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#2

UNDERGROUND DEATH METAL MAG



DEATH

WEHRMACHT

SACRIFICE

KREATOR

INSANITY

TERMINAL DEATH

AGGRESSION

THE

DEATH METAL

BIBLE

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If everything goes as planned, VIOLENT NOIZE #3 will be out by late August '86. It will probably have the same number of pages and will be just as heavy if not heavier! I'd like to thank everyone that has supported VIOLENT NOIZE in the past, all the bands that have helped out in any way, and please, SPREAD THE WORD!!!

NEWS

San Francisco's SACRILEGE have recently recorded a 14-song album which they plan to release as soon as a record deal has been secured. Negotiations with Combat are in the process.

TERMINAL DEATH and NATAS have both reportedly been signed to King Klassic Records for album releases in the near future. Speaking of NATAS, it is rumored that they have lost their singer Eric and are currently a three-piece outfit with guitarist Scott and bassist Dave handling all the vocals. As if you care.

Michigan's GENOCIDE have now changed their name to REPULSION and are planning to do some gigs in Toronto in the near future.

NECRONOMICON's LP, simply entitled 'Necronomicon', has just been released on the Gama/Wave label in Europe. Pick it up!

DEATH MILITIA have completed their line-up recently with the addition of bassist Steve Mills. The band is currently a four-piece but plans on getting on another guitarist in the near future to compliment its sound. Watch out for a studio demo in September!!!!!!!

WHIPLASH are currently undergoing heavy problems with their line-up and seem to be breaking up--bassist Tony Bono and drummer T.J. Scaglione both seem to be on their way out. Whether this means the end of the band remains to be seen.

Florida's MASSACRE and MORBID ANGEL have both been picked up recently by Goric Records for an EP and LP respectively. Initial vinyl is expected out during September.

Britain's WARHAMMER have broken up recently due to personal and musical differences. Too bad, huh?!

The full track-listing for the upcoming SLAYER LP is: 'Angel of Death', 'Piece by Piece', 'Necrophobic', 'Altar of Sacrifice', 'Jesus Saves', 'Criminally Insane', 'Epidemic', 'Reborn', 'Post Mortem' and 'Raining Blood'. Rumor has it that the band will record another as-yet-untitled 10-minute song for the album, but whether this will really take place or not is very unclear at this point.

News on the Metal Blade front: HIRAX's new 8-song EP, 'Hate, Fear, Power', is scheduled for release during September. CRYPTIC SLAUGHTER's 'Convicted' LP isn't expected 'till early August at the earliest. The label will also release domestically the new DESTRUCTION ('Eternal Devastation') and SODOM ('Obsessed by Cruelty') LP's.

Disappointment of the year: SODOM's debut LP, 'Obsessed by Cruelty'. Despite the fact that the songs rule (as the original recording proves!), the final version suffers greatly from poor production and weak musicianship. It's a shame.

The once-raging German band VIOLENT FORCE have apparently broken up. Their drummer/leader Atomic Steif is now sitting behind the kit for LIVING DEATH.

DESECRATION, the popular 'Frisco outfit, have split up recently. Most of the members have gone on to form CORRUPTED MORALS (yes, a Hardcore band!), while the new DESECRATION line-up (singer Bob Yost's new band) apparently features "two female guitarists". I'll believe it when I see it.

Toronto's SLAUGHTER should have a 3-song single out by the time you read this. The record, meant for promotional purposes only (only 1000 are being pressed up), will feature three of the songs from SLAUGHTER's forthcoming debut LP 'Strappado', due out after September. The songs featured are: 'Nocturnal Hell', 'Tortured Souls' and 'One Foot in the Grave'.

JOHN (guitar)

BRIAN (drums)

TITO (vocals)

SHANN (bass)

MARK (guitar)



The Dead



Ever since I first heard WEHRMACHT via a rehearsal tape late last year, I always thought of them as one of the top new bands on the Underground scene and one of the few young outfits most likely to survive through the ever-growing fad.

Through several rehearsal and live tapes, and the never-ending efforts of the bandmembers to get them around, WEHRMACHT quickly became one of the best-known 'demo-less' bands on the Underground. It was obvious that this band was something special.

In early April, WEHRMACHT finally entered the studio to record their first demo tape, a 7-song affair entitled 'Beermacht' (review elsewhere in this issue). The potential the band showed on their earlier recordings was again evident, despite the somewhat different (more Hardcore-influenced) direction.

WEHRMACHT was originally founded by drummer Brian Lehfelddt and bassist Shann Mortimer in the not-so-Metallic depths of Portland, Oregon. The band took its shape in June of 1985, when the two hooked up with guitarist John Duffy, who in turn knew vocalist Tito Matos and guitarist Mark Zorich. The five got together and WEHRMACHT was formed.

Unlike most new bands, WEHRMACHT felt enough right chemistry flowing between them from the very beginning that they never really bothered with doing covers. "It was weird," recalls Brian. "We

started writing the day we all hooked together. We never started to worry about learning other bands' songs.

"Our early originals were a lot slower! We play them much faster now, but they haven't lost their heaviness. They were just a lot more basic."

Portland, Oregon is not exactly known for its overabundance of Metal acts. How does WEHRMACHT deal with the fact that they are not based in San Francisco or New York? "I find it to be to our advantage," says Brian. "Places like San Francisco have so many bands within them that people won't show up at their shows. It's like 'Well, I spent my money yesterday at the show, I can't afford to go tonight.' It's too bad because there are a lot of great bands that don't get the exposure they deserve."

"The scene here is great! All the bigger bands think that it's a forest over here but the crowds are very loyal, and very big! The city is just like any other city, except we don't have smog!"

Judging from the band's material, particularly the newer songs, WEHRMACHT draws its influences from a wide range of bands rather than only a handful of groups, and that accounts for the band's somewhat original approach. Brian comments: "Everybody in the band likes different bands. As a band we don't have one main influence, but we all like POSSESSED, D.R.I., THE ACCUSED, DESTRUCTION, ENGLISH DOGS and old KISS."

"I think that we have a unique sound in that we do a lot of fun shit like in 'Suck My Dick', yet still retain heaviness. Drum-wise, I do a lot of Jazz drum techniques which makes for a cool

sound too."

Eventhough WEHRMACHT is still undoubtedly a Metal band, some of their more recent material hinted at some heavy Hardcore influence (i.e. 'Suck My Dick', 'Beermacht', etc.). Can we expect more of this kind of stuff in the future? "I guess so," says Brian. "We don't like to set a guideline on our writing though. If somebody in the band writes something we all like, then we use it. But we don't sit around worrying about what kind of songs to write. Too many bands today sit down and say: 'O.K., we'll have this image, this sound etc.' And that's when they start to sound the same. We like both Metal and Hardcore equally, so we write both."

But what about the name WEHRMACHT? Mostly everyone will link it directly to SLAYER and their fan club. Has this been a problem for the band in terms of creating their own identity? "No, not at all," claims Brian. "We got the name out of a war book. Plus I traced my family roots and found out that that the 'WEHRMACHT' army had wiped out half of my family - and I'm German!"

"We don't sound anything like SLAYER," says Brian confidently. "I didn't even know it was their fan club! What's in a name anyway? It's the music that counts. If they start accusing us, then I'll start naming 6,000 bands that rip off their music!"

Being as young as you are, I assume you all still go to school. How do you find the time to practice and write songs? "Believe it or not, Shann and I get a 'B' average," says Brian proudly. "We figure if we are cool to our parents, they will be cool to us. And they are 100% behind the band!"

"We practice every day at my house in our basement for about 3 hours! Somehow we still have time for everything else

but we are always busy. Our girlfriends always bitch!"

In late March WEHRMACHT took their first trip outside Portland to the infamous Ruthie's Inn in San Francisco, where they played with SACRILEGE, DESECRATION and BLOOD BATH. What was WEHRMACHT's reaction to the big S.F.? "It was a blast," says Brian. "The crowds are great down there! Even if there isn't 500 people there, they still have a good time regardless. Slamming is like an art down there, and they are good at it!"

But what about the numerous Death/Thrash bands that have been popping up from everywhere lately? "We aren't really competing with them," explains Brian. "I guess you could say they help us. We are friends with POSSESSED, DESECRATION, ATTITUDE ADJUSTMENT, POISON IDEA, BLOOD BATH, THE ACCUSED and a lot more. They all trade our tapes around and vice-versa and we all are great friends. It's cool because none of us are on a big 'We're better than you are' ego trip."

According to Brian we won't have to wait long to see WEHRMACHT on vinyl: "We are going to be on a 7-inch compilation record called 'Ready for Death'. Other bands on it will be NECROPHAGIA, WHITE PIGS and STONE CROW. We have been getting offers from others but they're all pretty fucked."

In conclusion, Brian appreciates all the support they got from everyone. "I would like to thank all tape-traders/fanzines for their support. Thanks! You're the greatest!" **



TERMINAL DEATH

Along with MASTER, TERMINAL DEATH are the undisputed Gods of the Chicago Death Metal scene. Bands like ORSIS, SOLEMN (whom I still haven't heard), NATAS and DEVASTATION are all good in their own right, but none has released (as of yet) anything that comes close to the sheer death that those two bands provide. OK, I might be exaggerating a bit, since TERMINAL DEATH's demo was hardly brilliant, but I really feel that given time, this five-piece Death squad can prove to be a force to be reckoned with.

With an impressive 6-song demo behind them and an LP on the way, TERMINAL DEATH has a lot to be happy about. Their debut record, due to be recorded during the summer for King Klassic Records, will undoubtedly be a HOT first release.

I recently contacted the band and got the following interview (John-vocals, Shaun-bass, Adan-drums, Nick-rhythm guitar, Rick-lead guitar):

When was TERMINAL DEATH formed?

John: It's difficult to say exactly when. The band has been together in some form or another since May '85. Shaun, myself and Rick are the only original members.

What are your main influences and favorite bands?

John: HENDRIX, DISCHARGE, CREAM, CIRITH UNGOL, MOTORHEAD, MASTER, VOIVOD and Chicago MAYHEM--they rule!!!

Adan: RUSH, Chicago MAYHEM, VOIVOD.

Shaun: VENOM, SEX PISTOLS, MOTORHEAD.

Nick: D.R.I., SAMHAIN, DISCHARGE.

Rick: POSSESSED, AL DIMEOLA, RAW POWER, VOIVOD, JIMI HENDRIX, CELTIC FROST.

How was your 6-song demo recorded? Were you happy with the way it

came out?

Adan: We recorded it in a studio on 2 tracks. We all played live and then mixed it. I was mostly happy with the way it came out, but the production could've brought each instrument out more.

Rick: I personally thought that the the production was good, but the demo doesn't show the more rawer side of our band.

What do you think makes TERMINAL DEATH different from other Death/Thrash Metal bands?

John: As a vocalist and lyricist, I would have to say the lyrics. Not to say it just to boost my ego, but I really feel they are one of the most important differences--nothing about Satan, kill-the-posers bullshit. People will think it's strange (but I really don't care), but I do get many lyrics from Norse poetry and epics, and Emily Dickenson. Also, because of our wide range of musical tastes, I think it only adds to our overall songwriting style. Of course, we're not the most original band, but we use all our influences in a way to enhance our music - not to degrade it and be considered a rip-off band. Also, as we write more and more, we're trying to break away from the norm.

There's been a lot of new Death/Thrash bands popping up from everywhere, many of whom totally suck. Do you think this has helped or hurt the band, and in what way?

Shaun: It can go against the scene, but we hope people won't give those bad bands the attention they may want. I myself find it offensive.

