

NOCTURNE

Magazine

VOL. II, ISSUE 2

SPRING 1992



SLAUGHTER

PANTERA



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- National Acts & New Bands

**NOCTURNE MAGAZINE
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SPRING 1992**

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A Personal Note From The Publisher...

This 4th issue marks one year from the days of the inception of NOCTURNE MAGAZINE. This past year has been a turbulent one but it has also been a tremendous learning experience for me, not so much in relation to the technical/production aspect of this magazine (since I have 10 years of journalistic experience), but more in dealing and coordinating with people. Related to this, two particular issues have been plaguing me during this time in varying degrees. The first is professionalism. Several people told me that to be taken seriously in the music business you have to be professional. Working with friends on this project, it has been difficult to know exactly where to draw the line. I can only say that I have tried to be very patient and very fair with everyone (considering I was always stressed out trying to rely on people to get things done on time). Also, I am a flamboyant person and I like to have fun. In this regard, though, I know exactly when to be social and when to be objective. I take what I do seriously. I think people should be more concerned about actually getting results than with appearing professional. A few individuals have actually questioned my motivation for doing this magazine. I do not do this to meet bands (I still have not been backstage at a big show to date and I can certainly meet bands if I really wanted to regardless) and to get in shows free (I spend an enormous amount of money getting the magazine together compared to what I would pay to go watch concerts). I have been reiterating from the very start that I would like to promote the Bay Area music scene and to this I have kept my word with each issue.

Secondly, I have been getting diametrically opposing opinions, praises and criticisms about the magazine. Last issue we turned to newsprint (which enabled us to increase our circulation and also happens to be more environmentally responsible) and I have been getting contrary feedback about that and various other things. My answer to this is that I have done the best I could given the constraints I am under (time, energy and money). I cannot follow everyone's suggestions. I can only listen and decide from there following my better judgment. But I personally believe that I and the NOCTURNE MAGAZINE staff have done a damn good job so far (I would like to thank each and every person who has lent a helping hand this past year) and we hope to continue to blaze through the future of the Bay Area music scene with as much aplomb as we have in the past.

**THE BERKELEY SQUARE
1333 University Ave.
Berkeley*(510)841-6555**

APRIL

- 4/3 Psychefunkapus, Love on Ice, Groove Shop
- 4/7 Firehose, Mr. T Experience
- 4/8 The Royal Nonesuch, Vanilla Butt Shake
- 4/18 Smoking Rhythm Prawns, Overwhelming Colorfast
- 4/30 Furious George, Groove Shop

MAY

- 5/1 The Bonedaddys
- 5/2 World Entertainment War
- 5/16 Fungo Mungo

**NEW GEORGE'S
812 4th St. San Rafael
(415) 457-1515**

APRIL

- 4/11 The Mo'professionals
- 4/13 Cats:Choir
- 4/16 White Trash, Debutant's
- 4/17 Kidd Blue
- 4/20 Cats:Choir
- 4/23 Roxanne
- 4/24 Pride & Joy
- 4/27 Cats:Choir

**THE REAL ROCK
9829 San Leandro St. at
98th. Ave. Oakland
(510)568-5483**

APRIL

- 4/10 Void, Kaos, Inhalent 5th Anniv. metal show
- 4/16 New Power Soul
- 4/17 Jester, Jet Red, Runaway
- 4/23 Rock Show
- 4/24 Mystic Rage, Mutantspeed
- 4/30 TBA

SLAUGHTER

by Michele Bohannon
and Jean Picache

SLAUGHTER is finally back with the follow-up to their multi-platinum debut album "Stick It To Ya". Their new effort, entitled "The Wild Life", is scheduled to be released on April 21st. As promised, "The Wild Life" is heavier and less mainstream but still unmistakably bears the trademark Slaughter sound. They have the usual fare of anthemic scorching rockers and emotional heart-rending ballads but their songwriting is a little more mature... a little more profound. I must confess... I like Slaughter. I always have. Too bad I didn't get to do the interview (due to some scheduling problems) but was able to hook up with drummer Blas Elias on the phone to get an inside scoop about their latest project.

