

BRAIN DAMAGE

ISSUE No. 1

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Fall 1984



Pic by Lowell Katz

SLAYER



FEATURING:

DESTRUCTION, MANTAS
DEATH ANGEL, OVERKILL
VOIVOD, DARK ANGEL
OMEN, JAG PANZER
HIRAX, ZNOVHITE
CELTIC FROST, ENFORCER
MERCYFUL FATE

POSSESSED

BRAIN DAMAGE ISSUE NO.1

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Hirax; Kenny Powell; Jeff Oly;
Tom Warrior and Celtic Frost;
Overkill and Lee Kundraat;
Pam Smith; John, Mark and Jag
Panzer; Dave(D.T.R.); Larry;
Jeff(Oil!); Bob Nalbandian;
Destruction; Jeff; Rick S.;
Mark and Abbatoir; Dave
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BRAIN DAMAGE

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USA

ADD RATES:

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PLAYLISTS:

Vadim

1. POSSESSED-"Burning in Hell"
2. DARK ANGEL-"Falling from the Sky"
3. SLAYER-"Hell Awaits"
4. DESTRUCTION-"Total Desaster"
5. VOIVOD-"Voivod"
6. HANTAS-"Evil Dead"
7. HIRAX-"Destroy"
8. EXODUS-"Dying by His Hand"
9. TROUBLE-"Victim of the Insane"
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13. HELLHAMMER-"Massacra"
14. OVERKILL-"Overkill"
15. BATHORY-"Return of Darkness and Evil"

Ron

1. SLAYER-"Praise of Death"
2. POSSESSED-"Death Metal"
3. DESTRUCTION-"Mad Butcher"
4. D.R.I.-"Couch Slouch"
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6. SLAYER-"Necrophiliac"
7. EXODUS-"Bonded by Blood"
8. HIRAX-"Bombs of Death"
9. DARK ANGEL-"Merciless Death"
10. HELLHAMMER-"3rd of the Storms"
11. OMEN-"Dragon's Breath"
12. JAG PANZER-"Symphony of Terror"
13. SUICIDAL TENDENCIES-"Suicide's an Alternative"
14. ACID-"Drop Dead"
15. MOTORHEAD-"Locomotive"

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DESTRUCTION



This bunch of damned hellrats from West Germany has been in existence since 1983. At that time Mike (guitar) was playing in a band called MORRIGAN. Soon after, he met Tommy (drums) and they decided to form their own band. After getting a vocalist the band was called KNIGHT OF DEMON then soon changed into DESTRUCTION, although they still didn't have a bass player.

Tommy met up with Schmeir at a disco, of all places! Schmeir picked up the bass and for the time, the lineup was complete. However, a short time before they went into the studio to record the first demo, the vocalist was fired and Schmeir took over at the mike. Their first demo has 6 tracks of "Black - Hardcore - Highspeed - Metal", as they like to call it! It was recorded in only 5 to 6 hours. The tape is entitled "Bestial Invasion of Hell". It's real good, although does suffer a bit from production, like a lot of great demos do!

The tape starts off with "Mad Butcher", the title speaks for itself! This is a fast-paced grinding tune, with growling vocals and great leads! The music shows SLAYER, EXODUS, VENOM and early METALLICA influences.

The rest of the DESTRUCTION material is basically in the same vein. "Antichrist" starts off pretty slow, but then builds up its speed. The other songs on the tape are pretty fast all the way through. These include: "Total Disaster", "Front Beast", "Satan's Vengeance" and the great closer "Tormentor".

The material is thrash, the vocals are growling, but there's also excellent guitar work (influenced by the likes of Randy Rhoads and Kirk Hammett) which separates this band from groups like SODOM and the now extinct HELLHAMMER.

DESTRUCTION is about to sign a contract with Steamhammer Records (a division of Road Runner), and they should be featured on the upcoming "Speed Metal" compilation, so watch for that!

Meanwhile, I suggest you get a copy of their 6-song demo which comes with lyrics and photo! Send \$4.00 to DESTRUCTION'S U.S. representative: Katon W. DePena

6062 San Rafael Dr.
Buena Park, Ca. 90620



Pix by Mike Siegel

DEATH ANGEL

S.F.'s DEATH ANGEL was formed in the summer of '82. The original line up was: Dennis Pepa (vocals), Andy Galeon (drums), Gus Pepa (rhythm guitar) and Rob Cavestany (bass/lead guitar!). With that line up they recorded a 4-track demotape featuring "No Time for Love", "The Hunted", "Intruder" and "Barren Lands". This material was pretty weak; none of these songs are played live any more.