Rick: I for one don't give a fuck! If bands like that want to release shitty demos, they have my blessings. I'm sure anyone that has some kind of understanding for music will know how to separate the good demos from the bad ones. What do you guys think of some other Chicago Death/Thrash bands such as MASTER, NATAS and MUTILATION?

John: MASTER are God (you can say that again!--ED.) - they're so incredibly heavy!!! NATAS spends too much time trying to be MASTER. I think MUTILATION

is trying to tackle too much at once. They're constantly changing singers and they don't even have a bassist, yet they still rush in to do a demo. It took us almost a year to see the inside of a studio.

How many originals have you written so far? What are some of the newer titles?

John: I think we have about 10 songs now. We dump much of our material because we want our songs to be memorable and some ideas did not work out well. Some of our new tunes are 'Bloody Retribution', 'Chained to the Abyss', and 'Sorrow Wed'.

Rick: Some other songs that lyrics have been written for are 'The Insane God' and 'Darkening Man'. I will start adding the music to them soon.

What kind of stuff can we expect to hear from TERMINAL DEATH in the future?

John: Well, every band should progress and that's what we plan on doing. Expect more bizarre, technical, and progressive types of music. When we get to the point of financial security we will be able to use the studio to its fullest potential, but it will be changes we could reproduce live. Live is where you should show someone what you have to offer. Expect excruciating new material!!!

TERMINAL DEATH is currently gigging around the Chicago area and preparing to enter a studio and record its debut album. If you'd like to contact the band, write to:

TERMINAL DEATH
c/o Ricky Aguayo
284 Charal Lane
Highland Park IL 60035
U S A

INSANITY

At a time when good-quality demos are few and far in between, one tends to get tired of rehearsal tapes, as most of them sound like noise. There are exceptions however, and INSANITY is one of them.

INSANITY's rehearsal tapes are not only better-sounding than that of most other bands - they sound even better than a lot of demos I hear nowadays. Every instrument can be heard fairly clearly, and the vocals are pretty much up-front on the recordings.

Musically, INSANITY is pure Death Metal - I can't think of any bands that do it any faster or any rawer; INSANITY is sheer power. Granted, they may not be trend-setters, but INSANITY puts more time and effort into their songs than most other so-called Death Metal bands. Every song has numerous parts in it to keep the listener interested, and every tune is catchy enough to appeal after only a couple of listens.

At this point, the only thing

that is holding them back is the lack of finances; with that ever-so-crucial studio demo, INSANITY would undoubtedly RULE!! But, studio time costs, and the band cannot afford it - not yet, anyway.

As we wait, I have managed to contact guitarist Dave Gorsuch and get some more info on the band.

Dave, when are we going to see that studio demo?

Dave: Well, right now we're having lots of financial problems (see, I told you--ED.), but as soon as we have the cash we will go into the studio and do one. Until then we'll be selling a rehearsal demo with 7 to 9 songs on it which we will record soon. With so many Death Metal bands popping up, what do you feel makes INSANITY different from all other bands?

Dave: We try to make our songs have an 'evil' tone. We use FAST and HEAVY intricate rhythms (as opposed to weak intricate rhythms - ex: IRON MAIDEN). We also use tempo changes with slow, grinding heavy parts. We use evil-sounding scales - harmonic minor, Hungarian

minor etc. We rarely use major scales, and some of our rhythms aren't in one scale (which is harder to write leads to). We also try to have every song sound different from the next and still maintain our own original sound. How do you feel about the immense popularity of Hardcore on the Metal scene and vice-versa? Do you think it's ruining the two individual scenes?

Dave: I think it's killer because both audiences are getting bigger. But now, all Metal bands who wear leather and spikes are accused of hiding behind an image. Eventhough a lot of them are, it looks cool on stage. This doesn't mean we always do 'cause the same look gets boring. In fact, I wore a T-shirt and jeans the first three shows, but don't be surprised if you see us in leather and spikes in the future.

What is your current list of originals?

Dave: Well, we have about 18 originals at the moment. The titles are: 'Attack of Archangels', 'Fire Death Fate', 'Blood for Blood', 'Ultimate Death', 'Psychopath', 'Death After Death', 'Morbid Lust', 'Carnivore', 'Black Mass' (original, huh?--ED.), 'Sacrilege', 'Exorcism', 'Crucifixion', 'Prophet of Deception', 'The Omen', 'Arise from the Grave' and 'Evil Dead', plus Keith has two more untitled tunes. How old are you guys?

Dave: Well, I (Dave Gorsuch--lead guitar) am 19, Joe Zuniga (lead vocals/guitar) is 20, Keith Ellison (bass) is 18 and our drummer, Bud Mills, just turned 19.

All Death Metallers are strongly urged to write to the band for more info at:

INSANITY

c/o Dave Gorsuch
468 Chesapeake Ave.
Foster City CA 94404

BACK FROM THE DEAD!



Chuck Schuldiner SPEAKS OUT

For most of you, I'm sure, DEATH needs no introduction. For almost two years now, DEATH has been at the very top of the Death Metal Underground, with numerous demos and rehearsal/live tapes circulating around everywhere. Due to a streak of bad luck however, the band was never quite able to secure a record contract--until now, that is.

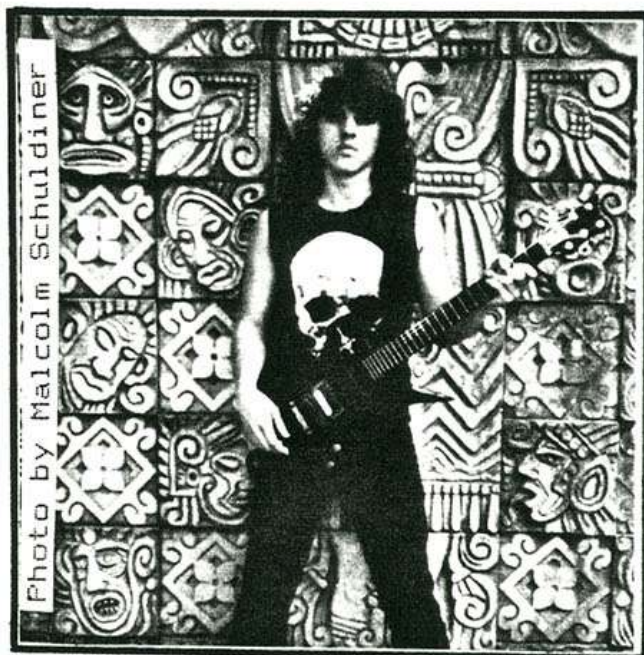
After the release of their awesome 'Mutilation' demo about two months ago, DEATH were approached by Combat Records about doing an EP for the label--an offer that was turned down by the band. Soon afterwards, DEATH received an al-

bum contract in the mail.

At the time of this writing, guitarist/vocalist/founding member Chuck Schuldiner and drummer Chris Reifert are about to enter the studio in Florida and record the debut DEATH LP--entitled 'Zombie Ritual'. I'd caught up with Chuck recently and this is what he had to say.

Chuck, what are the terms of your contract with Combat Records?

Chuck: Well, it's a five-album deal. As far as I know, Randy Burns (who did the first POSSESSED LP, among others--ED.) will hopefully be producing and we will start recording in mid-to-late July.



What songs will be on it?

Chuck: It will probably have 11 songs on it - some of which are 'Torn to Pieces', 'Denial of Life', 'Scream Bloody Gore', 'Baptized in Blood', 'Infernal Death', 'Zombie Ritual', 'Mutilation', 'Land of no Return' etc... It will fucking RULE!!!!

Chuck, what caused your split with SLAUGHTER?

Chuck: I quit SLAUGHTER because they absolutely suck beyond belief, as musicians and as people. DEATH blows them away and away and away!!!! That's the bottom line. Were you happy with the way the 'Mutilation' demo came out?

Chuck: Yes, VERY happy! It's incredibly heavy - whoever says we wimped out can fuck off and die!! People in the underground these days seem to be caught up in this million-miles-per-hour bullshit trend. We don't give a fuck if we are not the fastest--anyone can play fast. We're still fast, though, but at a controlled speed--you know what I mean?! I'm more concerned about being HEAVY and DISGUSTING, with killer mind-rotting riffs. If people can't accept that, then fuck 'em; we're not gonna change to please a few trendies or a label or anybody!

So, how come you're back down in Florida again? Why did you leave San Francisco?

Chuck: I moved out of our manager's house and had no fucking

place to stay, so Chris and I are staying in Florida for the summer. My parents are very cool and supportive of my music. By the way, our ex-manager, Krystal Mahoney, is a stupid fucking psycho cunt-dog who never believed in us, but only believed in stuffing her greedy fat face with food. She wouldn't give us our contract just to be a stupid fat cunt, which she definitely is. Anyway, I'm definitely going back to 'Frisco at the end of the summer - Florida sucks!!

What are your favorite bands?

Chuck: I'd have to say POSSESSED, GENOCIDE (now REPULSION), MASTER etc. I'm just getting burned out on most of my tapes - all these new bands sound the same. There's a couple of others that I like - such as SACRILEGE (S.F.) and TERMINAL DEATH. But most new bands are just doing nothing new.

What do you think of MASSACRE (the infamous Florida band that now features ex-DEATH members Rick Rozz and Kam Lee)?

Chuck: Generic and trendy in its cheesiest form.

Do you think DEATH has a chance of becoming as big as say POSSESSED or even SLAYER?

Chuck: Fuck yeah! I'm very confident in our new material. We've got a fairly large following. Just wait for the album - it will devastate. Combat are very supportive of us.

What do you think makes DEATH different from other bands?

Chuck: Well, our lyrics are not your typical Satan bullshit; our riffing and choruses are different. It's kind of hard to say.

Any last comments for the readers of VIOLENT NOIZE?

Chuck: Thanx for the interview, and thanx to everyone who didn't stop believing in DEATH, who stuck with us through all our ups and downs--we won't forget you. Look for the album 'Zombie Ritual' in the Fall. If anyone wants to order our new demo, write to my Florida address for the SUMMER ONLY!! If anyone hasn't received merchandise in the past, please write us and something will be done. Demos are \$6 (U.S.) and \$7 (elsewhere) from:

DEATH

c/o Chuck Schuldiner
609 Citrus St.

Atlamonte Springs FL 32701

AGGRESSION



Within weeks after AGGRESSION was founded, the band went into the studio to record their first 4-song demo, featuring 'Blaspheming at the Altar', 'Evil Fox', 'Metal Slaughter' and 'Torment or Death'. Despite the tape's success and worldwide acclaim, the guys in the band were far from happy.

"That tape was recorded in September 1985 with a budget of \$100. It was our first experience in a studio and we recorded on 8 tracks in just 10 hours. When we listened to it at home, we were a bit disappointed with the results. We will definitely put a lot more money and time into the second one."

In the last issue I reviewed what I labeled as AGGRESSION's second demo, which, in fact, was really just a rerecording of three of the tracks from the first tape. Why were those songs rerecorded? "Well, New Renaissance Records, a Californian label, were interested in getting three songs out of the four for some future compilations. They needed a 1/4 inch reel-to-reel tape of these songs and we didn't have a 1/4 inch tape of our first session. Since these three songs were to appear on an album, we wanted to give a better impression so we rerecorded everything with more time and a bigger budget. This rerecording is not available to the public. We are only using it for record companies and promotion. As far as we are concerned, we have only one demo out."

After the release of the first demo tape, a lot of people (myself included) have compared AGGRESSION with SLAYER. How does AGGRESSION feel about such comments? "We are not afraid of saying that we are influenced by SLAYER. To be compared with SLAYER is for us a great honour because they write very good mu-

In recent months not many new bands have impressed me as much as the five-piece outfit from Montreal, Canada that goes by the name of AGGRESSION. Their first 4-song demo was definitely a surprise, featuring some hot SLAYER-like riffing, fairly unique vocals, and excellent material that equalled that of any of their American counterparts.

