

ALLOY

October 2023

The Spooky Edison

FT.
Occult Fun facts!
Killer Recs!
Our Samhain
4 Lbor!

LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

CREEP IT REAL

Hello again!

It is very, very comforting to know that when we screamed into the void, you all screamed back. We've spent the past month still struggling to process the fact that people actually came, saw what we created, read it, and actually interacted with it. It is still so absolutely fucking insane. Thank you all so much.

On that note- Happy October! It's the Season of the Witch, and we did our best to match the theme! We hope you enjoy this issue as much as the last!

In Rage and Love,

Rachel Rose



BUT WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

By Rebel Blaze

Metal is no stranger to borrowing occult imagery. That doesn't mean some common symbols mean what you think it means.

UPSIDE DOWN CROSS: This is actually a Christian symbol. It's known as "Saint Peter's Cross", and the story goes that Saint Peter refused to let himself be executed the same way as Jesus because he wasn't "worthy", so they crucified him upside down. This symbol is reportedly all over the Vatican because it's associated with the Pope, since Christians believe him to be Saint Peter's successor. Our apologies to black and death metal fans.



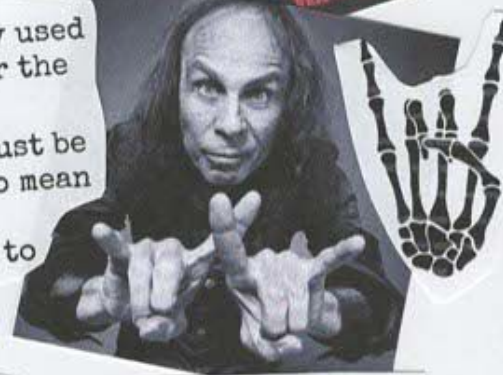
BLACK
SABBATH



PENTAGRAM/PENTACLE: The pentacle is a five point star encased in a circle, often used by pagans (hi) as a symbol of the five elements (Earth, Fire, Water, Air, and Spirit) and protection, along with the idea of "mind over matter". The pentagram is the inverted version, often used in horror movies and on album covers as a visual short hand for evil and devil worship. Ultimately, you can technically use these terms interchangeably, since most people will get what you're discussing either way. Whether the orientation of the star affects the meaning or intention of it can vary between traditions.



THE HORNS: Popularized by Ronnie James Dio, the horns are typically used in Italian and other Mediterranean cultures to ward off bad luck, or the evil eye (or *malocchio!*), and it's called the *Corna* (which... still technically means horns, but it's nice to know the original name). Just be careful about gesturing with it, because in some regions it can also mean that you're calling the person you're gesturing towards a cuck. To get back on theme- it's also occasionally used in Wiccan circles to represent the Horned God.





THE "DEATH" TAROT CARD: This tends to be more "general edginess" than specific to metal, but there can be some overlap, so we're gonna count it. While most assume this to be the most straightforward card (after all, how many meanings can "death" have?), the card can often also symbolize change, acceptance, transition, and new beginnings- which is why we actually used it as the cover of our first issue!



From Hair & Glam to Brutal & Slam: The Range of Heaviness in Heavy Metal

BY VYV RIFF




HARD ROCK: Hard rock stems directly from rock music, and is noticeably heavier - thus the name "hard rock." Hard rock started in the 1960s with psychedelic rock and blues rock (Hendrix, Cream, , which were quite unusual and were new at that point. With artists like The Kinks, The Who, & even blues artist Muddy Waters, Hard rock was one of the first bouts of heavier music that would ultimately lead to heavy metal's official formation.

- **NOTABLE BANDS:** Blue Öyster Cult; The Kinks; The Who; AC/DC; Jimi Hendrix / The Jimi Hendrix Experience; Cream; The Doors

HAIR & GLAM: While hair & glam metal aren't for everyone, and to some people it may be either good music or just plain shit, hair & glam metal are essential to the metal scene. QUIET RIOT, from Los Angeles, helped to kickstart metal into the spotlight in 1983 album Metal Health, as it topped the Billboard charts that year - making it the very first ever heavy metal album to top the chart.

