

NOCTURNE

Magazine



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T-RIDE

by Samantha De Young

Two words... T-Ride and T-alent. Juicy guitars, hypnotic harmonies, and pulse-raising percussion is what this trio is all about. T-Ride's self-titled debut album has hit the streets with astounding success. Dan Arlie, Eric Valentine and Jeff Tyson (local boys from Palo Alto), have nurtured this back alley band into a project worthy of everyone's attention. Signed to Hollywood Records, T-Ride has taken off in a big way. I recently contacted Jeff Tyson and asked him to shed some light on the band's persona.

Q: How long has T-Ride been together?

J: About six years. Actually we've all been friends and playing music together for six years but we didn't actually consider it to be a real band till about two years ago when we were talking to the Bill Graham people and they said "well you know, you guys have to have a band!"

Q: So you've played the Bay Area quite a bit?

J: We play the SF Bay Area but just recently are doing more of California but the record's only been out for a little while so it's not like everybody knows who we are.

Q: What sets T-Ride apart from the rest?

J: It's hard to explain. We don't have the typical rhythm section. It's all very syncopated, very percussive heavy metal music... lots and lots of changes in our songs. We're always trying to keep ourselves interested when we're writing music.

Q: How did your record deal come about?

J: We signed up with the Bill Graham guys after a friend of ours brought them our tapes. The BG guys got such a buzz going in the industry about this new band that's been looking for a label that we actually had four companies bidding for us against each other. Our drummer actually produced and engineered the whole demo and record and that was one of our main considerations. Hollywood Records was the only label that considered doing that. I don't feel the record would have been as good had we let someone else produce it.

Q: What has the feedback been like for the album?

J: It's been extraordinary actually. We've been

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FLAME

by Jean Picache

I was watching Headbangers' Ball one night and Rikki Rachtman was introducing a new video from a band from Niles, CA. He goes on to ask, "where the hell is Niles?" Well, this interview takes place at historic Niles Station where Babylon A.D. hails from, as well as the topic of this interview and Rikki's query, FLAME!!! I suppose everyone around here knows where Niles is and everyone has heard of the band FLAME but did you know that they just released an album and they shot their video for the song "Rain" in Niles Canyon? Well, here are more revealing facts straight from Phil Sullivan (vocals) and Steve Vegas (bass):

Flame has been together since 1986 and during that time they have cultivated a very strong following enabling them to play often at different clubs in the Bay Area and even releasing their own self-distributed album "Blaze" that sold a couple of thousands of copies. These six years, though, haven't been easy for the members of Flame. In the Summer of 1988 they moved down to Venice Beach and stayed there for about a year and gave up because as Phil says, the "became pretty frustrated with the way the scene was down there... we were being really decadent and having a good time and not taking care of music business... plus we were doing what a lot of other people wanted us to do and not what we wanted to do musically." Needless to say, Flame has been up to the challenge. They returned to the Bay Area and eventually landed a record deal with GIANT RECORDS on their own. The album has been out for a month and doing great on AOR radio and on MTV as well. When I asked about the video, Phil reveals that they had "one camera, no makeup, no hair people... we just rolled the tape and started doing it." The video is strikingly and refreshingly simple with the band members splashing around in an old swimming hole.

Thus, when asked about their image, Phil exclaims, "what image?! Our image is our personalities and our songs." Speaking of personalities, Steve thinks that "we have a very good balance." "They're the light and we're the dark side," adds Phil referring to Billy (Harvey-guitars) and Denis (Bostok-drums) who are more soft-spoken compared to Phil and Steve who are more

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Flame (cont. from p. 3)

extroverted. Denis is "a thoughtful kind of person," says Phil. While Steve is "very spontaneous... he's my partying buddy." Billy, on the other hand, is "a thinker," discloses Steve. "He's really quiet but he's a very intense person. He says it all in his playing." Steve remarks that Phil is "the wild man. He's got a great personality to talk to anybody." Which partly explains why Flame has such a dedicated following. "We're friends with a lot of people," Phil corroborates. "I go out and talk to people every night... people that I might not know that I might see new at our shows. Coz when it comes to people and faces, I have a really good memory." I can attest to that fact since I was at the Cactus Club two years ago and someone sitting beside me said "hello" and even remembered my name and I was clueless as to who he was until he reintroduced himself. It was Phil!