I recently contacted the band and got some more information on the history of the band as well as their future plans.

AGGRESSION was formed during the spring of 1985 as ASYLUM. After the addition of Dug on bass and Butcher on lead vocals in July '85 (Butcher had been playing bass up to that point), the band changed its name to AGGRESSION.

The current line-up of AGGRESSION is:

- Butcher - lead vocals
- Death - lead guitar
- Burn - lead guitar
- Dug - bass guitar
- Gate - drums

sic and are surely great musicians. Anyway, we think it is very hard nowadays to be totally original. Some claim they are, but at the end they do sound like someone else. We'd like to think that our new songs will prove that we are more than just a SLAYER clone band. But we will let you and our fans be the judge when the time comes. For us, the most important thing is to be able to play the best we can and to write good and interesting music."

So, how many originals do you have in your set right now? "We have about fifteen originals. Some of the non-demo titles are 'Frozen Aggressor', 'Kachina Dolls', 'The Omen', 'Brain Damage', 'Beware of the Scarecrow', 'Poseidon', 'Mutilator', 'Rotten by Torture', 'Forsaken Survival' and 'Bloody Massacre Carnival'."

"Our newer songs are faster and heavier, believe it or die! The first four songs on our demo are really the first songs we ever wrote. It's been over a year now and we have practiced a lot so we have improved on many points. We've put more work into our new songs, some of them have different riffs and tempos in the same song. We are still rehearsing so who knows what we will come up with."

Unlike the great majority of today's Thrash Metal outfits, AGGRESSION doesn't seem to have been really influenced by Hardcore Punk or the whole 'mosh' movement. They comment: "We have nothing against Hardcore or Punk as long as it's well played. Punk bands used to have a rough time playing their instruments but it seems now that they have learned to play or at

least, are trying to. For us, S.O.D. has proven that Hardcore Punk has its place in Heavy Metal."

Besides SLAYER, what are the bands that you like and that influence you? "Our favorite bands are SLAYER, DESTRUCTION, S.O.D., CELTIC FROST, D.R.I., C.O.C., POSSESSED, NASTY SAVAGE, METALLICA, KREATOR, in fact, all good Speed Metal bands. We used to like VENOM and RAVEN too, but... Our influences come from bands like SLAYER, VENOM and HELLHAMMER and also as diversified as KISS, AEROSMITH or LED ZEPPELIN. In fact, we listen to all kinds of HM even though we mostly like Speed/Thrash Metal or Hardcore."

With so many Death/Thrash Metal bands coming out nowadays (many of whom suck), I was wondering whether AGGRESSION felt this was hurting the band. I asked them about that.

"In every kind of music, there are good bands and very bad ones. Some people think that just because they play fast, they can play in a band, but there's more to it. As long as the fans take the time to listen to each band and decide for themselves which ones they like the most, then there will always be some hope. If you listen to one bad Death/Thrash Metal band and you decide to put all these bands in the same category, then you are not being honest."

With almost nine months behind them since the recording of the first demo, I asked AGGRESSION if we can expect to see another demo from them in the near future.

"You can bet on it!! Plans are to go back into the studio in June or July. This time, we will go to the same studio where we recorded the three songs for New Renaissance Records. We would have loved to have gone back earlier because we are very confident in our new material, but this time we want more time to do it properly, and time is money."

Any closing comments? "This is our first real interview and we are very proud that it is a New York mag who thought of doing it first. We wish a long life to VIOLENT NOIZE. To all our fans, we need your support and your letters. THRASHHH TILL DEATH !!!!!"

AGGRESSION c/o Johnny Hart; C.P.127
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Sacrifice

March of 1986 saw the long-awaited release of the debut LP by the Canadian band SACRIFICE, entitled 'Torment in Fire'. Despite the 'not-so-hot' production job, it turned out to be one of the hottest releases of the year and one of the most promising debut LP's in a long while.

The SACRIFICE story goes back to late '83 when the band featured Rob Urbinati and Joe Rico on guitars, Scott Watts on bass, a drummer named Craig and a singer named John. The latter two have, of course, since been kicked out, but the memories are still fresh, as I found out from the bassist extraordinaire, Scott Watts.

"We pretty much sucked back then", explains Scott. "The drummer was slow and the singer was shitty. We just weren't as good musicians back then."

After the addition of current drummer Gus Pynn and Rob's decision to take over the vocals, SA-



CRIFICE entered an 8-track studio with producer Brian Taylor and recorded what is now known as the 'The Exorcism' 7-song demo. Scott explains: "Those were the only 7 songs we had when we recorded the demo, and the whole tape took about 12 hours to do."

"At the time (June '85) we were happy with the way it came out because it was our first quality tape, but now we think it sounds like shit."

So how did you get the deal with Diabolic Force Records? "Well, Brian Taylor approached us about doing an LP for his newly-formed label sometime last summer. He was in competition with Attic Records because at the time Attic wanted us. Attic then turned us down. Now it's been twice that they've asked us to sign to them."

"We are signed to Diabolic Force 'till 1989 unless we get bought out by a bigger label. Attic tried to buy out the contract but they didn't offer enough money to Diabolic Force."





Recorded back in September/October of '85, 'Torment in Fire' finally saw its release (in Canada at least) during March of '86. I asked Scott why it took so long to get it out. "Well, one of the reasons is that our company wanted to get the licensing deals with Europe and the U.S. happening. They also had to do some kind of laser thing with the cover to separate colors and shit like that." And are you happy with the way it turned out? "Yes, I think the whole thing turned out pretty good. I just hope it sells good."

One of the things I particularly noticed about the LP was that the newer material such as 'Necronomicon', 'Possession', 'Infernal Visions' and 'Homicidal Breath' was a bit more technical and certainly better than the demo songs; it was definitely more along the lines of SLAYER/POSSESSED than anything they'd written before. Scott agrees with me: "Our newer songs are gonna be more put together, with different tempos, more changes and I guess a little more technical."

"Some of the new songs are 'Afterlife', which I think has a good amount of changes, 'Cyanide', which I think is different, like in tempos (GODLY tune!—ED.), 'Pyro-Kinesis', which will be just a total all-out Speedcore song, and another one we're working on that is going to be along the lines of really slow and heavy; a bit like 'Deliver Us to Evil', I guess."

Those of you out there that have a copy of 'The Exorcism' tape and/or the 'Torment in Fire' LP, have undoubtedly noticed that songs like 'Decapitation' and 'Possession' owe much more to Hardcore Punk bands than any of the Death/Thrash Metal outfits such as POSSESSED and SLAYER. Can we expect more of this kind of stuff from SACRIFICE in the future? "Yes, you can expect more," says Scott. "On the next album there will be one called 'Kill'."

"We do it because we love speed and playing fast, so we do Hardcore-Metal songs which I think go together great since we all like Hardcore and Metal."

"We think it's great the way both scenes mix; Metal bands playing and turning Punk and Punk bands turning Metal. In Toronto both scenes go great together at shows and probably always will."

So, what are SACRIFICE's favorite bands? "We like SLAYER, POSSESSED, METALLICA, EXODUS, DEATH, AGNOSTIC FRONT, CRUMBSUCKERS (rule!), SLAUGHTER, HIRAX, LETHAL AGGRESSION, D.R.I., RAW POWER, SUDDEN IMPACT and EXCEL especially."

And what about that second album?

When can we expect to see it out?

"Expect it in the Fall of '86 because we should be hitting the studio sometime in the late Summer. It'll probably be called 'Forward to Termination'."

Any last comments? "Buy Borivoj's mag because he needs the money (you bet!!—ED.), buy our album plus future albums and always support the scene. **



ALBUM REVIEWS

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 6 or higher.

SACRIFICE - 'Torment in Fire' LP 8

Until recent times Canada has never been known as a major hotbed of Metal activity, particularly when it came to Thrash Metal. The likes of VOIVOD and RAZOR have both made quite an impact on the scene during 1984 and 1985, but it's only been in the past few months that other, newer bands have popped up and challenged the more experienced (i.e. better) US outfits.

SACRIFICE first came to attention after the release of their excellent 'The Exorcism' 7-song demo tape in mid-'85. The raw sound of the tape plus the highly original vocals of guitarist Rob Urbinati made that one of the best demos of last year, and the expectations for a full-length album grew stronger.

Originally recorded in September of 1985, 'Torment in Fire' contains all 7 demo tracks, plus 4 newer tunes ('Homicidal Breath', 'Infernal Visions', 'Necronomicon' and 'Possession'), and they make this one of the most impressive debut albums I've heard in a while.

Those of you that own a copy of 'The Exorcism' tape will be happy to know that the overall sound of the album is quite a bit better than that 8-track recording of last year. The drums in particular are much more audible this time, and the guitar sound is not as compressed.

I do have some complaints, however.

Despite the fact that the overall sound is generally superior to

that of 'The Exorcism' tape, the guitars are not as up-front or as audible as they should be.

The actual guitar sound, while being fairly heavy and powerful, needs more of a crunch to it for the songs to come across to their fullest potential.

The material on this record is all highly impressive stuff, particularly the newer tracks (check out the awesome 'Necronomicon' to see what I mean!!).

A few of the demo tracks such as 'Warriors of Death', 'The Exorcism' and 'Beyond Death', sound a bit like filler material along the likes of 'Possession', 'Infernal Visions' and the aforementioned 'Necronomicon', but they shouldn't in any way be considered as throwaways. They, as well, have that typical SACRIFICE sound written all over them.

One of the things I find most impressive about this Canadian quartet are the amazingly powerful and highly original vocals of guitarist/vocalist Rob Urbinati. He spits out some of the most gut-wrenching vocals ever and makes some of the weaker tracks sound a lot more enjoyable, if not killer.

Overall, 'Torment in Fire' will certainly turn out to be one of the top LP's of 1986. With the new material like 'Cyanide' and 'Afterlife' being even better, SACRIFICE is sure to become one of the biggest Death/Thrash Metal bands on the scene. Absolutely ESSENTIAL!!!! (BORIVOJ KRGIN)

KREATOR - 'Pleasure to Kill' LP 7

Ever since the release of this, KREATOR's second LP, I haven't heard anything but ravings about it. Some people have already named it 'The Album of 1986' whereas others have used adjectives such as 'godly' and 'awesome' to describe it. While 'Pleasure to Kill' is certainly an excellent slab of vinyl, my feelings are not QUITE as strong.

The main problem I have with 'Pleasure to Kill' is definitely the overall sound rather than the actual songs. As is the case with many of the albums that are coming out nowadays, the guitar seems to be somewhat buried in the

mix, to the point where you sometimes can't even tell what the guy is playing (particularly during fast rhythms). The actual guitar sound could use some improvement as well; while Mille's sound is definitely heavy, it doesn't quite pack as much punch as, say, METALLICA's guitar sound does. Had 'Pleasure to Kill' been produced as well as 'Master of Puppets', I'd be the first one to rave over it, without a doubt.

Another thing is the vocals; while Vantor sounds more-or-less the same as on 'Endless Pain', Mille's voice is far weaker on 'Pleasure to Kill'. At times he even sounds like a little kid trying to sing Death Metal; he just doesn't cut it for KREATOR.

There is no total out-and-out killers on 'P.T.K.'; a lot of the tracks come close (i.e. 'Ripping Corpse', 'Pleasure to Kill', 'Death is Your Saviour' etc.) but none hits you in the guts the way 'Tormentor', 'Flag of Hate', 'Total Death' and 'Son of Evil' did on the 'Endless Pain' LP. Sure, the songs are faster, but the power is just not there, I'm afraid.

