

VALANTINUS

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APRIL '86

#1

UNDERGROUND DEATH METAL MAG



DEATH METAL
DEMO AND LP REVIEWS

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VIOLENT NOIZE #2 will (if everything goes as planned) be out in a couple of months, and will have just as many Demo/LP reviews as well as some Interviews/Features. It will most likely have 30 pages--10 more pages of pure DEATH!!!!!! Thanx to everyone that helped out, and see you in #2!!!!!!!

NEWS

POSSESSED are currently recording their second LP with Carl Canedy at the helm. Tentatively titled 'Beyond the Gates', the LP will probably feature 9 new tracks, some of which are 'Seance', 'No Will to Live', 'Tribulation', 'Phantasm', 'The Heretic', 'Beast of the Apocalypse' and the title track. The album is scheduled for release in late summer.

DEATH is still alive!!! After a brief spell with Toronto's SLAUGHTER, guitarist/vocalist Chuck Schuldiner went back to San Francisco and is currently reforming the band. Watch out for a new demo!!!

NATAS will be entering a 24-track studio soon to record their third demo entitled 'Kill for Christ'. Some of the songs due to appear on it are 'Kill for Christ', 'Set Us Free' and a new version of 'Fast or Death'.

Michigan's GENOCIDE have added a second guitarist, Aaron Freeman, and are currently looking for a new drummer. Anyone interested????

DEATH MILITIA are currently looking for a bassist to complete their troubled line-up which now features the brother of Gus Pynn, SACRIFICE's drummer, on drums. Let's see a studio demo, guys!!!!

SOLEMN and ORSIS are two new bands from the Chicago area that should have their debut demos out soon. More info on them in #2!!

Due out this month are new albums by DESTRUCTION ('Tornado'), KREAT-OR ('Pleasure to Kill') and IRON ANGEL ('Stronger Than Steel').

According to bassist Scott, SACRIFICE will be recording a new demo this month, featuring some of their newer material like 'Cyanide' and 'Afterlife'. It will be 'faster, heavier and better' than their previous recordings.

Germany's NECRONOMICON have just recorded their debut LP for an unknown label (to me, at least!). Review in #2!

DEATH ANGEL will be putting out an EP soon on Combat Records as a part of the Bootcamp Series. Other bands due to release EP's on the label are AT WAR, and possibly OBLIVION and NUCLEAR ASSAULT.

Portland's WEHRMACHT will have several tracks appearing on a 7-inch compilation due out shortly. Other bands appearing are NECROPHAGIA, SEA MONKEES and one more. WEHRMACHT should also have a demo out by the time you read this.

Toronto's HAGGATH will enter the studio soon to record their debut demo. Other new Toronto bands to watch out for are G.O.W., HOLOCAUST, and DARK LEGION, who have just recorded their first demo.

After a short West Coast tour, HIRAX will re-enter the studio to record an 8-song EP, to be released on Metal Blade Records. For those of you who don't know, the band now features ex-D.R.I. and DEATH drummer Eric.

CRYPTIC SLAUGHTER have recorded their debut LP for Metal Blade Records on March 1st. The album, containing 12 cuts, is scheduled for release in early summer. This was the first time the band had recorded something since the addition of a new bassist, Rob, making C.S. a four-piece.

Those unsung Death Gods, MASTER, have recently been offered a chance to do an EP for Combat Records, but rejected the offer claiming they deserve to do an album. Shame, bloody shame!!

BATHORY's Quorthon has apparently hooked up with a drummer and is currently auditioning bassists for his band. In the meantime he has already finished writing material for BATHORY's next record, due to be recorded in the course of the next few months.

Toronto's SLAYER clones, LETHAL PRESENCE, were recently joined by ex-RAPID TEARS drummer. Can this guy handle the speed?? We'll have to wait and see!!

VINYL DEATH

When reviewing albums we will use the 1-10 rating system, 10 being the highest and 1 the lowest. This will, hopefully, give you a better idea of which albums are worth buying and which are not. We would basically recommend anything rated a 7 or higher.

N.M.E. - "The Unholy Death" LP

5

I'm still trying to figure out why this band was signed. Their two demos were hardly a 'hit' on the tape-trading circuit (and unsurprisingly so), and their popularity was limited solely to their local area in Seattle, Washington. Maybe the record company (Pentagram Records) wanted to sign them, promote them as the next Thrash Gods (realizing its growing popularity), and make some quick bucks. At any rate, 'The Unholy Death' is not a bad LP; just plain average.

N.M.E. is not a Thrash/Death band. To my ears, they have a very sludgy, early VENOM-type sound, much like Michigan's MEDIEVAL, but a bit heavier/better. All the songs are moderately-paced and are somewhat undistinguishable from each other.

To be fair, there is a couple of tunes that are kind of enjoyable, namely 'Louder than Hell', 'Black Knight' and 'Speed Killz', but there's no killers, and three semi-decent tracks don't make a great album.

'Boring' is the perfect word to describe 'The Unholy Death'; nothing you've never heard before (and done better!), and not a classic moment in sight. The early-VENOM influence is obvious, but only the most boring aspects of it. VENOM at their prime were much more enjoyable than this, and a cheap copy just won't do. Sorry guys--next time maybe??!!

NOTE-- According to reliable sources, Pentagram Records recently expressed interest in signing Michigan's GENOCIDE. The band sent

the label a copy of their latest 12-song demo (reviewed in this issue), and all they could say was: "Amusing, very amusing". Now, if you want Thrash Gods, sign GENOCIDE. If you want wasted vinyl N.M.E. will do. That's my final word on the matter. (BORIVOJ KRGIN)

DESTRUCTOR - "Maximum Destruction" LP

2

I don't even wanna waste my time reviewing this. DESTRUCTOR is a gay band from Cleveland, Ohio who think it's cool to be in a 'Thrash' band and wear chains'n'leather and try to look evil. The songs are mega-weak, mega-wimpy, and mega-unoriginal. If the thought of an EXCITER/JUDAS PRIEST mixture with no balls feels good, get this LP. You might even be able to toe-tap to it. (BORIVOJ KRGIN)

S.O.D. - "Speak English..." LP

8

I'm not quite sure what the purpose behind S.O.D. is. Is it to show all the 'Death Metal Weenie' (©Bob Muldowney) bands how it SHOULD be done?!? Well, S.O.D. comes up short on that one. Or is it to be the ultimate cross-over band, mixing Hardcore Punk and Metal and appealing to both crowds?!? To my ears at least, S.O.D. are pure Metal; besides Billy Milano's somewhat punkish vocals, S.O.D. have as much Hardcore overtones as SLAYER does, which is really almost none. With that off my chest I must admit my liking for this album; it's heavy, it's fast, and it's a bit different.

There's a total of 21 songs on this record, but some of these songs are not really songs. I mean, 'Hey Gordy', 'The Ballad of Jimi Hendrix', and 'Diamonds and Rust', at 5, 4 and 2 seconds respectively, cannot really be taken seriously. Yeah, I guess they're funny the first time you hear them, but after a while they just start to sound stupid.

The rest of the material is all comprised of high-speed thrashers with some excellent METALLICA-like riffing and some cool tempo changes. My personal favorites are probably 'Fussywhipped', 'Kill Yourself', 'Freddy Krueger' and the title track, all extremely heavy, intense and quite distinguishable from

each other. These tracks show S.O.D. at their best, and this is more of the type of stuff I want to see on their next record.

There's no real weak tracks or throwaways, but 'Milano Mosh' and 'Pi Alpha Nu' are a bit inferior to the rest of the material. Overall, however, this is a fairly consistent album.

There you have it; an excellent slab of vinyl it is, but it definitely could have been better. Their attitude, for one thing, certainly needs work. If they take themselves a bit more seriously next time we might even have a killer in our hands. I guess we'll have to wait and see.

