

Sensational Megadeth ticket offer  
and competition-details inside!

# NEWS

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## WHEN THE CHIPS ARE DOWN... Baby Tuckoo and Chrome Molly: British Rock's Last Stand?

Tesla  
Manowar  
Lee Aaron  
Helloween  
White Tiger  
Georgia Satellites

ROB ARMITAGE OF BABY TUCKOO (left) and STEVE HAWKINS OF CHROME MOLLY:  
pic Ross Halfin

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have to wait) but what I've reviewed here shows clearly that there is in fact no shortage of quality melodic rock. Oh, and don't run away with the impression that just because I've been concentrating on solo artists I've forgotten about real bands! Actually, the next Wimpwire column will be handed over exclusively to an amazing selection of groups (not previously mentioned in Kerrang!) from pomp prima donnas to relatively raunchy AOR rockers... bands who deserve space simply because they're doing it a lot better than those already in the spotlight (wait till you read about the *Untouchables*).

On the gossip front, I've heard that the new *Night Ranger* LP is quite a corker, bearing a finely tuned resemblance (long overdue) to their classic debut album yet boasting the top notch production techniques introduced on the *'7 Wishes'* opus. Recording was undertaken at Fantasy Studios in San Francisco with production being handled by the band and Kevin Elson (the man who put the parp into Europe!), the same feller in fact who is now working on the latest *Virginia Wolf* LP (and at the same studios!). Rumours that drummer Jason Bonham have left the band to join the reformed *Led Zeppelin* are incorrect, although it is known that he did spend some time late last year rehearsing with *Jimmy Page* in London.

Look out for a new *John Waite* LP shortly, with mixing just completed at the Hit Factory, New York.

*White Lion*, the hotly tipped New York rockers, are currently finalising a substantial deal with Atlantic Records and will fly to Los Angeles in March to commence work on a new album with producer *Michael Wagener*. Material recorded last year in Germany has now been abandoned... for full details you'll have to wait until the next interview!

If you thought that *Taxxi*, the expatriate British radio rockers, had all but chucked in the towel then think again because they've just started work on a new album - tentatively titled *'Falling Rain'* - in New York for MCA Records, a project involving a variety of producers including *Randy Jackson* and *Phil Kaffel*, best known for his work with *Eddie Money*... talking of whom, *Mr Money* was recently in town promoting his new album, *'Can't Hold Back'*, and single, *'Take Me Home Tonight'*, both heartily recommended.



JOHN WAITE: new album imminent



### UNDERGROUND METAL NEWZ BY DON KAYE

THE NEW Voivod LP, *'Killing Technology'*, will be issued in March on the Noise International label. The full track listing is: *'Killing Technology'*, *'Overreaction'*, *'Tornado'*, *'Forgotten In Space'*, *'Ravenous Medicine'*, *'Order Of The Black Guards'* and *'This Is Not An Exercise'*. Two other recorded numbers, *'Cockroaches'* and *'Too Scared To Scream'*, won't make the album but may be used for a later EP.

And then there's *Celtic Frost*; their new album, as reported recently in *Mayhem*, is called *'Into The Pandemonium'* and along with a requiem written by guitarist/vocalist Tom G. Warrior will also feature the first Frost number penned by American drummer Reed St. Mark (the track in question is titled *'The Inevitable Factor'*). The LP is due for a March/April release on Noise. Incidentally, the band is staying as a three-piece for now, the search for a permanent second guitarist having failed.

I expect both Frost and Voivod to show considerable musical progress on these LPs, with both bands emerging as major Thrash voices in the coming year.

As for the demo scene, well, San Francisco is hot as always, with lots of quality tapes spewing out of the Bay Area.

Two of the best to come to light in the past month are the debut tape from *Violence* and the second demo from the much-ballyhooed *Blind Illusion*.

*Violence* are a quartet whose four-song tape contains what we've come to expect from 'Frisco bands: lots of technical, chugging riffing, shifting rhythms and melodic soloing. Good stuff,

though the vocals are a weak point, sounding rather hollow. Still, it's standard 'Frisco Metal and a good bet.

Write to: *Violence* c/o Phil Demmel, 11674 Los Ranchitos Ct., Dublin, CA 94568 USA.

As for *Blind Illusion*, they're already the pick to click in several underground Metal circles. Consisting of Marc Biedermann (guitar/vocals), Geno (bass) and Mike Miner (drums), they take the classic 'Frisco sound and add on a greater level of complexity, along with some mean guitar work. Ultimately, the songs are also more memorable than those of *Violence*, and the vocals are more aggressive as well. Expect to see these guys land a deal soon, and I want to be the first in line for the feature.

In the meantime, write to: *Blind Illusion* c/o Marc Biedermann, 2009 Dunn, Richmond, CA 94801 USA. Highly recommended!

There's always something going on in Canada these days, and it's my pleasant duty to bring another new Canuck bunch to your attention.

*Soothsayer* hail from Quebec and have obviously been to the *Slayer School Of Thrash*, with side courses in Voivod and *Sacrifice*. All in all, it's a predictable tape, with most of the songs sounding the same, but I give 'em credit for decent production and a good level of intensity. They should write more songs like *'Build The Terrorism'*, which isn't all 1000mph and has more identity to it.

Write to: *Soothsayer*, PO Box 5201, Beauport, Quebec, G1E 6B8, Canada.

Hailing from Denmark are *Prophets Of Doom*, who are

influenced more by *Trouble*, *Black Sabbath* and the late *Mercyful Fate* than the likes of *Kreator* and *Slayer*. That's fine, but most of the songs on their four-track second tape (the first was recorded under the name of *Prophecy*) become too complicated for their own good, starting energetically before getting lost in unremarkable riffs and vocals. Still, they get points for attempting to stay away from total Thrash, although the best number here, *'Beyond The Black Horizon'*, is a straightforward steamroller.

Write to: *Per M. Hansen*, Skibhusvej 90, 3TH, DK-5000 Odense, Denmark.

Two local fanzines have come to my attention lately, one already on its seventh issue, the other its second. *Total Thrash* comes out of Philadelphia and is geared towards the Hardcore side of things, with features on *DRI*, *SOD*, *Cryptic Slaughter* and *Chronic Fear*, as well as *Seputura* and *Sodom*. The layout, printing, and writing are all clearly amateurish, but the many album/demo reviews are on-target.

Send \$1.50 to: *Total Thrash*, c/o Scott Helig, 2127 Tryon St., Philadelphia, PA 19146 USA.

On its second and much-improved issue is *Cutthroat*, which includes stories on *Possessed*, *Dark Angel*, *Artillery* and *Trouble*, as well as concert reviews of *Metallica*, *Slayer* and the *Crumsuckers*; there are also album/tape reviews. Layout and printing are adequate, with lots of pics and logos, and the writing is sharp and intelligent.

Send \$2.00 to: *Cutthroat*, c/o Jeff Kitts, 120 Harold St., Staten Island, NY 10314 USA.

Remember, fanzines are the best way to find out about new bands and demos, and how to contact them.

That's all for now, except to say that I appreciate the response to the column so far. Keep sending tapes and 'zines to: *Deathvine*, c/o Don Kaye, 261-D Signs Road, Staten Island, NY 10314 USA.



SOOTHSAYER from Quebec: '... obviously been to the *Slayer School Of Thrash* ...'