THE HEAVY METALS

AFTER YEARS OF TREATING METAL like its least favorite relative, MTV, over the past several months, has actually begun to embrace the loudest and heaviest of musical forms. Just recently, the all-music network has started running Hard 30, a half-hour version of Headbangers' Ball. It airs every afternoon, Monday through Friday at 5 p.m. MTV has also hired Riki Rachtman to interview hard rock acts. Riki, the proprietor of Hollywood's two most infamous clubs, Cathouse and Bordello, is buds with many of the rockers he'll be chatting up. And that, by the way, is truly a strange and eerie coincidence. When the MTV people gave him the assignment, his response was, "Oh, you want me to interview L.A. Guns? They were at my club Tuesday. Great White? I just saw Jack the other day!" Sounds like Riki was a wise choice for the network.

And then there's the "Live on the Road to Euphoria" arena tour that MTV is supporting. It kicks off this week, with Anthrax headlining and Helloween and Exodus opening. Anthrax's fan base grew considerably when it played second banana on the Ozzy Osbourne tour earlier this year and Exodus has a happening new record that's making some waves on the charts. The middle act, Helloween, is the group with which Americans are the least familiar. Its most recent studio LP, Keeper of the Seven Keys, Part II, was released last fall, and the group hasn't been seen in the States since 1987. I spoke recently with Helloween drummer Ingo Schwichtenberg, and he feels that this tour will win Helloween acclaim in the as-yet unconquered U.S.A. "There was a tour scheduled for late '88," he explains, "but we'd just finished a European tour and there was the problem with Kai.' He's referring to Kai Hansen, who left the group on New Year's Day because he couldn't handle being on the road constantly. The parting was amicable, and new guitarist Roland Grapow will be filling Kai's shoes. To coincide with the tour, Helloween will be releasing a forty-minute live record entitled I Want Out, which was recorded during its U.K. dates.

Quite a few guitarists are making changes these days. Jeff Young, who parted ways with Megadeth last year, has ended his worldwide search for a vocalist for his new band, Broken Silence. It turned out that there was a great Swedish singer living right in Jeff's own apartment complex. The funniest part of this story, however, is that Jeff spent so much time raving about how this guy was better looking than Mike Tramp and had more presence than Sebastian Bach of Skid Row that I completely forgot to ask him what his name was! Silly me. Anyhow, the group is busy rehearsing and will be performing several showcases and recording a demo over the next couple of months.

Meanwhile, rumors have been flying all over town about **Steve Vai**. Apparently, the **David Lee Roth** axeman has become the new guitarist for **Whitesnake**. By the time this story reached me, it sounded like more than idle chatter and now it may just be a matter of working out the contractual-type stuff.

Bulletboys birthday boys **Mick Sweda** and **Lonnie Vencent** must have been partying a little too hard a few weeks ago. They were arrested in Louisville, Ky., for trashing a room at the Holiday Inn March 3, and nearly had to celebrate being another year older in the slammer. And I thought Picses men were sweet and sedate.

Some people, however, get rewarded for being raunchy and wild. Circus of Power nailed five nominations at the New York Music Awards. The categories include Best Debut LP, Debut Group of the Year, Debut Male Vocalist and Best Metal Band. Whew—pretty heavy duty stuff, there! The ceremony will be held April 8th at Manhattan's Beacon Theater and C.O.P. will also be presenters. That way, they'll have something to do besides anxiously bite their fingernails while the envelopes are being opened.

My main man, **Rick Rubin** (he's gotta be my main man, I love every project he gets involved with) has just finished producing a record for **Nevermore**, a gothic thrash band from Brooklyn. It's not a **DefAmerican** act, however—the EP will be released on **ILL Records**.

Hanoi Rocks may have broken up many years ago, but the legend lives on. Now only do half the bands in L.A. cop their style, various members of the group are still basking in spotlights of various intensities. Nasty Suicide has been plugging away on the L.A. scene with his band, Cheap and Nasty, and former Hanoi lead singer, Michael Monroe, is currently recording his solo debut. It'll be out this summer on Mercury Records.

And last, but certainly not least, **Dio**'s classic 1983 album, *Holy Diver* has *finally* edged its way into platinum status! But **Ronnie James Dio** isn't about to rest on his laurels—he's busy working on a new album, to be released later this year. Hopefully this new record will go platinum before 1905

METAL PICKS

■ Weekly Ear-Ringer

☐ **THE CULT:** Sonic Temple (Sire/Reprise 9 25871-1)

This latest LP is said to be a cross between the group's Love and Electric albums and that's a pretty accurate assesment. Sonic Temple captures the best of both worlds—it has a passion that flies into the far reaches of the imagination and at the same time keeps your blood pumping. "New York City" is an especially powerful track, with Iggy Pop lending his vocal services. The Cult has always brought an air of otherworldliness to hard rock and this album is a combination of gritty and dreamy dimensions.