One more thing--isn't it funny how the band claims to be pro-American and Scott Ian appears with an 'Anarchy' jacket on the back-sleeve of the record. Makes you wonder about the band's sincerity, doesn't it? (BORIVOJ KRGIN)

OVERKILL - 'Feel the Fire' LP

7

I awaited this release with great anticipation, hoping that it would finally prove that OVERKILL are a lot more than just another Heavy Metal act their demos and EP make them out to be. While it's certainly a better representation of OVERKILL's sound than their 'Overkill' EP, 'Feel the Fire' seems to be a little overpolished, not quite capturing the rawness and the energy of an OVERKILL live show.

The age of the songs on this record ranges from 1 to 3 years so there's no real surprises in terms of new material, but a few older songs such as 'Raise the Dead' and 'There's No Tomorrow' are given new life on 'Feel the Fire'. In contrast, the newest tune on the offer, 'Hammerhead', comes off a bit disappointing, not quite having the same impact as it does in a live situation.

As is the norm nowadays it seems, the production leaves a bit to be desired. While the album is definitely heavier than their EP, the guitar sound is kind of compressed and 'thin', not really sou-

nding like OVERKILL. The other thing is the drum-sound; at times (i.e. beginning of 'Feel the Fire') they sound like the type of drums you'd hear on a MADONNA tune--very lame.

The album contains 9 tracks, 'Raise the Dead', 'Kill at Command', 'There's no Tomorrow', 'Second Son', 'Hammerhead', 'Feel the Fire', 'Blood and Iron', 'Rotten to the Core' and 'Overkill'. The latter two were, of course, on their EP, but these new recordings are superior to the older versions. There's not really much I can say about the songs; none of them is bad and there's no killers, it's just a solid collection of Power Metal songs done in the typical OVERKILL style, not really sounding like anyone else.

If you liked OVERKILL before, you will quite enjoy 'Feel the Fire'. If you never cared for them too much or you've never heard them, I suggest you take a chance with this album. You might be pleasantly surprised. (BORIVOJ KRGIN)

ANTHRAX - 'Spreading the Disease' LP

3

This, ANTHRAX's second album, is definitely a disappointment. There's no way this album is "heavier and faster than 'Fistful of Metal'" as Scott Ian would like to have us think. Sure, it's better produced and the guitar sound is heavier/better, but the material is not nearly as strong as the songs on the band's debut record.

My main complaint is the singer Joe Beladonna. He IS a good singer, but his vocals don't fit in with ANTHRAX's music and make the rather weak songs sound that much worse. I don't want to totally put down his singing, but in this case I much prefer Neil Turbin--at least his screams were powerful. Joe Bela(ma)donna's voice is just overly melodic, and in my opinion he just doesn't cut it for ANTHRAX.

As for the songs, a couple of them sound half-decent, but most of them are quite weak and forgettable. ANTHRAX have fallen into commercialism with 'Spreading the Disease', and all of their older fans should feel cheated. This is not the same band that released the 'Fistful of Metal' album in early '84 and I wonder what direction the band will take with their next album (with Joe on vocals it can only get worse).

I can't see 'Spreading the Disease'

appealing to the Thrash fans OR even your average PRIEST/MAIDEN fan; the material on this record is just not catchy enough. But, then again, if they DO make it big (I would be quite surprised) I will have to eat my words. Only time will tell. (BORIVOJ KRGIN)

ARTILLERY - 'Fear of Tomorrow' LP **8**

I was never a big ARTILLERY fan prior to the release of this LP. I always thought their demos were average at best, and I was sure this album would sound the same. To my surprise, this wasn't the case.

Eventhough most of the tracks on this album were previously available on the band's demo tapes, all the songs are given new life on the record, thanks to the excellent production job. Songs like 'The Almighty' and 'King, Thy Name is Slayer' are nothing short of excellent, sounding a lot more original than the first time around, and this makes 'Fear of Tomorrow' one of the top LP's of '85.

ARTILLERY is not a Death Metal band and they don't pretend to be. Instead, they have combined the obvious SLAYER influences with the more controlled sounds of METALLICA to create a classy, original sound that will take this band far! My personal favorites are the two new cuts, 'Show Your Hate' and 'The Eternal War', which are the heaviest and fastest of the lot, but with the ARTILLERY sound stamped all over it. In contrast, the opener, 'Time Has Come', is probably my least favorite track, not really having any identity alongside the highly-distinguishable sounds of the rest of the material.

There's not much more I could say except that everyone should own a copy of this album. If the next one is as good as this, we are bound to see ARTILLERY become the next Danish Metal band to break big on an international level. It would be a shame to let ARTILLERY go unnoticed--definitely one of Europe's hottest properties!! (BORIVOJ KRGIN)

LIVING DEATH - 'Metal Revolution' LP **6**

For those of you who are not familiar with this West German outfit, 'Metal Revolution' is their second album, the first being the 'Vengeance of Hell' LP of a couple of years ago. While 'M.R.' is an improvement in many ways, LIVING DEATH seem to have lost some of their unique sound in favour of more ACCEPT-style metal that is currently very popular with German bands (i.e. GRAVE DIGGER, HELLOWEEN, FACT, HARDWARE etc.).

Those of you that heard the first album and complained about Thorsten Bergmann's vocals (most of you, probably) will be happy to know that his singing has improved tremendously over the past year or so, now sounding like Udo Dirkschneider/Brian Johnson. His rough-edged vocals add a bit to the overall rawness of the album and are definitely one of the highlights of 'M.R.'.

The songs on the album are all basically what I expected from LIVING DEATH; up-tempo Power Metal in the EXCITER/older ACCEPT vein with little originality or desire to be different. What they do they do quite well, as evidenced on 'Killing Machine', 'Gripping A Heart', 'Shadow of the Dawn' and 'Roads of Destiny', but tracks like 'Deep in Hell' and 'Panic and Hysteria' are just simply boring and listenable at best.

Compared to a lot of new albums and demos I hear, 'Metal Revolution' seems to be a little more professional-sounding and powerful than the rest, but I just can't see LIVING DEATH going anywhere with this album. It's quite listenable but no more than that. (BORIVOJ KRGIN)

RUNNING WILD - 'Branded & Exiled' LP **6**

This is RUNNING WILD's follow-up to their excellent debut of last year, the 'Gates to Purgatory' LP. I did not really know what to expect from this record, but my guess was that the band would most likely take a more commercial approach to their music this time around. Fortunately, I was wrong. Now, I'm not saying that 'Branded & Exiled' is a great album, but at least RUNNING WILD have kept their sound, which is aggressive Heavy Metal verging on Power Metal.

The overall sound of this LP is much the same as that of 'Gates to Purgato-

ry'; in fact, the two albums sound like they were recorded in the same sessions. In terms of material, however, the songs preset herein are a bit inferior to the ones on the band's debut LP.

It's no problem picking out the standout tracks; 'Mordor' and 'Fight the Oppression' are more memorable and catchier than the others, whereas the title track and 'Gods of Iron' sound like the type of songs that could have been rejected from the first album. 'Chains and Leather', originally on the band's 'Like a Hammerblow' demo, is given the 1985 treatment here but still remains the weakest track on the offer.

If you'd heard RUNNING WILD's debut album and liked it, chances are that you will enjoy 'Branded & Exiled'. If you've ever heard the band before and would like to, I advise you to pick up the band's debut record as it is a truer representation of what RUNNING WILD is all about. Fair at best.

(BORIVOJ KRGIN)

WHIPLASH - 1st LP (advance tape) **8**

Recorded in November of last year, this LP was to be titled 'Thunderstruck', but I have recently heard some conflicting reports as to what this album is to be called. At the time of writing, I only have an advance tape of the record and NOT the actual vinyl version, so I can't tell you for sure what it will be titled. By the time you read this, however, the record should be out so you should know what I'm talking about.

