

MURDER IN THE FRONT ROW

On behalf of coauthor Brian Lew and I, welcome to the "O.-dex" of **MURDER IN THE FRONT ROW: Shots from the Bay Area Thrash Metal Epicenter**. This add-on is a long time coming. Special thanks to the hardest-working guitarist in metal—Phil "Phil-in" Demmel—for inspiring this fucking thing! I hope you guys appreciate my whacked-out idea. I tried my damndest to not leave anyone out! Major thanks to everyone for caring enough about our scene to dive into the fine print. It's amazing how many people are still discovering thrash metal and our book—here's are some of the faces that made it all happen!—**HARALD O.**

Abono, Debbie (Debra Ann Downer) (8/31/29–5/16/10, the same day Ronnie James Dio died) (Possessed/Forbidden/Vio-lence manager and beloved mom to our scene), 159, 169, 174-175, 217, 234, 262

Abbott, "Dimebag" Darrell (Pantera guitarist), 264

Adams, Jim (Defiance guitarist), 262

Albert, Mike (Megadeth/Capt. Beefheart guitarist), 106

Alden, Mark (guitarist for Red Hush—"head rush"—my high school band!), 98-99

Aldridge, Tommy (Ozzy Osbourne drummer), 10

Alves, Joey (Y&T guitarist), 20

Anderson, Andy "Airborne" (fearless Slayer Team enforcer & stagediver), 110-111, 218, front & back ends

Anderson, Russ "The Heat Miser" (Forbidden), 197, 262

ANTHRAX (New York's "Big Four" thrash band), 112

Aquatic Park (outdoor Berkeley site where Ruthie's Inn promoter Wes Robinson held Eastern Front Festivals), 12, 123-137, front and back ends

Araya, Tom (Slayer bassist/vocalist), 92, 95, 128-129, 132-133, 136-137, 156, 191-193, 196

Baloff, Paul "Pavel" (4/25/60–2/2/02) (Exodus front man; Slayer Team gang leader; sang the immortal words "Murder in the Front Row!"), 70-73, 106, 121, 122-123, 158-159, 160, 182-191, 218, 234, 244, 265

Becerra, Jeff (Possessed bassist/vocalist), 132-135, 201-204, 212-217

Behrhorst, Craig (Laaz Rockit/Ruffians), 176-177, 235

Biafra, Jello (Dead Kennedys vocalist), 210, 264

Biedermann, Mark (Blind Illusion guitarist/vocalist), 263

Billy, Chuck "Charles William" (Testament), 252-255

Blagrove, Alan, 113

BLIND ILLUSION (proggy thrash band from El Sobrante formed in 1978; see also Les Claypool, Larry "Ler" Lalonde, John Marshall, Andy Galleon, Doug Piercy, Harald O., and so many others), 263

Bonded by Blood back cover album shots, 121

Bostaph, Paul (Forbidden/Testament/Slayer drummer; replaced Dave Lombardo in two bands!), 197, 262

Brecht, Kurt (D.R.I. singer, lived in a tree in Golden Gate Park for a while), 208

broken leg (from the L.A. barricade collapse that almost ended my photo career prematurely!), 15

Brown, Rex (Pantera bassist), 264

Burch, Rich "Banger"/"Skitchy" (4/15/64–9/9/93) (coined the phrase "bang that head that doesn't bang"; if you weren't banging, Rich would force you! He inspired the lyric "chop your breakfast on a mirror"), 88

Burton, Clifford Lee (2/10/1962–9/27/1986) (Castro Valley native; major rager on the four-string motherfucker), w/Metallica 44-45, 54-55, 56-57, 59, 61, 62-63, 67, 69, 74, 76-77, 79-87, 90, 120, 161-163, 219, 237-249; w/Spastik Children, 219

Burton, Cliff (*Ride the Lightning* back cover shot), 82

Calvert, Tim (Forbidden guitarist), 262

Camacho, Matt (Forbidden bassist), 262

Carter, Peter (local banger), 218

Cassidy, Spike "Petey" (D.R.I. guitarist), 210

Cavestany, Rob (Death Angel guitarist), 174, 200, 262

Christian, Gregg (Testament/Legacy bassist), 138, 198-199, 253, 255, 263

Claypool, Les (Blind Illusion, Primus bassist), 263

Clemente, Louie (Legacy/Testament drummer), 253, 255

Clive the Dog (Mark Whitaker's lovable pooch), 223

Cook, Ace (roadie), 235

Collins, Keith (Savatage bassist), 235

Cotton, Fred "Rotten" (Spastik Children), 160, 219, 256-257

Crest Theater (cool Sacramento venue), 273

Davis, Donna (clueless interviewer from *Cliff Em' All*), 67

Day on the Dirt (outdoor festival), 123-137

Day on the Green (Bill Graham festival), 20, 238-243

Dickinson, Bruce (Iron Maiden vocalist), 20

DEATH ANGEL (young Bay Area thrasher cousins, still going strong!), 139

Demmel, Phil (Vio-lence/Machine Head guitarist; plus Lamb of God, Slayer, Testament), 70-171, 258-261