Soon after the tape, Dennis took over on bass and now does half the vocals, the other half done by Rob. The new stuff is a great improvement! It's really good. Keep in mind that Dennis and Gus are 16, Rob is 15 and Andy is 12 (watch out Rob Reiner!)

The music is heavy, but with lots of tempo and melody changes. D.A. is influenced a lot by MERCYFUL FATE. The guitar work shows a lot of Akira Takasaki influence, but on the heavy side. These guys also like VENOM! There are a lot of fast parts in their songs. DEATH ANGEL'S live set consists of: "Frolic Through the Park" (a good fast tune), "Witches of Haves", "Silent Killer", "Devil's Metal", "Priests of the Black Oracle" (a 12 minute long fantasy song), a brand new song "The Ultra Violence", three instrumentals and my personal favorite, "Thrashers", a song about the bangers in the front row!

D.A. had been playing shows in the S.F. area, like one with SLAYER and HIRAX in Monterey and with LAAZ ROCKIT at the Stone in S.F. They also hope to open for ARMORED SAINT sometime in the near future! The band hopes to record a demo very soon and, of course, do some more gigs (for booking call Virginia 415-755-2452)!

So watch for the Ultra Violence metal from these thrashers!



VOIVOD

VOIVOD

"Welcome to Morgoth, the land of VOIVOD"

VOIVOD formed in Canada in November 1982. It consists of: Snake (throat, screams, insults, mike torture and weapon operator), Piggy (burning metal axe, electromotive force and tremolition), Blacky (blower bass, pyromania, and s**t) and Away (thunder machine, death machine, and horror machine). Just after hearing that, you can sort of tell what these guys are all about! VOIVOD is definitely one of the heaviest! They're influenced by well-known bangers like MOTORHEAD, VENOM, RAVEN and others (there is also a noticeable punk influence from bands like DISCHARGE).

VOIVOD recorded a three-track demo 5 or 6 months ago that featured: "Voivod", "Condemned to the Gallows" and "Iron Gong". Soon after that, they appeared on "Metal Massacre 6" with a newer version of "Condemned to the Gallows".

Now, VOIVOD has an LP entitled "War and Pain" out on Metal Blade (Slagel's picking up hardcore bands!). The album is great! It reminds me a lot of the first VENOM LP! The opener "Voivod" is a fantastic opener that blasts through with speed and power! "Blower" is another thrash tune that has a little punk feel to it. Not all of this LP is pure thrash though, "Live for Violence" is a good heavy song and has some pretty good leads. "War and Pain" is another good tune. It shows these guys have some talent. Overall a great LP. 9 tracks of good heavy power metal-no ballads here.

VOIVOD describe their live show as a nuclear explosion, "It's so hot and fast you don't have time to realize all the destructive power of this war machine". There are plans for some shows with VENOM in store for VOIVOD in Canada sometime this winter. Sounds like an OTT show!

Hopefully, VOIVOD will soon tour outside of Canada; watch for them! They're dedicated to pure, heavy, power metal!

Write: VOIVOD
C.P. 158
Jonquiere, Quebec
Canada G7X7V9

By V.R.



POSSESSED comes from the S.F. Bay area, the hardcore heavy metal heaven. At the moment they're one of the heaviest and fastest bands in the world, no kidding! A lot of bands lose some of their heavyness in the speed but POSSESSED is lightning fast and very heavy and grinding at the same time!

The band was formed by Mike Torrao (guitar) and Mike Sus (drums), who were playing together for quite some time. A while later they found Jeff Bacerra on bass, and then got Brian Montana (guitar) through an ad in a magazine. With that they started writing songs. Jeff wanted to sing, so they tried it and everything worked out. POSSESSED is influenced mainly by VENOM and EXODUS (!) but there are also noticeable SLAYER influences.