From 1983 to about 1991, hair & glam metal had the world by storm. Throughout the 80s, in Los Angeles, CA, the Sunset Strip was bursting with hair & glam metal bands. From Mötley Crüe to Dokken, the Sunset Strip was filled with so much hairspray that you can probably smell it today if you go there.



- **NOTABLE BANDS:** White Lion; Guns 'n Roses; Twisted Sister; Ratt; Dokken; Warrant; Mötley Crüe; King Kobra; Cinderella; W.A.S.P.; Europe; Skid Row; Great White; Hanoi Rocks; Quiet Riot; Kix; Vixen; Tigertailz; Tesla; Steelheart; Faster Pussycat




POWER METAL: Stemming majorly from the New Wave of British Heavy Metal (NWOBHM), Power metal twists traditional heavy metal with speed metal while giving it an almost theatrical-like sound. The overall sound of power metal is much more uplifting, unlike thrash or death metal where the overall sound is more discouraging & depressing.

Rob Halford (JUDAS PRIEST/FIGHT/2WO/HALFORD) helped set the stage for power metal vocalists, inspiring future singers in the genre with his near constant high-pitched vocals and vibrato while singing. Power metal vocals are clean & have influences and inspiration tying back to metal singers like Bruce Dickinson (IRON MAIDEN), Rob Halford (JUDAS PRIEST/FIGHT), Geoff Tate (QUEENSRYCHE), and Ronnie James Dio (ELF/BLACK SABBATH/DIO).

Lyrics within the power metal genre usually focus more on and around themes of mythology, personal struggles, fantasy, and emotions. Lyrics may also focus on historical events and things, such as war. A lot of these bands also have concept albums - albums that follow a storyline through the album's tracks.

- **NOTABLE BANDS:** Dio (Proto-Power); Rainbow (Proto-Power); Sabaton; Helloween; DragonForce; Blind Guardian; Kamelot; Powerwolf; Stratovarius; Gamma Ray; HammerFall; Angra



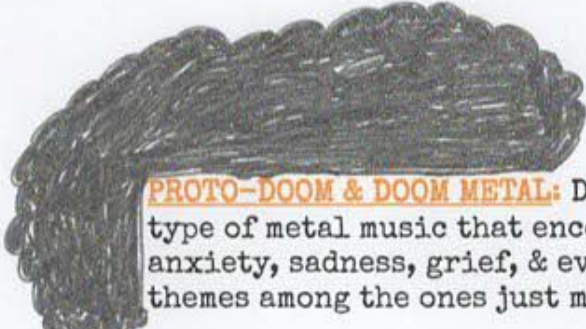


TRADITIONAL HEAVY METAL, NWOBHM & NWOTHM: Traditional heavy metal (AKA Trad metal, classic metal, or heavy metal) is considered bands that were around in the 70s & 80s that formed the classic old school sound of heavy metal. The overall sound of traditional heavy metal, NWOBHM, and NWOTHM are all quite similar, and are very unique. The overall sound of traditional metal is almost similar to power metal, but not as theatrical and noticeably harsher than the aforementioned genre.

The New Wave Of British Heavy Metal (NWOBHM) movement that swept across the world thru the mid 70s & into the 80s helped to form the classic heavy metal sound that we know and love. Bands that fall under NWOBHM often have more theatrical-like vocals similar to that of power metal, but can also have growly or slightly harsher vocals.

With the New Wave Of Traditional Heavy Metal (NWOTHM), bands are bringing the classic sound of 70s & 80s heavy metal back to the 21st century. The movement began in the 2000s, when bands started popping up and reviving the traditional sound of heavy metal. While the revival of the old school metal sound isn't too popular, the scene is still thriving with bands popular in the scene. Similar to how Iron Maiden have their own mascot (Eddie), some NWOTHM bands even have their own mascots!