WHIPLASH's debut vinyl offering contains 9 tracks, most of which were previously available on their 'Looking Death in the Face' unofficial demo of last year. The only track off their highly-successful 'Thunderstruck' demo that was re-recorded for this LP is 'Spit on Your Grave' and the new recording is far superior to the original version. It is the newer material, however, that I find most impressive.

It seems that WHIPLASH's trip

to San Francisco last Summer had a big influence on their current musical direction; a lot of the newer songs have an EXODUS-feel about them (apparently, WHIPLASH's favorite band), especially in the riffing and the vocal delivery. This is particularly evident in 'Message in Blood' (my favorite track!), 'Stagedive' and 'Warmonger', three of the top tracks on the album. With the exception of 'Last Man Alive', 'Stirrin' the Cauldron' and 'Nailed to the Cross' which are a bit more 'controlled', all the songs are very fast (about SLAYER 'Hell Awaits' speed) and very powerful and heavy at the same time. Tony Portaro's vocals are gut-level and raw, suiting the band's music perfectly and adding that extra touch of originality.

WHIPLASH's debut LP is probably the top album of 1986 so far; it totally crushes N.M.E.'s debut release and I even like it better than the new METALLICA LP. While I doubt that it will be one of the year's best (especially with the awesome SODOM and SACRIFICE albums due out any day now!), WHIPLASH's first album should be in everybody's record collection. After all, they're probably the best thing we have in the tri-state area. Move over OVERKILL, S.O.D. and NUCLEAR ASSAULT, here comes WHIPLASH!!

(BORIVOJ KRGIN)

KING DIAMOND - 'Fatal Portrait' LP **7**

I don't exactly know why I always liked MERCYFUL FATE as much as I did. I mean, they were never really what you would call a 'heavy' band, but there was always an evil-feel to their music, even on 'Don't Break the Oath' which many considered to be a bit of a let-down (myself included). While their earlier material was undoubtedly a bit heavier, M.FATE never really changed in the course of their existence, always putting out quality product. As for King Diamond's vocals I never found them to be anything but excellent and quite appropriate. True, lately he's only been using the higher end of his vocal chords, but whether you like him or not is just a matter of taste. I mean, I think Dan Beehler's voice is fucking gay and annoying but I know people that love him. So, onto KING DIAMOND...

As hinted on the 'No Presents for Christmas' 12-inch, KING DIAMOND is

really not a far cry from M.FATE; the songs may not be as long or have as many parts, but this is more or less a continuation of that ill-fated band (huh?).

'Fatal Portrait' is not a great album; much like on 'Don't Break the Oath', the guitar seems to be lost somewhere in the mix, taking away a bit from the songs. In addition, King Diamond's vocals rarely hit the lower part of the register on this record. He is constantly way up there somewhere and I am kind of starting to understand people's complaints about his singing.

The songs themselves are all very good, some excellent, like 'The Jonah', 'Lurking in the Dark' and 'Halloween', but there seems to be a lack of power all throughout. I guess King has gotten wimpier with age; it sure seems like it. What the hell happened to stuff like 'Doomed by the Living Dead', 'Burning the Cross', 'Curse of the Pharaohs', 'Corpse Without a Soul' etc.??! While there's no totally weak tracks, 'Haunted' and the instrumental 'Voices from the Past' are of no more than filler status, and sound like the sort of stuff RUSH would have done a few years back (especially 'Haunted').

Overall, 'Fatal Portrait' is really a natural progression from 'Don't Break the Oath'; a bit more straight-forward, a bit 'lighter', and probably a bit more accessible. While it's not a bad LP by any means, it does make you wonder what the next album will sound like. The change will certainly not be for the better, I assure you that! Nonetheless, a must for all MERCYFUL FATE freaks.

(BORIVOJ KRGIN)

CHAINSAW - 'Hell's Burning Up' LP **3**

I don't want to totally rip this album apart, but I really feel it should not have been released. CHAINSAW play some third-rate ACCEPT-like Metal that I find quite unacceptable in any terms. I mean, even the more mainstream people will find CHAINSAW's music to be not classy enough or catchy en-

ough for their liking. With all the mediocre records that are being released nowadays, there was no need for this album to be released. Stay away from this one! (BORIVOJ KRGIN)

SACRILEGE - 'Behind the Realms...' EP **8**

This SACRILEGE hails from England and 'Behind the Realms of Madness' is their first vinyl effort. I never knew this band even existed before the release of this EP, but I'm sure as hell glad I got to hear them because they are definitely at the very top of the British Thrash Metal movement right now (along with WARHAMMER).

The material on this 6-song EP ranges from the Doom Metal of 'The Closing Irony' to the all-out Thrash of 'Life-line' and 'Shadow from Mordor', but what sets SACRILEGE apart from all other Metal outfits are the quite-unique vocals of Tam (yes, we're talking about a chick!). At first a bit annoying, her singing style grows on you with every listen, until you finally realize that she is a vital part of SACRILEGE's sound.

At times one can notice some slight punk overtones in SACRILEGE's music, but that is something that I imagine will disappear with the band's next vinyl release, as seems to be the norm with most of the semi-metallic Hardcore bands today. Unlike a lot of them however, SACRILEGE is metallic enough to be labelled pure Metal, and this EP is heavier than most Metal albums I'd heard in 1985.

Definitely one of 1985's best releases--let's see a full-length LP soon!! How about it??!! (BORIVOJ KRGIN)

BLESSED DEATH - 'Kill or be Killed' LP **7**

This is the debut album from the New York-based band BLESSED DEATH. I've always heard only bad things about these guys, and while they're not perfect, they don't suck either.

'Kill or be Killed' is a pretty good Power (not Death) Metal album with ample amounts of tempo changes and speed. The vocals are the focal point as in cuts like 'Omen of Fate' (a Power Metal gem!), 'Eternal War' (an up-tempo killer), and the best cut of the LP, 'Knights of Old Bridge' (totally killer with tempo changes, speed and a slow

section that has total feeling---a definite winner!! (cough, cough, cough--ED.) BLESSED DEATH could really win some respect with more cuts in this vein.

To describe BLESSED DEATH's music, I'd say it's a speedy FATE musically, with some strong up-front vocals and killer screams. So what's wrong with this LP then? 'Napalm', 'Into the Ovens' & 'Pig Slaughter' are three very weak cuts that do nothing to help this band in their strive for underground domination (neither does the rest of the LP!--ED.). These are cuts that sound like they were not as well-written as the above tracks.

The last criticism for the album would be the guitar sound; while it's definitely heavy, it sounds weak in the mix. Had the album been better-produced it could have saved the weaker tracks from being a total bore.

On the whole, 'Kill or be Killed' is a solid album and by no means should be considered lame, weak, or wimpy. I suppose a heavier guitar sound and more cuts like 'Omen of Fate' and 'Knights of Old Bridge' should make the next offering a lot better than this. As for 'Kill or be Killed', do check it out!! A good debut!
(HENRY ISAAC)

HELLOWEEN - 'Walls of Jericho' LP 8

This is the debut LP from Germany's HELLOWEEN and is one of the better LP's I've heard in a while. HELLOWEEN combine catchy rhythms and melodic vocals amidst speed songs to create an original and ultra-heavy sound!

Of the eight tracks (plus an intro), the only weak track is the moderately-fast 'Gorgar', which is too one-paced for my taste.

Choosing the best track is difficult, but 'Ride the Sky', the METALLICA-like (riffing-wise) 'Guardians' and 'How Many Tears' stand out with their melodic power that is quite unique.

The production, while not as good as on their EP, is still heavy and above average.

If this album (minus 'Gorgar') was a demo, it would have been right along SACRIFICE's 'The Exorcism' demo as my favorite demo tape of 1985! As an album it was still one of 1985's best, and still is one of my faves.

