

NOCTURNE

Magazine



MR. BIG



MEGADETH

- Inside:
- exclusive interviews
 - local band profiles
 - demo and show reviews
 - columns

SPECIAL PREMIER
ISSUE!!!
Vol. 1, Issue 1 Summer, 1991



BABYLON A.D.



VICIOUS RUMORS

**NOCTURNE MAGAZINE
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EDITORIAL

Nocturne (music) 1. A composition dealing with or referring to night; a serenade esp. a dreamy, pensive instrumental composition. 2. (painting) A night scene.

This is Webster's definition of nocturne. In these pages you will see a new definition of Nocturne. Our night music is the local bands who are striving to make it to the top and some bands who have already made it. The Nocturne staff recognizes that the Bay Area needs a magazine to support our thriving music scene and to serve as a link among the musicians, industry and music lovers in the vicinity. We aim to fulfill that need but we need our readers' cooperation. If you are in a local band, please get in touch with us and we will try to feature you in our upcoming issues. If you are involved in any business, we would appreciate your advertising in our magazine. And if you are part of the music scene, we need your contributions and suggestions. We want everyone to be a part of the exciting future of Nocturne Magazine.

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Mr. Big

The Big Nocturne Interview

By Jean Picache

Actually, the by-line should read "By Eric Martin" since he thought of the title and dominated the whole interview anyway. This was definitely a long interview (my longest to date) but it was funny and interesting and even educational. Thanks for all the advice Eric (like don't go out with musicians coz they're animals and don't ask Mike Varney to find you a boyfriend or you'll end up going out with GHOST TOWN). Well, I can't print everything verbatim as he requested, not only for lack of space (it might fill up the whole magazine), but also because I don't want to get into trouble...this is our first issue remember! Well, here's the whole BIG story and it reads more like a novel really...

Chapter 1: History in the Making

I just finished my solo album on CAPITOL RECORDS, I got dropped, I did the Eddie Money tour, came back home and it was like it's over. I was trying to get another record deal as a solo artist again but I really missed the Eric Martin Band...the camaraderie...and I was tired of being Mr. Responsibility. Billy Sheehan (bass) gave me a call out of the blue. He got my number from Mike Varney (SHRAPNEL RECORDS). He heard some records and he said 'let's get together'. I think he knew that I had this high-powered management too, you know. We got together and formed the sound of the band. Where it was going to be still Eric Martin soulful belter singer with Billy Sheehan like the hard rock foundation. And he knew Paul Gilbert (guitar). Paul used to come to shows when Billy was in a band called TALAS. When Paul went to L.A. he was in a guitar contest and Billy just happened to be a judge. Pat Torpey (drums) came down and we had written about 5 songs in 8 days. We didn't even know each other. We knew about each other's pasts and our reputations so we just built it on that. So we got together, did our first album and the rest is history. It did great. We sold 400,000 records. It didn't go Gold but it doesn't matter. We got a nice fan base.

Chapter 2: Second Heat

It's (their latest album LEAN INTO IT) doing okay. I think it's been out for about a month and a half, two months and we've sold...last count was 130,000. "Green-Tinted Sixties Mind" (the video)...it's been shown on Headbanger's Ball and that's it. Which is completely stupid because it's not really a hard-headbanger thing. You could play that on VH-1 if you want. We're gonna go with "Lucky This Time" as our new single. Songwriting (on the second album) is definitely more mature. In a nutshell, the first album, there was the four virtuosos. And then the songs came second. In this second album, the song is the star. My favorite song is actually "Voodoo Kiss". I get to do the thing I'm accustomed to. Pour soul all over the song. I just had fun writing it. (It's) a satirical look at Voodoo.

(Continued on Page 12)

On the Road

with Marty Friedman

By Michele Bohannon

Touring with a bill as large as "The Clash of the Titans" calls for quite a demanding schedule. Marty Friedman, guitarist for Megadeth, took the time though to share with us how it is like on the road with them.

Originally from Maryland, Marty moved to the Bay Area for a couple of years and played in a band called "Cacophony." Found by a mutual friend, Marty replaced then Megadeth guitarist Chris Poland. He has proved to be the missing link in the puzzle. Now, a year and a half later, when asked how it feels to suddenly join an already established band such as Megadeth, Marty's reply was, "at first, it felt really new but about a month later we recorded the album. I learned back catalog, new material and wrote all my guitar solos and only had a month to do it. I was so busy it didn't phase me." Although most of the lyrics were written by Dave and a lot of the basic structures were written before he joined, he did add his guitar solos and played everything on the album. His favorite songs off "Rust in Peace" are "Tornado of Souls" and "Holy Wars." Not so much for what the songs are saying but more for the musical content.

