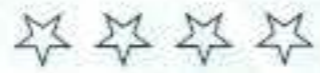


and the wailing torment of the lead singer intensifies the affair as he unleashes the banshee within. —*Jimmy Finch*

ENFORSAKEN
THE FOREVER ENDEAVOR
OLYMPIC



What a clever little title, but don't let the cutesy album name fool you: The Forever Endeavor is some voracious thrash, peppered with some melodic, yet aggressive death metal sounds. