I always get pissed off! How can thrashers tell me that power metal is wimpy when bands like METALLICA, TESTAMENT, WHIPLASH and MEGADETH have taken to the power metal sound. I don't hear anybody calling METALLICA wimpy yet mention a band such as LIEGE LORD or SWORD and you get a shitty answer like "Who are they?" or "They're no good" answer. I don't understand it! Well, what can you do? I have this gut feeling though that in one or two years power metal will be the hot thing and instead of bands trying for that thrash tag they'll instead try for that power metal tag.

Before I finish I just want to say one thing. I'm not anti-thrash, in fact there are a few thrash bands I like, its just that I get pissed when I hear ex-thrash bands like METALLICA or TESTAMENT playing power metal, yet still being called thrash, and getting bigger because of it when there's plenty of bands who are original power metal bands still struggling to get recognition.

Face it! Power metal is the future. Thrash and glam will always be with us but soon power metal will be king. I leave you with the Gillespie theory of power metal: aggression + heavyness - the speed factor = power metal.

the wild RAG!

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SEND SAMPLES, PRICES AND INFORMATION

LEATHER

Females have long made their presence known in the metal scene since the beginning of rock n' roll. Although rock n' roll spread into different styles, in this case metal, it was and still is dominated by men. Now its changing with the sudden popping up of many all-girl bands or female-lead bands. Helping with this change is one female named Leather Leone. She has released her first solo project called Shock Waves recently (by the time you read this it will most definitely be dated) which is definitely a killer. The following is an interview with Leather Leone about her first solo project:

First lets start from the backbone of the band. Can you tell us who the musicians are that backed you up on your album? "There was John Luke He'Bert on drums, David Harbar on bass and Michael Harris on guitar. John and David are now part of CHASTAIN. Michael is from the state of Ohio and now plays in his own band called ARCH RIVAL."

Are you satisfied with their performances on your album? "Yeah, definitely! I was very pleased with their performances and am greatly appreciative of their help. I wanted only the best on this album and I knew what they were capable of so - here's the finished product."

Tell us about the album and its songs. "Well, Shock Waves for me was a lashing out to the world around me. I was always being disappointed and getting frustrated too many times so I decided to take it and use it for something good - that being the album. As for the songs, they were written from inside me so are very personal. The lyrics actually speak

for themselves."

You wrote most of the lyrics but the songs were most of Davids. Don't you fear that people will think this another CHASTAIN project instead of your album? "Unfortunately that is inevitable but David is the person I work with and he is how the public relates to me. It does get frustrating at times but I figure if I can get it across to enough people than maybe they'll see the difference. Anyways, any real CHASTAIN fan will hear the difference and other will learn the difference."

You've been a member of CHASTAIN for quite a while now so why has it taken you so long to do a solo album? "Well, it was Davids idea after I kept complaining about the lack of press towards me. He originally suggested it a while back but it wasn't until later that his idea really sank in. I figured that I hadn't anything to loose so I went for it. My idea of music is a bit different from Davids. I enjoy expressing myself both emotionally and physically through my music."

What's the relationship like between you and David now that you have a side project going? "Its still better than ever! David only wants what I want. He's extremely encouraging and is behind my solo project 100%. Besides, why would he help me out so much on my project if he didn't want me to succeed? Me and David have been through to much to let a little thing like this to get inbetween our friendship."

If Shock Waves is successful, is there a chance that you may choose to

go separate ways from CHASTAIN? "Well, I see no reason why that would happen but if the LEATHER project were to become major, well, let's just say that for my part CHASTAIN may be put on hold. Its sort of hard to give you a straight answer for this question but you never know what could happen. For now I have no plans of breaking away from CHASTAIN."

How long do you plan on doing your project and when can we expect another LEATHER album? "I want to do this as long as I can. The problem is that I have so many other things going on that its hard to keep up. For now I plan on doing another album. It probably won't be out until sometime next year though. I guess that it'll all depend on what happens this year. All this is great for expectations but that's all it is for now - expectations. I'm just gonna concentrate on CHASTAIN for now and wait and see about LEATHER."

Any plans on touring as LEATHER without any CHASTAIN back-ups? "I have been trying to work it out. Being on an independent label also makes it difficult because they don't give as much tour support as the bigger labels. I'm gonna give it a try anyways!"

What are the future plans for your solo career? "First, to get a major deal and be able to compete with all the major bands. I know that I'm worthy of it all and can do it. Shock Waves is only the beginning!"



Any last comments? "Check out Shock Waves! I can rock with the best of them, let me inspire you!"

What determination she has! I'll second her motion about her ability to rock with the best of them. Check out Shock Waves because I know it'll surprise you like it did me. Move over Doro Pesch!

LEATHER
369 W. BALTIMORE
LARKSPUR, CA 94939
USA



When one thinks of a place like Denmark one tends to think more of a natural serene than metal music. When you think of metal, well there isn't much to think about. Denmark isn't known for its metal scene, in fact I only know of one other band that's come from Denmark and that's KING DIAMOND. Other than that I come up with a blank. Well, now you can add another band from Denmark. Their name is METAL CROSS and are an excellent power metal band. In a few more years they could be very popular in the underground. The following is an interview with Henrik Kjellerup, vocalist for METAL CROSS:

Tell us about METAL CROSS and its line-up. "We've been together since 1984 starting out here in Denmark. We were together for about four or five years and decided to do a recording to get our name around the scene. That first recording is called Metal Cross and had a total of five songs. After that we did a couple of compilations but still nothing really happened. We got our act together again and recorded our second demo called M.A.D.H.O.U.S.E. which had three songs on it. We were very satisfied with this one and thought that it would get us the exposure we needed. The response to this demo has been great from magazines and fans alike. We've gotten some label interest so atleast we're getting recognized. Our original line-up had lasted for about three and a half years but recently it was changed. We've added Ole Quist to our band - he plays bass. The rest of us are from the original line-up - Michael Hartmann and Jon Lybaek on guitars, Peter Mogenson on drums and me on vocals."

So how's the response been to METAL CROSS's releases? "Really quite good! Our latest demo, M.A.D.H.O.U.S.E., has in the past four or five months received good reviews in zines throughout the world, well, nearly! We're starting to get orders on the demo from metal fans from various countries. This we take as a good sign of things to come. We feel that we must be doing something right if we getting this good of a response."

Has there been any label interest in the band? "Well, we did get a very nice letter from a label in the U.S. and we did have some hopes with a Danish label but the U.S. label found it to hard to deal with us because of the distance between us land wise and that Danish label later found themselves short of money so they sort of backed out. These two were let downs but now we have another Danish label showing interest in us and hopefully we can land us a deal. After all the stuff we've been through recently we don't take anything for granted - not before we have signed the dotted line!"

Do you think by playing power metal you could be hindering your success? I mean, it seems that only thrash or glam bands actually get anywhere these days. "Well, your right about that. Maybe we'll have to wait a few more years to get the limelight but we like playing this type of metal and if it takes us longer, than it'll take us longer. We aren't going to play something that we aren't into. That's way to fake and will probably back-fire in the long run. We believe enough in our own ability and in our music so to the point that we don't have to give in. We know there is still an audience for this type of music who are

waiting for the return of "true" metal so maybe one day we'll be able to give them what they want while being at a higher status than we are now."