If you've never heard HELLOWEEN, I suggest you check them out soon! This album proves that not only shit-bands are getting signed but some truly killer bands that are still out there. 'Walls of Jericho' is a great album from a great band, and definitely one of 1985's best! Search for this, even at its somewhat high import-price it's an essential buy! Need I say more??!!?
(HENRY ISAAC)

METALLICA - 'Master of Puppets' LP 8

This is METALLICA's third album and follow-up to 1984's 'Ride the Lightning' and a strong follow-up it is! While most Death Metal ~~losers~~ hate these guys, METALLICA is way heavier than your UHF's of this World. This LP incorporates different moods of heaviness, subtleness, and speed (what was that, Henry?!--ED.) to make it a definite winner.

Of the eight tracks included, top tracks are 'Battery', 'Master of Puppets', 'Damage Incorporated' and the totally killer 'Disposable Heroes' which is perfect!

There are also some weaker things on the album, but are still heavy as hell! The only real let-down is the 8-minute instrumental 'Orion' which is a waste of time and vinyl.

If you hated METALLICA before, chances are you still will (which could be re-phrased as: 'If you were stupid before, you are most likely still stupid' --ED.), although 'M.O.P.' is a slightly faster album than their second one. This is true Power Metal with some killer riffing, at times ala EXODUS (check out 'Battery' to see what I mean!), and a heavy-as-hell production. All self-respecting thrashers should have this as it is even better than their 'Kill 'em All' debut LP of almost 3 years ago. You want it heavy?! You want it H-E-A-V-Y?! 'Master of Puppets' is IT!!!!
(HENRY ISAAC)

UPDATE: The WHIPLASH LP (reviewed here) has just been released and it's called 'Power and Pain'. BUY!!!!!!!!!!!!

SODOM - 'Obsessed by Cruelty' LP **9**
(rough mix tape)

Recorded in late '85, this LP was originally supposed to be released in early '86, but due to line-up and recording problems, the fate of this LP still remains uncertain. Some of the more recent reports claim that SODOM are back in the studio re-recording the album, but I can't say if this is true or not.

At any rate, this is an advance tape of the original recording of the LP, and while the sound quality does leave a bit to be desired, the album rips nevertheless!

'Obsessed by Cruelty' sees SODOM actually developing into a fairly musical (i.e. talented) Death Metal band, unlike their previous material. The songs herein feature more complex riffing, more tempo and riff changes, and basically better musicianship. The speed is still there (fuck, yeah!), but it's used to a greater effect with more varied tempos.

There's no real standouts as every track is pretty much a killer, but 'Death-like Silence', 'Obsessed by Cruelty' and 'Equinox' seem to be more memorable after the first few listens. Songs like 'Proselytism Real', 'Volcanic Slut', 'Fall of Majesty Town', 'Nuctemeron', 'Brandish Deceptor' and the title track may not stick as much the first time, but further listens certainly prove them to be killer tunes.

The only weak track on the whole album is 'Witchhammer', the only one that was previously available on the band's demos. This track sounds way too monotonous alongside the rest of the material and is average at best.

Overall, this is unquestionably SODOM's best recording so far, and one that will assure them a place at the very top of the Death Metal Hall of Fame. I have no idea when 'Obsessed by Cruelty' will be released or if this recording will make the vinyl, but I strongly urge you to buy it once it's out. GODLY STUFF!!!!

(BORIVOJ KRGIN)

BATHORY - 'The Return' LP **8**

BATHORY is the band that released what I thought was the top album of 1984, their debut LP simply entitled 'Bathory'. It was one of the rawest and fastest Metal releases ever, and definitely the heaviest thing any Swedish band had put out. 'The Return' is BATHORY's second LP, and even though the element of surprise and excitement is gone, this album is just as raw and heavy as its predecessor.

Like their first LP, 'The Return' opens up with a very long and eerie intro called 'Revelation of Doom' which never seems to end.

'Total Destruction' is the first track on the offer here and it's one of my personal favorites--a killer!! 'Borrowed for Burning' is slow to mid-tempo with a bit of a disco beat to it, but still heavy. 'The Winds of Mayhem', 'Bestial Lust' and 'Possessed' are in the same vein as 'Total Destruction' but aren't quite as memorable or as good.

BATHORY's main influence is obviously VENOM, no matter what Quorthon chooses to say, from the songtitles ('Possessed', 'Sadist') to the actual music as is the case with 'Rite of Darkness' and 'Bestial Lust'.

The new recording of 'The Return of Darkness and Evil' (previously available on the 'Scandinavian Metal' compilation LP) is not as good as the original version, despite the fact that it's played almost twice as fast on this album (which proves that speed is NOT everything!); it's just not the same song.

The production on 'The Return' is somewhat appropriate but not quite as good as it could have been. The vocals again are slightly in the background, while the guitar sound is often too fuzzy to tell what's going on. Then again that may have been intentional.

If you liked 'Bathory' you will not be disappointed with 'The Return'. BATHORY is back!!! (BORIVOJ KRGIN)

Here's what I'd give some other albums that I didn't get a chance to review in this issue: HIRAX - 'Raging Violence' (7), MORSURE - 'Acceleration Process' (6), VOI VOD - 'Rrrroooaaarrr' advance tape (6), CELTIC FROST - 'To Megatherion' (5!!), NASTY SAVAGE (6).

DEATH ON TAPE

MASTER - '85 demo (advance LP trx) (U.S.)

This Chicago outfit is really a continuation of DEATH STRIKE, the band that put out the awesome 'Fucking Death' 4-song demo in early '85. Bassist/vocalist Paul Speckman and guitarist Chris Mittlebrun joined forces with the original MASTER drummer Bill Schmidt (MASTER was the name of the original band that existed before DEATH STRIKE) and went into the studio to record a self-financed 9-song album, a part of which they are now selling in cassette form (labeled as their 1985 demo).

Of the five tracks only one ('Mangled Dehumanization') is a re-recording from the DEATH STRIKE demo (I know for a fact that all four have been re-recorded), and even though it is a killer tune, I prefer the DEATH STRIKE version. The other four tracks, 'Unknown Soldier', 'Master', 'Funeral Bit-ch' and 'Terrorizer' (instrumental), are all ULTRA-HEAVY doses of Death Metal in its purest form. While MASTER are by no means trend-setters their sound is somewhat unique, but can be described as a mixture of SODOM, POSSESSED, DEATH and early VENOM. Not overly fast or technical, MASTER are DEATHLY-HEAVY and if and when this LP gets released it will RULE!

At the moment MASTER is a 2-piece band. Chris is out and the band are seeking a long-haired (!?) guitarist who's willing to move to Chicago and join the band. All interested parties can contact the band at MASTER; 2843 North Spaulding; Chicago IL 60618; USA. (B.K.)

BLOODLUST - '85 'The Suicidal Mission' demo (U.S.)

Not to be confused with the L.A. band of the same name this BLOODLUST hails from New Jersey and 'The Suicidal Mission' is as far as I know their first demo tape.

I wouldn't label BLOODLUST as Death Metal; they have more of a Power Metal sound verging on Thrash, especially during the somewhat SLAYER-like riffing of the tape's opener 'Menacing Thunder'. And unlike most of the bands nowadays they have SONGS, well-written and quite distinguishable from each other. The overall sound of the tape is very powerful and fairly raw, suiting the band's material perfectly. The vocals are screamed out in gut-wrenching fashion, not really comparable to anyone and definitely not trendy-sounding as a lot of Thrash Metal vocalists nowadays. Overall, an impressive tape--definitely worth searching for!! I wanna hear more! (B.K.)

SAVAGE DEATH - '85 'Mass Genocide' demo (U.S.)