Mille's riffing on a lot of the tracks has SLAYER stamped all over it (i.e. 'Pleasure to Kill', 'Ripping Corpse' etc.), emphasizing the band's desire to take a more

technical approach. This is also particularly evident on 'Riot of Violence', which owes more to METALLICA than the likes of DESTRUCTION or SODOM.

Overall, 'Pleasure to Kill' may not have the same impact 'Endless Pain' had when it first came out, but it's not really a let-down. I still think KREATOR is a great band and I'll definitely be looking forward to the next album, but I can't say 'Pleasure to Kill' is great because it's not. With a better production on their next LP, KREATOR just might live up to the massive potential they have. Only time will tell. (BORIVOJ KRGIN)

NECRONOMICON - 1st LP (advance tape)

6

At the time of this writing, I have absolutely no information as to when this album will be released or what label it'll be on. All I have is an 8-song tape that I received from the band labeled as their first LP. Hopefully by the time I go to print I'll have some additional info for you.

At any rate, NECRONOMICON's debut album is definitely an improvement over that 5-song demo tape of last year; not great, but quite enjoyable.

NECRONOMICON's sound is typically German, from the Schmier/Angel Ripper-like vocals to the DESTRUCTION/SODOM-type song-structures. In fact, DESTRUCTION popped into my head more than once while listening to this LP. But, and this is a big BUT, the guitar-work in NECRONOMICON can in no way be compared with the sheer brilliance of the one and only Mike from DESTRUCTION. At times some cool riffs do surface (i.e. beginning of 'Dark Land'), but the riffing on most of the LP is fairly basic and a bit forgettable.

In addition, NECRONOMICON's guitar sound is really more Punkish than Metallic (something I didn't find too surprising, having heard TOTAL REJECTION's and NECRONOMICON's demos), and this takes away a bit more from the songs.

Of the eight tunes, 'Dark Land' is probably the best, being slightly more memorable than the others. The rest is fairly average, including the five demo tracks, 'Iron Chain', 'Possessed by Evil', 'Insanity', 'Blind Destruction' and 'Bloody Revenge'.

There is no absolute throwaways or



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particularly weak tracks, and in that sense this is a fairly consistent album from beginning to end. What the LP lacks in originality and musicianship it makes up for with that typical German sound that I can't help but like.

Despite the fact that NECRONOMICON still have a long way to go before they can be talked about in the same breath as DESTRUCTION, their first album is definitely enjoyable and one that I would recommend to all fans of German Death Metal. Not bad--but there's always room for improvement.

For more info write to:

NECRONOMICON
c/o Lars Honeck
Im Maiacker 2
7858 Weil am Rhein 5
WEST GERMANY

(BORIVOJ KRGIN)

ONSLAUGHT - 'The Force' LP

7

This one came as a bit of a surprise. Almost a year after their highly overrated debut LP, ONSLAUGHT is back with a new singer and a fresh new sound that is now undoubtedly pure Metal.

As you might recall, ONSLAUGHT's debut effort, 'Power from Hell', was a decent mixture of Death Metal and some DISCHARGE-type Punk that was best left in the past. The production was weak as well, and I really expected very little from this album. But, while 'The Force' certainly has its faults, the overall sound and musicianship really add up to make this album the best Thrash LP that has ever come out of the UK.

The first thing I noticed when I put on 'The Force' is the much cleaner and heavier sound as well as the tremendous improvement in the riffing. In fact, the album's excellent opener, 'Let There be Death', is a lot more reminiscent of SLAYER than the Punk bands of some years ago that seemed to be responsible for ONSLAUGHT's sound on 'Power from Hell'. The riffing burns all-throughout, bursting with heavy SLAYER and METALLICA overtones, and is unquestionably the highlight of 'The Force'.

The only real complaint I have (and it's a fairly big one) is the new singer Simon Keeler. He is a decent vocalist, I guess, but he really can't pull it off with ONSLAUGHT. As if the SLAYER-like riffing weren't enough, Simon desperately tries to be the next Tom Araya by throwing at least a few gay, high-pitched screams in every song; he not only lacks conviction, but sounds plain stupid. At times he even resembles Larry Fortelli of BLESSED DEATH with his ever-vibrating vocal chords.

My favorite tracks have to be 'Let There be Death', 'Flame of the Anti-christ' and 'Thrash 'till the Death', the latter of which is the sole track on this 7-song album that does not go beyond the 5-minute mark.

There are a few weak moments as well (not quite filler status, though), namely the pointless 'Contract in Blood'. During this track Simon really goes into his own with his whining as if there's no end. Sy, I'm sorry to say, but you suck.

Anyway, despite the fact that the vocal performance is far from satisfactory, 'The Force' is a powerful Thrash Metal album that will not leave anyone disappointed. ONSLAUGHT may not be godly--and there might be bands that do the same thing better (i.e. SLAYER and METALLICA)--but when you're in need of something new to listen to, give 'The

Force' a chance; you won't be disappointed. (BORIVOJ KRGIN)

RAZOR - 'Malicious Intent' LP

4

Ha! After only 8 months since the release of their excellent 'Evil Invaders' LP, RAZOR have returned with their third full-blown effort, 'Malicious Intent', and hell, does it bite!!!

I have three major problems with 'Malicious Intent': 1) the drumming, 2) the production and 3) the songwriting. To put it bluntly, M-Bro is one of the worst, if not THE worst drummer that's ever played on any Metal record that I've had the pleasure (??) of hearing; he gives a whole new meaning to the expressions 'cheating on drums' and 'false speed'. Now, while the production on 'Evil Invaders' was such that it covered up this lack of musical ability, 'Malicious Intent' is produced in such a fashion that anyone can tell just how much this guy sucks; that is, everyone except the band, of course.

The sound, in general, is fucking awful; the guitars are low in the mix and tame-sounding while the snare drum is barely audible. In fact, the whole record sounds so tame it's disgusting--certainly a far cry from last year's 'Evil Invaders'.

Material-wise, 'Malicious Intent' isn't much better; all of the songs are very much along the lines of 'E.I.', some so close that they can be considered clones of the band's previous material (ex: 'Night Attack' is just too similar to 'E.I.'s 'Iron Hammer' for comfort). Not to say that they are as good as the tracks on 'Evil Invaders'; they are just a bland copy.

Of the 11 tracks present ('Tear me to Pieces', 'Night Attack', 'Grindstone', 'Cage the Ragers', 'Malicious Intent', 'Rebel Onslaught', 'A.D.D.', 'Challenge the Eagle', 'Stand Before Kings', 'High Speed Metal' and 'Kiss My Ass'), only one, 'Stand Before Kings', is on par with RAZOR's

best moments on 'Evil Invaders', only to be ruined by the poor production.

My only hope, after this piece of garbage, is that RAZOR will think of the old saying, 'Quality before quantity', before they decide to release another album. If the next one is anything less than excellent, I will write them off forever (and rightfully so). This album sucks!!

F.S.: The drummer's gotta go!
(BORIVOJ KRGIN)

AT WAR - 'Ordered to Kill' LP (advance tape)

6

Despite the tremendous success of AT WAR's 'Eat Lead' 2-song demo of last year, I can't help but feel that it might be a little too soon for them to be releasing any kind of vinyl, let alone a full-length album. While 'Ordered to Kill' may not be great, it's certainly an improvement over that demo tape.

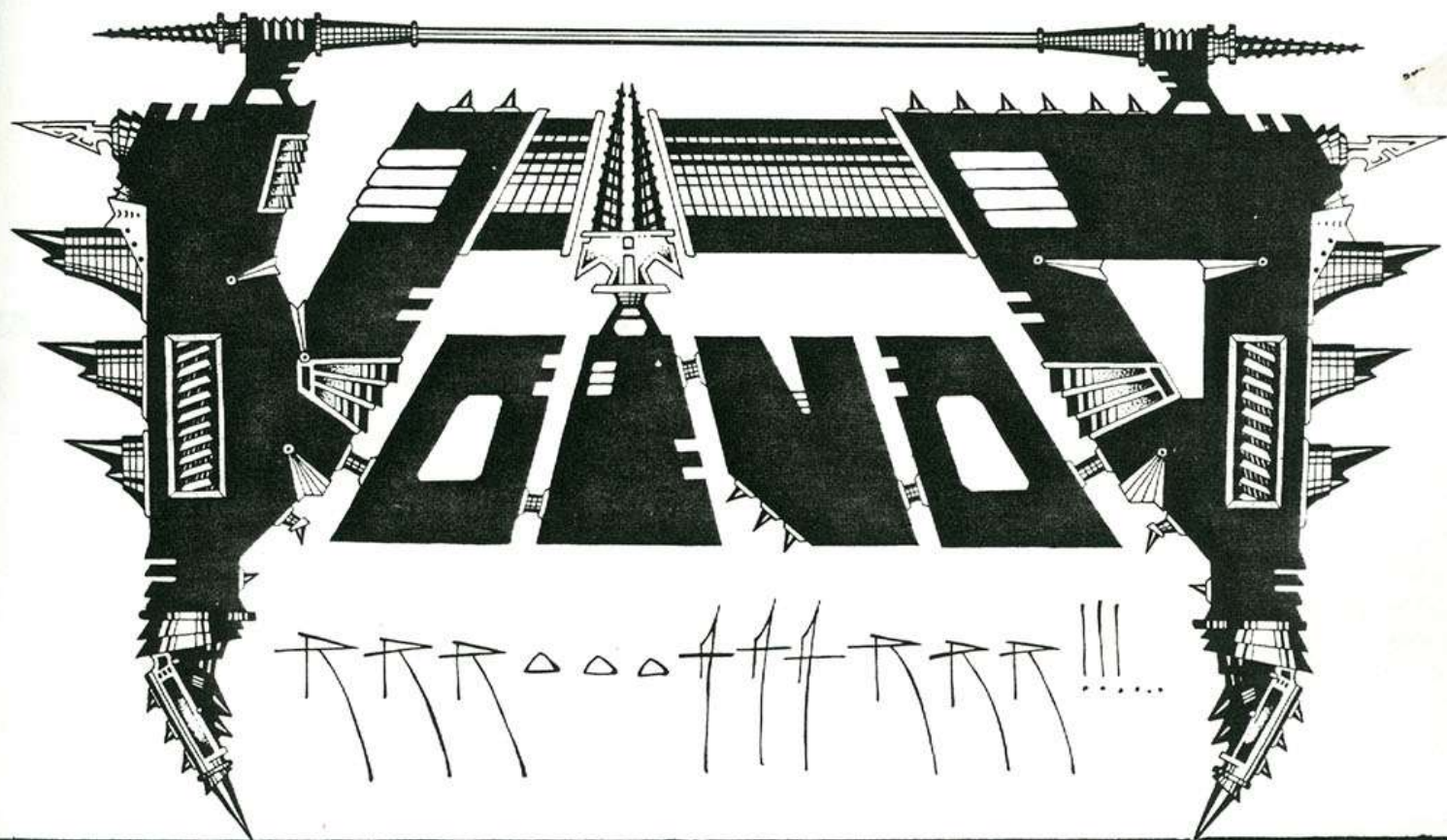
For those of you who've never heard AT WAR, their sound can best be described as a cross between MOTORHEAD and VENOM, but with a modern touch. The vocals of bassist Paul Arnold are more reminiscent of Lemmy and Cronos than the likes of Jeff Becerra or Chuck Schuldiner, and that alone makes AT WAR different from most of today's Thrash Metal outfits.