There's no doubt that Sweden's metal scene is growing but do you think that this could have an effect on you and the Danish metal scene? "Well, most of the new bands coming from Sweden are thrash/death bands and really...! But yes, some new Danish thrash bands are coming up from the cellar and are starting to be noticed but as for them, or any other metal band here in Denmark, we all fight against each other no matter what type of



metal you play. We have so many limitations here in Denmark (labels, promoters, agents, venues, etc.) that it's tough. Hopefully, some day soon, heavy metal will no longer be a swearword to the whole music industry, as it almost is today. As for Sweden's metal scene helping us out, no. There may be a slight


influence for us but not much to get a band noticed by labels, especially U.S. labels. Denmark is such a small country that it can't really support a metal scene. There are only a few bands around worthy enough of label interest so really I don't see Sweden's metal scene giving us much of an impact."

What are your future plans for METAL CROSS? To get a record deal and to get support slots for the big name bands that come through Scandinavia. I hope for a new LP real soon along with a full European tour and then the rest of the world. We can do it!"

Any last comments? "Yeah, thanks to POWER PACKER for its interest in our band - we appreciate it very much. What you do for bands like us! Keep up the good work and the best of luck in the future. To all POWER PACKER readers we say - buy our demo instead of the next GUNS N' ROSES LP because you all know how they will sound. Cheers!"

Yeah, forget the next GUNS N' ROSES LP and buy METAL CROSS demos. I promise that you'll thank me later for it. Check out METAL CROSS while you can because if things went the way they were suppose to METAL CROSS should have had a record out and many many new fans. The next big one?

METAL CROSS
c/o MOODYROCK INC.
HAVGAARDSVEJ 38
8900 RANDERS
DENMARK



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&
ASTOROTH

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ALBUM-DEMO

REVIEW

Welcome to the album/demo review section. This is where I review various albums or demos by telling you what its about and what I thought of it. Before I begin I would like to emphasize that these reviews are of my opinion and my opinion only. I don't want any hate mail coming my way saying that I'm a dick because I didn't like a particular band. Okay? Enough of this intro stuff. Let's get to the reviews!

MERCYNARY

Plagues Of Death demo
\$5.00(U.S.)

I recieved this demo expecting it to be thrash but after listening to it I have concluded it to be more of a heavy speed metal. The songs are very heavy with the guitars just bounding away at your skull. I liked side two the best because of the two songs on that side - "Repent For Your Sins" and "Plagues Of Death". Them two were more of a power metal than speed. To sum this demo up would be to say that this demo is very, very heavy (but not fast) and has what it takes to get a band a deal. GOOD!
MERCYNARY c/o Angel Fuentes, 650
Kendalia, San Antonio, TX 78221 USA.

MALICE

Crazy In The Night EP
Metal Blade/Enigma 73414

MALICE is back but not without some changes. The new songs on this album are far more commercial than License To Kill. They haven't gone glam but they've lost some of their power. I guess they've got to make it up somewhere since they haven't been around for a while. The one song that has to be mentioned though is

"Crazy In The Night". If only the rest of the songs were like that. Not the worst comeback this year but by no means is it the best. AVERAGE!

METAL CROSS

M.A.D.H.O.U.S.E. demo
\$6.00(U.S./CANADA)

I have only one thing to say about this demo - it kills! This is what power metal should be. There are a total of three killer songs but the one that stands out is "Nightmare". I think "April 27th" would have been better if not for the verse part of the song. To la-da-de for me. Besides that, this demo is great and is highly recommended. I expect them to be signed real soon. EXCELLENT!
METAL CROSS c/o Moodyrock Inc.,
HAUGAARDSVEJ 38 , 8900 Randers DENMARK.

ICED EARTH

Enter The Realm demo
\$7.50(U.S.) - \$8.00(CANADA) -
\$10.00(EUROPE)

Yeah, I know the price of this demo is high but it is worth it. The packaging is incredible and the music is very good. What about the demo? Its plain heavy metal, well, sort of a gothic metal type. Its good heavy metal, not the wimpy shit that's been popping up lately. You can feel the energy of the band through out the whole tape. With songs like "To Curse The Sky" and "Iced Earth" I think that they could get some interest from a few labels. If you like heavy metal thats on the heavy side than this is for you. GOOD! ICED EARTH c/o Jon Schaffer, 12418
N. 15th St., Tampa, FL 33682-0364 USA.

KRAZE

Demo III demo

\$5.00(U.S.)

I really liked this one. This comes close to being excellent but doesn't get it because I thought that the music was just a bit to basic. The songs may have been basic but the way it came to my ears it was very good music. They all have a strong melody to them backed by the very impressive guitar work - no Malmsteen though. Its sort of in the vain of early ANTHRAX type metal. Definitely no cloning though. As of yet they haven't recieved much label interest (labels don't know shit, do they?) but I think with time there may be interest, or atleast there should be. I would like to see KRAZE come up with an album but until then I guess I'll just have to listen to the demo. VERY GOOD! KRAZE c/o Tim Landis, 94 E. Penn Ave., Wernersville, PA 19565 USA.

WHIPLASH

Insult To Injury LP

Roadracer 9482

This here is a BIG change from their previous stuff. Yes they have slowed down but no they haven't lost their writing ability. Now they play a sort of power metal and play it they do. There is plenty of melody on this one which all combines to make one hell of an album. Listen to songs such as "Voice Of Insanity", "Insult To Injury" and "Battlescars" and tell me this isn't a cool release. Yeah, maybe it isn't as good as Ticket To Mayhem but Tony Portaro and co. are definitely on the right track so watch out for these guys. I know that the next album is gonna be godly. I can't wait! EXCELLENT!

TESTAMENT

Practice What You Preach LP

Megaforce/Atlantic 82009

I liked The Legacy a lot but this, their third album, is nil and very disappointing. In all honesty, they have lost it. Yes they have slowed down also but from the musical point of view they haven't gone anywhere. Most of the songs

sounded the same through out the album with the exception being "The Ballad". This was the only song I liked out of the ten on the album. TESTAMENT had better start shaping up because they are losing fans like me very quickly. POOR!

COUNT RAVEN

Demo '89

Here we have a band from Sweden that play a type of speeded-up doom metal. There is a bit of BLACK SABBATH influence but don't think that their clones because their not. Yes the influence is there but not without some of the bands own ideas thrown in. The only thing that may come to close to BLACK SABBATH is the song "In The Name Of Rock N' Roll" but other than that... As always, I try to tell people to give a band a chance and that's what I'm doing here. I don't they're original enough for a record deal but with time who knows. AVERAGE! COUNT RAVEN c/o Linderson, Frihetsvagen 40, 175 32 Jarfalla SWEDEN.

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SORCERER

Sorcerer demo
\$6.00(U.S.)

Finally someone who will be able to compete with CANDLEMASS. Here we have a doom metal band that should be able to get a record deal without a problem. So what about the demo? It kills everything and anything that comes close to being doom metal, exception being doom gods CANDLEMASS. Songs like "Born With Fear" and "The Battle" show me that this band is on their way to the top. A must for any doom metal freak. The next CANDLEMASS? EXCELLENT! SORCERER c/o Peter Furulid, Svartviksslingan 31, 161 29 Bromma SWEDEN.

KREATOR

Extreme Aggressions LP
Epic/CBS 45254

As always, KREATOR never disappoint. Again they have made an album that is nothing short of brilliance. Even though the album is on a major, it hasn't changed the music. There is still the brutal guitars and the ever evil vocals of Mille. On this album KREATOR have slowed down a bit but definitely not to the point of power metal. They still a thrashers dream. There are still plenty of songs to satisfy the hungry KREATOR fanatic but my favs were "Some Pain Will Last" and the brutal "Betrayel". I don't think there's anybody out there that would be disappointed with this. Extreme Aggressions should finally put KREATOR where they belong and that's on top. VERY GOOD!