One can't just help liking these guys. One can't help liking their music as well. As for their music, Phil asserts that "it's got trimmed down and beefed up a lot... it's simpler and more powerful instead of intricate and well-textured. We're just trying so that people can enjoy it in a live environment." Their album includes a couple of old crowd favorites such as "Ball and Chain" and "Don't Look Down", touching ballads like "Shelter You" and a handful of power rockers. The most notable song in the album is "Blood For Blood" which explores social issues amidst some catchy riffs and harmonies.

The near future will see Flame touring and gaining more exposure outside of California. Their management and record company are planning a pretty intensive promotional agenda for them so catch them while you still can!

EDITORIAL

"Music, Time, Society, Congratulations, Opinions and Predictions..."

Time sure flies fast! This issue marks our first year anniversary and looking back, so many momentous events have taken place and so many changes have taken effect. Not only with regards to Nocturne Magazine but with the bands we have covered and also with the larger sphere of society. We are very pleased to note that several Bay Area bands have been in the national and even international spotlight of late, proving that the Bay Area continues to be a source of musical pioneers and pacesetters. Several of these bands we have covered in the past year, some even before their rise to fame.

We would like to congratulate Mr. Big who we featured in our premier issue and who have since then become certified hitmakers. We also featured Babyion A.D. in July of 1991 and this time they are back with a strong follow up called "Nothing Sacred." Watch out for their first single/video "Bad Blood" which they filmed at the OMNI in Oakland. By now everyone knows about Ugly Kid Joe. I knew they were a great band when I saw them play 9 months ago but was I surprised (albeit pleasantly) that they skyrocketed to platinum success the way they did! They rocked the Cow Palace when they opened for Ozzy Osbourne last June. The Storm also had a great homecoming show at the Cow Palace, opening up for Bryan Adams last May. Tesla is finally getting more recognition for their fourth album "Psychotic Supper" and they'll finally be around on tour this summer. Their first headlining tour, I can't wait!

Finally, looking forward into the future... here are my best bets for the rest of the year. Flame... yeah, they've been around forever and I guess everyone around here doesn't think much of them anymore but I have seen the reaction of people from outside the Bay Area and I have since then looked upon them with a new perspective. For the full scoop, read my interview with singer Phil Sullivan. T-Ride... this band is just so spectacularly unique and bizarre that I think they will develop a strong cult following and maybe even commercial success. Testament... this is thrash moving with the times, breaking old barriers and creating new ground. More sophisticated, artistic and very classy.

On a more serious note, with all that's been going on in society, we couldn't turn a deaf ear to issues, economic and political, that have been affecting us all. Thus, we have again welcomed the additional dimension offered by our now resident satirist Pat Gilles of the Flesh Weapons and a short call for action by one of our new staffers Samantha De Young in our new section entitled "Open Forum." Please feel free to write to us with your views and even complaints on matters serious or whimsical. We want to hear from you!

One last note... have a great Summer!!!

TESTAMENT

Performing the Rites
by Walter J. Morgan

After a year off and almost two years since "Souls of Black" was released, the boys in Testament are back. Their fifth album, entitled "The Ritual", is boxed up and ready to take off, and this album definitely will. Unlike "Souls", which was written in five and a half weeks (much of it on the road, on a tour bus) and recorded in six weeks (so they could go out on the Clash of the Titan's Tour). "The Ritual" was not rushed or under any deadline date. Testament took a well deserved six month rest after touring, and then got together and wrote "The Ritual". This album reflects the bands growing musical maturity and talent, and shows everyone why they are one of the biggest metal acts out there!