SAVAGE DEATH, like BLOODLUST, is another hot new outfit from New Jersey that has recently put out a demo tape. 'Mass Genocide' contains five numbers in the typical Thrash-vein with emphasis on speed. What the band lack in originality they make up in sheer power and intensity, and they do a good job. True, the songtitles may not be the most original titles in the World ('Evil Dead', 'Legions of Doom', 'Satan's Throne'), and the seemingly-blatant rip-off of the 'Infernal Death' riff in 'Evil Dead' make them a bit less enjoyable than they could be, but there's no denying it--this band has potential! With both CORPSE and OBLIVION changing their directions recently, SAVAGE DEATH just might jump ahead of its competition. SAVAGE DEATH 127 Carmita Ave.; Rutherford NJ 07070; USA. (B.K.)

LEGACY - '85 demo (U.S.)

It seems that San Francisco is undoubtedly the Thrash capital of the World. After all it is S.F. that is responsible for bringing us the likes of POSSESSED, EXODUS, and more recently such hot young acts as INSANITY, DESECRATION, SACRILEGE, BLACK DETHE, DEATH ANGEL, REDRUM, FORBIDDEN EVIL, MORDRED etc. LEGACY is another addition to that list, and a decent one at that.

Now, I wouldn't really say LEGACY is a Thrash band; they are more of a powerful Heavy Metal band and their sound is somewhat reminiscent of that of OVERKILL, powerful yet classy.

Produced by Doug Piercy of CONTROL (ex-ANVIL CHORUS), the demo contains four tracks ranging from the Power Metal of 'Reign of Terror' to the more melodic 'Alone in the Dark'. Not overly fast, original or heavy, LEGACY is really only listenable at best, for now at least. Check it out but don't hold your breath. (B.K.)

GENOCIDE - 1/26/86 demo (U.S.)

Yeah, GENOCIDE is back! This 12-song tape is the first official demo from these guys, and it KILLS!! You want speed?!?! Well, you got it!! Along with INSANITY and CRYPTIC SLAUGHTER, GENOCIDE ranks as the fastest Metal band in the World (eventhough I'm not so sure C.SLAUGHTER can be labeled as Metal). Running just slightly under the 25-minute mark, this demo sounds like something DEATH would sound like with Eric, if he were still in the band. A few of the songs sound a bit undistinguishable from the rest, but the band's intensity is so overwhelming that it doesn't really matter. I guess they could use a few more tempo-changes in their songs, but this tape is excellent nevertheless. Hot, to say the least!!! GENOCIDE c/o Scott Carlson; 3822 Beechwood Ave.; Flint MICHIGAN 48506; USA. (B.K.)

SYRANAX - '85 'The Battallion of Death' demo (U.S.)

From Austin, Texas comes SYRANAX, a hot new band that definitely has the potential to go places if given half a chance. Their 4-song demo is really a standout in every aspect, from the sound-quality to the material itself.

SYRANAX's sound is very reminiscent of that of DARK ANGEL, particularly in the vocal department, but heavier and better. There's a lot of tempo changes, a lot of fairly complex riffing, and mainly a lot of POWER!! The band's musicianship is excellent and it is only complimented by the great production. The music might be a little lacking in originality, but with the average age of only 17, SYRANAX has massive potential. A must! SYRANAX; 5737 Palo Blanco Lane; Austin TX 78744; USA. (B.K.)

HELL - '85 'Satanic Death' demo (WEST GERMANY)

Another poor-quality demo from another trendy German Death Metal band. HELL sound like they could at least be listenable if the sound-quality had been better, but their cliché-after-cliché approach won't help. Get it just for the HELL of it (ha, ha, ha!!!!) (B.K.)

NECRONOMICON - '85 demo (WEST GERMANY)

Like HELL, NECRONOMICON are from Germany, and also like HELL, they are pretty much a trendy Death Metal band. But unlike HELL's tape, this is obviously a studio demo. The sound quality is good but the tape sounds like it was never mixed; the drums are barely audible whereas the vocals are way too upfront. Musically, NECRONOMICON is comparable to early SODOM, combining very basic riffing and song-structures with the growling vocals typical of German bands. Clichéd?? You bet!! NECRONOMICON c/o Alexander Strickstock; Baumannstr. 7; 7858 Weil 5; WEST GERMANY. (B.K.)

TERMINAL DEATH - Dec.'85 demo (U.S.)

Following the footsteps of MASTER (Gods!!) and NATAS, is a young new band from Chicago by the name of TERMINAL DEATH. Judging by their first 6-song demo tape they could easily become one of the most talked-about bands on the Death Metal scene if given the right push. Recorded in the same studio where MASTER recorded their LP, the demo is an excellent mixture of POSSESSED, MASTER, DEATH and SLAYER, and one of the best new demos I've heard in a while. Very good production, excellent material, and enough power to spare--what more could you ask for?? Just don't look for originality. ESSENTIAL!! TERMINAL DEATH c/o Shaun D. Glass; 15 Indian Tree; Highland Park IL 60035; USA. (B.K.)

INSANITY - '85 rehearsals (U.S.)

When I first listened to this tape I was totally amazed by its excellent sound; there is very little doubt that this is the best-sounding rehearsal tape you're ever going to come across. It even sounds better than a lot of 'demos' out there (German bands, take note!!!!).

Musically, INSANITY is obviously influenced by the likes of SLAYER, POSSESSED, and EXODUS, but they manage to inject some heavy doses of speed into their songs that gives them a somewhat unique sound. Along with GENDICIDE and the 'new' WEHRMACHT, INSANITY easily wins the 'fastest Metal band on Earth' award. All you people out there that think POSSESSED is fast, wait 'till you get a load of this. The material itself is very impressive, from the frequent show-opener 'Fire Death Fate' to 'The Ultimate Death', 'Blood for Blood' and 'Death After Death', all high-speed doses of deadly mayhem, with some killer riffing and awesome drumming. The vocalist/rhythm guitarist Joe Dezuniga manages to belch out some powerful growls that will rip your face right off. Godly stuff!!!!!!

I await a studio demo with great anticipation--INSANITY rips!!! Write to the band at: INSANITY; 468 Chesapeake Ave.; Foster City CA. 94404; USA. (B.K.)

NUCLEAR ASSAULT - '86 'Nuclear Assault's Next Demo' demo #2 (U.S.)

The long-awaited follow-up to the 7-song tape of a year and a half ago, this demo will probably get NUCLEAR ASSAULT the kind of following they need to get some record label interest. While I wouldn't say it's great, this demo is a big improvement over that first demo and a much better representation of what N.C. are all about.

Of the five tracks on this tape, 'Radiation Sickness', 'Betrayal', 'Demolition', 'Live, Suffer, Die' (instrumental) and 'Hang the Pope', the latter two are quite short and are not really to be taken seriously ('LSD' is used as the show-opener whereas 'HTP' is really more of a crowd pleaser and works a lot better in a live situation than on tape). Of the other three, 'Betrayal' is probably the best, where John Connely actually sings rather than whines and the band don't try to be all speed. 'Radiation Sickness' and 'Demolition' are also very good (both fast) but John Connely's often-annoying screams make the music a bit hard to get into. Good stuff, nevertheless. (B.K.)

WARHAMMER - '85 'Abattoir of Death' demo (U.K.)

Here's a band that could put some pride back into British Metal. This is WARHAMMER's first demo and while it might be lacking in originality, the overall rawness and intensity makes up for it in killer fashion.

From the opening sounds of 'Halloween' (very similar to WEHRMACHT's 'Night of Pain') this band's sheer power comes through clearly. After the instrumental intro the band burst into a fast-paced number with some good riffing, not unlike that of SLAYER. The vocals, while being somewhat in the background, are quite evil-sounding and less trendy than a lot of today's Death Metal vocalists. 'Blood on Satan's Claw' is a bit slower with verses not unlike those of 'Leave Me in Hell' by VENOM. 'Satan's Angel' and 'Carnal Lust' return things to the SLAYER territory, with touches of BATHORY here and there, particularly on the vocals and the raw production. 'Prophecy' and 'Abattoir of Death' close the tape in good fashion but come across as somewhat of filler material alongside the more distinguishable (i.e. better) songs on the rest of the tape. Still, a very impressive tape from the leaders of Britain's Thrash Metal movement (along with SACRILEGE). A must! Write: WARHAMMER c/o Mitch; 14 Delphside Court; Broseley; Shropshire; TF12 55R; ENGLAND. (B.K.)