The first video off the album "Rust in Peace" was "Holy Wars". The most recent is "Hangar 18". They got the idea for this song from Nick Menza (drums) who's heavily into aliens and UFOs. The thing he liked about it the most was that it was like making a movie. "It was an incredible experience. There were 70 extras standing around in alien suits all day in the heat waiting for their part." He continues, "I could never be an actor just sitting around all day and waiting."

He says he gets nervous before every show but it goes away the minute he walks on stage. Except for one time..."Doing the Arsenio Hall show, I was okay at first until the make-up person said to me, 'you seem really calm for someone whose about to play for 10 million people.' I completely freaked out. I was thinking to myself to go on automatic pilot. I mean I've played for more people than this in Rio. But the venue was so Hollywood and there was glass sparkly stuff everywhere. It looked like 'Let's make a deal.' There were tourists in the crowd and the Arsenio Hall band was just sitting there staring at us."

And finally, when asked what the future holds for Megadeth, Marty said, "we just finished doing a song for 'Bill and Ted's Bogus Adventure' called 'Go to Hell.' The video's coming out soon. Also, there has been talk about a live album which might not be in the too terribly distant future. We will be on tour until August 1st and will be taking a break for a while. Hopefully, we will continue to put out quality albums and have more successful tours and improve what we're doing."

THRASH PAGE

Years ago, San Francisco was known as the "Thrash Capital of the World." Even though the legendary scene has deteriorated somewhat, it is still alive. This page is dedicated to the remembrance of the days at The Farm (for those of you who remember).

MORDRED

By Jean Picache



MORDRED is one of the brightest stars to recently come out of the San Francisco Bay Area's Thrash scene. They are at the forefront of the new breed of Thrash Metal. Founding member and bassist Art Liboon reveals the essence of this multi-dimensional band.

WHEN DID YOUR TWO ALBUMS COME OUT AND HOW DID THEY FARE? (Our first album, "Fool's Game) came out in February 1990 and it did pretty well. It did better than a lot of first albums do. It made it to Japan and so we're pretty happy with that. We had a video for a song (from the record) called "Everydays A Holiday." (Our second album, "In This Life" came out in) February 1991. Actually one of the two videos (that we make for the second record) premiered on MTV's Headbanger's Ball Saturday the 25th (of May) and we weren't here to see it. The song is "Falling Away." MTV has a copy of "Esse Quam Videri" (Latin for "To Be Rather Than To Seem) and they're sitting on it right now. It's doing well ("In This Life"). Most people who hear it like it and it's getting very good reviews in magazines.

HOW DID YOU GUYS GET TOGETHER AS MORDRED? The band was first formed with me and the guitarist back in 1985 (who's not in the band anymore). We played our first show in February 1986 and the rest is history. With all the different lineup changes our sound sort of changed and we got a DJ and we are what we are now. The DJ was on the first album and on one of our demos that we make for NOISE RECORDS (their record label). We decided to put him on when we covered the song "Superfreak" by Rick James. We kinda played it as a joke at one of our shows coz we ran out of songs to play. The crowd response was good so we recorded that song in a demo. We got DJ Pause in and he did his cuts. When we began production for the second album, we decided to get Aaron (Aaron "Pause" Vaughn) in on the act too. And since he was on it so much, a lot more than on "Fools Game," we decided to take him with us on our tour. He's a member of the band.

WHAT ARE YOUR MUSICAL INFLUENCES? I like to listen to a lot of different types of music. THIN LIZZY, MOTORHEAD, PUBLIC ENEMY, NWS, ICT - T FISHBONE. A

DEFIANCE

By Michele Bohannon



Straight out of Oakland comes one of the best Thrash bands around. I recently talked with Steev Esquivel, lead singer of DEFIANCE, at Bay View studios where Defiance is recording their follow-up album to "Void Terra Firma."

The band was founded by one of the best drummers in the Bay Area, Matt Vanderend, and an equally talented bass player, Mike Kaufman. They were later joined by lead and rhythm guitarists Doug Harrington and Jim Adams. Their first album "Product of Society" was recorded with Defiance's original singer Ken Elkington. Two months after they released their album, Ken was replaced by Laughing Dead's singer Steev Esquivel. Steev, whose influences range from ALICE IN CHAINS to DIO is a great asset to the band. Although Steev's only been in the band two years, he has already recorded two albums with them. The first "Void Terra Firma" was an album that only took two weeks to record and was finished in December of 1989. It sold approximately 50,000 copies.

Keep an eye out for their most current album, "Beyond Recognition" which should be released by Roadrunner Records by September 1st. The opening track on their new album is entitled "Inside Looking Out." When asked about this particular song, Steev replied, "it's about me looking out at the world, watching people, how people think they can predict me and about me catching these people off guard."