- **NOTABLE BANDS THM:** Judas Priest (pre-90s); Black Sabbath; Rainbow; Scorpions; Iron Maiden; Deep Purple; Bronz; Diamond Head; Blue Öyster Cult; Satan/Blind Fury/Pariah
- **NOTABLE BANDS NWOBHM:** Iron Maiden; Saxon; Grim Reaper; Tytan; Samson; Def Leppard; Praying Mantis; Girlschool; Angel Witch; Tygers of Pan Tang; Ostrogoth; Motörhead
- **NOTABLE BANDS NWOTHM:** Century; Acid Blade; Sin Starlett; Midnight Priest; Night Demon; Enforcer; Hitten; Antioch; Stallion; Skull Fist; White Wizzard; Screamer; Riot City



PROTO-DOOM & DOOM METAL: Doom metal is a slower, but seemingly heavier, type of metal music that encompasses the feeling of impending doom, dread, anxiety, sadness, grief, & even death. The lyrics are usually dark, with themes among the ones just mentioned.

Proto Doom is the subgenre of doom metal that started in the late 1960s and led into the 1970s that involved the more gloomy and more depressing tone of harder rock music. To go along with this, there was a much louder volume of music, and overall darker mood and energy for the music at the time. BLACK SABBATH is the most recognizable band when it comes to proto-doom, having created the much darker energy and slower tempos that almost if not all doom metal bands use today.

The parent genre of Doom metal was *technically* started in 1969 with the band COVEN releasing their debut album *WITCHCRAFT DESTROYS MINDS & REAPS SOULS*. Although the overall doom metal sound isn't really fully there, on songs like "Black Sabbath" (yes, you read that right - there is no correlation) the doom metal sound is almost instantly recognizable. Throughout other parts of songs on the album, you can hear where doom metal was influenced & how it was helped to be formed.

In 1970, BLACK SABBATH's debut album, *BLACK SABBATH*, was released into the world. BLACK SABBATH is the most notable band that helped to influence and form doom metal into what it is today, due to COVEN unfortunately being rarely, if at all ever, talked out. SABBATH is cited as a proto-doom band, since actual doom metal had not been formed at that time. SABBATH also helped to create and bring the much darker energy and slower tempos that almost if not all doom metal bands use today.

As the 70s went on, bands like BLACK SABBATH and PENTAGRAM were creating the first ever doom albums & singles, propelling the genre to be formed into what it is today. BLACK SABBATH was, and still is, an extremely massive influence on the overall genre of doom metal. Even today, you can hear riffs and vocals inspired by early BLACK SABBATH in modern doom metal bands.

- **NOTABLE BANDS PROTO-DOOM:** Black Sabbath; Pentagram; Lucifer's Friend; Pagan Altar; Necromandus; Sir Lord Baltimore; Blue Cheer (began Stoner metal); Spiritus Mortis
- **NOTABLE BANDS DOOM:** Candlemass; Electric Wizard; Saint Vitus; Trouble; My Dying Bride; Witchcraft; Cirith Ungol; Cathedral; Paradise Lost; Mournful Congregation; Reverend Bizarre

SPEED METAL: Speed metal is fairly easy to be confused with thrash metal — not only due to the similarities between both genres, but also due to thrash stemming & evolving from speed metal itself. Along with influencing thrash, speed metal also helped to form and influence power metal.

Speed metal is noticeably faster than traditional heavy metal, but usually slower and not as in-your-face as thrash metal. It stems from NWOBHM, having short instrumental bits between verses and bridges. However, speed metal sounded a bit different depending on the region that you listen to.

In the European scene, bands aimed to sound much harsher than normal — aiming for sounds similar to that of bands like VENOM & MOTÖRHEAD.

Japanese bands sounded quite similar to that of power metal; keeping up with the faster sound, but staying a little theatrical-like.

Most notably, in the North American speed metal scene, the bands had an even more swift and more combative sound. The much harsher sound would come to be helpful and important to metal, and would heavily influence the massive thrash metal movement of the 1980s.