Q: How would you describe your new album?

A: I would describe it as dynamic, aggressive, emotional and diverse. We've gone in a lot of different directions. We've taken it to every extreme we can think of and every style we've tried. You can listen to the album and not get bored. Dana (Strum on bass) produced the album and he's really great to work with. He knows how to bring out the best in people.

Q: How different is your new album from the last one?

A: The new record is a lot more aggressive than the last record. The original idea was that it was going to be a real aggressive band. When we first came out, it was a lot more commercial because we basically had to make our name. With the new record it's a lot more aggressive and it's a lot more of what we want to do and musically it's a lot more expressive.

Q: What's going to be released as singles and videos off the album?

A: We shot the video for "Days Gone By" a long time ago. That's not the first video that's going to be out but we shot it because we knew we were going to have to do it eventually. We already had

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PRIMUS

by Scott Miller
and Jean Picache

The Bay Area has always been a bountiful source of new, unusual and avante garde musical (and even social and political) trends. This decade, the Bay Area's endows the world with the zany and discordant melodies that is PRIMUS. Make no mistake about it, as their name implies, they are the first of whatever you want to label their music as. I am at a loss for words to describe them. The only thing I am sure of is that they have taken the music scene around and beyond the Bay Area by storm as they toured the country with RUSH. Scott spoke to guitarist Larry Lalonde to find out what PRIMUS has been up to recently.

Q: How does it feel to be famous?

A: I don't know what it's like to be famous. Maybe I should run over and ask these RUSH guys. My first concert was RUSH when I was 12. We sent them a tape and according to Geddy (Lee), they had all these tapes of bands that wanted to go on tour with them and they listened to them all. RUSH is an influence but we go in phases all the time just listening to crazy music. Right now, we are into the Residents and Devo.

Q: How did you guys get started?

A: We didn't have any money. Nobody wanted to sign us. At first we were going to do a demo but then decided to make it into a record. It was pretty fun promoting ourselves because we knew everything that was going on. We drove around the Bay Area delivering records so we learned a lot about records that way.

Q: How has the RUSH tour been for you guys?

A: The response to the RUSH tour has been great. We get to play for an older crowd. It's kinda funny because when we are opening for a band, most of the people don't know who we are, so it's kinda fun to freak people out.

PRIMUS is coming out with a 5-song EP with "total mutations and horrible versions of great songs" by Peter Gabriel, Pink Floyd etc. Talk about interesting! PRIMUS is definitely in a class by themselves.

Pantera

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Q: So how long are you going to be on tour?

A: We will be touring until the end of the year. We will be with Skid Row until the end of April, early May. Then to Europe with maybe SEPULTURA which would be really awesome. Then we'll come back and headline the States. Then do some shows with SUICIDAL TENDENCIES, it that's possible and then it's back to Europe and then we're supposed to go to Japan and Australia and by that time we'll probably be back home for Christmas.

Q: What direction do you think your next album's gonna go?

A: We don't know exactly but it's going to be us. We're not going to make another "Vulgar Display of Power" just as we didn't make another "Cowboys From Hell". I'm sure between now and next year whenever we decide to do a new album that we are going the direction we feel most comfortable. Just like when we did this record we didn't sit down and consciously say we're going to make the heaviest album ever made. This is just the direction it progressed.

Q: Any goals?

A: Yeah, to be as successful as possible without compromising what we're all about.

Corrosion of Conformity

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C.O.C. have recently put out a couple of new videos. The first was "Dance of the Dead" and the second was "Vote With A Bullet". When I first heard "Vote With A Bullet", I thought to myself, "wow, this guy sounds different on this song... I wonder what he did?" Well, once I said that out loud someone heard and looked at me like I was crazy and said "that's because it's the guitar player Pepper Keenan singing on that one!" I felt about oh... 2 feet tall. This is not a thing most bands can pull off but this particular song worked really well with C.O.C. Their third video will be for "Break the Circle" so keep an eye out for it on **Headbangers' Ball!**

Sin City

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will open the door to new ones and are confident that new changes will bring about new possibilities.