After the album is released, Steev said "we are going to to out on the road and we are looking forward to going out and sharing our raw stuff with our fans and getting their reactions."

lot of rap, funk and jazz influences. Like a lot jazz artists in fact.

MORDRED also boasts the classically trained guitar team of James Sanguinetti and Danny White, the unconventional creativity of drummer Gannon Hall and the dynamic Scott Holderby. That explains the diversity of MORDRED's sound.

Babylon A.D.: Back in the Studio

By Jean Picache

BABYLON A.D. is probably one of the hottest new bands in the past two years and their self-titled debut album was one of the best debut albums to come out in that same period. Hot after the trail of their first album they are already hard at work on their next one. Bassist Robb Reid recounts what they have done since the release of their debut album up to the present and gives us a glimpse of what we can expect from them in the near future.

How their first album fared:

You gotta look at it in the terms of how many bands were out last yer in competition, the economy and a lot of different factors but our label was very happy with us. We were exceptionally happy with the exposure we got through the actual album itself, the videos and ROBOCOP II did a lot of good things for us.

Touring:

We did the whole United States. We didn't go over to Europe. We had tentative plans to go over but like everything in this business it's tentative until you're there. Basically, what we did the whole year and a half was go out on our own headlining clubs to small theaters. I think there was like two or three states that we didn't get to. We did get to Canada. We did a lot of dates in Canada. But we're ready to conquer Europe and Japan this coming year.

New album:

We've just finished the writing and

demoing stage. Now we're in the "producer hunt" stage. We've finished demoing our stuff in L.A. and the company's reall happy with all the material. We're happy with it. I think our stuff has matured a lot. Through all the touring and different experiences and everything that we've dealt with over the last two years. It's been a fun two years. We're looking at going into the studio and actually starting to record the end of May beginning of June. We should be in for approximately eight to nine weeks maybe ten weeks. So we're looking at an early October release. It will be exactly two years coz that's when our first one came out.

New songs:

My favorites... there's one tune called "Raw Sexuality" that's our tribute to funk. I know everybody's doing this funk rock thing but we kept it within bounds. We didn't go overboard. We're not doing the FAITH NO MORE thing. And there's "So Savage the Heart" which is one of our ballads. We have a multitude of songs to choose from and it came down to ten or eleven that we are all happy with and the label's happy with. We're already done "Sacrifice of Love" live. We've also done "Slave Your Body" which might even be the first single.

Difference between the first album and the next one:

with them and that was about it. Our A&R guy got fired and we had management problems. We were let go from that label right after our first album. So there it was, sitting on the shelf and six months later MCA picked us up and bought the record and released it (Feel the Shake). Prior to our first album, we were having problems with our bass player with substances so we had to fire him.

Q: Who took his place?

A: The bass player from HANOI ROCKS, Sam Yaffa. He joined and did the first album and toured with us. We toured the States with CHEAP TRICK, KIX and STRYPER. We toured Japan and came back and started on album number two and basically wrote for about 6-8 months. We started in 1989

Songwriting-wise, we've stretched out a little bit and done things that maybe aren't as safe as the first album. We felt that we needed on this record for it to be our record as much as possible. You'll hear more of what Babylon A.D. is really about musically and lyrically than I think the first record.

Records label:

We're signed with ARISTA...the home of Whitney houston and Kenny G. When we first signed with them that was a big concern of ours...signing with somebody who didn't really have a big network in the Rock field. But we thought too that they're a big company and they have the facilities and tools to do it. So we figured that woiuld be a plus for us and it actually has. This year they have an AOR department and they have EVERY MOTHER'S NIGHTMARE and some really good young up-and-coming rock acts. We did probably ...I haven't had any numbers for the last couple of months. The last I've heard we were up above 220,000 in the States and that's really really good. It didn't go Gold, it didn't go Platinum but our label thinks we have set a great foundation. We've got a lengthy deal so we've got time.

Longevity is definitely one of BABYLON A.D.'s more evident traits and I can't see any direction for this band to go except on to bigger and better things.

Jetboy

By Michele Bohannon

Most people think Jetboy is a new band from L.A. But the truth is, they have been around the scene since 1983 and are originally from the Bay Area. I got a chance to talk with Billy Rowe (guitar) about the past, present and future of Jetboy.

Q: When was the band started?

A: In 1983. Fern (Fernie Rod) and I started writing songs together and stuff. Then Ron Tostenson (drums) and I used to play in another band and we brought him into the unit and the three of us we're jammin'. Then our first bass player Todd Crew found Mickey (Finn), our singer.

Q: What label did you get signed to?