- **NOTABLE BANDS:** Motörhead; Accept; Exciter; Venom; Rage; Agent Steel; Running Wild; Znöwhite; Living Death; X Japan; Helloween (early; more Power); Judas Priest (see *Painkiller*)

THRASH METAL: Stemming & having evolved from speed metal, thrash is much more rapid & noticeably heavier than speed metal. The guitar riffs are much more intense, the drums sound louder, and the bass is thunderingly loud (except on METALLICA's ...AND JUSTICE FOR ALL album, unfortunately).

Vocals tend to be a bit harsh, but for the majority of the genre, they are not gutturals and growls — or perhaps even fully indecipherable — as they are in death metal. The vocals within thrash metal tend to sound like they are being screamed directly into your ears.

While thrash certainly isn't anywhere near the heaviest genre on our list, for new metalheads, it's a great start. Thrash is filled with rapid riffs that make you want to furiously headbang, intense bass lines, & thundering drum beats.



- **NOTABLE BANDS:** Metallica (early); Megadeth; Anthrax; Slayer; Exodus; Holy Moses; Overkill; Destruction; Sodom; Tankard; Kreator; Testament; Metal Church; Whiplash; Forbidden

DEATH METAL, OSDM, & NWOOSDM: Death metal has a strong amount of weirdly specific subgenres under its belt (goregrind and pornogrind included!), and is a massive parent genre. While the parent genre of death metal has a range in and of itself, Old School Death Metal (OSDM) is a favorite amongst metalheads in the scene. OSDM is considered death metal that was released between the 1980s up until about the year of 1999 or 2000.

New Wave of Old School Death Metal (NWOOSDM) bands have begun to bring back the sound of 80s and 90s death metal. Bands that fall under this subgenre/wave of metal focus on the classic sounds of rage and aggression, blast beats, and guttural vocals. At the same time, they mix elements of modern death metal into the old school sound, most notably progressive metal and/or melodic metal.

Death metal overall is much harsher than thrash metal. Common characteristics of death metal across all sub & microgenres include gutturals and growls for vocals; distorted and downtuned guitars; blast beats for drums (not all the time, but often); and rapid time signature, key, & tempo changes. Lyrics often involve death and slasher horror movie-style violence & blood & gore; Occultism & religion (including Satanism); philosophy; politics; and even science fiction.

- **NOTABLE BANDS OSDM:** Death; Possessed; Autopsy; Morbid Angel; Immolation; Obituary; Dismember; Cancer; Bolt Thrower; Atheist; Pestilence; Incantation; Necrophobic; Grave; Entombed; Unleashed
- **NOTABLE BANDS NWOOSDM:** Sanguisugabogg; Bloodbath; Necrot; Undergang; Creeping Death; Frozen Soul; Tomb Mold; Tombstoner; 200 Stab Wounds; Machetazo; Gatecreeper; Mortal Wound

BLACK METAL: Coined by VENOM on their 1982 album "BLACK METAL", Black metal exploded into the metal scene in the early 80s with the First Wave Of Black Metal. The parent genre of black metal has plenty of subgenres under its belt, including unique ones like atmospheric black metal.

While black metal is rattled with controversy, murder, church burnings, & Nazism thanks to Varg Vikernes (note my sarcasm & negative tone), the overall music style is extremely unique - and most definitely not for everybody. With shrieking vocals, blast beats, shitty sounding production (especially in raw black metal), & extremely fast guitar riffs, black metal is one of the much more extreme subgenres of metal. The genre focuses on a much darker, much gloomy atmosphere & feel, while lyrics tend to focus on Satanism & anti-Christianity, among other dark themes. In Depressive Suicidal Black Metal (DSBM), lyrics are even more dark, focusing on suicide & depression, self-harm, misanthropy, & death.

Members of black metal bands (or the artist if the project is a one-person project) often wear corpse paint and/or go by stage names/pseudonyms. Popular pseudonyms include Quorthon (BATHORY), Cronos (VENOM), Satyr & Frost (SATYRICON), Dead & Euronymous (MAYHEM), and Fenriz & Nocturno Culto (DARKTHRONE).