HEIR APPARENT

One Small Voice LP
Metal Blade/Capitol 91690

I was told that this band was like that of CRIMSON GLORY or QUEENSRYCHE so I went out and brought it with my own money. Boy did I waste some money. This is nothing like the above two bands. I'd call this stuff more AOR than metal. There is way to much keyboards in it and I hate keyboards. I'm not gonna mention any songs because there's none worth mentioning. I didn't like a single song. In fact, I didn't even finish listening to the whole album. In fact, I hated this album. Nuff

said? DELETE!

POWERMAD

Absolute Power LP
Reprise 25937

This, their first full-length album, is a bit of a disappointment as I was expecting something a lot better than I heard. The album isn't a total waste as it does have some very powerful metal like "Nice Dreams" and "Plastic Town". These two songs show what this band is capable of. Some of the songs sounded a little to strewed out which may have been one of the problems with this album. I know POWERMAD can do better because it shows in parts of the album. I'm definitely gonna catch them down the road because I know that by then they'll have it together but for the meantime, keep trying. GOOD!

WRATHCHILD AMERICA

Climbin' The Walls LP
Atlantic 81889

This shocked the hell out of me! I didn't think that this would be this good of an album. Climbin' The Walls is an album for everybody - from glamsters to thrashers and everyone in-between. This album has so many different influences that its incredible. When I listen to songs like "Climbin' The Walls" and "London After Midnight" I think that I'm listening to the next big band. Every song on this album is great but the one that must be mentioned is "Silent Darkness (Smothered Life)". It kills! One of the better songs from the past couple of months. Even the cover of PINK FLOYD's "Time" is a winner. Watch this band because they're gonna be huge. EXCELLENT!

FATES WARNING

Perfect Symmetry LP
Metal Blade/Enigma 73408

I must admit that I wasn't a big fan of their No Exit album. I had almost written them off until I heard this new album. Shit am I ever sorry that I even thought about it. This album is simply brilliant! Most of the songs have that ballad feel to them - something I think

that is different from your average speed stuff. With this album FATES WARNING have succeeded where OMEN failed. I'm talking about that ballad feel. FATES WARNING have found the answer. I could go on and on about this album but I won't. I'll just simply state that this album is incredible, and I mean incredible, and is a must. Just check out songs like "Through Different Eyes" and "Chasing Time" and you'll hear what I'm talking about. My only complaint is that the album was too short and it left me wanting more. EXCELLENT!

FAITH NO MORE
The Real Thing LP
Slash/Reprise 25878

At first listen I didn't get into this much at all but after a few listens, well, let's just say that I still have trouble taking it out of my cassette deck. This album has so many different influences that it would be difficult to tell you exactly what kind of metal this is - that is if you can call this metal. Songs like "Zombie Eaters" and "The Real Thing" are really more of a... Hell, I don't know what they are! What I do know though is that this album is awesome and is highly recommended. I'm not one for rap music but I love the song "Epic". In fact I love everything there is to love about this album. I even liked the use of the keyboards! EXCELLENT!

ASTOROTH
Demo '89 demo
\$4.00(U.S.) - \$5.00(elsewhere)

Here we have a band from the New Jersey area who got Bobby Ellsworth of OVERKILL to produce the album. So what's the album like? Well, it's straight ahead power metal that is good but there's still room for improvement. I don't think ASTOROTH will be getting much label interest yet but I've been proven wrong before. I did like the song "Sins And Mortality". There is talent in this band but like I said before, there is room for improvement. Not a bad demo though. GOOD! ASTOROTH P.O.Box 286, Colonia, NJ 07067 USA.

MESSIAH
In The Flesh demo
\$5.00(U.S.)

This is a very weird demo. Cool but weird. I was expecting thrash when lo and behold, not thrash but a weird type of metal. PINK FLOYD playing thrash? MESSIAH do play a heavy type metal that is fast from time to time. There is one song which I really liked and that was the weirdly titled "Auto Erotic Death". One hell of a song! Another song that should be mentioned is "In The Flesh". It shows promise. MESSIAH have that sound that you don't hear everyday. It might take them longer for a record deal because they aren't the norm but give them credit for being original. GOOD! MESSIAH c/o Steve Harris, 1319 Brandt St. Greensboro, NC 27407 USA.

RUNNING WILD
Port Royal LP
Noise 45179

RUNNING WILD have been around for a while now but still they have nothing to show for it. There's a good reason for this. Simply stated, RUNNING WILD doesn't have the writing ability to make that big album. Port Royal is just another average release from a band who can't seem to do something different when it comes to writing music. I'm not saying that Port Royal sucks, in fact there are a few good songs like "Port Royal" and the excellent (and I mean excellent) instrumental "Final Gates", but to be honest there isn't any forward movement of maturity. It sounds like any other European band. If RUNNING WILD don't do something soon than they may end up a band of the past. AVERAGE!

RAGE

Secrets In A Weird World LP
Noise 44452

Again a melodic effort from RAGE and again a great album. This is ten times better than Perfect Man. Longer songs this time make for an even better album. I didn't think that RAGE could do it again but they showed me wrong. Every song, exception being "Invisible Horizons", has that RAGE feel to them. The two songs that must be mentioned are "Light Into The Darkness" and "Without A Trace" which I think is the best of them all. The best part of the song, yes it's in three parts, is the Atlantis part. I love that part! Another perfect album from RAGE and I hope many more to come. If you loved Perfect Man than you'll die for this. EXCELLENT!

DESECRATION

Desecration demo

This here is a toss up between two types of metal. Some of it is thrash and some sludge. I liked the sludge metal stuff like "Stalker's Prey". The instrumental "Rude Awakening" wasn't too bad neither. As for the faster parts, well, they were okay. I sort of got lost when they speeded it up but for thrashers I'm sure this is good shit. This demo is cool to a certain part so it really isn't too bad. If you like both sludge metal or good, heavy thrash than this is your chance to get this. GOOD! DESECRATION
c/o Bruce Greig, 3125 Port Way, Annapolis, MD 21403 USA.

TRANSCRESSOR

Transgressor demo

This is a little different from the usual metal stuff. Here we have a band that play a power rock type of music. It may not be your usual stuff but it is different. After listening to this, I must admit that I was impressed with this band. The music, especially the bass, reminds me a bit of RUSH but there is a considerable difference. There is a lot more keyboards involved in this. In being truthful I must confess that I did get into this but after a while I did get

bored because it lacked what I liked and that was raw power. This demo is good for its own kind of music so that's why I'm giving this a good review. If this were a hard rock 'zine than I know this would get a thumbs up. To me I think it'll good listening maybe once or twice a year. Oh! did I mention that these guys can actually play. Good musicianship. VERY GOOD! TRANSCRESSOR
c/o Maelstrom Management, 10231 New Hampshire Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20903 USA.

VAGABONDS

Stench demo

\$4.00(U.S.)

The noize gods from Calvert County! Well, this isn't my type of music but from the band that says CRIMSON GLORY sucks eggs, well, it's wild. The one song I do like is "The Shuttle". This song is one of the very few that actually has a melody to it. There isn't much you can say about a band like this because they could care less what you think. This demo doesn't have much, if any, melody to it so beware. If you love noize than this is for you. Even if you don't like noize at least give them some money so that they can get the hell out of this shithole music scene here in Calvert County. AVERAGE! VAGABONDS c/o Rob Littleford, 231 Sun Park Ln., Huntingtown, MD 20639 USA.