Recently POSSESSED recorded a three song demo tape. The demo's first track is "Death Metal" (which is exactly what these guys are all about). This is a great fast paced and ultra-heavy song, with some good leads and a great chorus. Although Mike does sound a bit like Cronos and Lemmy, I like his vocals alot, especially in "Death Metal". Next is "Evil Warriors". This one is not as fast as the other two, but still a good heavy song, again there's some good leads. The best is saved for last - "Burning in Hell". This song is hardcore metal at its best!!! This song is speedmetal, but it also has a really good slow n' heavy part in the middle!

Other POSSESSED material includes: "Swing of the Axe", "Tribulation" and "Satan's Curse". Hopefully they'll be able to get those out either on vinyl or tape real soon! They've been contacted by Torrid Records from New York (who is going to sign EXODUS), who is interested but not able to sign them right now. Brian Slagel, (Metal Blade Rec.) also shows interest in the band and plans to put them on Metal Massacre 6 (which also might feature SODOM and DARK ANGEL!) and maybe release an L.P. some time in the near future.

POSSESSED has been doing shows in the Frisco area with EXODUS and SLAYER, and plan on doing some more gigs with HIRAX, DARK ANGEL, OVERKILL (from N.Y.!!) and maybe MEGADETH some time in October. However, they're not likely to play outside the Bay area in the near future.

I can't wait to hear some new material from this quartet. Death Metal from the pits of hell!



Pic by Lisa Hoglan

OMEN

"Battle Cry"

For more info:
OMEN
17842 Willard St.
Reseda, CA. 91335

"....off in the distant gloomy sky, lingers the warning of OMEN..."

September 1984 has brought about the eagerly awaited debut LP from L.A.'s OMEN. Entitled "Battle Cry", it weaves ten tales of good and evil knights battling dragons and each other, fair maidens cum wenches, and gladiating mercenaries raping and pillaging in the night.

First heard on Metal Massacre 5, with "Torture Me", OMEN got off to a fast start. The song was indicating of things to come from them. Though "Battle Cry"'s tunes are not as fast, they still pack a very medieval punch, drawing upon influences ranging from old MAIDEN to MANOWAR to SAVAGE GRACE. Though 7 of the 10 tunes are in the "Phantom of the Opera" or "Crionics" beat, repetition rarely tears its ugly head, except in "Bring Out the Beast". There are many more highlights on this album than lowlights. Stronger tunes include: "The Axeman", "Last Rites", "Dragon's Breath" and two holdovers from guitarist Kenny Powell's SAVAGE GRACE days, "Die by the Blade" and the title track.

Kenny Powell has learned his chops well. A member of the Randy Rhoads school of playing, he shines as a guitarist as well as a good songwriter, while the rhythm section of bassist Jody Henry and the huge drum sound of Steve Wittig pounds away their forceful backbeat. J.D. Kimball is, I feel, one of the better singers on the L.A. circuit, with a style all his own.

OMEN has a bright future ahead of them, and as soon as they break out of L.A., beware, earth!!!

"....the future is now, the sign is upon us, soon all the world shall know it is an OMEN...."

By G.H.

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SLAYER



The mighty SLAYER, L.A.'s only Black Metal band is doing very well at the moment, especially for being so fast and heavy and definitely not commercial. Their debut LP has been selling very well. They have now put out a three-song EP called "Haunting the Chapel".

In January, SLAYER went to San Francisco for the first time, to get a taste of some real thrashers! They have gone back quite frequently since then. In late June (after making a stop in San Francisco to play with EXODUS, POSSESSED and LA's VERMIN) SLAYER went up north and did some dates in Olympia, Seattle and Portland with special guests METAL CHURCH and WILD HOGS (I mean DOGS!). On the way back they did a show with LAZZ ROCKIT in San Francisco and one with HIRAX and DEATH ANGEL in Monterey. Soon, after doing some more gigs in L.A. and one in Frisco (with EXODUS, SUICIDAL TENDENCIES and POSSESSED) SLAYER will go into the studio to record the next LP, "Hell Awaits". The current EP is a preview of what you can expect on the album (although none of the three tracks will actually appear on the LP). The new SLAYER material is longer and much more grinding, not to mention much faster than ever!!

Some of the new titles include: "Necrophiliac", "Praise of Death", "Hell Awaits", "Kill Again" and "Warlocks Revenge" (working title). These are more-less completed, but there will undoubtedly be some changes before the LP is out.