'Ordered to Kill' contains 9 tracks, most of which are up-tempo and somewhat 'sludgy'-sounding. The two demo tracks, 'Rapechase' and 'Eat Lead', are both included, as is a cover of MOTORHEAD's 'The Hammer'. My personal favorites, however, are probably the title track and 'Dawn of Death', the two songs that open up the album.

There's no totally weak songs on 'Ordered to Kill'; I could have done without 'Fuck Khadafy' and 'The Hammer', but they're not bad - just typical.

The production on the whole record is rather disappointing; the guitar-sound is 'tame' and low, and that definitely takes away from the otherwise very good album.

I would definitely recommend 'Ordered to Kill' to all open-minded Death Metallers. AT WAR may not be overly fast or powerful, but they do, at least, seem sincere, which is more than I can say about a lot of the trendy Death Metal bands. Good stuff. (B.K.)



VOI VOD - 'Rrroooaaarr' LP

6

Despite their undeniable originality, VOI VOD never really struck me as being particularly talented or powerful. I've always found Snake's vocals to be rather monotonous and Piggy's guitar sound quite 'tame' in Thrash/Death terms. While 'Rrroooaaarr' is certainly much better than 'War and Pain', I still can't help but feel that this band has been highly overhyped by everyone.

There's no question about the fact that VOI VOD are totally original in their style and approach; they really sound like no one else. But, original doesn't necessarily mean better, and in this case that holds very much true.

Most of the 9 tracks on the record sound at least similar, be it because of a vocal line, a particular riff or the overall feel of the song, and I really had a hard time trying to remain interested. Memorable riffs are few and far between; most of them are just plain forgettable.

But, I must give credit where it's due--on 'Rrroooaaarr' VOI VOD come across as a hell of a lot

more professional and powerful; the production on this record wipes the floor with that of 'W.A.P.'. Even the rough-mix tape of 'Rrroooaaarr' is a far cry from the clean, full sound of the actual vinyl.

As a whole, 'Rrroooaaarr' is a pretty good record; if you liked 'War and Pain' you will LOVE this album! If you never quite came to terms with VOI VOD's unique sound and approach, I doubt that 'Rrroooaaarr' will make you change your mind. It's definitely more listenable, but that's about it. For true fans only! (BORIVDJ KRGIN)

MEGADETH - 'Peace Sells... LP (advance tape)

7

I was one of the many people who felt that MEGADETH's debut LP of last year was a disappointment. This time, however, I'm here to tell you that their new LP is a vast improvement, though still lacking a certain punch.

'Peace Sells But Who's Buying?!' features better songs, a heavier guitar sound, and a stronger production than last year's effort. All the songs come across well, with the exception of 'Ain't Superstitious' which I feel is a bluesy waste of time and vinyl.

The record itself sounds like META-

LLICA but dirtier, and rightly so, as Mr. Mustaine incorporated much of that sound years ago. If MEGADETH give up their quest of catching up with METALLICA and just concentrate on writing Metal like this LP, we might have a long-term band here!

All the old classics from the old live tapes are here and sound better than ever. The top tracks are definitely 'Devil's Island', 'My Last Words', 'Bad Omen' and the raging 'Black Friday' which is classic MEGADETH at its best!!

Overall, 'Peace Sells But Who's Buying?!' is a strong follow-up to last year's weak debut and definite proof that MEGADETH is not some second-rate Metal band. This is heavy, dirty and original, and that makes for a very enjoyable album. Give this LP a listen...you might be pleasantly surprised.
(HENRY ISAAC)

EXECUTIONER - 'In the Name..LP'

3

After playing 'In the Name of Metal' about 10 times, I have come to one conclusion---EXECUTIONER sucks!! It's really sad to know that bands like MORDRED and BLIND ILLUSION can be ignored for so long while bands like EXECUTIONER get to put out albums and receive the kind of attention they really don't deserve. Needless to say, 'In the Name of Metal' is unquestionably the worst album I've heard since DESTRUCTOR's 'Minimum Destruction'.

EXECUTIONER claim their music is Power/Thrash Metal in the METALLICA vein. Who the hell are they trying to kid??!! The material on this record can best be described as melodic Heavy Metal, a bit on the up-tempo side but with weak vocals and so little balls it's disgusting.

Standouts are nowhere to be found on 'In the Name of Metal'---every track is pretty much garage-level stuff. Even the "live crowd favorite", 'Victims of Evil', fails to generate any sort of excitement to make this record at least somewhat listenable.

The production is as weak as

the material---very 'thin' and amateurish; it's certainly not complimenting the songwriting.

Any way you look at it, this album is a waste. As a Thrash LP, 'In the Name of Metal' is a fucking joke; as a straight-forward Heavy Metal record, it's just plain bad. Either way, I suggest you stay away from it. For morons only!! (BORIVOJ KRGIN)

EXORCIST - 'Nightmare Theatre'LP

2

With the whole Death Metal thing becoming such a trend, it's only a matter of time before record labels start signing up anyone and everyone that call themselves Thrash. Sure, there have been a few not-so-hot Thrash Metal releases over the past year or so, but EXORCIST has got to be the worst 'Death Metal' band EVER on vinyl!!

This record stinks in every aspect; the songtitles are as cheesy as they can get (i.e. 'Possessed', 'Execution of the Witches', 'Black Mass', 'Burnt Offerings' etc.) and the music is just pure garbage. Why Cobra Records decided to sign them is beyond me.

As a Death Metal band, EXORCIST lack conviction and power; the guitar sound is weak and the vocals are a joke. The 'singer', Damian Rath, obviously thinks he sounds evil by 'growling'; little does he know that he sucks. The material is POOR---every song sounds the same and every riff has been stolen from other bands---from RUSH through JUDAS PRIEST to METALLICA---no originality whatsoever!!

The production job, done by Mr. Dave DeFeis of the VIRGIN STEELE fame, is on the same level as the band's music---WEAK!! The guitar and the vocals are mega-low in the mix and there's no depth to the sound. Overall, quite a consistent album---consistently bad, that is!!!

Any self-respecting Death/Thrash Metal fan should stay away from EXORCIST and 'Nightmare Theatre'. If we show any kind of support for the band, they might even release another album. And we wouldn't want that, would we?!?! EXORCIST SUCKS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

P.S.: I failed to mention that EXORCIST hail from Long Island, NY. I'd never heard of them prior to the release of this record---where have they been hiding?! (BORIVOJ KRGIN)

IRON ANGEL - 'Winds of War' LP

4

The once-great German band, IRON ANGEL have just released their second full-blown LP, and it's quite different from their earlier efforts.

On 'Winds of War', IRON ANGEL employ a sound that is a lot more reminiscent of ACCEPT/PRIEST than the likes of DESTRUCTION and SLAYER. In fact, 'Winds of War' is very similar in sound to 'Metal Heart' or 'Russian Roulette' by their much-bigger counterparts. Vocalist Dirk(schneider) Schroder has lowered himself to the gay level with his immensely annoying third-rate Udo impersonations - he is undoubtedly the low-point of this record. The songs themselves are also very ACCEPT-like with their anthemic choruses and heavy emphasis on guitar-work. Even as such, they lack the catchiness and

sheer power of Udo and co. at their prime - IRON ANGEL are simply rehashing familiar riffs and plodding along with very little excitement.

The low-point, material-wise, is UNQUESTIONABLY the gay, lifeless, bubble-gum anthem that goes by the title of 'Born to Rock'. This tune has got to be the biggest pile of shit I've heard in a long, long while. To give you an idea of how bad it is, let's just say that if W.A.S.P. did it, they'd be wimping out.

There's no outstanding numbers on 'Winds of War' - all are simply worthless attempts to cash in on the current popularity of ACCEPT. Even the more up-tempo material such as 'Vicious' and 'Creatures of Destruction' fails to reach the standards IRON ANGEL set on the first LP with 'The Metallian' and 'Rush of Power'.

IRON ANGEL have let all of their older fans down - I doubt that there's anyone out there who has liked the band's demos that will like this record. With all old fans lost and no new fans gained, I doubt that IRON ANGEL can prove that they're here to stay. In the immortal words of MEN AT WORK----- 'It's a mistake, it's a mistake...'. (BORIVOJ KRGIN)

THE VIOLENT NOIZE GUIDE TO RECORD RATINGS

- 10...Perfect/Flawless!
- 9...Awesome
- 8...Great
- 7...Excellent
- 6...Very Good
- 5...Average
- 4...Unsatisfactory
- 3...Waste of vinyl
- 2...A joke
- 1...Burn it!
- 0...@*?!?!?

For more info on ENEMA, Toronto's shit-zine featuring HAGGATH, DARK LEGION, POSSESSED, LETHAL AGGRESSION, CRYPTIC SLAUGHTER, CELTIC FROST, C.O.C., NECROPHAGIA, CORPSE, D.R.I., etc., write to: ENEMA c/o Mark Watts; 58 Tineta Cres.; Agincourt Ontario; M1S 2Y6 CANADA.

Here's some brief comments about a few LP's we didn't have space to review in this issue:

SATAN'S HOST - 'Metal from Hell' LP...Weak production, poor material, cheesy lyrics. Not even ex-JAG PANZER vocalist Tyrant can save it from being pure garbage. Avoid it!!! (3)

VECTOM - 'Speed Revolution' LP...Trendy, forgettable and cheesy. Little true power and a definite lack of originality. Skip it! (4)

AGNOSTIC FRONT - 'Cause for Alarm' LP...Hardcore Punk with HEAVY Metal overtones all over. The vocals are undeniably Punk, and some of the riffing is rather lame, but overall, quite a good record. (6)

EXCITER - 'Unveiling the Wicked' LP...A lot more tame than the early efforts. Dan Beehler's vocals are at their worst - annoying and monotonous. The songs lack power and catchiness, and a major label deal seems very unlikely. EXCITER's worst LP to date. (4)

DEATH ON TAPE

DEATH - April '86 'Mutilation' demo (U.S.)

After numerous problems with the line-up and otherwise, DEATH has finally returned, and stronger than ever!

'Mutilation' is easily the best recording DEATH has released to date. The three tracks, 'Land of no Return', 'Zombie Ritual' and 'Mutilation', are really a far cry from 'Death by Metal', 'Power of Darkness' and 'Legion of Doom' in terms of overall heaviness, complexity and quality. Guitarist Chuck Schuldiner's vocals (who also plays bass on this tape) are truly awesome as he screams out some of the most convincing growling vocals since Jeff Becerra of POSSESSED, even though they're not quite as distinctive.

There is no doubt that this is the heaviest tape ever unleashed along with the DEATH STRIKE and MASTER demos of last year. Chuck tunes his guitar lower than ANYONE ELSE, and this gives the songs a SUPER-HEAVY edge that is equal to none!!!! Pure fucking death!!!!

I imagine it's only a matter of time now until DEATH gets signed by someone out there. It would be a shame to see one of the best Death Metal bands go unnoticed because of the sheer ignorance of some aging faggot that is only looking to make money.

I urge everyone out there to order this GODLY tape IMMEDIATELY! Don't go anywhere without it! Send \$6 (US) or \$7 (overseas) to: DEATH c/o Krystal Mahoney, 2736 Bautista Street, Antioch CA 94509, U.S.A. (B.K.)



BLOOD BATH - '86 demo (U.S.)

BLOOD BATH is another hot new outfit from San Francisco that is currently playing the type of Thrash Metal typical of bands from that area. Their first demo is an 8-song affair that lacks severely in production, but shows some potential nevertheless.

Musically, BLOOD BATH is not really comparable to anyone in particular, but traces of SACRILEGE (S.F.) and EXODUS are evident in places. At times even some Hardcore-type riffs surface but they're not as blatantly obvious as with a lot of other bands ('Fuck You' being the only exception).