BIOHAZARD

Infection Approaching demo

I'm one of the lucky ones I guess. Sorry to say but this isn't available to the public and it is a shame. I was totally surprised with this demo. I had always thought that BIOHAZARD was a hardcore band but this stuff is more metal than hardcore. I was impressed with what I heard. The intro and beginning of the song "Justified Violence" are both great and I like them a lot. In fact I liked this whole demo, even though it wasn't close to power metal. They play music that's sort of in the CRO-MAGS style if you know what I mean - metal music mixed with hardcore shout choruses.

I would recommend this demo to anybody but like I said before this is only a specially made one not available to the public. I suggest you try and find a way to get a hold of this because you will be surprised. VERY GOOD! BIOHAZARD c/o Frein Management, 534 72nd St., Brooklyn, NY 11209 USA.

FORCED ENTRY
Uncertain Future LP
Combat 2007

I wasn't to impressed with this band. I heard a lot about them but never heard any of their music until now. I must say that they are good but that's as far as I can go. All those time changes threw me off. They remind me of another BLIND ILLUSION but they do not sound anything like them. FORCED ENTRY are more straight ahead, in your face. Besides, BLIND ILLUSION is more weirder and right now a lot more in a limbo. Anyways, the album never got me hooked. I never really got into any of the songs because I just got bored. I figure they must be good if they won that NW musical award but for me they just didn't cut it. Maybe next time! GOOD!

HELLOWEEN
I Want Out-Live EP
RCA 9709

I have never seen HELLOWEEN live so this is my only way of known what they're like and I have to say that this was boring. Sure, the crowd sound as if they were into it but anybody could take a live tape into the studio and rearrange it. There are a total of six songs with a couple of odd stuff thrown in. I still liked the songs "A Little Time" and "I Want Out" but the new "How Many Tears" has got to go. Also the Elvis Presley bullshit too. That stuff will make somebody want to kill themselves! I wouldn't call this a bad live album but I can think of plenty others that are a lot better - Randy Rhoads Tribute? Get this if your a HELLOWEEN fanatic but if not than I suggest you wait for their next album. AVERAGE!

LUNATTICK FRINGE
Lunattick Fringe demo
\$5.00(U.S.)

The music on this demo is some what hard to explain. There's really a little bit of everything thrown in. Its got power, its got speed and its heavy. It isn't to bad but what makes this a little poor is the production. It's very messy so it does make it difficult to actually hear the music. From what I heard of the demo, a total of three songs, I did like "Delivered" a bit. I can't really give this band a thumbs up but I can't give them a thumbs down. To get anywhere they will have to improve on their writing ability but I think that they can do it. Like I said before, it isn't the best but you can't put them down for not trying. AVERAGE! LUNATTICK FRINGE, 172 Stonybrook Rd., Stratford, CT 06497 USA.

KING DIAMOND
Conspiracy LP
Roadracer 9461

Everybody told me that this wasn't a very good album but I went out and brought it anyways and, well, I'm still trying to figure out why they told me it wasn't any good. Shit, this is the best stuff I've heard from KING DIAMOND since the Abigail album. Here we have excellent music that's right with the King's vocals. His vocals is what makes this album! It blends in perfectly with the music and the story. Its like instead of reading us a story he sings it to us. What can I say - I love this album! Listen to songs like "Sleepness Nights", "At The Graves", hell, listen to them all and then tell me this isn't their best release. KING DIAMOND will never become popular because of his vocals but I sort of like it that way. It leaves him for those who can appreciate his vocals. All I can say is to buy this album now! EXCELLENT!

FORCE MAJEURE
Demo '89 demo
\$6.00 (U.S.)

Another band from Denmark! FORCE MAJEURE play a melodic power metal that is very, very good. It's on the heavier side but there's enough melody to distinguish it from speed. The music in this demo is so promising that I can promise you that they're get a deal, or at least they should. The three songs included on this demo, "Victims Of Society" being the best, are so good that I personally guarantee that you'll like this demo. This is one promising band! Highly recommended. EXCELLENT! FORCE MAJEURE Krusagade 30 3th, 1719 Copenhagen V DENMARK.

SHADES OF GREY
Shades Of Grey demo
\$3.00(U.S.)
\$4.00(elsewhere)

Here we have a thrash band that isn't too bad musically. The songs were okay, except for "Rage Of Insanity" - the solo killed!, but really nothing for me to get into, except for "Rage Of Insanity". People say they sound like SEPULTURA so if you like them then get this demo. Shit, support your scene no matter what type of music it is. The only complaint I have about this band is their name. It does not go with their music at all. AVERAGE! SHADES OF GREY 1239 Dogwood Dr., Chesterton, IN 46304 USA.

VALHALLA
Real Life demo
\$5.00(U.S.)

The music on this demo is good but the vocals have got to go. They tend to over-power the music which wasn't good for me because I had trouble getting past the vocals. I'm not saying that this band is no good, its just that the vocals need to be better if this band is gonna get anywhere. The song I liked the best was "Victim Of You" which would have been great if not for the vocals. All in all a good effort but I can't stress enough the bad vocals. GOOD! VALHALLA c/o Brickwall Prod. P.O.Box 1012, Melrose, MA 02176 USA.

HELSTAR
Nosferatu LP
Metal Blade/Enigma 73419

I'm not sure if this is an epic album or not. All the song titles are about mediavil things so I don't know. Anyways, the music is HELSTAR without a change. Its progressive and heavy with touches of speed yet it's not thrash. I guess you could call it progressive speed. Again they have the piano played by Jerry Abarca. This is a good album except for all those little productions at the beginning of each song. Practically every song has one and it does get irritating. Other than that this is a good one. I liked the song "The Curse Has Passed Away" because of its ballad feel. This album will satisfy power metallists but I think that they could do better than just satisfy. VERY GOOD!

DEAD ON
Dead On LP
SBK 93249

I kept listening to this album over and over but it still doesn't grow on me. The musicianship is good, the music is okay and the production is so-so. DEAD ON play a type of progressive speed metal that should be well taken in by thrashers a like. Me though, well, it didn't do much. There is a total of nine songs with "Salem Girls" and "Beat A Dead Horse" as my favorites. Things should start to happen for this band since they have everything going for them now so get them while they're still cool or your be sorry that you didn't. AVERAGE!

SINISTER
Sinister demo

I was expecting this to be thrash when I looked at the cover. Hell, it's not even power metal. What it is though is some real promising heavy metal from a band who could be big if only they worked on their songs a little more. From what I heard there is good ideas but the problem is that the songs tend to be a little to basic. They need more aggressiveness in their songs. If they could only get their ideas to come

together with the rest of the song than I'm sure something will sound better. With a little more work this band could be really good. GOOD! SINISTER 295 E. 208, Cleveland, OH 44123 USA.

OLIVER MAGNUM
Oliver Magnum LP
Colossal/Restless 72616

This is a good album but I was a little disappointed. I was expecting something spectacular but what I got was something good. I think that the problem is that the songs are too basic. They need more originality in their songwriting. Shit, the musicianship is there. Get more originality, like "Silent Scream (Prelude To Death)", and this band could be great. This album isn't bad to say the least. I would call this a stepping stone for this band. I know they can do better than this. GOOD!

INDESTROY
Senseless Theories EP
Colossal/Restless 72617

Here is a band that everybody can get into. They play all different types of metal that you really can't categorize them. Who wants to anyways? Actually I liked their first album better because it was more senseless than this one, especially my all-time fav "Dead Girls Don't Say No". This one though is good, especially "Tortured By Fire" but they seem to have lost their sense of humor. I'm not gripping about this album because it is good but I wish they would put back some of the humor - like the album cover. GOOD!