LEEWAY - '85 'Enforcer' demo (U.S.)

NY's answer to C.O.C.? Yes, and more!!!! It's only been recently that LEEWAY have been getting the kind of attention they really deserve and aft-

er seeing them live recently all I can say is that LEEWAY's definitely one of the top NY bands, along with OVERKILL (who are pretty bigheaded nowadays!), S.O.D. (who've always been acting like dicks) and NUCLEAR ASSAULT (who are getting more and more publicity due to the popularity of S.O.D.).

The 'Enforcer' tape opens up in killer fashion with the title track, a fast-paced thrasher with some excellent gut-level vocals from Eddie and good riffing from A.J.. 'Marathon' and 'On the Outside' are both excellent mid-tempo numbers that again highlight the band's unique sound. The only complaint I really have is the guitar sound which needs to have more of that 'crunch' for the songs to come across to their fullest potential. Live, I'm glad to say, they don't have this problem. 'Self Defense' is probably the closest they come to being a hardcore band; it is a fairly short blast of speed but quite intense I must say. The tape-closer, 'Be Loud' is an older number which has been re-recorded from the band's debut demo (this being their second one). It really doesn't sound out of place at all alongside the more newer material. It's an excellent ending to this killer tape.

I'd like nothing more than to see these guys signed. With all the aforementioned 'rock-star' bands from NY, LEEWAY is the one band that could make us all proud. Thumbs-up for LEEWAY! Everyone is urged to send \$3 (postpaid) to: LEEWAY; 33-03 143rd Street; Flushing NY 11354; USA. (B.K.)

DEATH MILITIA - live 12/14/85 DMZ, Toronto (SOUNDBOARD) (C)

Along with SACRIFICE, DEATH MILITIA is definitely the best Thrash band out of Toronto at the moment. Unlike SLAUGHTER who would like nothing better than to be the next CELTIC FROST, DEATH MILITIA are clearly striving for a sound of their own, possibly even more so than SACRIFICE (who are fucking AWESOME, nevertheless!!!). There's a few rehearsal tapes going around on the tape-trading circuit, but none has better sound than this, the soundboard recording of their last show to this date. All the classics are here; 'Onslaught of Death', 'Death Militia', as well as the newer material like 'Wrath' and 'Nuclear Devastation'. For those of you who have not yet heard DEATH MILITIA, I'd say they're somewhat along the lines of SACRIFICE, based on speed-riffing and vocals that are screamed out in gut-wrenching fashion. Sounds cool??! Trust me, it rips!!

Since DEATH MILITIA are currently undergoing some line-up changes and a studio demo doesn't seem likely for a while at least, I suggest you do your best to get hold of this tape--it'll be worth the effort! Write: DEATH MILITIA c/o Dave Read; 36 Bellbury Cr.; Willowdale Ontario; M2J 2J8 CANADA. (B.K.)

KOTSEN - '85 demo (SWITZERLAND)

I hope this is a joke. KOTSEN, I'm told, features none other than Steve Warrior, an ex-HELLHAMMER member and Tom Warrior's brother. If this 'demo' was done seriously it's easily one of the worst demos ever recorded. This is not music, this is noise! Not even good noise, just something that sounds like a long, boring intro with all different voices and weird sounds. The 'demo' contains 10 tracks and is approximately 8 minutes long (!). Absolutely ignore this at sight--pure G-A-R-B-A-G-E!!!! (B.K.)

SAMHAIN - '85 'The Courier' demo (DENMARK)

I don't really consider ARTILLERY Thrash, so I guess it would be safe to say that SAMHAIN is the first Danish Thrash Metal band. 'The Courier' is their first demo, and it is quite promising.

The sound quality of 'The Courier' is very good, definitely above average when it comes to Death/Thrash bands. The drums in particular are quite loud in the mix, which makes the music a bit more powerful. The material itself is decent, but quite unoriginal.

I have nothing against bands using other bands' ideas to build a sound of their own, but what SAMHAIN is doing is merely ripping CELTIC FROST off, from the vocals to the riffing, and I really can't take them too seriously

based on 'The Courier'. All three tracks, 'Plaque of Messiah', 'Prince of Evil' and 'Salvation', sound like CELTIC FROST outtakes, and I am not a big fan of C.F., let alone a C.F. copy. Pretty boring stuff.

I understand that the new material by SAMHAIN is more in the EXODUS/SLAYER direction, so I'll definitely be interested in hearing some of their newer stuff. As for now, I can only see CELTIC FROST fanatics getting into this, and nobody else. Not my cup of tea. (B.K.)

MEDIEVAL - '86 demo #3 (U.S.)

Not much to say about this one. By now most of you have probably heard this band and you either love'em or hate'em. I hate them. And I hate them a LOT! If you'd heard this band before your opinion won't change. If you'd never heard them in your life you might want to take a chance on this tape, but I wouldn't recommend it. This most definitely is not Metal, psychedelic Rock maybe, but not Metal. AVOID THIS!! (B.K.)

LETHAL AGGRESSION - '85 'From the Cunt of the Fucking Whore' demo (U.S.)

This demo sees LETHAL AGGRESSION adopting a much more hardcore sound than on their live demo. There's a definite S.O.D. influence all over, but the sound quality leaves a lot to be desired. Granted, they're pretty fast, and fairly enjoyable, but Thrash Metal they're not. For all the 'moshers' out there this is a must!! Rob Defrocia; 555 Duquesne Blvd.; Brick NJ 08723 USA. (B.K.)

LEGION OF DEATH - '85 'Have a Nice Death' demo (U.S.)

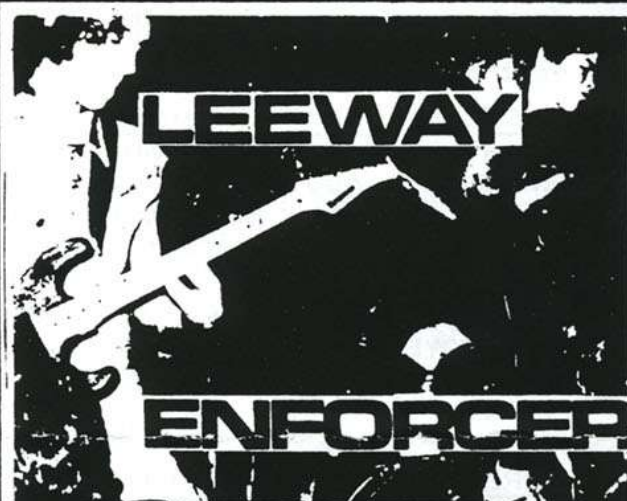
From Denver, Colorado comes LEGION OF DEATH, L.O.D. for short, and they are pretty hot, I must say. This is an 8-song, 15-minute studio demo, so the sound quality is quite good. Of the 8 songs, only 3 are really what one considers by a 'song' ('Condemned to Hell', 'Deathride to Hell' and 'Excessive Violence'). The other 5 ('Fuck You', 'I Fucked your Mom', 'Violent Moshing', 'Anti-pose' and 'Fuck off & Die') are all short, offensive and quite funny, the type of tracks you'd expect to find on the next S.O.D. record. The three 'serious' songs are all excellent ('Excessive Violence' being the only weaker one), somewhat VENOM-ish at times. This is what N.M.E. should sound like!! Definitely worth getting. Write: L.O.D.; 2046 Kearney; Denver CO 80207; USA. (B.K.)