Of the 8 tracks, 'Dismembered' and 'Burning Crosses' are probably the standouts, both being tremendously heavy, intense and fast. The other tunes, 'Body Bag', 'Foaming At the Mouth', 'Blowing Chunks', 'Axe Victims', 'Crib (S.I.D.S.) Death' and the aforementioned 'Fuck You', are all quite listenable but the sound quality really just makes them sound average.

I am definitely interested in hearing more from BLOOD BATH. With a better-sounding tape they could turn out to be one of the hottest new bands around. Send \$5 to (photos and flyers also included): BLOOD BATH c/o Dane Petersen; 2481 Orange Street; Martinez CA 94553; U.S.A. (B.K.)

SEPULTURA - '85 demo/EP (BRAZIL)

When I first heard that SEPULTURA were from Brazil, I expected some garbage in the SONS OF SATAN/SEMEN OF SATAN-tradition, but what I got was one

of the hottest new Death Metal bands right now!

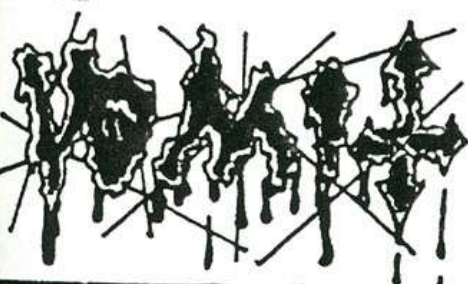
SEPULTURA's style can best be described as a mixture of the best aspects of the 'new' SODOM and the 'less-notey' riffing of SLAYER, and they create a deluge of Death that just annihilates.

There is no standouts as each of the four tracks has a clear identity of its own, and shreds in its own right.

'Bestial Devastation', 'Antichrist' (original title!?), 'Necromancer' and 'Warriors of Death', are all very fast numbers (especially 'Antichrist' --FAST!!) and very heavy, with some killer Angel Ripper-like vocals and some cool riff and tempo changes. Nothing tremendously original, mind you, but who the hell cares?! SEPULTURA are Gods!!!

The only draw-back to the tape besides the lack of originality is the somewhat 'tame' guitar sound. If it had been a bit more up-front and a bit rawer, this tape would have been even godlier; but that's only a minor complaint.

One of my all-time favorite demos--need I say more?! (B.K.)



I. AGONIZING DEATH

II. FALLEN EMPIRE

III. HOLY DESTRUCTION

1986 VOMIT DEMO



VOMIT - '86 demo (U.S.)

VOMIT is a five-piece band from the San Francisco Bay area that's been around since August of 1985. Their 1986 demo is a 3-song affair that is predominantly Hardcore but with some heavy Metal influences.

Of the three tracks, 'Agonizing Death', 'Fallen Empire', and 'Holy Destruction', I'd say that the latter is probably the most metallic, featuring some S.O.D./D.R.I.-type riffing under clean, shouted-out vocals that are obviously typical of Hardcore bands.

The other two tracks are along the same lines, at times very reminiscent of early D.R.I., but not quite as powerful.

The sound-quality is probably the biggest let-down, being very rough and noisy. With an improvement in this department next time, we might see VOMIT become more than just another band that's jumping on the bandwagon.

If you're heavily into the likes of D.R.I., NYC MAYHEM and S.O.D., you won't go wrong if you order this tape. The more Metal-oriented people will certainly want to pass on this one. Write: VOMIT c/o Scott Hill; 415 Alameda; Redwood City; CA 94062; USA. (B.K.)

WEHRMACHT - April '86 demo (U.S.)

The long-awaited debut demo from Portland's WEHRMACHT has finally been unleashed and it is definitely a killer! I had some doubts about the band's 'new' direction (more Hardcore/Speed influenced) before the release of this tape, but now I can honestly say that WEHRMACHT has remained true to themselves and are well on their way to becoming one of the biggest bands on the scene.

I wouldn't exactly say that WEHRMACHT have a sound all their own, but I can't help but feel that their blend of SLAYER and D.R.I. at high speeds with short, choppy vocals has a somewhat different sound to it.

The sound-quality is definitely way above average as every instrument is pretty much equal in the mix, and everything can be heard clearly. In fact, if this demo was pressed onto vinyl, it would certainly make a good-sounding record.

Of the seven tracks, 'Termination', 'Gore Flicks' and 'The Wehrmacht' are probably my favorites, but even the more Hardcorish material such as

'Suck My Dick' and 'Beermacht' has enough Metallic appeal about it to be considered Metal and not Hardcore. WEHRMACHT may not be Death Metal, but their debut demo is truly a killer. Order it NOW!!! Just send a blank tape, \$1, and 3 stamps to: WEHRMACHT c/o Brian Lehfeltdt; 3339 N.E.Davis; Portland OR 97232; USA. (B.K.)



METAL THE
TRENDY WAY!!

SAVAGE THRUST - '85 'Demo of Doom' demo (U.S.)

Having recently seen a number of good write-ups on SAVAGE THRUST in several Underground fanzines, I decided to review their demo in this issue and give you my point of view.

There is no question in my mind that this band has been highly over-rated. SAVAGE THRUST is as unoriginal as they come, and I find their sound to be as exciting as MUTILATOR on a good day.

First of all--the songs. Now, I really had a hard time sitting through this tape without falling asleep. The riffs are simply taken from other bands' songs, changed around a bit, and put together to make four 'original' tunes. Yeah, real original. (?)

Another thing is the vocalist Micheal Smith; this guy can't sing for his life. He not only sounds stupid trying to be the next Rob Halford, but every time he tries to scream he goes way up there and ALWAYS hits the same note!! After the second scream I just couldn't take it anymore.

As if this wasn't enough, the production on the whole tape is so thin and bland it's disgusting. There is absolutely no depth to the sound, and any kind of energy that may have been there (?) is lost because of this.

This might be the only bad review you'll see SAVAGE THRUST get, but I know I'm right about this band. If there's any justice in this World, SAVAGE THRUST will remain where they truly belong--in the basement!! Avoid this at all costs!! (B.K.)

ANVIL BITCH - '85 demo (U.S.)

ANVIL BITCH from Pennsylvania is one of those bands that deliver nothing new, but play with such precision and conviction that their lack of originality can be overlooked. This 4-song demo has absolutely no throwaway tracks and benefits from a raw and heavy production. Their sound is comparable to SLAYER and METALLICA with tinges of EXODUS every now and then. ANVIL BITCH will have their debut LP 'Rise...to Offend' out in late summer, and that should prove how good this band really is. Until then, check this tape out!! Send \$4 to: ANVIL BITCH c/o Shawn Tierney; 7100 Rutland St.; Philadelphia PA 19149; USA. (H.I.)

INSANIAC - '85 'Screams from the Asylum' demo (U.S.)

With all the joke bands that are currently polluting the scene, it's refreshing to hear a band that is sincere and enjoyable as well.

To describe INSANIAC's sound, it would be Heavy Metal drenched with killer riffing, tempo changes, and attacking amounts of speed thrown in, all combined to make this an impressive tape.

The top tracks on this 5-song affair are 'M.A.D.' (not a MORSURE cover!) and 'Living for the Fight' which are both excellent slices of powerized Metal. 'Mission to Hell', while featuring somewhat typical lyrics, still manages to get your attention with some cool riffing and great vocals in the intro.

All in all, this is a good and heavy debut tape. Nothing awesome, mind you, but the potential is definitely there. Worth checking out! Send \$4 to: INSANIAC; 50 Spring Street; Bloomfield NJ 07003; USA. (H.I.)



Genozide



Marc



Mike

**BLIND
ILLUSION**

BLIND ILLUSION - '86 'Smash the Crystal/Blood Shower' demo (U.S.)

In existence for some seven years, BLIND ILLUSION has gone through numerous line-up and musical changes before settling down on their current line-up of Marc Biedermann on guitar (the only original member), Genozide on bass, and Mike Miner on drums. Their latest 2-song demo is just a sample of their newer (a lot more Thrashy) material, and it rages!!

Of the two tracks, 'Smash the Crystal' is obviously the standout, being very much in the METALLICA/EXODUS vein that is ever-so-popular with the newer 'Frisco bands. The other track, 'Blood Shower', is impressive in its own right, but a bit more progressive and not quite as intense.

The sound quality is definitely excellent--way above average! Overall, a fine addition to anyone's collection. Let's see some vinyl out soon!! Write to: Splatterhead Productions; 951 Solano Ave.; Sonoma CA 95476; USA. (B.K.)

MASSACRE - '86 demo (U.S.)

I really expected this to bite totally, so I was somewhat surprised to actually hear some decent, albeit trendy, material from MASSACRE. Yes, this band features ex-DEATH members (faggots-ED.) Rick Rozz and Kam Lee, and they've released this 3-song demo that, while definitely listenable, is really nothing special. Other than the rather enjoyable 'Mutilated', this tape is the same kind of stuff you've heard a million times before and done better, by better bands. It doesn't stink, but it suffers greatly from trendy lyrics, poor production (better than most, though--ED.), and average songs. Very mediocre. (H.I.)

WITCH'S HAMMER - '86 demo (CANADA)

This band hails from Vancouver, Canada and is another one of the countless new Thrash Metal bands popping up from up north. While the tape itself is well-produced, the songs aren't as powerful as the band's moniker might suggest.

WITCH'S HAMMER's sound is comparable to that of Chicago's MAELSTROM, and this is seen in tracks like 'Gorgon' and 'Mantle of Death' (the latter sounds dangerously close to MAELSTROM's 'Hammerhead'). Now, all criticism

aside, WITCH'S HAMMER is a good Thrash band with a debut demo that most of you out there should find some interest in. Nothing godly (hear that, Monte???--ED.), but a good debut nonetheless. (H.I.)

DEATHRASH - '86 'Faces of Death' demo (U.S.)

Despite the band's name and their claim of being a Death Metal band, DEATHRASH plays up-tempo Power Metal that is quite listenable but nothing you've never heard before.

Musically, DEATHRASH can be described as a much weaker version of WHIPLASH (after all, WHIPLASH is GOD!), with similar riffing and song-structures, which is not too surprising considering that DEATHRASH features ex-WHIPLASH bassist Pat Burns. The vocals are fairly clean and monotonous and take away a bit from the songs.

The material itself is not bad; it's just that there are too many bands out there that fall into the 'Not Bad' category, and DEATHRASH is just another one of them--based on 'Faces of Death', at least. An improvement in the vocal department and the overall songwriting should do the job the next time around. We'll have to wait and see. For now send \$5 to: DEATHRASH c/o Pat Burns; RR #2 Box 1039; Highland Lakes NJ 07422; USA. (B.K.)



SAVAGE DEATH - '86 'Crucified in Hell' demo (U.S.)

After the promising debut demo ('Mass Genocide'--review in the last issue), SAVAGE DEATH has returned with a follow-up tape, entitled 'Crucified in Hell'. Like 'Mass Genocide', this demo does not realize the true potential SAVAGE DEATH has, but rather capitalizes on the few problems they have to overcome if they plan to make any sort of impact.

SAVAGE DEATH can hardly be considered original or totally unique; their songwriting is really a blend of all the popular Death/Thrash Metal bands such as SLAYER and POSSESSED. In spite of this, I give them a bit more credit than most other bands because they at least seem to be putting more time and thought into their songs. Not to say that SAVAGE DEATH is great--they're not.