LOUDMOUTH
Loudmouth demo

This band is more in the punk influenced rock n' roll vein than power metal but that's okay because actually I sort of liked this. Nothing for me to rave about but in all honesty a band that has a future. I really didn't have a favorite song but that really didn't bother me. This demo just sort of grows on you. I don't think I'll try and explain

this demo - let me just say that it's rock n'roll heavily influenced by punk. If this is your type of music than get this. Shit, give it a try anyways because it is something different. GOOD!
LOUDMOUTH P.O.Box 295, Riverdale, MD 20737 USA.

BURNT OFFERING
Burnt Offering LP
Walkthru fyre 1739

I admit that I'm not a big fan of death metal but I listened to this anyways, and well, I'm still not a big fan of death metal. I didn't get into this at all although I did try but I just couldn't take it. Way to brutal and fast for me. I guess this is good stuff among the death metallists since they are on a label. If you want to find out what death metal is all about here's your chance. AVERAGE! BURNT OFFERING
c/o Marked Management, 8700 Summerdale#3N
Chicago, IL 60656 USA.

MORTAL SIN
Face Of Despair LP
Vertigo/Polygram 836370

One question! What the fuck is this? I don't know what happened between this and Mayhemic Destruction but this album is no good. The only song that comes close to the old MORTAL SIN is "I Am Immortal" and that's it. This is not the MORTAL SIN I once liked. Face Of Despair comes about as a second rate album with the songs not having anything original in them. The problem may have been the big burst of Mayhemic Destruction. I bet they let it get to their heads. Who knows? If MORTAL SIN plan on going anywhere in the future they had better get their act together and write good material instead of this generic bull. POOR!

EMPTOR

Emptor demo

This here is Ronny Eide's band. You may know Ronny from his Morbid Magazine. Well, he's got his own band and if you haven't guessed it by now yes it's thrash/death but it really isn't the fast stuff. The vocals are death but everything else is more thrash. Even though this is thrash I did like the guitar solos. Other than that I just thought it was regular thrash. I thought the cover of "Touch Me" by Samantha Fox was a trip. This is cool for a thrash band but what makes it even better is that it is from one whom also does a fanzine. Give it a try. AVERAGE! EMPTOR Postvagen 11A, 77300 Fagersta SWEDEN.

CORONER

No More Color LP
Noise 45181

I didn't think I would like this one but boy was I wrong. I had the idea that CORONER were thrash/death but this is nothing like it. Heavy it is but not totally fast. I loved the solo to "Tunnel Of Pain". I also liked "Die By My Hand" a lot. Really I liked the whole thing. If only I knew CORONER were this good. There is plenty of semi-melody (keeping to the heavier side of things) to keep a metal head happy. This is one album that I won't regret giving a try to. I wonder what their next one will be like? VERY GOOD!

POWER 20

1. FATES WARNING - Perfect Symmetry (Metal Blade/Enigma)
2. KING DIAMOND - Conspiracy (Roadracer)
3. SORCERER - Sorcerer (demo)
4. RAGE - Secrets In A Weird World (Noise)
5. FORCE MAJEURE - Force Majeure (demo)
6. WHIPLASH - Insult To Injury (Roadracer)
7. WRATHCHILD AMERICA - Climbin' The Walls (Atlantic)
8. FAITH NO MORE - The Real Thing (Slash/Reprise)
9. METAL CROSS - M.A.D.H.O.U.S.E. (demo)
10. CRIMSON GLORY - Transcendence (Roadracer)
11. KRAZE - Demo III (demo)
12. HELSTAR - Nosferatu (Metal Blade/Enigma)
13. SWORD - Sweet Dreams (Roadracer)
14. CORONER - No More Color (Noise)
15. KREATOR - Extreme Aggression (Epic/CBS)
16. BIOHAZARD - Infection Approaching (demo)
17. ICED EARTH - Enter The Realm (demo)
18. REVELATION - The Illusion Of Progress (demo)
19. OLIVER MAGNUM - Oliver Magnum (Colossal/Restless)
20. LEATHER - Shock Waves (Leviathan/RC)

Solitude

aeternus

Solitude is a word which means calmness in the English Dictionary. Aeternus is a latin word which means eternal. Combine these two words together and you get Solitude Aeternus - an eternal calmness. The band SOLITUDE AETERNUS may not be an eternal calmness but they are an eternal storm storming across the Texas scene into international status. Their name is well known in the underground scene, especially among the doom metallists. An album is expected from the band sometime in the future. The following is an interview with John Perez, guitarist and founder of SOLITUDE AETERNUS:

Let's start with you telling us about the band and its line-up. "Well, SOLITUDE AETERNUS was initially conceived by myself in the Spring of '87. I had just quit my former band, ROTTING CORPSE, with the intention of forming an ultra heavy band with the emphasis on heavy and not necessarily thrash. After months and months of searching, I had found the line-up which consisted of Kristoff Gabehart on vocals, Brad Kane on drums, Tom Martinez and myself on guitar and Chris Hardin on bass. This line-up has since broken up but now the new line-up consists of Edgar Rivera and myself on guitar, Lyle Steadham on drums, Robert Lowe on vocals and the only remaining member, besides me, from the original line-up, Chris Harden on bass. The line-up of the band has changed but the original concept of the band has not."

So what happened with the old line-up? Problems among the band members? "Yeah, just various problems. Kristoff

lived nearly 300 miles away while wanting to spend more time with his Christian calling. Brad wanted to play more of a thrash style while Tom plain just didn't have his shit together. I don't really like line-up changing but sometimes its a must if the band is to progress. I'm not a hard person to get along with - all I ask of band members is an honest and sincere interest in the music and a 100% positive attitude. If they don't have that than they're wasting time for myself and the other members of the band."

The bands name use to be SOLITUDE but now you've changed the name to SOLITUDE AETERNUS. Why the name change? "Well, unfortunately there is another band with the same name from Delaware that claimed the rights to it. That I'm not to mad over anymore. What really pissed me off about it was the fact that I had been pushing my band for over a year under the name SOLITUDE before I ever heard of these guys and the band. If they're so serious than why hadn't I seen anything from them in the underground mags or anywhere else for that matter? Its only recently that I've begun to see anything on them. It just kind of pisses me off. Anyways, back to the name change. Instead of just totally dropping the name, which would have hurt us, we just added Aeternus which is Latin for eternal. We like the change, it adds to the gothic feel that we try to put across to everybody."

Has there been any label interest in the band? I heard that you were negotiating with Mean Machine Records. "Yeah, we are currently trying to get a deal with them. Nothing is certain right



now but I hope something comes through for us."

What are your thoughts about the current status of doom metal? It seems to have become very popular with all types of metal heads. Why do you think this is? "I think that the area of doom metal has been lucky enough because there hasn't been very many bands that have touched on it. It's an area of metal that seems to be the alternative for everyone who wants to listen to something different from their regular music. Say for instance someone likes only thrash, well, there's got to be a time when he wants to here something different so that's when he turns to doom metal. Its heavy enough for him. Doom metal is a very personal type of music - it's full of emotion and power. Actually I kind of hope that there won't be a ton of doom metal bands because then I think it would lose some of its appeal, like thrash metal."

Any plans on touring? "Not until we can get financial backing from a record

company. There's no way we could finance it ourselves. We'll just play a few gigs around the Ft. Worth/Dallas area and other parts around Texas. I do hope we can get a tour going though."

So what are your future plans for SOLITUDE AETURNUS? "Well, we want to release records that contain some of the heaviest music ever heard. In fact I wouldn't mind it if we were the heaviest band around. We'd like to be able to tour Europe someday. Hopefully we will be able to secure a good record deal real soon."