Dell, Deen (Vio-lence; now S.F. bus driver!), 15, 178, 261

Donato, Dave (Agents of Misfortune drummer w/Cliff; one of Cliff's best fishing and music pals), 15

Donovan, Kenny (ginger-haired drummer), 262

D.R.I. (Dirty Rotten Imbeciles), 208, 210

El Duce (Eldon Hoke) (3/23/58–4/19/97) (hilariously twisted drunken leader of controversial, misogynistic, politically incorrect band the Mentors), 15, 211

Ellefsen, Dave "Junior" (Megadeth bassist), 96, 106, 110-111, 235

EXODUS Formed by Kirk Hammett and Tom Hunting, their debut *Bonded By Blood* set the bar for classic thrash metal. The heart and soul of the Bay Area scene, 70-73, 106, 121, 132-135, 137, 181-191, back ends

FORBIDDEN EVIL Fremont-based band ended up dropping the "Evil" part; featured Machine Head's Robb Flynn & Slayer's Paul Bostaph, 197, 262

Flynn, Robb (Machine Head guitarist/front man), 266-267; w/Forbidden Evil 197; w/Vio-Lence: 258-261

Galleon, Andy (Death Angel drummer; began age 10), 174, 200, 262

garage (R.I.P.) (mythic early Metallica jam space), 44-47

George, Rocky (Suicidal Tendencies), 132-133, 209

Gfroerer, Jeff (drummer for Sunnyvale's Havoc), 98-99

Goodman, Doug (tour manager for Slayer, Tenacious D, Green Day; proud Devo shirt wearer), 148

Green, Lizzie (Paul Baloff girlfriend), 218

Griffin, Felix (D.R.I. drummer), 208

Griggs, Donnie (local banger and roadie), 218

GWAR (aliens who simulate executions onstage), 264

Hammett, Kirk Lee (Exodus/Metallica lead guitarist), 75-76, 78, 80, 90-91, 119-120, 140-141, 160-162, 169, 223-228; w/Spastik Children 238-243, 256-257

Hanneman, Jeffrey John (1/31/64–5/2/13) (Slayer guitarist), 10, 94-95, 124-126, 128-129, 132-137, 146-147, 149, 152-157, 166-167, 191-196

Haynes, Teresa (James Hetfield girlfriend), 12, 170-171, 256

Hell, Alan from (crazy local banger who did his King Diamond impression everywhere he went!), 156



Hetfield, James Alan (Metallica front man/rhythm guitarist), 34-39, 42-44, 49, 52, 55-61, 64-65, 68-69, 74-78, 80-81, 84-85, 90-91, 118-119, 166-167, 170-171, 178-179, 218-229, 231-232, 235-238-243; w/Spastik Children 219, 256-257

Holt, Gary Wayne (Exodus guitarist/Slay Team gang leader), 70-71, 73, 122-123, 137, 140-141, 156-160, 164-165, 172, 173, 180-187, 190, 265

Hunolt, Lonnie (Rick's brother/Slay Team), 175, 176-177

Hunolt, Rick (Exodus guitarist), 106, 121, 137, 156-157, 160-161, 164-165, 180-181, 184-187, 190, 218

Hunting, Tom (Exodus drummer), 106, 132-133, 134-135, 154-157, 161, 218

Isabella, Toni (Exodus manager/Bill Graham Prod.), 169

Jastremski, Mike ("Yaz") (03/16/63-5/23/05) (Griffin/Heathen; an unhinged character w/golden heart), 198

Jones, Jay (first Megadeth manager), 156, 235

Kallen, Ian (Rampage Radio/*Metal Mania*), 26, 28, 31

Kaufman, Mike (Defiance/Monster God bassist), 262

Kestelyn, Rebecca (Kirk Hammett girlfriend), 161

Keystone Palo Alto (One of three clubs with Keystone Berkeley and The Stone SF run by Big Bob Corona & Freddy Herrera), 20, 74-90