The main problem I have with SAVAGE DEATH is the vocalist Joe Barrows (who also plays guitar); his voice is just too clean and wimpy for a band like this. He even makes the more intense material such as 'Mass Genocide', 'Spit on the Cross' and the title track no more than average with his weak semi-growls. On 'The Advisory' he really goes into his own and whines 'till there's no end--he ruins an otherwise good song.

The other problem is the band's inclusion of two S.O.D./L.O.D.-type joke songs, 'I Impaled Your Mother' and 'Kill the Posers' (both sung by bassist Tony Labosco). With so many trendy bands coming out, I would imagine that a band would try to avoid the cliches--these two tracks are fairly short, but I really see no purpose in them. I'd rather hear real songs.

If you'd heard 'Mass Genocide' and liked it, you will definitely want to invest in 'Crucified in Hell'. If you'd never heard SAVAGE DEATH before, get this demo--you might find yourself enjoying it! Write: SAVAGE DEATH; 127 Carmita Ave.; Rutherford NJ 07070; USA. (B.K.)

RANCID DECAY - 5/3/86 'Decaying Stench' demo (U.S.)

This is the first demo from Maryland's RANCID DECAY and it's quite impressive.

Despite the fact that this is a studio demo, the sound is really much more typical of that of a good rehearsal tape. All instruments are pretty

muddy in the mix and that's my main complaint about this tape.

Musically, RANCID DECAY are undeniably pure Metal, but the somewhat monotonous 'scratchy' screams/shouts of vocalist Jason Mantis give the band a fairly original feel and a bit of a Hardcore overtone. The riffing is at times very DEATH-like, and RANCID DECAY do seem to employ several rhythm changes during each song to keep the listener interested.

Of the six tracks ('Crack of Doom' (intro), 'Toxic Death', 'Left to Die', 'Silent Scream', 'Love to Destroy' and 'Act of Violence'), my personal faves are 'Toxic Death' and 'Left to Die', as they seem to be most distinguishable. The others sound pretty good as well, but the sound quality of this particular recording prevents me from being able to say more than just that.

Overall, RANCID DECAY's demo is definitely worth checking out. Send \$5 (US) or \$6 (overseas) to: RANCID DECAY c/o Jason Mantis; 117 Witherspoon Rd.; Baltimore MD 21212; USA. (B.K.)

L.S.N. - 4/23/86 demo (U.S.)

When I first heard the name LOUD SENSELESS NOISE I thought we had another trendy 'cross-over' band in our hands---luckily, that was not the case.

L.S.N. is comprised of ex-VERMIN guitarist Greg Cekalovich, ex-VERMIN drummer Mike Chacon, ex-AGENT STEEL bassist George Robb, and ex-RAPE vocalist Tony Vargas. This line-up has been together since January of 1986 and has just recorded a 4-song demo which they sent in for review.

Despite the rather trendy and misleading name, L.S.N. delivers first-rate Speed Metal with raunchy vocals and fairly technical guitar work that bursts with EXODUS, METALLICA and WHIPLASH overtones. None of the songs are overly fast but all are at least up-tempo.

Of the four tracks, 'Slaughterhouse', 'Deadly Kiss' and 'Raw Deal' are all quite hot, each being distinguishable from the other and impressive in its own right. 'Trapped', the last song on the offer, is a bit disappointing with its total length of about 10 seconds; joke songs is what L.S.N. doesn't need.

With a good push LOUD SENSELESS NOISE could very well go places, despite their trendy name. I recommend this tape to any tape-collector out there--you won't be disappointed. Write: L.S.N. c/o George Robb; P.O. Box 864; Venice CA 90294; USA or L.S.N. c/o Greg Cekalovich; 7865 Willoughby Ave.; Hollywood CA 90046; USA. (B.K.)



CASBAH - Feb. '86 demo #2 / EP (JAPAN)

With the rising popularity of LOUDNESS, many Japanese Metal bands seem to be putting a lot more emphasis on their success overseas rather than in their homeland. Such is the case with CASBAH.

CASBAH was formed in October '83 in Tokyo, Japan with the line-up of Taka Hatori (vocals), Ryo Murayama (guitar), Koichi Mitani (bass) and Takashi Usui (drums). The band recorded its first demo in June 1985, a 2-song affair that was then pressed onto vinyl. After the sellout of that first tape, CASBAH went back into the studio and recorded their



LSN

second demo/EP in February of this year. That is the tape I'm reviewing.

The two tracks on this single can best be described as Power Metal with deep growled-out vocals and a decent amount of speed—not Death Metal by any means, but it's definitely heavy enough for the more extreme metallers. 'Russian Roulette' and 'Death Metal' (original title, huh?!) are both raging Power Metal numbers that will make most other bands look small in comparison. None of this stuff is really different from what you've heard before (in fact, one of the riffs in 'Russian Roulette' comes dangerously close to a riff in S.O.D.'s 'Sargent 'D' and the S.O.D.'), but it surely makes LOUDNESS sound like DURAN DURAN. Definitely worth getting! If you'd like a copy of this 2-song EP, just send \$7 to: CASBAH c/o Taka Hatori; 1-26-1-206 Ohana-Kita; Funabashi City; Chiba Pref. 274; JAPAN. (B.K.)

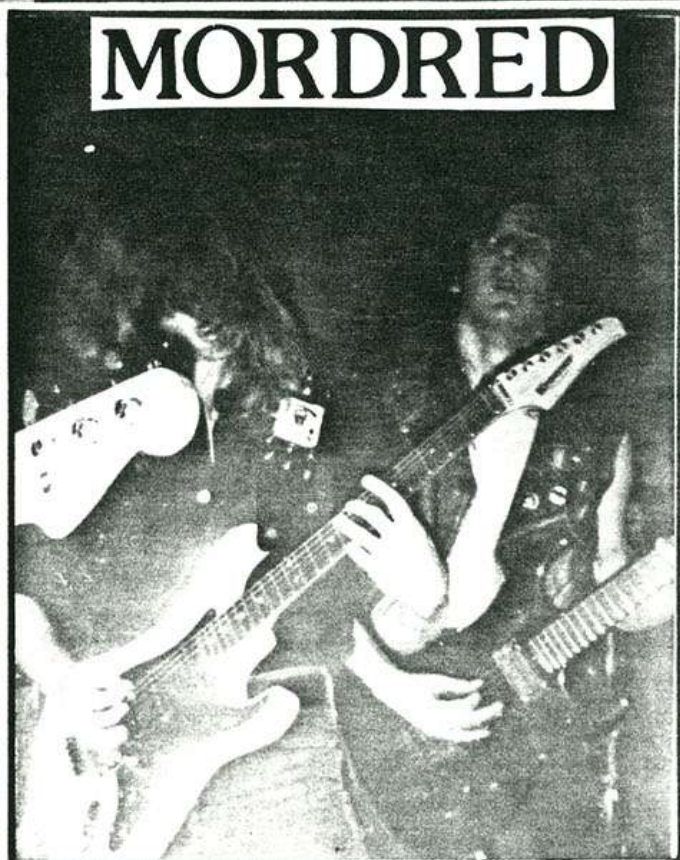
MORDRED - '86 demo (U.S.)

After my MORDRED review in the last issue, I have learned that what I'd reviewed was merely a rehearsal tape recorded on a portable tape-deck. I've also learned that MORDRED had an official demo out—which I now have in my possession.

Most of the San Francisco Metal bands belong to either the EXODUS/METALLICA-influenced crowd (i.e. DEATH ANGEL, BLIND ILLUSION, LEGACY, HEATHEN (not METALLICA though, right Doug?!) etc.) or the Speed Death crowd (i.e. INSANITY, BLACK DETHE (R.I.P.), DEATH (Gods!!!!!!) etc.). MORDRED undoubtedly belongs to the former.

The four songs on this tape, 'Sever and Splice', 'Mordred', 'The Chains Are Off But The Scars Remain' and 'Spellbound', are all for the most part moderately paced and quite musical in terms of riffing and musicianship. The guitarwork is very much along the lines of a slower EXODUS (ala 'Deliver Us to Evil') and the vocals are raunchy and a bit high-pitched, not unlike that of Udo Dirkschneider. MORDRED may not be trend-setters of any kind, but with so many bands playing as fast as possible without paying attention to their songwriting, MORDRED is definitely a breath of fresh air.

All metallers are urged to write to the band for more info on this fine tape. It also comes with a lyric sheet, a photo and a bio, so don't hesitate any longer. Write: MORDRED c/o Alex Gerould; 37 Blake Street; San Francisco CA 94118; USA. (B.K.)



EVOKED DOOM - Apr. '86 demo (WEST GERMANY)

EVOKED DOOM is another new German Death Metal band that seems more keen on being the noisiest and the 'sickest' rather than the best band around. Their debut 2-song demo is typical trendy German Thrash that is fairly listenable but has very little substance.

'Suicide Tendencies' (with intro 'The Bowl') and 'Deathfuck' (with intro 'Evil Bug') are both ultra-fast and very muddy; the guitars are practically inaudible whereas the vocals (a.k.a. screams/shrieks/growls) are quite monotonous and a bit on the 'cheesy' side. An improvement in the sound-quality department could have made a hell of a lot of difference. For now, it's just typical.

If you're into the trendy German Death Metal such as HELL, POISON, ANTI-CHRIST, ASGARD, TORMENT and the like, you will definitely want to check

EVOKED DOOM out--I doubt that you will be disappointed. Send \$4 (airmail included) to: EVOKED DOOM c/o Sherron; P.O. Box 111; D-7453 Burladingen 2; WEST GERMANY. (B.K.)



DARK LEGION - March '86 'Psychosis' demo (CANADA)

With the likes of SACRIFICE, SLAUGHTER, DEATH MILITIA, HOLOCAUST, D.O.G., HAGGATH, LETHAL PRESENCE, GUERRILLA WARFARE and DARK LEGION, the Toronto Metal scene seems brighter than ever. One of the newest bands on the scene, DARK LEGION, has recently recorded and released its first demo tape entitled 'Psychosis', and it's pretty impressive.

Recorded on only four tracks, 'Psychosis' lacks quite a bit in terms of sound-quality, but is definitely listenable. The copy that I have seems to have been poorly mixed--the vocals are way up-front whereas the guitars/drums are at times inaudible (particularly during fast rhythms). The actual music however, is certainly worth hearing.

Most of DARK LEGION's songs seem to alternate between somewhat 'muddy' fast rhythms and some moderately-paced, heavy riffing; the material seems well-written and well-arranged. D.L.'s sound, however, is nothing you've never heard before--traces of SLAUGHTER are evident in places, especially during slower parts.

The vocals of Sean Tracy are very similar to that of LEGION OF DEATH--deep and growled. This is what gives DARK LEGION a somewhat different sound.

Out of the ten tracks, none stand out as classics (on this version anyway), but all are quite enjoyable and likable. 'Impaler', 'Three Armies', 'Chronological Prophecy', 'Dark Legion', 'Blasterhammer', 'Ultraviolent', 'Scream', 'Brutal Horror', 'Intercorpse' and 'Snowy Grave' are all quite short and simple, but the rhythm and riff changes certainly put some life into them.

As a whole, in spite of the sound-quality, DARK LEGION's 'Psychosis' is a tape I would highly recommend. Their second demo, due to be recorded on eight tracks during the summer of '86, promises to be a killer. Write: DARK LEGION c/o Mark Watts; 58 Tineta Cres.; Agincourt Ontario; M1S 2Y6 CANADA. (B.K.)

POISON - '86 'Awakening of the Dead' demo #3 (WEST GERMANY)

Love'em or hate'em, POISON is still very much alive! 'A.O.T.D.' is the band's third demo in about two years, and it's just all right.

POISON hardly seems like a band that's been around since the days of the DESTRUCTION and SODOM demos--their current sound is still very amateurish and simplistic, a far cry from the latest efforts of the aforementioned outfits.