Any last comments? "Thanks for the chance to be in your 'zine. Be open-minded towards all types of metal. Believe me there's tons of good metal bands out there that's not just thrash and speed. Write to us for our tape and shirts! \$5.00 for our tape and \$10.00 for our shirts."

Chalk up another strong doom metal contender. Yes this style may be growing but practically every band is either good or excellent, unlike other styles that range from poor to excellent. SOLITUDE AETURNUS is a name to watch out for, let's just hope that they get that record deal.

SOLITUDE AETURNUS
c/o JOHN PEREZ
1009 BERT DR.
ARLINGTON, TX 76012
USA

DEAD ON

To categorize a band is like categorizing a person - either he/she is a snob or a nice, cool person. Some people though can't be categorized because they aren't either of the above. They're just out of the ordinary which is what this band out of California is, out of the ordinary. This band is DEAD ON and they can't be categorized. They're definitely not death metal nor are they thrash or power metal. They have released their debut album on SBK Records with another one not too far behind. Things sound as if they're ready for the big time. Let's find out! The following is an interview with Mike Caronia, guitarist for DEAD ON:

Well, let's start by you telling us a little about DEAD ON and its line-up. I must admit that I'm not too familiar with the band. "Well, a couple years ago we all started this band playing much of the lighter stuff in metal. At the time we were a Long Island band just jamming. We then got serious and starting writing much more heavier music while at the same time trying to fit in our new drummer. We started playing the club scene in New York - CBGB's, Sun Dance, L'Amours, stuff like that - but weren't satisfied with the clubs we were playing at because they were basically the only clubs in New York that would book us. That's when we decided to move out here to California and try our luck here. The line-up of DEAD ON is me and Tony Frazzitta on guitars, John Linder on bass, Mike Raptis on vocals and Mike Caputo on drums."

Speaking about the new album, tell us a little about it. "Well, most of the songs are about death but we didn't mean

for it to come out like that - it just happened. The album was really recorded a while back before we got our deal. It's sort of old but still new. Anyways, we are finishing up writing for our new album which shouldn't take too much longer to finish. I don't know, the album I guess speaks for itself. It's DEAD ON - it's what we're about. It's heavy and fast but nothing like thrash/death and it's melodic but nothing like glam."

Let's talk about your band's name, DEAD ON. To me it sounds like a death metal band - something you say you strive not to be. Don't you think that death metallists might get your album, listen to it and call it wimpy thus spreading a bad name among death metallists? "Yeah but it's not that way! I mean, they could think that but we keep telling everyone that we're not death metal - it's more of a progressive speed. DEAD ON is just a name. It doesn't mean death but just dead on. You know, DEAD ON! Our logo does have that coffin in it so I can see a little bit where you're coming from. We have a back up though called a sticker. On all the albums we have a little sticker saying that we're not death metal so that should keep death metallists away, but, I don't know, I hope they give it a try anyways."

The band is signed to SBK Records out of New York. This is the first I've ever heard of them. Can you tell us a little bit about them? "They use to be just a publishing firm but then EMI Records needed a new North American label so they turned SBK into a record label. At the moment they have seven or eight bands on their roster - we're the only heavy band they have on the label. They're always asking us for suggestions."

So how did the deal with SBK Records come about? "Well, it was this show at CBGB's that got it for us. Actually we got kicked out of the club in order for the B-52's to do a video shoot. Anyways, we played nexr door. We had contacted a few labels to see if they would come and see us and a representative of SBK was there. He came up to us and said that they wanted to sign us so we signed the dotted line and here we are."

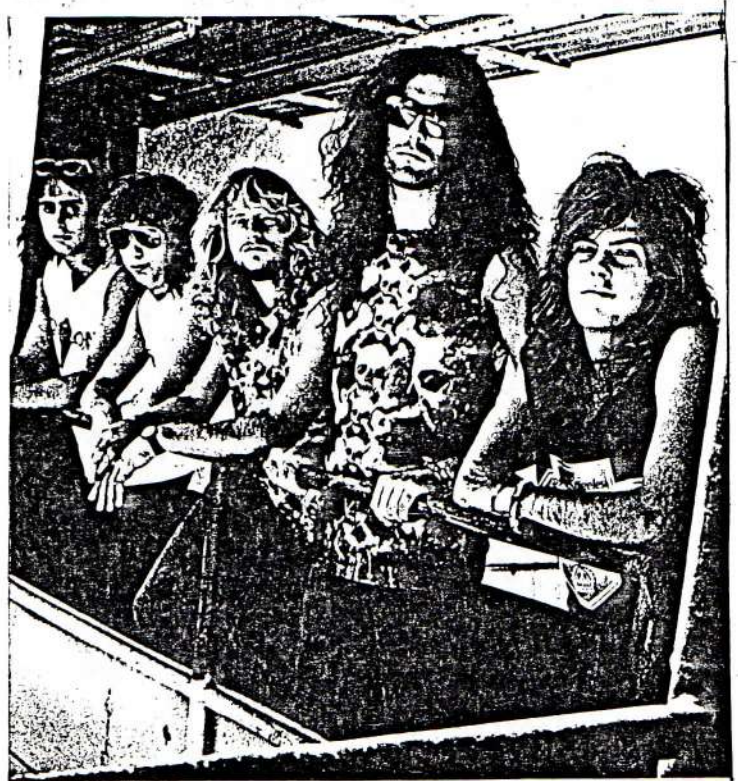
The band, along with the new album, also have a few songs on the new Shocker soundtrack. How did this come about? Through the record label? "Yeah, it was through the label. SBK had something to do with the soundtrack deal. The song "Different Breed" is on the Shocker soundtrack. It was edited a bit but it's still good. We also have two other songs on the upcoming Immediate Family soundtrack. The songs are "Salem Girls" and "Full Moon".

Any tour plans for the band? "Well, we're hoping to get on tour in November and hopefully get a nationwide tour. We are trying right now for the OVER KILL tour but we don't know for sure if we'll get it. What we might do is go ahead and put together our own tour playing at all the clubs on our own. It'll hopefully be nationwide. Nothing really concrete as of yet though."

So what are your future plans for the band? "Well, first thing is making the video for "Full Moon", get on a tour and then work on the new album which is gonna be out sooner than people may think it will."

Any last comments? "Well, we'd like to thank the record company for their support. Buy our tape!"

Are they ready for the big time? Well, they had better be because when a band gets a major deal and a major tour the big time is bound to come your way. It may start off slow at first but when your name gets around things start to roll. A video on MTV, with over-time air play, will get you the big time. Hang tight because with backing like this its bound to come.



DEAD ON
c/o CREATIVE SERVICE MANAGEMENT
3136 ALTURA AVE.
LA CRESCENTA, CA 91214
USA

WHIPLASH

I keep telling everybody that power metal is the music of the future but still nobody believes me. I may be having trouble convincing people now but in the future it should be a lot easier. Why? Because I have bands like WHIPLASH who I can give as an example. The new WHIPLASH has just released their third album, *Insult To Injury*, on Roadracer Records and after a couple of listens I think you'll agree with me that their on their way up. Yes they have slowed down a bit but what difference should that make. WHIPLASH is still WHIPLASH no matter what kind of music they play. The following is an interview with the bass player of WHIPLASH, Tony Bono:

Let us start with the changing of the line-up. You have a new vocalist by the name of Glen Hannsen. Tell us about him and how he got into the band. "Well, Glen is originally from Brooklyn. He and Joey, our drummer, had been jamming around with the neighborhood guys in Brooklyn when Joey had told us about Glen and how his vocals were really good. We were looking for a vocalist at the time so we asked Glen if he wanted to try out for the band. He agreed to try out so he came to a rehearsal one day and did a great job at vocals. We were very impressed with his vocals so we asked him if he wanted to be in the band and he agreed. We had written most of the music at the time so we all agreed to let Glen write most of the lyrics. Things just worked out for all of us - he fit in just like a puzzle."