Other Metal Releases

□ **DORO:** Force Majeure (Mercury 838016-1)

CASH BOX MICRO CHART





Total Weeks ¶

1	APPETITE FOR DESTRUCTION (Geffen GHS 24148)	Guns N' Roses	1	12
2	VIVID (Epic BFE 44099)	Living Colour	2	12
3	G N'R LIES (Geffen GHS 24198)	Guns N' Roses	3	12
4	THE GREAT RADIO CONTROVERSY (Geffen GHS 24224)	Tesla	4	7
5	HYSTERIA (Mercury/PolyGram 836 345-1)	Def Leppard	5	12
6	WINGER (Atlantic 81867)	Winger	6	12
7	SKID ROW (Atlantic 81936)	Skld Row	9	8
8	AND JUSTICE FOR ALL (Elektra 60812)	Metallica	8	12
9	OPEN UP AND SAYAHH! (Enigma/Capitol C1-48493)	Poison	7	12
10	PRIDE (Atlantic 81768)	White Lion	10	12
11	BULLETBOYS (Warner Bros. 25782)	Bulletboys	11	12
12	DIRTY ROTTEN FILTHY STICKING RICH (Columbia 44383)	Warrant	15	7
13	A SHOW OF HANDS (Mercury/PolyGram 836 346-1)	Rush	12	12
14	REACH FOR THE SKY (Atlantic 81929-1)	Ratt	13	12
15	OU812 (Warner Bros. 25732)	Van Halen	14	12
16	LONG COLD WINTER (Mercury/PolyGram 834 612-1)	Cinderella	17	12
17	BLESSING IN DISGUISE (Elektra 60817)	Metal Church	19	5
18	BLOW MY FUSE (Atlantic 7 81877-1)	Kix	18	12
19	SMASHES, THRASHES & HITS (Mercury/PolyGram 836-427-1)	Kiss	16	12
20	DREAMING #11 (Relativity 8856-1)	Joe Satriani	20	12
21	INTUITION (Mercury/PolyGram 836777)	TNT	23	4
22	FABULOUS DISASTER (Combat/Relativity 2001)	Exodus	22	6
23	GROSS MISCONDUCT (Megaforce/Caroline 1360)	M.O.D.	24	5
24	NO REST FOR THE WICKED (CBS OZ 44245)	Ozzy Osbourne	21	12
25	BRITNY FOX (Columbia BFC 44140)	Britny Fox	26	12
26	SURFING WITH THE ALIEN (Relativity/Important 8193)	Joe Satriani	25	12
27	HOUSE OF LORDS (RCA 8530-1-R)	House of Lords	27	8
28	RADIO ONE (Rykodisc RCD 20078)	Jimi Hendrix	28	12
29	BLACK DAZE (Medusa/Restless 72278)	Wasted Youth	31	4
30	IN THE DYNAMITE JET SALOON (China/PolyDor 837-368-1)	Dogs D'Amour	32	3
31	AFTER THE WAR(Virgin 91066-1)	Gary Moore	33	2
32	EXTREME (A&M SP 5238)	Extreme	35	2
33	PYROMANIA(Mercury/PolyGram)	Def Leppard	29	10
34	LEAVE STARS (Combat/Relativity 8264)	Dark Angel	DE	BUT
35	SURF NICARAGUA (Metal Blade/Enigma 73359)	Sacred Reich	30	12
36	OPERATION:MINDCRIME (EMI 48640)	Queensryche RE		
37	KILL TO SURVIVE (Epic FE 4447)	Meliah Rage	34	9
38	BEAST FROM THE EAST (Elektra 60823)	Dokken	36	12
39	THE MADNESS BEGINS(Reprise)	Powermad	37	10
40	KINGS OF METAL (Atlantic 81930)	Manowar	38	11





Though Doro Pesch continues to lighten up on the metal angle, she still rocks harder and more passionately than other female singers. This tiny woman winds her huge, German-accented vocals around these commerically-directed songs. Pesch is a powerhouse and there is still the occasional wicked rhythm to please headbangers. If Doro is meant to make it in the hard rock mainstream, this is the record that will do it.

☐ GAYE BYKERS ON ACID: Stewed to the Gills (Caroline 1376)

More wonderful sickness from this artsy semi-metal quartet. This second LP is sarcastic, snappy and smart. Mind-bending guitar makes *Stewed to the Gills* stand out from previous G.B.O.A. releases.

Janiss Garza