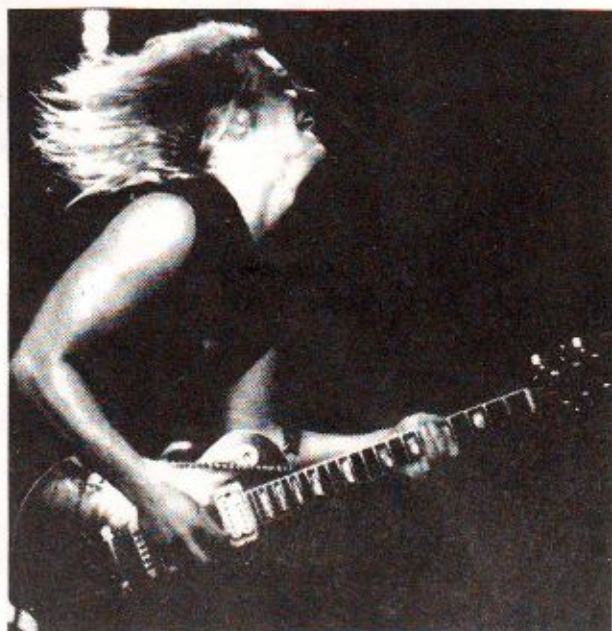
"Praise of Death" starts off really fast, then goes into a great slower, but grinding part, and once again speeds up!

"Necrophiliac" is another excellent thrasher song with many tempo changes. It has been played live quite a few times, so many people are probably familiar with that one. I won't talk about "Kill Again" and "Warlocks Revenge" because I have not heard those with vocals yet, but I'll tell you this much. They are also very good songs!

However, my personal favorite out of all these is the title track, "Hell Awaits". It starts with a slow and very heavy intro that gradually builds up into one of the fastest SLAYER songs, a classic!

SLAYER is great on vinyl, but those who have seen the band play (except KERRANG!) will tell you they are one of the most intense live bands on the scene. They play so much faster and heavier than on vinyl, and with lots of headbanging. SLAYER doesn't rely on flash pots and makeup anymore, just pure energy!!! Hopefully, soon they will tour beyond the West Coast. As it says on the "SNM" LP: "Beware Europe, we're going to steal your souls!".

By V.R.



Pictures by
Lowell Katz

HELL AWAITS

Write to SLAYER at:
P.O. BOX 3007
HUNTINGTON PARK, CA
90255
U.S.A.

INTERVIEW WITH KATON W. DEPENA OF HIRAX.

HIRAX

Bd: Why did Bob and Brian leave the band?

Katon: They didn't want to play thrashing power metal! Bob wanted to do more technical stuff, which is cool, but he didn't want to thrash at all. Brian, he is just a wimp!

Bd: How are the new members working out?

K: Real good! Scott (guitar) is just metalhead and John (drums) is a total thrasher.

Bd: Has the music changed with the new line-up?

K: Aaaaarrrggghh!!! Drastically! Everybody that hears it says that. It's a lot heavier and faster!

Bd: Have you done any shows lately?

K: Down here in L.A., boredom county, we do just parties, to make money, to get back up to San Fransisco. That's where the thrashers are at. We want to play down here, because there are some 'bangers down here. No matter how much people slag off L.A., there are some real 'bangers here!

Bd: What bands are you influenced by?

K: Let's put it this way, without taking credit away from a bunch of bands I'll forget to mention, we like anything that's real heavy, fast and loud!

Bd: Any plans for a second demo?

K: Well the first tape, I don't even want to talk about. It got us known, but the next one, only the hardcore are gonna be able to handle it!

Bd: How many songs do you plan to record for the next tape?

K: Hopefully, six, but minimum three. We might go into an expensive studio. We want to get the best sound, a raw, heavy sound, of course. MOTORHEAD is a prime example of a very heavy and raw sound.

Bd: What songs do you plan to use?

K: We'll be choosing from new material like: "Guardian Protector", "Executed", "Destruction and Terror", "Bombs of Death", "Demon's Evil Forces", "Destroy", and "Call of the Gods", which is for all the posers who wear an upside-down cross without knowing anything about it. I can see if you're like King Diamond, I mean he's the ultimate, he's really into it.

Bd: Last comments?

K: Just stick to thrashin' power metal, you'll be okay!