Who's idea was it to try and find a vocalist? "It was Tony's idea because he had trouble being both a vocalist and a guitarist. When it came time to do shows he felt he couldn't give 100%. Also after every show his throat would be sore from the vocals. He hadn't any vocal lessons so he wasn't really a true vocalist. He

had always been thinking about looking for a vocalist but never did find one that he thought would be good enough for the band. Plus with our new music we thought that we would need a better vocalist that was more suitable for our music. Also Tony wanted to concentrate more on his guitar playing. We think that our live show will be ten times better now that each of us can concentrate more on our own instruments."

Alright, you've got a new vocalist



but do you think that maybe a second guitarist will be sought after in the future? "No, I don't think so. We thought about it before we got Glen but finally decided against it. We really don't need another guitar player because when we play live, now that Tony isn't singing, he goes wild. My bass playing is now good enough so that we really don't need a rhythm guitarist. I really don't think Tony wants to compete with another guitar player anyways."

Tell us a little bit about the album? "It was produced by Tom Morris and I'm sure we will go back to him on the next album. We experimented with

different scales trying to be different. We didn't want to come up with the same old stuff that was on our previous albums. We were trying to come closer to what our live sound would be like - like "Hiroshema", "Ticket To Mayhem" and "Insult To Injury", we cut out some of the rhythm guitar parts so that it would come closer to what we sound like live. We just wanted to keep our music fresh and to stay away from the typical thrash/death stuff that we've done in the past. We don't want to close the doors in front of us!"

What about the bands musical change from thrash to power metal? What prompted this change? "It just came naturally for us. When you play "Message In Blood" fifty-thousand times you tend to want to change to a different style. We were trying new things like keyboards and stuff like that. In fact that's how "Essence Of Evil" came about. I think that next time we go into the studio we're gonna write with nothing in mind. We won't go in trying to write a certain way. We'll just gonna go in and play and what ever comes out comes out. If we like it than we'll use it, if not than we'll drop it."

I thought that the original album title was Rape Of The Mind. Instead it says Insult To Injury. What happened? "Yeah, your right about that. It was gonna be called Rape Of The Mind but we just thought that that title wasn't good enough for a name like WHIPLASH. Insult To Injury was a much better title because it was more WHIPLASH. What I mean is that the word whiplash is a meaning for an injury to the neck, so, it's an injury that fits our music. Thus Insult To Injury."

You've been with Roadracer Records for quite a while now. What's the relationship like between you two? "I don't really know. Monte has been a follower of WHIPLASH ever since the bands early days so I think of him as a friend but he's still a businessman before friend. There really isn't to much of a relationship between us two. About the only thing we have in common is that both

of us want to sell WHIPLASH to the metal scene. We both want album sales to be high and we both want to see WHIPLASH become a success. Other than that I don't think there's to much going on between us two."

There's no doubt that WHIPLASH has changed their musical direction from thrash to power metal. Do you think that you will loose a lot of thrash fans because of them saying that the new album is too wimpy? "I think that a lot of those who liked Tony's vocals might say to hell with it and not buy the album but the music, I mean, I can't understand how they could have said that there was a difference between Power And Pain and Ticket To Mayhem. They were saying that we wimped out with Ticket To Mayhem but I'm saying to myself, "God, how could you say that - this shits just as heavy as it ever was!" On this album it's still us three, except now we have Glen, and it's undeniably WHIPLASH. If the kids don't like the vocals, well, they can go back to their death records."

Any plans on shooting a video for MTV or something like that? "No, not right now. We talked about it for a while but the label had to many strings attached. They would tell us that we could do a video but only if we signed to a major booking agency so it sort of left us in the middle. A Catch-22 type of situation. I don't know if a video would help us any ways because MTV only play the more established acts."

Any plans for touring? "Its being worked out right now as we speak. We're getting things together so that if we tour we'll be ready. I can't say to much for the U.S. because nothing is in the definite. As for Europe, we have a couple of agencies over there that want us to come over. Our main concern right now is to get a tour together for the U.S. We really want to tour!"

So what are the future plans for WHIPLASH? "To get caught in that vicious circle of going into the studio, recording the album, promoting it, touring, writing and then going back into the studio to repeat the whole process."

Along with this circle we want to party our asses off. It would be our reward for working our asses off."

Any last comments? "Yeah, first let me thank you for the interview. I want everyone reading this to come and see us play live because it has improved 100% and now that Tony can concentrate on guitar, well, he rages. I'm in a more raging mood and am confident in myself that I can give 100%. When we go on this U.S. tour we're gonna kick some ass and take no prisoners. This is it! Its now or never for us. I mean, if we don't get this tour we might as well break-up because there's nothing for us except Europe and there's no way we can survive with just Europe. All we want to do is go out on tour and show everybody that we can kick ass."

On that note let me just say that if you ever get the chance to see WHIPLASH live - go! There is no way you can be disappointed with this band. So maybe they aren't thrash but that doesn't mean that they can't kick ass. Buy the new



album because you can't go wrong. WHIPLASH may be one of the bands of the future and if you don't catch them now than you may just regret it one day.

WHIPLASH
107 LA FRANCE AVE.
BLOOMFIELD, NJ 07003
USA

MORBID MAGAZINE

MORBID MAGAZINE # 4 HAS BEEN UNVEILED!!!!!!

MORBID MAGAZINE now has a new and improved lay out, in addition to tons of information. As always it will be mega glossy and professionally printed in A4 format. You can experience exclusive interviews with: SADUS, EXODUS, EVIL DEAD, BATHORY, SINDROME, SCHIZO, DEMOLITION HAMMER, AGRESSOR, L.D. (ex LIVING DEATH), HEXX, THE WILD RAG dude Richard and more. As usual there are hundreds of articles on up and coming bands such as DEPARTMENT OF COREUPTION, INFURIATION, MERCILESS, MX, RIVERS EDGE, FORCED ENTRY, TOXIC SHOCK, DESTROYER, DEAD CONSPIRACY, LWS INC., XENOLITH OGER, BATTALION, FEROCITY, DERANGED, NECROSIS, RE-ANIMATOR, METHEDRINE, TORRENT, SEVERE WARNING, INVOCATOR, ABOMINATION, DISHARMONIC ORCHESTRA, REVENANT, THE GRUESOMES, MORBID DECAPITATION, LEPROCY, SACRIFICE, CRYPT NUCLEAR SIMPSONY, MORTAL TERROR, PESTILENCE, DEVASTATION, INZEST, DR. SHRINKER, XYSYTER (UK), VIRGIN SIN, THANATOS (US), PARALYSIS, KENTIE BROSCH, IMMOLATION, A.O.K., SPUDMONSTERS, ATRO CITY, TREBLINKA, CIANIDE, BELETH, SALEM, MORTAR FATAL IMPACT, HELLBASTARD, REACTOR, EVIL PRIEST, AUTOPSY, DETONATRASH, ORGANIZED CHAOS, CALIGULA, G.D.B., EXMORTIS, SIEGES EVEN, SEMPTERNAL DEATHREIGN, LUNACY, FUNGENT STENCH, SKELETAL EARTH, FORMICIDE, SANCTUS VOMIT, BEZERKER, MORGOTH, NECROMANCER, DESERULT, STYGLIAN, ZYKLON-B, NUCLEAR DEATH, MASADA, ATROCITY, NIMROD, RIGID DOMAIN, GOD, NECROPHILE, BLACK RITUAL, INCUBUS, DICPLES OF POWER, SATIANS, MORAL MAJORITY, and too many others. (We note that there quite in debth reviews on the band and information.) As if this wasn't enough you also get the usual your-fave-underground-band mega posters, this time with HEXX and DEATH and dozens of album reviews. From now on we will bring you a special zine reviews column as many people have been asking for it. CANADA and SOUTH AMERICA are represented with a scene report from each area. You can get this 68 packed pages (at least) edition by sending US \$ 4.00 (CASH or INTERNATIONAL Money Orders only) to the below address. Subscription for 4 issues is available at US \$ 15.00 P&P included. (Parties that are interested in appearing should send their products in the contact address) Morbid Magazine, Ronny Eide, ROSTVAGEN 11A, 773 00 FAGENSTA, SWEDEN.