Vocalist Johnny Q. describes their sound as "mood music." I think it definitely has a hard edge with just a taste of a Native American flavor. This makes for an interesting live performance. But however you want classify it, all I can say is you gotta check 'em out... I did.

Slaughter

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an idea of what we wanted to do with it which was to have clips of what we've been doing during the period when we put the band together till now and we also put in clips of artists who may have passed away who were our favorites like John Lennon, Freddie Mercury and different historical events like the shooting of John F. Kennedy are in there. We just shot another one for "Wild Life" which is the first single and video and we threw ideas at these video directors. They came back at us with their scripts. This guy came up with this really cool one which is basically about this girl who's watching TV and she's taken away by some force. All these bizarre things happen to her. Basically, you'd have to see it.

Q: What's your favorite cut among the new songs?

A: "Times They Change" is my favorite and the band's favorite song and we hope to do a video for that eventually 'cause it's just such a weird mind trip. There are so many different changes in it. The idea for the song was how the times started to change for us and how life changes and how you have to be strong and keep on living for your goals, dreams or whatever.

Yes, times do change but I can safely assert that time hasn't eroded Slaughter's penchant for making hits. Watch out for another Slaughter attack this April!

THE TERMINATOR

836 Mission St. at Fourth
San Francisco * 474-6305

APRIL

- 4/3 On Beyond, The Changing
- 4/10 A Na Na party, Prizes, Fantasy 7, Steve Jones,
- 4/17 Shine (ex members of VAIN) Fleshooks
- 4/24 The Organization (Formerly Death Angel) Booty Print (Featuring members of D.R.I.)
- 4/30 Grand opening of the TERMINATOR in San Jose. Call 474-6305

MAY

- 5/8 Mordred, Wrecking Ball

PANTERA

by Michele Bohannon

I've been sitting here for days trying to find the right words to describe PANTERA but hey, I give up! When I think of PANTERA the only words that come to mind are honesty, anger, mosh and god. I don't know how they all connect but when you hear their new album "Vulgar Display of Power" or see them live, you will understand how it all comes together. I recently got the chance to interview Vinnie Paul (drummer) about what Pantera is all about according to the band themselves.

Q: What is Pantera?

A: It's just a name that some guy told us to use and since we couldn't find a good name, we decided to use it. - People know us as Pantera, the power group, so there's no deep dark significant secret or hidden meaning to it.

Q: So who are some of Pantera's influences?

A: VAN HALEN's first 4 albums are god to us! JUDAS PRIEST, KISS and a little of LED ZEPPELIN, BLACK SABBATH.

Q: How many albums has Pantera put out?

A: 2 on ATCO and 2 independent.

Q: So tell me about the recording of "Vulgar Display of Power".

A: After we got off tour with WRATHCHILD AMERICA, we took a couple of weeks off which was like the first couple of weeks we've had off in a year. Then we went right into the rehearsal studio writing the new material for "Vulgar". We went into the recording studio in August and got half-way done with the record and then we got called by the label and they wanted us to go to Russia and play on the MONSTERS OF ROCK bill with bands such as METALLICA and AC/DC. So we stopped everything we were doing to go do that. So we did then come back and finished the record. The day after it was completed, we already had a tour confirmed (with SKID ROW). We only had 4 days off after being in the studio, then we got back on the road and have been on tour ever since.

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CORROSION OF CONFORMITY

by Michele Bohannon (with Beth Risner)

CORROSION OF CONFORMITY is NOT a new band! Now that I have that out of the way... it seems like everywhere I go lately someone somewhere is talking about this new band C.O.C. Come on, get a clue! C.O.C. have been around for years. But most recently they spent a couple of days in the Bay Area showing us what they have to offer. I made it to the show at the COTATI CABARET and had the pleasure of speaking with Karl Agell (vocals).