Pic by Burzelbar



HELLHAMMER, Switzerland's heaviest, who just released their debut vinyl after putting out two demos have now split up! It was official on May 11, 1984. Tom Warrior (guitar/vocals) and Martin Ain (bass) left the band a few weeks after a second guitarist was added to HELLHAMMER. HELLHAMMER went through many line ups, but this time the creative head of the band, Tom, decided to start a whole new band with bass player Martin. The band also features Isaac Darso (session drummer) and is called CELTIC FROST.

The reason for the split is, as Tom said: "We want to play heavier, but Vince (guitar) and Bruce (drums) did not like this direction". Although there is no more HELLHAMMER, your nightmare is not over, because their spirit lives in CELTIC FROST. "CELTIC FROST makes HELLHAMMER sound like Boy George!", said Tom Warrior recently. Tom also said that Celtic Frost will deliver much heavier and more technical metal than ever before.

Celtic Frost plans to put out a three-track EP on Noise Records. The vinyl offering should be called "Morbid Tales". Three tracks will be chosen out of their new material which includes: "Procreation of the Wicked", "Morbid Tales", "The Cross on My Shoulders", "Dethroned Emperor", "Necromancer" and "Dawn of Meggido". Celtic Frost's plans don't stop here: Their debut LP entitled "To Mega Therion" should be out by early spring, 1985. So two years before the official one, Celtic Frost start their own Apocalypse!

By V.R.

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OVER KILL



Power In Black

This OVERKILL comes from New York and is, in my opinion, the best Power Metal band that city's ever put out! This band is heavy, but very original and the musicianship is great!

This Blood Metal quartet was formed out of the ashes of a punk/metal LUBRICANTS, a cover band D.O.A. and a band called the DROPOUTS in 1972.

OVERKILL decided to be an original band and created a very unique and heavy sound which they called "Blood Metal". Bobby "Blitz" voice hits the band's sound very well. His vocals are unique and very powerful! The drum sound created by 'Rat' Skates is a killer, fast and with a touch of punk influence but not sloppy in any way.

Finally, in March and September, 1983 OVERKILL recorded their first demo called "Power in Black". There are 5 tracks of pure metallic mayhem on this tape. All the songs are real good, but in my opinion, the two stand out tracks are "Overkill" and "There's No Tomorrow". Those two are it! This tape is a must to own!

From what I hear, OVERKILL is also a great live band and a major force in the area. They've opened up for ANVIL and METALLICA, as well as headlining a lot of shows.

OVERKILL is getting a lot of airplay on the mighty WMSC, Power Metal, radio in New York, which helps them out tremendously. They also reserve airplay in almost 20 other stations around the world.

By now OVERKILL has some new material, and will soon have an LP and hopefully, a tour. Beware...the Blood Metal Donors are coming!

For tapes, merchandise, video and info write: OVERKILL

OVERKILL

P.O.Box 721

New Providence, N.J. 07974
USA





DARK ANGEL certainly has arrived! 1982 saw the formation of one of L.A.'s most promising power metal bands. At that time they used to do covers (like Tank's "Shellshock" and "Step-pin on a Landmine"), but also started writing originals.

In 1983 DARK ANGEL recorded a 5-track demo. This tape circulated pretty well and made the band more known. Soon after the demo, drummer Mike Andrade left the band and was replaced by Bob Gorley (who didn't last too long!). With that, they did gigs in the Los Angeles area opening for groups like SLAYER, AUGUST REDMOON and POWERTRIP.

After going through countless drummers DARK ANGEL got Jack Shwartz. They also added a second guitarist, Eric Meyer. With that lineup (the original members being Jim Durkin, Don Doty and Robbie Yohn) they went into the studio in June 1984 to record their first L.P. entitled "We Have Arrived". This 8-track tape (that will be their L.P.) is very good, heavy and fast!

The standout tracks are: "Welcome to the Slaughterhouse", "Falling from the Sky" and the classic - "Merciless Death", a killer speedmetal song, with a slower double bass chorus. The other songs on the tape are: "Hell's on IT'S Knees", "Vendetta", the title track, "No Tomorrow" and "Gonna Burn" (which will hopefully be replaced by a newer song that was written after the tape was recorded). The L.P. will hopefully be released towards the end of the year on a new label called Metalstorm Records.