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DAMAGED INK

The first issue of DAMAGED INK is now available featuring interviews with: Abcmination, IceAge, Whiplash, Chaastain, Sindrome, Cianide, I.E., Macabre, Autopsy, and maybe more.

Also album reviews, demo reviews, and show reports.

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Gig review

TEMPERATE STEEL/BROADWAY/MIRIAH/
WRATHCHILD AMERICA
Sept. 16, 1989
Wilmer's Park

To start with, I missed the first two bands, TEMPERATE STEEL and BROADWAY. I didn't know too much about these bands so I really wasn't worried about getting there on time. The first band that I got to see was MIRIAH. I had seen them before and was impressed. Their music is sort of power metal but it leans more toward rock n' roll. I guess you could call it progressive metal. I can't tell you what they played because I wasn't familiar with any of their songs. The only song I remembered was their cover of BLACK SABBATH's "War Pigs". It surprised me when they played it but then again, everybody seems to be covering that song so why it surprised me I don't know. Next up was WRATHCHILD AMERICA and everybody was ready for them. Shit, the crowd started slamming before the set ever began. The crowd was fired up! Finally the band hit the stage and started with "Climbin' The Walls". After that there was no turning back. The band then went through such songs as "No Deposit, No Return", "Time" and the best song from the album, "Silent Darkness (Smothered Life)". Then after this great performance comes the let-down. They then went into a cover tune craze, and I mean a craze, covering at least ten songs. This was when I started to get bored but then... Yeah, you guessed it. They blew it all back in my face. The last two songs of the set, "London After Midnight" and "Day Of The Thunder" just blew me away. A perfect ending to a great gig (except for those dreadful covers). WRATHCHILD AMERICA were a very tight sounding band that night. They showed me that when they hit it big they'll be ready for the task.

MYSTIC FORCE/CRIMSON GLORY
Oct. 16, 1989
9:30 Club

First up was Baltimore's MYSTIC FORCE. They are definitely a power metal band and from what I saw they could be a very talented band. I can't say I knew too much about them (lord knows I've tried to get in touch with them) so I really didn't know what to expect. My decision after their set - promising. I'm gonna have to get in touch with these guys real soon before I miss my chance to catch them while they're still cool.

I eagerly awaited the presence of CRIMSON GLORY. Again I wasn't sure what to expect but I knew that they couldn't be too bad. They weren't too bad, in fact they were very good. It seemed to me that they were a little nervous at first but I think our Washington hospitality cured that. They started their set off with "In Dark Places" and then switched back and fourth songs from their two albums. Other songs they played were "Azrael", "Painted Skies" and a dreadful cut-up version of "Lonely". If you thought the cut-up version of the video was bad wait till you here this. This I didn't like but the band made it up with the highlight of the whole show - a Midnight solo. Midnight sung "Lost Reflection" with such intensity and emotion that it was incredible. This fucker can sing! He should win the award for vocalist of the year hands down. They ended their set with "Lady Of Winter" while in the process leaving the crowd wanting more but it was over for the night. A truly great gig for a truly great band. Expect big things from CRIMSON GLORY. As an unknown in the crowd stated, "Look out QUEENSRYPHE!"

ICED EARTH

In the beginning, our planet earth was nothing but a slab of molten lava and had an atmosphere with nothing but poisonous gases. Centuries later though, planet earth was covered with a whole sheet of pure ice. It had changed from a hot, poisonous planet into an iced earth. Well, today ICED EARTH is the name of a band from the Tampa, Florida area. Their latest demo, Enter The Realm, is a very well packaged demo and includes some very promising metal. The following is an interview with three members of ICED EARTH, Greg, Dave and Randy:

So, tell us about ICED EARTH and its line-up. Greg: "Well, we started the band back in January of '85. Back then we were called PURGATORY -60-. We then changed our name to ICED EARTH and recorded our second demo, Enter The Realm. Now we're ready to become as big as the likes of METALLICA or IRON MAIDEN. Someday! As far as our line-up goes, well, there's me, Greg Seymour, on drums, Jon Schaffer and Randy Shawver on guitar, Gene Adam, our vocalist, and Dave Abell on bass."



Any reasoning why the band chose ICED EARTH as its name? It is an out of the ordinary name. Greg: "Well, like I said earlier, we had to change our name once before so when we chose this name we were going to make sure that it was a name that no one else would think of. The name ICED EARTH sounded cool at the time. We have since incorporated ICED EARTH as to make certain that we would have it all to ourselves."

Tell us about your latest demo, Enter The Realm. Dave: "Enter The Realm is our second recorded release. It was recorded at Morrisound's 24-track room. We feel that this demo features our best material to date and are very proud of it. The tape is 22-minutes long, give or take a few, with a total of six songs. The one track that we feel is our best is the song "Iced Earth". There's also an acoustical piece entitled "Solitude". We feel that now with this tape we can step up to a much bigger market. All I can say is, enjoy!..."

I've asked this question many a times but never getting a straight answer. Your answer is probably no different but here goes anyways. Has there been any label interest in the band? Randy: "Well, our answer is going to be the same as everybody else's in that yeah we've had label interest but no we're not gonna tell you who. Understand that we can't be spreading false rumours if a deal falls through. I'll just say that we're waiting for the right deal to come along."

Let's talk about the band itself. Your lyrics and dress deal a lot with the mystic/mediaval times. Do you plan on taking this as far as say CRIMSON GLORY or CANDLEMASS has? Dave: "The

lyrical content in our songs deals with a lot of different experiences really. As far as mystical/mediaval themes go, yeah I can understand where your coming from and you do have a point. Our lyrics and clothes don't help us much with trying not to be put in a mystical/mediaval category but its what we like and we'll stick with it. In our live set-up, the stage is covered with smoke and the drum riser is enclosed by a rough iron fence covered with cobwebs and skulls. We also have flames going off during the show. A better word for our stage show would be gothic. This is what makes the band. Its expensive but is effective. As far as CRIMSON GLORY or CANDLEMASS goes, we don't want to be like them and will do whatever it takes not to be like them."

Any plans for touring? Greg: "As of

now, no. Right now we're working on getting a record contract. Once we've secured that than hopefully we'll tour our asses off!"

What are the future plans for the band? Greg: "To be the biggest metal band ever! We want to make music that will last forever."

Any last comments? Greg: "You'll never hear any last words from us! I do wanna thank you for the interview and keep up the good work. People like you keep bands like us going."

Can ICED EARTH ever be the biggest band around? There's a possibility but they would have to be very patient. Nothing comes easy and/or fast (unless your an L.A. glam band) but if ICED EARTH can hang in there than there's a chance.

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