It all started in the early '80's with Reed Mullin (drums) and Woody Weathermen (guitar) in Raleigh, N.C. C.O.C. have gone through many changes since then but most obvious has got to be the change in their music. If you are one of the many C.O.C. fans out there you know what I'm saying. C.O.C. started out as one of the first successful underground hardcore band around. Not only were they a band known for their heavy style, they were also known for their message within the music. After spending some time with Karl, I realized this is not your average everyday kill, death, destroy band. This band is politically and environmentally aware of their surroundings.

Their latest recording "Blind", is one of their hottest records to date. It not only offers that well known and expected C.O.C. message, it offers an entirely different style for C.O.C. It's still heavy and raw but without so much of the massive punk hardcore sound that they're known for. The sound has changed but in a way to keep their old fans satisfied while at the same time win over new ones.

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LIVE WIRE

DEAN DEL RAY's 4th ANNUAL BIRTHDAY BASH, Feb. 15, The Stone, SF

This show, of course, featured Dean Del Ray's band **GHOST TOWN**. Newly signed **FLAME** (**GIANT RECORDS**) was also one of the performers that night. The highlight of the night (and already a Bay Area tradition) was the **AC/DC** jam featuring a lot of surprise guests.

It had been ages since I had seen or heard anything about Flame but a majority of their set was very familiar to me. "Automatic" opened the set which lead to "Never Say Die" and then a few unfamiliar tunes. Flame kept their fans going through the entire set and they sounded pretty good too.

Ghost Town sounded a lot better than the last time I saw them. They also played some of their followers' favorites such as "Don't Be Shy", "Hate" and "Arkansas". I missed the names of the newer material, but I did enjoy it. The set went fast and Dean brought out the surprise guests. These surprises included short performances from the **ORGANIZATION**, and **MISTER HYDE**. Former members of **VAIN**, **JEFF WATSON**, **JIMMY A R C E N E A U X** (**WONDERLAND**), among others also graced the stage with their talents.

by Kristin Brodie

DEATH, Jan. 18, The Omni, Oakland and THE SECOND ANNUAL THRASH AWARDS, Feb. 15, The Real Rock, Oakland

A couple issues back I did a review of The New Titans On The Block tour featuring **SEPULTURA**, **NAPALM DEATH**, **SACRED REICH** and **SICK OF IT ALL** and I said it was one of the craziest shows I had ever seen. Well here I am two issues later eating my words. I'm not saying it wasn't a ripping show, but on January 18th I witnessed... **DEATH!!!**

After all the rumors I've heard about this band (mostly bad), I was very curious to check them out live. Well, let me tell you something. Everything I heard was wrong. These guys put on one of the most brutal shows I have ever seen. My eyes were glued to their every move from the moment they hit the stage, until their second encore. When I looked around, the crowd was completely out of hand, the entire floor looked like hundreds of bodies being whirled around and twirled in the middle of a tornado. It is not that they did anything unusual on stage but the communication between the band and the crowd was definitely there. It's always nice to see a band and their fans work together to bring a show to such a climatic ending!

On the same note, on February 15th the Second Annual Thrash Awards were held, at the **REAL ROCK** in

Oakland. Besides all the normal discomforts and confusion of a big show, I'd have to say all in all it went well.

There were so many good bands and so little time. In my opinion, **THE ORGANIZATION** didn't play long enough. Just when they started playing, they had to pack up and get out the door to another show they were committed to do. **KAOS** put on a good show, as usual, but recently they've added something new to their set. Two female rappers! That's right, rappers! I'm not too sure about this yet, but let's just say it was ahhh... entertaining?

W R E K K I N G MACHINE was just as happening as ever. I really like these guys, they never let me down.