After the recording of the L.P., Jack Schwartz was replaced by ex-Megadeth sticksman Lee Rauch, who lasted till late September, and now Jack is back!

Right now, as guitarist Jim says: "We're heavier and faster than we've ever been!"

Also Manager Steve Craig is no longer working with the band. So don't write to Platinum Management for info about DARK ANGEL!

DARK ANGEL will soon be doing shows in L.A. and San Francisco area. Seeing DARK ANGEL is a must, so be there !!!! And watch for their up-coming L.P.

By R.N.

JAG PANZER "AMPLE DESTRUCTION" LP

JAG PANZER is really the only true power metal band to come out of Colorado. Their debut album certainly proves it: "Ample Destruction" combines excellent guitar work and kick-ass vocals with a heavy back beat.

"License to Kill", the opener, is a very impressive song and lets you hear the talent of the Tyrant as he screams away with good back up vocals by the two axemen.

"Warfare" is the second song, and provides excellent guitar work with a pounding drum sound.

"Symphony of Terror" is, in my opinion, the killer track. There is a powerful drum intro. Rick does some excellent stick work as he pounds his kit, especially during the chorus. Again, lots of great screams and good solos, a well written song!

"Harder than Steel" has the same hard driving effect as "Warfare" with very good synchronized guitar work and an echoing effect during the solo.

"Generally Hostile" is the only track which Rick plays double bass (I wish there were more). It has a good powerful guitar sound.

Side two opens with "The Watching". This is the only disappointment of the album. It shows lack of power and should have been left off the album!

"Reign of the Tyrants" is quite possibly the heaviest song on the LP! It has a good keyboard/guitar intro.

"Cardiac Arrest" shows very much the same writing ideas.

Now for the grand finale—"The Crucifix". It brings you the best writing talents from these five bangers. This seven minute concept song is a classic which consists of five parts: "The Possession", "Suffer unto Me", "Apostles of the Damned", "The Beast" and "Armageddon". This track shows great amounts of talent and vast ranges of vocal sounds.

Other than their first EP, this is by far the best piece of vinyl that Azra Records has put out!

As for The Tyrant (vocals), Rick Hilyard (drums), Mark Briody and Joey Tafolla (guitars) and John Tetley (bass), "Ample Destruction" should take them a long way!!

By R.N.

JAG PANZER

P.O. Box 16066
Colorado Springs, CO 80935

MERCYFUL FATE - "Don't Break the Oath"



Released upon the eve of an American tour (that hopefully won't fall through), "Don't Break the Oath", FATE'S second LP, proves to be one of 1984's classics. Every song brings through the punch that was sorely lacking on many of "Melissa's" tunes.

Kicking off with "A Dangerous Meeting", the album starts off rather slowly. By no means a throwaway track, it's just not up to par with the rest of the material here.

"Nightmare" is next, and tells of vocalist King Diamond's first encounter with the supernatural. This song (as well as the other 8) showcase FATE'S expertise at the tempo change.

Following "Nightmare" is a slower, double bass grinder, "Desecration of Souls", and much to my surprise, only features two to three tempo changes.

Side one is closed with "Night of the Unborn", weaving a tale of resting souls before a Black Mass.

Side two features the writing talents of King Diamond with "The Oath" (you can guess what that's about!!) and "Come to the Sabbath" written solely by himself, and "Gypsy", in collaboration with Michael Denner. Diamond proves himself as an excellent writer, with his tunes being my personal favorites. He comes up with some real heavy riffs. Only one complaint, though. "Come to the Sabbath" has the token Pat Travers riff-steal (you may recall hearing shades of "Snortin' Whiskey" in "Demon Bell", off "Melissa"). This one being in one of the breaks on "Come...", the intro to "Stevie" by Travers. My only beef.

"Welcome Princes of Hell" and "To One Far Away" are the other tracks from side two. "Welcome..." portrays Diamond as a host of some "Friends" from the underworld, and "To One Far Away" is a soft, minute and a half acoustic guitar track, with a little electric guitar solo textured in. This would make a good intro but shouldn't have a title.

"Come to the Sabbath" rounds out the album in a grand double bass fashion yet more tales of Black Masses, excellent all around!!