Among A massive debate among metalheads for who truly was the "first" black metal band is loud, & there are two (2) choices when it comes to this: BATHORY and VENOM. Both of these bands showed up on the scene in the early 80s. BATHORY put out their debut album, BATHORY, in early October of 1984, & it is considered actual black metal & heavy metal.


Meanwhile, with VENOM, they put out their debut album, WELCOME TO HELL, in December of 1981 — just under 3 three (3) years BEFORE Bathory. The catch here is that VENOM's debut album is categorized as heavy metal & speed metal. However, their sophomore album — BLACK METAL, released in 1982 — is just that: heavy, speed, thrash, & black metal - which would, according to release dates, make VENOM the very first Black metal band and to have released the world's very first ever Black metal album.

According to release dates, VENOM is the one-and-true first-ever black metal band. But the question for the reader is this: Who do YOU think was first?

- NOTABLE BANDS: Bathory; Venom; Mayhem; Darkthrone; Emperor; Satyricon; Gorgoroth; Immortal; Abbath; Dimmu Borgir; Mutilation; Celtic Frost; Carpathian Forest

- **NOTE:** It is up to you, but I highly recommend that you stay away from Nazi Socialist Black Metal (NSBM) as a whole. Bands like these are racist bigots, and often even neo Nazis and/or Nazi sympathizers. Nazism, racists, bigots, & any other republican/conservative assholes DO NOT BELONG in the metal scene.

NOTABLE BANDS TO STAY AWAY FROM (NSBM): Burzum; Archgoat; Goatmoon; Marduk; Dark Funeral; Grand Belial's Key; Xasthur; Satanic Warmaster;



SLAM & BRUTAL DEATH METAL: Slam & Brutal death metal take the crown for heaviest metal genre. Vocals are often unintelligible, and the music is heart poundingly loud and combative.

On top of using insanely fast and muted guitar chords, brutal death metal has intensely rapid guitar riffs and tempos, heart-skipping blast beats, complex rhythms, and often unintelligible and guttural vocals. Brutal death metal isn't as popular as compared to something like thrash, but will still have you banging your head.

Slam death metal is similar and is mixed with elements of hardcore punk. The microgenre came out of the 1990s New York death metal scene, when death metal already had a few regional scenes. Slam metal focuses on breakdowns and hip hop-like drum beats and vocals. Guitar riffs are so heavy, deep, and so headbang-worthy & powerful that they will have you slamming against the wall.*

* - if you hit the floor, you can always crawl ;) !!!

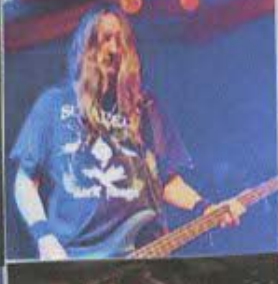
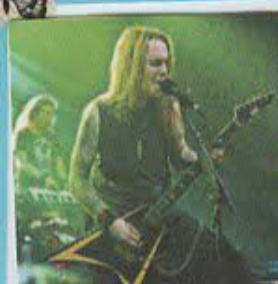
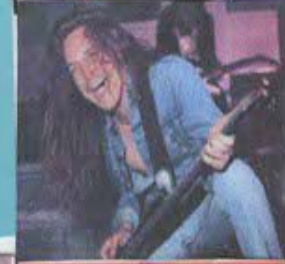
- **NOTABLE BANDS BRUTAL:** Cannibal Corpse; Suffocation; Dying Fetus; Deicide; Cryptopsy; Mortician; Aborted; Guttural Slug; Skinless; Severe Torture; Suffocation
- **NOTABLE BANDS SLAM:** Internal Bleeding; Pyrexia; Devourment; Cephalotripsy; Abominable Putridity; Epicardiectomy; Enmity; Guttural Engorgement; Putrid Pile; Ingested; Short Bus Pile Up