Killian, Sean (unique Vio-Lence vocalist), 258-259

Kilmister, Lemmy (Motörhead), 116

King, Kerry (Slayer guitarist), w/Slayer 92-93, 94-95, 128-129, 130, 136-137, 146-147, 152-154, 155, 169, 265; w/Megadeth 96-97, 102-103, 104

Kontos, Chris (Machine Head/Forbidden/countless others drummer; when I took this picture Chris was just a random punker stagediving), 209

Kress, Sam (R.I.P.) (*Whiplash* zine coeditor), 22

Lalonde, Larry "Ler" (Possessed/Blind Illusion/Primus guitarist), 203-207, 212-218

Lang, Jerry A. (fire-breathing singer, Poison Idea), 210

Lannon, Eric (Mordred/Bay City Rollers), 176-177

LEGACY The pre-Testament band, 138, 198-199

Lew, Brian (photographer; coauthor of **MURDER IN THE FRONT ROW**; Bay Area metal historian; coeditor of *Whiplash* zine), 18, 19-24, 53, 98-99, 269

Locicero, Craig (Forbidden "Evil" guitarist), 197, 261-262

Lombardo, Dave (Slayer drummer), 94, 127, 136, 144, 150-151, 156-157, 166-168, 192-193, 195-196, 208

Lynn, Corinne (Cliff Burton girlfriend), 113, 244, 248

Marshall, John (very tall Metallica guitar tech), 161, 175

Maung, Mike (R.I.P.) (Exodus guitarist), 73

McDaniels, James (Spastik Children's only guitarist, everyone else all played bass at once), 219, 256-257

McDaniel, Karen Waller (ex-wife of Spastik guitarist and dear pal of Harald O.), 175

McGovney, Ron (Metallica bassist), 38-39, 41, 98-99

McKillop, Rob (Exodus), 73, 156, 161, 164, 184-185, 191

MEGADETH The angry band that became so much more, always w/interesting characters revolving around Dave & Dave Jr., 96-112, 140, 200, 234-235

Meniketti, Dave (Y&T guitarist/vocalist), 20

Metal Mania (Ron Quintana's ruling mind-warping zine, should have been called *Metallica!*), 27, 28, 30, 120

METALLICA The originators of thrash metal, 18, 22, 25, 26, 29, 31, 34-35, 36-91, 113-120, 160-167, 238-243

Metallimansion, The (infamous home of James and Lars at 3132 Carlson Blvd in El Cerrito; where they wrote *RTL* and *MOP* in their one-car garage), 220-227

Miner, Mike (Blind Illusion drummer), 263

Minter, Darren (Heathen drummer), 262

Moura, Dan (9/16/64-7/23/06) (Ruffians), 176-177

Mustaine, Dave (guitarist/vocals), w/Metallica 34-37, 42-49, 55, 60-61, 66-69; w/Megadeth 98-101, 103-111, 140, 200, 234-235

Mustaine's prophetic letter to Harald O., 272

Muir, Mike (Suicidal Tendencies), 132-133, 209

Old Waldorf, The (S.F. nightclub), 34-35, 38-43, 73

Oliva, Criss (4/3/63-10/17/93) (Savatage guitarist), 235

Oliva, Jon (Savatage front man), 235

Oliver, Graham (Saxon guitarist), 20

Olsen, Alexis (Legacy/Mordred manager), 176-177, 218

Omni, The (Oakland nightclub), 250-251, 258-263

Oimoen, Harald Scott (D.R.I./Blind Illusion bassist; coauthor of *epic* thrash metal book **MURDER IN THE FRONT ROW**), 10, 12, 11-17, 248

Osbourne, Ozzy (inspirational madman), 10

Osegueda, Mark (Death Angel frontman), 174, 200, 262

PANTERA Texas glam band turned thrashers, 264

Patten, Neil (just some guy), 211

Pelletier, Rich (from Sunnyvale's Hellhound), 26, 29, 31

Pepa, Dennis (Death Angel bassist), 139, 262

Pepa, Gus (Death Angel guitarist), 174, 262

Peterson, Eric (Legacy/Testament guitarist), 138, 198-199, 253, 255

Piercy, Doug (Heathen/Anvil Chorus guitarist), 141, 185

Poland, Chris (Megadeth guitarist), 262

POSSESSED (Satanic teen band from Pinole; arguably the first death metal band), 132-135, 201-207, 212-218