Alex Skolnick's guitar leads reflect his classical influence, and are untouchable. Eric Peterson's guitar rhythms are the backbone of the whole album, with clear riffs that grab you and hold you song after song. Louie Clemente's drums are solid and steady as ever, like Greg Christian's bass lines. In a time when most bass players are seen but not heard, Greg's bass work can be picked out and enjoyed. The production work on this record lacks nothing. Chuck Billy's vocals and lyrics are powerful. He demonstrates that he can really sing, not just scream and shout. If you like quality with your metal, you won't be disappointed.

Now for the songs on "The Ritual", I've had the opportunity to hear this album before it's May release date. I can say that this record definitely

(cont. on p. 12)



CONTEMPT

by Michelle Bohannon

If you never got a chance to check out Contempt, I've got to tell you what you've been missing. Contempt is a hard-hitting in-your-face band straight out of Oakland. They've been together for three years now and in that time they have worked their way to one of the top-drawing local unsigned bands in the Bay Area. And who is Contempt, you ask? Well, currently, Contempt is Eddie Colmenares (drums), Ron Schipes (guitar), Daniel Dupret (guitar), Jim Lapin (bass) and Denton Sudweeks (vocals).

I recently went to go check out a Contempt show and I noticed a most maturing change in the band. I asked Eddie about this change. "We're not thrashing so hard anymore. Our songs are a lot more structured. We've put a lot of thought into them." This change certainly suits them very well. Their latest demo, "Contempt 92" displays their musical ability beautifully. My favorite song would have to be "Nothing More To Say". I think the reason I like this song so much is because of the lyrics. They are simple and they flow but at the same time I think most people can relate. Other songs worth mentioning are "Time Can Stand Still" and "Heart Black" which is a very heavy tune.

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DEFIANCE

"Beyond Recognition"
by Walter J. Morgan

The Bay Area's Defiance re-surfaces with their new album entitled "Beyond Recognition". It was released on May 12th by RoadRacer Records and is doing very well. This is the band's third record, and second with singer Steve Esquivel. This new record is definitely a big step forward in the band's steadily growing career. It was produced, engineered, and mixed by Rob Beaton. The production work on this record gives them a professional sound that highlights their musical talent.

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LIVE WIRE

GWAR

May 31, 1992

The Omni, Oakland

This has got to be the most disgusting band I've ever seen! From the moment they hit the stage and the lights went on, it was blood, violence, and more blood and violence. It was a total blood bath and I LOVED IT!

This is definitely a band that makes any Stephen King movie look like Disneyland. Heads, arms and legs flying through the air while gallons of blood gush out of neck, arm and leg sockets. Blood poured out up to 30 ft. right into an innocent victims face! The costumes were brilliant. It looked like a Mardi Gras from Hell! Death is their specialty. Not many of their victims died fast, most of it was way too painful and disgusting for me to get into. You've got to be one sick, twisted individual to appreciate this.

I do remember seeing Gwar about 2-3 years ago and the show wasn't even packed. They've gone from an underground nightmare to a mainstream monstrosity, but that's okay because the more Gwar they spread the better.

Back to the show. They crushed out 1 1/2 hours of the heaviest punk/thrash I've heard in a long time. It's good the band is paying more attention to the music and not just the visual! This is also definitely a band with a message but what that message is, well... I really couldn't tell you.

by Michele Bohannon

NONE OF THE ABOVE

May 24, 1992

The Omni, Oakland

Are they hard rock, modern rock or heavy metal? The answer is *None of the Above!* This band with their unique name and original style is definitely one to watch out for as we roll into the summer. On May 24th, I had the opportunity to see an exceptional performance as None of the Above rocked the Omni. I was truly impressed by their incredible sound with songs such as "regrets" - which each member agreed was their favorite. The guys (Don Johnson, lead vocals; Bill Laughlin, drums; Rob Sherman, guitar; and Dan Jasper, bass) have been together for roughly 2 years and Don was a new addition in October of last year. With the excellent reaction they received from the audience at the Omni, I asked them what they thought was the most important way of getting audience participation. The general response I got was "to put forth the emotion of the song." They describe their music as "old rock with a twist in addition to punk and jazz." Some influences include the Eagles, Pink Floyd, Eric Clapton and Jeff Campitelli. Campitelli has helped the band from day one and even helped produce their demo entitled "None of the Above." What's their main goal? "To get signed, of course!"