Cannot The Kingdom of Salvation Take Me Home?
A 2023 Samhain Alter



Cliff Burton *of Metallica*
 Randy Rhoads *of Quiet Riot and Ozzy Osbourne*
 Algy Ward *of TANK*
 Jeff Hanneman *of Slayer*
 Angel "Yong" Ulloa *of Labyrinth*
 Lemmy Kilmister *of Motörhead*
 Dimebag Darrell *of Pantera*
 Steve Grimmett *of Grim Reaper*
 Quorthon *of Bathory*
 Mark Adams *of Saint Vitus*
 Chuck Schuldiner *of Death*
 Alexi Laiho *of Children of Bodom*
 Eric Carr *of KISS*
 Ronnie James Dio *of Dio, Black Sabbath, and Rainbow*
 Steve Clark *of Def Leppard*
 Mitch Lucker *of Suicide Silence*
 Sean Reinert *of Death and Opic*
 Vinnie Paul *of Pantera*

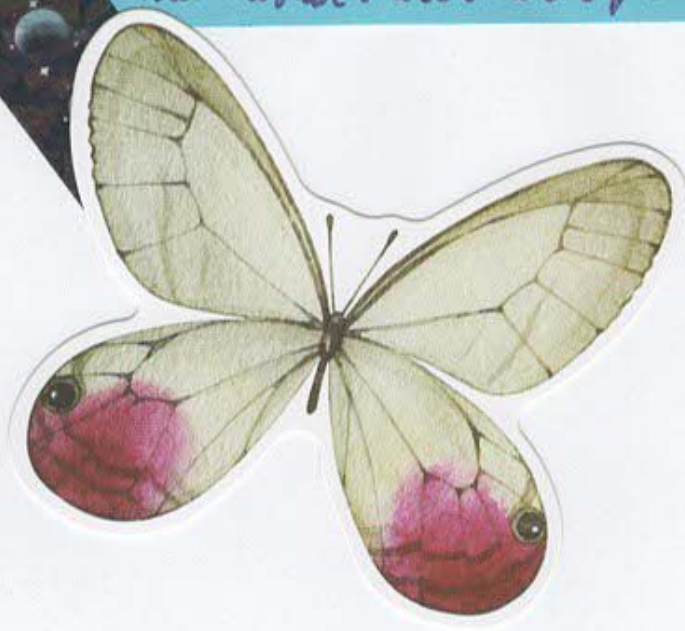
Burke Shelly *of Budgie*
 Joey Jordison *of Slipknot and Murderdolls*
 Paul Baloff *of Exodus*
 Jill Janus *of Huntress*



A Simple Ancestral Prayer



Tonight is a night to call out to those
who came before
Tonight I honor my ancestors
I call to you
And welcome you to join me
You guide me
And tonight I thank you
Your spirit is in my heart
And your memories are in my soul
I remember all of you
You are dead, but never forgotten
And you live on within me
And within those who are yet to come



READER SUBMISSIONS

Here's some great recs from other readers!

BELUSHI SPEED BALL (Thrash)

"Belushi Speed Ball are ... under the subgenre of thrash metal ... they have quite a few really catchy songs and i think more people should get a chance to listen to them, so that is my submission, looking forward to new stuff from y'all!!"

MÉLANCOLIA (Deathcore)

"honestly i preach this band wherever i go. they're self-described 'melodic blackened deathcore' and they recently released their very first record (HissThroughRottenTeeth), their first single came out february 2022 and got really good feedback so they made a whole ass album it's pretty awesome. i recommend looking at the music videos too it's pretty sick (they're also from melbourne [Australia] ... so that's a bonus!)"

FLIP PHONE FANTASY by OCEAN GROVE

"ocean grove is really cool, they sorta mix nu metal, hip-hop and metalcore. i definitely recommend this album for a bring me the horizon type of listen, if bmtH was nu metal."

POSTCARD FROM A LIVING HELL by REDHOOK

"... i ... really like the nu metal + avril lavigne kind of feel to this album with a modern spin to it."

PENPAL SUBMISSIONS

check out our first issue to check out our guidelines for this!