Quintana, Ron (legendarily funny Bay Area Metal GOD who came up with the name Metallica; edited hilarious *Metal Mania* zine and hosted wild all-night parties on Rampage Radio), 12, 26-33

Ramirez, Derek (Legacy guitarist before Skolnick), 138

Rasmussen, Thaeen (Anvil Chorus guitarist), 141

Record Vault, The (S.F. metal record mecca), 113-117

Rhoads, Randy (Ozzy Osbourne guitarist), 10

Riley, Dan "R" (Metallica/Exodus pal), 178

Robinson, Wes (1929-12/31/06) (owner of Ruthie's Inn and promoter of Day on The Dirt shows), 211

Rock on Broadway (seedy nightclub), 256-257

Ronchetti, Mike (Legacy drummer), 199

Ruthie's Inn (Berkeley nightclub), 172-179, 183, 191-193

Samuelson, Gar (Megadeth drummer), 106, 110-111

Scharpen, John (Hellhound pal), 116

Schenker, Michael (guitar hero to all), 31, 49, 223, 230

Schnell, Peter (kid manager for Megadeth), 110-111

Scum, Dr. Heathen (Steven Broy) (Mentors bassist), 211

Segan, Adam (first Exodus manager), 73

Seven Churches, all-night album photo shoot, mayhem at the Abono house for an iconic album, 201-207

"Hella cool! ...don't forget these ragers!!" **BRIAN LEW**

Marrs, David (first Metallica roadie), 40, 54

Martinez, Rickey (R.I.P.) (*KILL* fanzine) front cover

Sammon, Mike (Sunnyvale headbanger) front cover

Schroeder, "Pushead" Brian (artist), front ends

Toivonen, Petrié (East Bay headbanger), 184

Vanderkuil, Wayne (South Bay headbanger), 183

Skinner, Bill (R.I.P.) (Anvil Chorus bassist), 229

Skolnick, Alex (Legacy/Testament lead guitarist; joined when he was 15 years old), 198-199, 250-253, 255

Slagel, Brian (Metal Blade Records founder), 167

SLAYER The most extreme band of the Big Four, Slayer; never softening their sound, front ends, 92-95 128-137, 146-147, 149, 152-155, 156-157, 169, 191-196, 265

Slayer, *Hell Awaits* album back cover shot, 146

Smith, Greg & Pam (Record Vault manager/owners), 116

Sommers, Andy (booking agent), 262

Souza, Steve "Zetro" (Legacy/Exodus vocalist), 138, 198-199, 253

SPASTIK CHILDREN Metallica's bad (on purpose) joke side project; a horribly insulting song called "The Ballad of Harald O." was their most popular tune! 219, 256-257

Staniford, Toby "Rage" (4/18/65-8/10/10) (fearless stagediver/headwalker; Slay Team; leap off anything), 98-99, 131, 133, 139, 153, 174, 205, 265, 273

Strahl, Rick (Attitude bassist), 93, 178-179

SUICIDAL TENDENCIES 132-133, 209

Sus, Mike (Possessed), 132-133, 202-204, 217-218

TESTAMENT (most underrated S.F. band), 250-255

Tigio, John (Forbidden Evil bassist), 197

Torrao, Mike (Possessed guitarist), 202-205, 212-215, 217-218, 133-134

Turbin, Neil (Anthrax vocalist), 112

Ulrich, Lars (Metallica founding member; only child), 10, 12, 18, 22, 25-26, 29, 31, 36-37, 40, 43-51, 58, 89, 113-115, 166-167, 169, 221, 225-227, 230, 233, 235, 238

Urungus, Oderous (Dave Brockie) (8/30/63-3/23/14) (frontman/mastermind of Gwar), 264

Vanderhoof, Kurt (Metal Church guitarist), 141

VIO-LENCE Formed in Hayward in 1985, 198-199

Wacholz, Steve (Savatage drummer), 235

White, David (Godfrey) (Blind Illusion/Heathen), 262

Whitford, Brad (Aerosmith guitarist), 140

Whitaker, Mark (*Bonded by Blood* producer; original inhabitant of the Metallimansion), 160

Wifebeater, Sickie (4/22/58-12/29/24) (Mentors), 211

Wong, Eric (Heathen/Ruffians bassist), 178

Yoshida, Gerald (Canadian headbanger), 113

MURDERINTHEFRONTROW.COM
MURDER IN THE FRONT ROW Shots from the Bay Area Thrash Metal Epicenter