A: Electra. We recorded our first album

and finished Damned Nation in like 3 months. (Sam) decided to leave the

Continued on Page 10



Vicious Rumours

By Michelle Randazzo

Vicious Rumours is back with their album "Welcome to the Ball," due for release on July 31. This is their fourth album, and their second with Atlantic Records. The current lineup is: Geoff Thorpe, lead guitar and founding member; Mark McGee, lead guitar; Dave Starr, bass; Carl Albert, vocals; and Larry Howe, drums. Michael Rosin, Geoff Thorpe and Mark McGee produced this album.

Vicious Rumours fans will be glad to hear their hard-hitting metal style has not been compromised for this album. I was lucky to catch them at the opening of One Step Beyond. Vicious Rumours has a lot of energy, and the new material promises to be great.

I spoke with Dave Starr, so I could get to know Vicious Rumours a little better. I asked him about the new album and he told me about the song "Children." This will be their first video and single off of "Welcome to the Ball." Dave described "Children" as an "intense crossover type song that could appeal to a wide variety of hard rock metal fans.

The song is about our children inheriting everything we created for them, the good and the bad. We were all children and we all inherited everything our predecessors created for us. "Children" is a song that makes you think. I don't think we're a mindless band. I think a lot of the stuff we've done is timely, topical and meaningful, and I am proud of that."

There is also a ballad on the album called "Love Comes Down." I asked Dave if the album would be a sellout. "No, Vicious Rumours writes what we want to write, we are not a thrash band, we are a metal band. "Welcome to the Ball" is really powerful record with a lot of variations in it."

Vicious Rumours has sepculative plans for a tour with Savatage in August. They will tour Europe and then the U.S. If you get the chance, go and check them out!

Scene Stealer

By Kristin Brodie

After not going out anywhere for 4 - 6 weeks, around the beginning of May, I felt that it was time to bring myself back into the music scene. First was SLAM!. Slam! put on a fun show. They kept the audience dancing and entertained with their rapper and some girls dancing on stage to "Body Slam."

Okay, you DOKKEN fans...go check our WAR AND PEACE. Jeff Pilson of Dokken and a couple of ex-WARLOCK members make up this band. They are very easy to get into and sound great. They ended their set with an old Dokken tune, "It's Not Love."

SETTE CANA...cool name. Just don't try to get a story of what it means. They supported for WAR AND PEACE and as always, they put on a great show. Two of my favorites of theirs are "She Wants All the Money" and "Let it Rain."

The next weekend was the grand Reopening of the ONE STEP BEYOND. For those of you who haven't experienced this club yet, I recommend it. It is huge and has lots of "free and safe parking." The evening included 15 bands. MYSTERIOUS WAYS was the first to catch my eye. Their sound was very different. Most bands played 10-15 minutes and there was a variety of musical styles. We had a taste of CLASSY TRASH, RATTLESHAKE, ALLEYCAT SCRATCH and the SF X-MEN, FORBIDDEN, VIOLENCE and VICIOUS RUMORS also appeared and to end the evening there was MISTER HYDE, SISTER STRANGE and SCREWDRIVER SMILE. The night was a bit hectic but they all pulled it off very well.

In the middle of May we headed for the CONCORD PAVILION to see POISON. We made it for the end of BULLETBOYS. They looked and sounded pretty good. I really don't know SLAUGHTER's music but they weren't bad either. POISON was "interesting" C.C. DEVILLE seemed to play to the back of the stage on his side a lot. Bret Michaels sounded great especially

since he was sick. Singers are always sick at the time of their shows. JETBOY and BOYSTOWN were next at the STONE. BOYSTOWN played exceptionally well. JETBOY didn't thrill me as much.

You know, I go to all these shows and leave with my already damaged ears ringing. Is there a reason the cubs play the music at the "too loud point?" Maybe it could be toned down to the "loud but enjoyable point" or supply earplugs.

I must wish BOYSTOWN, SIN CITY and SETTE CANA good luck in the ROCK WAR in July. This is going to be at the MARIN CENTER and will benefit the MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY ASSOCIATION.

I hear the REAL ROCK is open once more. Everyone should go support those at the Real Rock who have put a lot of work into this "Don't Pay to Play" club.

I watched HEIST on June 8. They sounded great to say the least. I am really looking forward to seeing more of them. I also saw Sette Cana again when they supported for ROXANNE. Sette Cana opened their set with a great new song called "I Know Someteing You Don't." Roxanne put on a good show with a few of their own songs and some old "cover tunes like pieces from "Staying Alive" and "Play That Funky Music."

That's all for now...see ya on the scene!

Attention Local Bands!!!

Send us your promo/demo package and we'll try to feature you in the future

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