ANTICHRIST - '85 'Slaughter in Hell' demo (WEST GERMANY)

Not to be confused with the imaginary band from England, ANTICHRIST are one of Germany's latest additions to the list of trendy Death Metal bands. Songs like 'Deathlife of Eternity', 'Roses of Evil', '1994 Error', 'Slaughter in Hell' are just plain weak and forgettable, and make this 6-song demo rather worthless. No real speed, power, or anything that even resembles originality. Just some early SODOM-type shit with no balls. Typical. (B.K.)

ASSASSIN - '85 'Holy Terror' demo (WEST GERMANY)

The ANTICHRIST review could very well apply to ASSASSIN as well. While ASSASSIN are a bit better and more listenable than the ANTICHRIST boys, this is also Cheese Metal, with no originality whatsoever and a sound that is a bla-



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tant rip-off of early SODOM. Listenable, but no more than that. (B.K.)

MORBID TERMINATION - '85 'Aggressive Destruction' demo (U.S.)

Not much to say about this one. Don't be fooled by the name, this is no Death/Thrash outfit. This Texan band is much too lame and unoriginal to appeal to any particular group of people. It's too lame for the hardcores and certainly not original enough (or good enough) for the more mainstream metallers. Avoid at all costs!!!! (B.K.)

NECROMANSY - live 10/31/85 Masonic Temple, West Haven, CT. (U.S.)

What a joke! This band should not be confused with the Canadian outfit of the same name (plus numerous others that might exist all over the World). This NECROMANSY hails from Connecticut and is one of the trendiest, cheesiest bands you'll ever come across. Not only do they have the nerve to rip-off NASTY SAVAGE's 'Savage Desire' and call it 'Death Troops', but they do 'Unchained Angel' as part of their set. Some of their other 'originals' include 'Tormenting Death' (?!*), 'Hell Trip' (intro) and 'Nuclear Legions'. Needless to say, they also sound like various songs by other, more popular (i.e. better) outfits. Forget it!!! (B.K.)

ANNIHILATOR - '85 demo (CANADA)

Yet another Canadian band that's ready to make its mark on the World. I have no idea what part of Canada these guys are from, but they sure as hell mean business! Not overly fast or original, ANNIHILATOR are definitely HEAVY, as they constantly spill out riffs that will melt your face on first listen. Musically, ANNIHILATOR seem to draw their influences from the likes of METALLICA and SLAYER without necessarily sounding like either one of them. What we have here is a good-quality 5-song demo by a band that certainly has the potential to go places. No mosh here; just sheer power. Good stuff!! (B.K.)

EXCEL - 1/16/86 'Refuse to Quit' demo #3 (U.S.)

A weird combination of Funk, Metal and whatever else. You can't accuse EXCEL of copying anyone, they definitely have a style of their own.

This is the band's third demo and possibly the best one yet! While I could do without Dan's rather clean, at-times-spoken vocals, this is what gives EXCEL their original sound, and they put it to good use. The music as heavy as you can find, from some doomy early SABBATH-like riffing to a lot of SLAYER-type fretboard work that has an appeal of its own. This, together with a variety of tempo-changes, and how can you go wrong?! Power and originality, all the way! A definite thumbs-up!! (B.K.)

MORDRED - '85 demo (U.S.)

Unlike other new bands from San Francisco such as INSANITY, BLACK DETHE and DESECRATION who draw their main influences from the likes of POSSESSED, SLAYER and DEATH, MORDRED stick more to the EXODUS/METALLICA territory, not unlike their Frisco buddies DEATH ANGEL and LEGACY.

The main complaint I have about the band's 4-song demo is the production. The singer sounds like he's standing ten feet away from the microphone while the guitar-sound is often pretty 'thin'.

The material itself is very good, very much along the lines of EXODUS, but not quite as up-tempo. The instrumental 'There and Back Again' is a lot more enjoyable than a lot of instrumentals, containing some hot riffing that just won't let up. If MORDRED ever go into a better studio we might even be up for a killer. The potential is definitely there. (B.K.)

MUTILATOR - late '85 / early '86 rehearsals (U.S.-NY!)

Hahahahahahaahahahahahahahahahahaahahahahahaahahahahahaahahahaha
hahahahahahaahahahahahahahahahahaahhaahahahahahahahahahahaahahahahaha
hahahahahahaahahahahahahahahahahaahahahahahahaahahahahaha!!! (B.K. & H.I.)

DETENTE - '85 demo (U.S.)

Now, this kills with speed and class!! Four tracks of varying mayhem with some GODLY vocals from Dawn Crosby (yes, a female!). She screams her way thru classics like 'Widow's Walk' (featured on METAL MASSACRE 7), 'Holy War' and 'Shattered Illusions', each being same classy Power Metal killer!! The last track, 'Vultures in the Sky', while far from wimpy, is straight-ahead melodic Heavy Metal and not as devastating as the aforementioned tracks. Search for this one....Power Metal at its finest!! Write: DETENTE; 5554 Romaine St.; Hollywood CA 90038; USA. (H.I.)

POST MORTEM - '85 'The Dead Shall Rise' demo #2 (U.S.)

This is the second demo from POST MORTEM and sees them adopting a more Metal sound than on their 'Punk After Death' demo. The sound is heavy and is full of a sludge attack that sounds totally fresh. Of the five tracks the best are the killer 'Ready to Die' and 'Waiting for a Funeral', although all the tracks are pretty cool. POST MORTEM's vocals are growled but with a melodic touch which is definitely original if anything else. Anyway, it's a good demo that I definitely suggest you check out! (H.I.)

CORPSE - Feb. '86 'Core of Destruction' demo (U.S.)

CORPSE's long-awaited debut demo is here and it's not quite what I expected. It seems that, fed up with the lack of originality on the Death Metal scene, CORPSE decided to totally change their sound, now being almost a carbon-copy of NYC MAYHEM from the mid-'85 period. There is no doubt that NYC MAYHEM was the biggest influence on CORPSE's new style, as the similarity between the two is unmistakable. But, while NYC MAYHEM were highly-original when they reached their peak in the Summer of '85, CORPSE comes off as just a second-rate copy, and I can't say I'm too impressed. The people that are strictly into Metal will not find anything of interest on 'Core of Destruction'. Those that loved NYC MAYHEM's June '85 demo will definitely want to check this out. Write to: CORPSE c/o Dan Iannuzzelli; 5 Ridgeway Court; West Orange NJ 07052; USA. (B.K.)

HATRED - Feb. '86 'Drowning in Afterbirth' demo #2 (U.S.)

This one came as quite a surprise!! I hated HATRED's first 'Violence from Hell' 4-song demo of last year, and I more-or-less expected the same from this one. But, not so.

'Drowning in Afterbirth' is a 7-song studio demo that really crushes that tape from last year in every aspect. Mike Depoy's vocals are highly-original yet powerful as he screeches his way thru some lightning-speed thrashers that are pretty much easily-distinguishable from each other. The riffing of Jerry Dalessandro may not be extremely technical, but it is highly-effective and quite appropriate.

While I doubt HATRED could perform these songs live with the same conviction, 'Drowning in Afterbirth' is an impressive tape, and one that will take them far! Write: HATRED; 4 South Park Drive; West Orange NJ 07052; USA (B.K.)

AGGRESSION - '85 demo #2 (CANADA)

This isn't really a new demo, it's just a re-recording of 3 tracks from their first 4-song tape. Featured are 'Evil Fox' (very SLAYER-like on the riffing; tempo switching off from moderately-paced to up-tempo during the verses and the chorus), 'Metal Slaughter' (up-tempo, catchy chorus and fairly heavy, but the weakest of the three tracks), and 'Torment or Death' (very fast, also SLAYER-ish but with a somewhat unique touch). Overall, an excellent tape that should be heard by everyone. With the new material (like 'Poseidon', 'Frozen Aggressor', 'Adrenalin', 'Kachina Dolls', and 'Brain Damage') supposedly being even faster and heavier than this, it's only a matter of time before AGGRESSION gets signed. AGGRESSION c/o Johnny Hart; C.P.127 Succ. St-Michel, Montreal; Quebec; CANADA H2A 3L9. (B.K.)