by Denise K. Walsh

EXODUS

May 2, 1992

One Step Beyond, Santa Clara

This show was this band's first appearance in the Bay Area in the past year and a half. They started with "Piranha" and the Exodus Attack is back! I look and see two guitar players running back and forth, it's Gary Holt and Rick Hunolt, the E-Team's guitars are blazing fire. Center stage is Steve "Zetro" Souza glaring at his audience with an evil smile, and lyrics come running out of his mouth. I look at the drum kit, it's shaking and pulsating as if it were alive, and I know it's John Tempesta who's beating and pounding these drums into submission. Something's different, there's a wild looking bass player with a guitar slung so low it almost touches the stage. This is their new band member Mike Butler with a high energy and a personality that fits Exodus like a glove. This new Exodus has definitely been rejuvenated and is a lot tighter. They continued motoring through a long set that included their hits "The Toxic Waltz" and "Braindead" which stirred the crowd into a frenzy. Also thrown in between were new songs including "Force of Habit" (the title of their new album). The last song of the evening was a rare surprise. They played "Bonded by Blood," which hasn't been played live since Europe in 1988. It was a perfect ending to a crazy evening.

by Walter J. Morgan

IRON MAIDEN

by Jesse James

With nine studio albums, four lineup changes, over thirty million worldwide in album sales, and many world tours, Iron Maiden can still crank out great hard rock music. Recently I spoke with the newest member of Iron Maiden, guitar player Janick Gers, about the new album, being in the band, touring, and the future of Iron Maiden. With the release of their latest album "Fear Of The Dark". Iron Maiden has certainly assured fans and critics of their music that they will be around for years to come, with the release of their latest album "Fear of the Dark".

Q: Some songs off "Fear of the Dark" have a different feel compared to the albums of the past. Was this your influence on the band?

A: When I started to bring things in Steve (Harris, bassist and founding member) told me to bring different ideas into the band and not to write for the band, even if they don't seem like they would fit the band.

Q: Steve Harris and Bruce Dickinson (lead singer) write all the lyrics. Many songs on the new album are about current problems and events in the world. Was this a conscious effort on their part?

A: Not at all. It was only afterwards that we realized it. I think it is quite reflective of what we've seen and what has happened around us. On tour last year we saw many problems and I think the social awareness on this album is great, but there is still the supernatural element to it, like on the title track and "The Apparition".

Q: What was it like for you to join Iron Maiden?

A: It was amazing but I've known the band for quite a while. I met Bruce when he was in Samson and I was in a band called White Spirit. I met the rest of Maiden when I was in Ian Gillen's band. I worked on Bruce's solo album and then Adrian (Smith) decided to leave the band so they asked me down and it worked out great.

Q: When the band is picking out their set list for the tour how do you chose from all your songs?

A: What you do is try to find the set that works. You put odd numbers in and out but if you find a set that works then its best to keep to the set because you have your highs and your lows in the set and if you play for three hours there is still going to be somebody who comes up to you and says that you didn't play my favorite song. You have to pick a set with some diamond songs from the past and diamond songs from now.

Q: Steve Harris and Dave Murray, guitar player, have been doing Maiden since 1976. What would indicate to them and the band it is time to quit?

A: I don't know, as long as we feel there is a vibe and we are happy that we're playing and people still come out and see us, then we are happy to play. I personally think this is one of Maiden's best albums.

Well Steve, Bruce, Dave, Nicko McBrain and Janick, I hope you continue giving us great music for years to come.