MERCYFUL FATE have stepped up their production quite a bit too, I might add. Gone are the twangy guitars that were a drawback to "Melissa", and now they have a good, grinding, dual 6-string attack, featuring some great harmonies between Michael Denner and Hank Shermann.

The rhythm section of Timi G. Hansen (bass) and Kim Ruzz (drums) is one of the most technical around, with Hansen using his Harris influences well, and Ruzz, while not the flashiest drummer around, is one of the best.

King Diamond, you either love him or hate him. I love his voice but a friend pointed out to me that, if you listen closely, you'll realize that he does not sing, he chants. His vocals are nothing but chants, and I think they're better than ever. A masterful lyricist he is as well. Hardcore Satanism at its best!!

With each effort, they have improved songwriting and musically speaking, their latest has me eagerly awaiting the future to see what FATE has in store for us all....

"Listen!! They sing!! Oh, the coven sings.....'You are insane, you are insane, you are insane'...."

Hell on Earth

By G.H.

MANTAS "DEATH BY METAL" DEMO

This is a really good 4 track tape from Florida's MANTAS. The first tune on this demo is "Legion of Doom", the only studio track (the rest are live). This is a pretty good song, it starts off slow, sounding a lot like old HELLHAMMER, then breaks into a good lead and picks up speed. "Power of Darkness" and "Death by Metal" are both fast thrashing songs. However the best is saved for last in the form of "Evil Dead". The song starts off with a really good, haunting intro and then becomes really fast and heavy. The chorus is great! The one major thing this tape suffers from is production, because there isn't any! Still, the demo is worth searching for. This is definately one of the heaviest tapes you'll find!

ENFORCER "High Treason" Demo

This a fairly good tape from Chicago's own ENFORCER. "High Treason" is the best track here; it is slow and heavy in the MANOWAR and WITCH SLAYER vein. Next up on this three-song tape is "Salem's Curse", another good tune. It starts off with an acoustic intro and then tears into a good heavy part, a bit faster than "High Treason". This song goes on pretty well for a while, but gets a bit boring at the end. The last track here is "The Final Conflict". This is one boring song! I am not against slow metal, but this song is not heavy at all. Over all, a good tape that would have received a better review if it had only two tracks.

By V.R.

SLAYER

"Haunting the Chapel"

EP

Last year, if someone had told me that SLAYER could top their debut album (Show No Mercy), I would have said, "You're crazy!" I mean "SNM" was everything you wanted in a power metal album! But "Haunting the Chapel" (the new three-song EP) certainly says it all by itself.

"Chemical Warfare" has killer speed and several tempo changes.

Side II opens with "Captor of Sin". A slower yet powerful song with great leads.

Finally, "H.T.C." is definitely one of the heaviest and best written songs SLAYER has put out. It combines excellent pounding on the kit with Cronos like vocals and chants.

If you like "SNM", then "HTC" is a MUST to own!!

By R.N.

ZNOWHITE "All Hail to Thee"

This is the long awaited vinyl debut from Chicago's ZNOWHITE, called "All Hail to Thee". It proves to be a good slab of plastic despite the boring cover! The mini LP features seven tracks, five of them being fast skull-crunchers, the other two being slow and boring. ZNOWHITE slow songs are not heavy at all. The fast tracks like "Do Or Die", "Sledgehammer", "Saturday Night" and "Bringing The Hammer Down" are very good-speedy and short! Although a bit of heaviness is lost in the speed, this is still a very good vinyl offering. Next time, leave out the zlow stuff!

By V.R.

METALLICA

"Ride the Lightning"

Well, this is certainly the biggest disappointment of the year. Whatever happened to the band that put out the fastest music on vinyl in 1983? These guys have certainly let their hardcore fans down.

The only decent track on the album is "Fight Fire with Fire". It still has some of the speed that they can deliver. Songs like "Fade to Black" and "Call of Ktulu" have acoustic guitar licks that reminds one of Randy Rhoads in his OZZY days and makes "Seek and Destroy" sound like "Metal Militia". I mean it puts you to sleep. "Trapped Under Ice" is another close to half-way decent song. But again, gets a bit boring. A couple of those songs rip off some great EXODUS riffs. This is definitely not an LP to be bought by hardcore bangers!

By R.N.

HIRAX

THRASH AND BANG!!!



Pic by Rick Smith



DESTRUCTION