SPOOKY SEASON - METAL (& ROCK) VERSION



1. (Don't Fear) The Reaper - Blue Öyster Cult / Agents of Fortune
2. Blood Moon - Starbenders / Take Back the Night (Glitter rock)
3. All Hallow's Eve - Type O Negative / World Coming Down
4. Seven White Horses - Starbenders / Take Back the Night
5. Under the Graveyard - Ozzy Osbourne / Ordinary Man
6. Bark At The Moon - Ozzy Osbourne / Bark At The Moon
7. Wolf Moon (Including Zoanthropic Paranoia) - Type O Negative /
October Rust
8. Children Of the Grave - Black Sabbath / Master of Reality
9. Under A Funeral Moon - Darkthrone / Under A Funeral Moon
10. Scarecrow - Posthum / Lights Out
11. Misfortune Teller - Icarus Witch / Goodbye Cruel World
12. Living Dead Girl - Rob Zombie / Hellbilly Deluxe
13. Everyone I Love Is Dead - Type O Negative / World Coming Down
14. Spellbound - Siouxsie & The Banshees / Juju
15. Dovehorns - Deadsled Funeral Company (Single)



BOO! *



SONG RECS

Here's this month's faves!

1. Død - Undergang / *De Syv Stadier af Ford* (NWOOSDM)
2. Hyper Borea - Messiah / *Extreme Cold Weather* (Death/Thrash)
3. Deliver Us From Evil - Warlord / *Deliver Us* (Heavy/Power metal)
4. Four Volcanic Winds - Ancesthor / *Oneiric* (Thrash)
5. Hunger - King Kobra / *Ready to Strike* (Hair/Glam metal)
6. Forever My Queen - Pentagonagram / *First Daze Here* (Doom metal)
7. Menstrual Envy - Sanguisugabogg / *Tortured Whole* (NWOOSDM)
8. Liar - Gothminister / *Anima Inferna* (Industrial)
9. Daisy Pusher Stomp - 10 TO THE CHEST / *SPLIT THE FUCK OPEN* (EP) (NWOOSDM)
10. Die As A King - Kataklysm / *Goliath* (Death metal)
11. Queen of Siam - Holy Moses / *Queen of Siam* (Thrash)
12. Cold Bitch - Tytan / *Rough Justice* (NWOBHM)
13. Torch - Warlock / *Torch* (Heavy metal)
14. Dare to Spit - Sword / *Metalized* (Heavy metal)
15. Gimme Head - Split Beaver / *When Hell Won't Have You* (NWOBHM)
16. Do It Loud - Blind Fury / *Out Of Reach* (NWOBHM) (AKA Satan, Pariah)
17. Cities on Fire - Axewitch / *Hooked On High Heels*
18. Into the Acid - Cancer / *To the Gory End* (OSDM)
19. Angelic Fabrications - Tomb Mold / *The Enduring Spirit* (NWOOSDM)
20. Learn How to Die - Pain / *Pain* (Industrial)
21. Beyond the Stars - Riot City / *Electric Elite* (NWOTHM)
22. Taxicab Messiah - Kidneythieves / *Trickstereprocess* (Industrial)
23. Consent - 3TEETH / *3TEETH* (Industrial)
24. Worlock - Skinny Puppy / *Rabies* (Industrial)
25. Oxyacetylene - Cubanate / *Brutalism* (Industrial)
26. Midnight's Embrace - Eternal Suffering / *Drowning in Tragedy* (OSDM)
27. Looking Into the Abyss - Nunslaughter / *Angelic Dread* (Death metal)
28. Misfortune Teller - Icarus Witch / *Goodbye Cruel World* (NWOTHM)
29. Consumed by Slow Putrefaction - Church of Disgust (Single)
30. Boy Dahlia - Deadsled Funeral Company (Single) (Gothic; Shock rock)
31. Dovehorns - Deadsled Funeral Company (Single) (Gothic; Shock rock)
32. Beast In the Night - Randy (Single) (Heavy metal)