Next, **MORDRED** busted out. Scott Holderby has got to be one of the best frontmen in the Bay Area. He knows how to get down with his bad self, and he gets the crowd into it at the same time. They also teased their fans with a song off their up-coming album.

D.R.I. put on a shredding set. I'm telling you, these guys always give 150% of themselves and it truly shows. They stole the show!!!

Let's see, did I **FORGET ANYONE?** Oh yeah, **EPIDEMIC**. You know I never remember these guys sounding this good, so whatever you've been doing, keep it up, because you sounded great!

Last but not least,

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Jeff Watson

Jeff Watson, former guitarist of NIGHT RANGER, is back on the scene with a new solo album on SHRAPNEL RECORDS.

JEFF WATSON - The Lone Ranger Interview by Patrik Gilles

Q: The list of musicians on this project reads like a who's who in popular music. How difficult was it to gather such an illustrious group of players?

A: Well, conveniently most of them were pretty good friends of mine. Sammy (Hagar) and I have known each other for about seventeen years. He lives up the street. (Alan) Holdsworth, I just had to fly him up and promise him some great beer and he stayed in town for a few days. That was a lot of fun. Steve Morse was living in Placerville, which made it really easy for me. He just drove down and did his parts. Carmine Appice and I were putting a band together at the time so he was in town to do some tracks with me for that project. So I just added him to the album for the "Lone Ranger"

thing. Brad Gillis just drove over. David Sikes lives in Benicia so I had him drive over.

Q: Why doesn't Sammy Hagar actually pronounce any discernable words on the tune Cement Shoes?

A: 'Cuz his name would never have gotten on my album. It was pretty contractual. I was so lucky to get a release from Warner Brothers in the first place. Sammy signed a release first and sent it off to Geffen and Warner and they went, "Oh well, Sammy signed it. I guess as long as they don't put his name bigger than anybody else's and he didn't say any words." 'Da dit dit dot da da', and he just scatted, ya know.

Q: You didn't rely so much on licks and tricks so often found on instrumental projects. The songs play as if they were actually arranged for a vocalist. Were they?

A: About three of them were like that. Cement Shoes sort of was. Actually, I set it up for

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The Storm

by Jean Picache

Like an unpredictable meteorological phenomenon, THE STORM appeared on the Bay Area music horizon and brewed up a hit in the song 'Show Me The Way'. Composed of former JOURNEY men Gregg Rolie, Ross Valory and Steve Smith, former Elan and Le Mans guitarist Josh Ramos and former 747 vocalist Kevin Chalfant, this team of veterans has brewed up an eponymous album for INTERSCOPE RECORDS that was released late last Winter. I spoke to Josh over the phone right before he and the rest of the band left to go on tour with BRYAN ADAMS and he said that their album "is doing really good. This tour and video we have coming out is going to help a lot. We have a video coming out on MTV really soon for the song 'Show Me The Way'. We should be back at the San Francisco Cow Palace May 16th." I asked him if the band has already performed anywhere live yet and he reveals that "no, we haven't played live yet. It's exciting because there's

no telling what's going to happen."

I also asked Josh the question I'm sure they have been asked and will continue to be asked... that of being compared to JOURNEY. He answered the question quite nonchalantly, "Kevin gets labeled with the old Journey and he just blows it off. He didn't mean to sound like that but he was singing that way before he even heard of STEVE PERRY. We will get labeled with it. We have Gregg, Ross and when Steve was in the band, that was Journey. We have Ron Wikso, Cher's drummer who is going on tour with us but Steve played on the album."

Being familiar with Josh's background as well as Journey I asked him if the change in style was a natural progression for him and if he misses the heavier music he used to play. Josh responds with "this style of music is great and that's why The Storm is the way it is because of my playing. I lend that rock side to it that I grew up with."

A tempest of the old and the new, you don't have to catch The Storm. They will engulf you with their music and you will fall under their spell.