The actual sound is quite 'rough' and not very powerful; the guitars are muddy and the vocals (with obvious effects on them) are typical of German bands--except that you can't understand a word of what Virgin Slaughter (?) is talking about. Granted, POISON's musicianship/songwriting has improved over the years, but so has the competition's.

With songs like 'Satan Commands', 'Wake the Dead', 'Yog-Sothoth', 'Anti-



christ' (live version on this tape), 'Alive (Undead)', 'Legions of Hell' and 'Black Death' (live), POISON are playing the same old forgettable trendy Death Metal they started out with two years ago; no real power and a definite lack of originality--give it up guys! POISON c/o Uli Hildenbrand; Biberacherstr. 58; 7958 Laupheim 1; WEST GERMANY. (B.K.)

HELLHOUND - '85 'Submit or Die' demo (U.S.)

In existence for some five years, HELLHOUND has only been playing originals for about a year or so, and that shows on their debut demo tape.

As musicians, HELLHOUND are up there with the best of 'em--the guitar work is truly a cut above the rest. But, as far as their material goes, HELLHOUND provide neither originality nor overwhelming power that would set them apart from the others. Which is not to say that this tape isn't enjoyable, because it is.

Unlike most of their counterparts, HELLHOUND are still drawing heavy influence from the NWOBHM bands of some 6-7 years ago, with PRIEST and SAXON being the obvious ones. The songs are relatively heavy with great emphasis on musicinaship and less on accessibility. The six numbers ('Ice Age', 'Flee the Bomb', 'Killing Spree', 'Suffer the Innocent', 'The Usurper' and 'Repression of Life') are all for the most part up-tempo and pretty long, with drawn-out musical parts which tend to get boring. They are definitely listenable, and the excellent sound makes for a very enjoyable tape, but innovative they're not. Still, check it out! Send \$5 (US) or \$6 (elsewhere) to: HELLHOUND; 807 Wolfe Rd.; Sunnyvale CA 94086; USA. (B.K.)

HOLY TERROR - '86 demo (U.S.)

HOLY TERROR is the band formed by ex-AGENT STEEL guitarist Kurt Kilfelt, and this is their debut demo tape.

I don't know if I've listened to too much stuff today, but HOLY TERROR didn't do much for me. I can certainly appreciate the musicianship and the sheer playing ability that these guys possess, but the three songs present herein are simply forgettable.

The material ranges from the EXODUS-inspired 'Black Plague' to the more controlled MAIDEN-ish sounds of 'Distant Calling' and 'Guardians of the Netherworld'. As originality goes, there is very little of it here; in terms of pure catchiness of the tunes, HOLY TERROR lacks in that department as well.

The best aspect of the tape is undoubtedly the impressive sound-quality. The actual production could have been better (the snare drum is a bit buried) but with so many rehearsal/demos out now, I can't complain. All interested parties should send \$5 (US) or \$6 (elsewhere) to: HOLY TERROR; P.O. Box 204; 8500 Sepulveda Blvd.; Sepulveda CA 91343; USA. (B.K.)

WINGED ASSASSIN - Oct. '85 'Beyond Forbidden Realms' demo (U.S.)

I know nothing about this band besides the fact that they are from New Jersey and are friends with OBLIVION (another New Jersey outfit). Judging from the 'Beyond Forbidden Realms' tape, the OBLIVION-friendship has definitely taken its toll on WINGED ASSASSIN's music--like OBLIVION, they play SLAYER-inspired Thrash/Death Metal that lacks both the originality and the sheer catchiness of the Gods.

All of the five tunes ('Pig Slaughter', 'Winged Assassin', 'Watching the Moon', 'Rigor Mortis', 'Eyes of Death') are merely listenable at best--the overall sound of the tape is bland and quite thin. The musicianship isn't too bad and the potential could very well be there, but as of now, WINGED ASSASSIN is just average and nothing more. (B.K.)

NECROPOLIS - 4/7/86 rehearsal tape (U.S.)

Featuring two ex-members of DECAPITATION, NECROPOLIS sounds like it has potential to go pretty far as soon as a good-quality demo is recorded. The two songs on this tape, 'Silent Scream' and 'Future Holds the Past', con-

tain some heavy-duty riffing along with somewhat Punkish vocals of Robert Verno. Some Hardcore-influenced guitar-work also surfaces, but it's all quite heavy as well. Let's see a studio demo soon! Write: NECROPOLIS c/o Bill Ford; 980 Wilson Street; Laguna Beach CA 92651; USA. (B.K.)

DEVASTATION - 5/18/86 'A Creation of Ripping Death' demo (U.S.)

Another one of the new Chicago Death bands, DEVASTATION have just put out their debut 4-song demo entitled 'A Creation of Ripping Death'. The sound-quality is definitely way above average (this demo was recorded on 16 tracks), and DEVASTATION definitely seem to be putting a lot of effort into their songwriting, but it's nevertheless lacking heavily in originality and just plain catchiness.

Despite the rather impressive sound, the guitars are way too much in the background - drums and vocals are predominant in the mix. This takes away a bit from the tape.

The material on the demo is definitely Death Metal - no Hardcore overtones here. The overall sound is certainly very heavy--if it wasn't for the low guitars, it could have been quite deadly. The vocals of Troy Dixler are good but somewhat on the cheesy side. The actual songs are very impressive--it really sounds to me like DEVASTATION put a lot of time and effort into writing and arranging these tunes. But, it's all been done before--and better. As it is, this demo is definitely worth getting for the great sound-quality. DEVASTATION may not be doing anything new, but I'd rather hear a great-sounding demo that lacks in originality than a piece-of-shit rehearsal tape by any band. Send \$6 (U.S.) or \$7 (elsewhere) to: DEVASTATION c/o Troy Dixler; 811 Stonegate Dr.; Highland Park IL 60035; USA. The songs featured are: 'Devastation', 'Awakened from Death', 'Beyond Fear' and 'Apocalyptic Warrior'. (B.K.)

ASSASSIN - '86 'The Saga of Nemesis' demo #2 (WEST GERMANY)

In the last issue, I had very little nice things to say about ASSASSIN's debut 'Holy Terror' 7-song demo--in fact, I didn't like it at all. This time however, ASSASSIN have surprised the hell out of me - 'The Saga of Nemesis' is still for the most part trendy German Death Metal, but ASSASSIN have actually managed to come up with some fairly memorable tunes.

As is the case with most new German Death Metal bands, ASSASSIN's sound is very close to that of early SODOM - but a lot better and quite a bit more technical. The riffing is definitely good; no open-E bullshit here. The vocals are typical German Death Metal vocals, and slightly more convincing than most.

My favorites on this tape are unquestionably 'Forbidden Reality' and 'Holy Terror' - these two almost reach the 'killer' status. The rest of the tape is in the same vein but not quite as memorable. Nevertheless, this is one demo I would recommend to all fans of DESTRUCTION and SODOM. With a little more experience, ASSASSIN could very well turn out to be the next German Death Gods. We'll have to wait and see. For more info, write to: ASSASSIN c/o Robert Gonnella; Erwin von Witzlebenstr. 15; 4000 Dusseldorf 30; WEST GERMANY. (B.K.)

CEREBRAL HEMORRHAGE - May '86 demo (U.S.)

Featuring the bassist and drummer of a well-known New Jersey-based outfit, CEREBRAL HEMORRHAGE was initially meant to be just a side-project - something that could very well change now.

CEREBRAL HEMORRHAGE's debut demo tape contains 11 'tracks', most of which are humor-oriented and not to be taken seriously. The few real songs are all raging - bursting with heavy S.O.D. influence in every department. Two of them, 'Instigator' and 'Cerebral Hemorrhage', are nothing less than killer; again, they both sound like S.O.D. outtakes.

All I have to say is, if you liked S.O.D.'s LP, you will definitely want to invest in CEREBRAL HEMORRHAGE. After all, S.O.D. is gone forever. Send \$5 to: Dr Killpatient; 107 La France Ave.; Bloomfield NJ 07003; USA.

DEATHLISTS



BORIVOJ KRGIN

- 1) SLAYER - 'Angel of Death' advance LP trk
- 2) DESTRUCTION - 'Eternal Devastation' LP
- 3) POSSESSED - advance LP trk
- 4) DEATH - April '86 'Mutilation' demo / 5/26-28/86 rehearsals
- 5) SEPULTURA - '85 demo/EP
- 6) MORBID ANGEL - advance LP trk
- 7) ASSASSIN - '86 'The Saga of Nemesis' demo #2
- 8) MASSACRE - live 4/20/86 Brandon, FL (SOUNDBOARD)
- 9) DEVASTATION - 5/18/86 'A Creation of Ripping Death' demo
- 10) CEREBRAL HEMORRHAGE - May '86 demo
- 11) L.S.N. - 4/23/86 demo
- 12) PAPSMEAR - 1/23/86 rehearsal tape
- 13) CASBAH - Feb. '86 demo/EP
- 14) C.O.C. - advance EP
- 15) NECRONOMICON - 'Necronomicon' LP
- 16) GUERRILLA WARFARE - 3/86 rehearsal tape
- 17) BLIND ILLUSION - '86 'Smash the Crystal' / 'Blood Shower' demo
- 18) AT WAR - 'Ordered to Kill' LP (ADVANCE TAPE)
- 19) WEHRMACHT - April '86 'Beermacht' demo
- 20) POST MORTEM - 'The Coroner's Office' LP (ADVANCE TAPE)
- 21) SAVAGE DEATH - '86 'Crucified in Hell' demo #2
- 22) SACRIFICE - 'Torment in Fire' LP / 'Cyanide' / 'Afterlife'
- 23) SODOM - 'Obsessed by Cruelty' LP (final recording)
- 24) DARK LEGION - March '86 'Psychosis' demo
- 25) SENTINEL BEAST - 'The Depths of Death' LP

Sacrifice +



Torment

HENRY ISAAC

- 1) POSSESSED - 'Heretic' / 'Phantasm' advance LP trk
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- 3) DEATH - April '86 'Mutilation' demo
- 4) MEGADETH - 'Peace Sells But Who's Buying?!' LP (ADVANCE TAPE)
- 5) ONSLAUGHT - 'The Force' LP
- 6) ANVIL BITCH - '85 demo
- 7) INSANIAC - '85 'Screams from the Asylum' demo
- 8) DARK ANGEL - 'Burning of Sodom' advance LP trk
- 9) WEHRMACHT - April '86 'Beermacht' demo
- 10) SODOM - 'Obsessed by Cruelty' LP (original recording)
- 11) SACRIFICE - 'Torment in Fire' LP
- 12) MASSACRE - live 4/20/86 Brandon, FL (SOUNDBOARD)
- 13) SEPULTURA - '85 demo/EP
- 14) KING DIAMOND - 'Fatal Portrait' LP
- 15) AT WAR - 'Ordered to Kill' LP (ADVANCE TAPE)
- 16) WHIPLASH - 'Power and Pain' LP
- 17) KREATOR - 'Pleasure to Kill' LP
- 18) DEATH ATTACK - '86 demo
- 19) WARHAMMER - '85 'Abattoir of Death' demo
- 20) VOI VOD - 'Rrrroooaaarrr' LP
- 21) DEVASTATION - 5/18/86 'A Creation of Ripping Death' demo
- 22) HATRED - Feb. '86 'Drowning in Afterbirth' demo #2
- 23) STORMTROOPER - live 5/31/86 L'Amour
- 24) SENTINEL BEAST - 'Sentinel Beast'
- 25) SAVAGE DEATH - '86 'Crucified in Hell' demo #2



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