NATAS - Jan.'86 'Internal Damnation' demo #2 (U.S.)

This is the 2nd demo from Chicago's NATAS, and it is a strange tape. NATAS are too busy trying to sound like MASTER to gain any grounds with this demo. The top track is 'Angel of the Bottomless Pit' which has some power, but the rest of the tape is average and nothing more. I was expecting more from these guys than this. 'Internal Damnation' is an average demo, and if NATAS wants praise they'll have to do better than this. Sorry guys, but MASTER you're NOT! Decent at best! NATAS; 37 Tremont; Fox Lake IL 60020; USA. (H.I.)

FATAL VIOLENCE - '85 demo (U.S.- Chicago)

This band features Doug Trevisan on vocals, who, as you may remember, sang on ENFORCER's '84 5-song demo that received some decent publicity a while ago.

Musically, FATAL VIOLENCE can best be described as a classier, more up-tempo SAVATAGE, but their sound is somewhat unique.

Containing 6 numbers, the demo was recorded in a 4-track studio so the overall sound is quite 'thin', but still impressive considering it was recorded on such a small budget.

Of the 6 tracks none stands out as a killer, but they're all well-written and executed. 'Faces of Death', 'Terror on the Horizon', 'Ashes Tell no Tales', 'Cause for Deliverance', 'Eye of the Storm' and 'Violence is Golden' are all classy, fairly heavy with great emphasis on vocals and melody. If you're strictly into Death/Thrash Metal, by all means stay away from FATAL VIOLENCE, but if you can get into the classier, more melodic side of Metal, you should definitely give FATAL VIOLENCE a shot. You might be pleasantly surprised! Write: FATAL VIOLENCE; 1840 N. Delany; Gurnee IL 60031; USA. (B.K.)

VOOR - '85 demo #2 (CANADA)

This is the first official demo from VOOR and it is a true killer! VOOR play Power/Thrash Metal with enough conviction and power to go far once they put out some vinyl. No comparisons necessary, all four tracks rip and make this one of 1985's best! A must!!!!!!!!!!!!!! VOOR; 2896 St.Sava; Jonquiere Quebec; G7S 2T8 CANADA. (B.K.)

So much for this issue. #2 will hopefully be bigger, better, and a lot more enjoyable to read. If everything goes as planned, I'd like to have at least 10 pages of interviews/articles in the next issue. That will probably raise our cover price by a little, but hell...you'll be getting a 30-page mag.

We are also interested in trading tapes with all serious and reliable people that have access to new demos/rehearsals and live shows. We cannot guarantee a reply to everyone but we will try to do our best and write back to as many people as we can.

Once again, if any bands out there would like to be featured in VIOLENT NOIZE or just have some recordings reviewed, send a tape (demo/rehearsal/live--everything is accepted!!) plus some relevant info. If you'd like to be featured in the mag, also enclose a picture or two and your logo. All tapes that are sent in will be reviewed, that's a guarantee!!! That goes for records too!! Death/Thrash Metal is preferred, but straight-forward Heavy Metal is welcome as well, as long as it's not overly commercial.

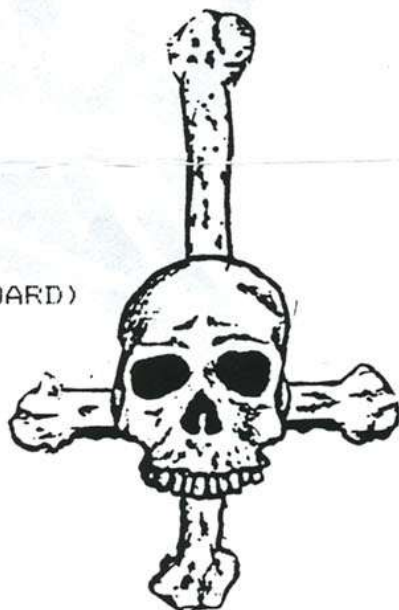
Address all band material (tapes, records, bios, logos, photos, etc.) to:

<u>VIOLENT NOIZE</u> c/o Borivoj Krgin 13-22 135th St. College Point NY 11356 U S A
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DEATHLISTS

BORIVOJ KRGIN

- 1) SACRIFICE - Advance LP trx
- 2) WHIPLASH - 'Power and Pain' LP
- 3) SODOM - 'Obsessed by Cruelty' LP (TEST PRESSING)
- 4) SODOM - live 12/27/85 Belgium Strx (SOUNDBOARD)
- 5) INSANITY - '86 rehearsals
- 6) GENOCIDE - 1/26/86 demo / Feb. '86 rehearsals
- 7) WEHRMACHT - live 1/31/86 Portland, OR (SOUNDBOARD) / Feb. '86 rehearsals
- 8) ANNIHILATOR - '85 demo
- 9) AGGRESSION - '85 demo #2
- 10) HATRED - Feb. '86 'Drowning in Afterbirth' demo #2
- 11) BLOODLUST - '85 'The Suicidal Mission' demo
- 12) TERMINAL DEATH - Dec. '85 demo
- 13) METALLICA - 'Master of Puppets' LP
- 14) MORDRED - '85 demo
- 15) KING DIAMOND - 'Fatal Portrait' LP
- 16) WARHAMMER - '85 'Abattoir of Death' demo
- 17) DEATH MILITIA - live 12/14/85 DMZ, Toronto (SOUNDBOARD)
- 18) DARKNESS - '86 'Titanic War' demo #2
- 19) EXCEL - 1/16/86 'Refuse to Quit' demo #3
- 20) NATAS - Jan. '86 'Internal Damnation' demo #2
- 21) HAGGATH - Jan. '86 rehearsals
- 22) LEGACY - '85 demo
- 23) EXUMER - '85 demo
- 24) DETENTE - '85 'Shattered Illusions' demo
- 25) SAVAGE DEATH - '85 'Mass Genocide' demo



HENRY ISAAC

- 1) SACRIFICE - Advance LP trx
- 2) SAVAGE DEATH - '85 'Mass Genocide' demo
- 3) DETENTE - '85 'Shattered Illusions' demo
- 4) TERMINAL DEATH - Dec. '85 demo
- 5) HELLOWEEN - 'Walls of Jericho' LP
- 6) ENGLISH DOGS - 'Forward into Battle' LP
- 7) DESECRATION - '85 demo / live '85
- 8) DECAPITATION - '85 'Killing the Innocents' demo
- 9) WEHRMACHT - '85 rehearsals
- 10) HATRED - '85 'Violence from Hell' demo #1 / live '85
- 11) MASTER - '85 demo / DEATH STRIKE - '85 'Fuckin Death' demo
- 12) METALLICA - 'Master of Puppets' LP
- 13) AGGRESSION - '85 demo #1 / demo #2
- 14) INSANITY - 'Fire Death Fate' off reh. tape
- 15) CORPSE - Oct. '85 rehearsals
- 16) DEATH MILITIA - '85 rehearsals
- 17) CRYPTIC SLAUGHTER - live 7/30/85 Radio City, LA
- 18) D.O.G. - Dec. '85 rehearsals
- 19) OVERKILL - 'Feel the Fire' LP
- 20) SACRILEGE - '85 'Party With God' demo
- 21) SODOM - live version of 'Obsessed by Cruelty' 12/27/85 (SOUNDBOARD)
- 22) KING DIAMOND - 'Fatal Portrait' LP
- 23) NECROPHAGIA - '85 'Rise from the Crypt' demo
- 24) RAZOR - 'Evil Invaders' LP
- 25) NATAS - Jan. '86 'Internal Damnation' demo #2





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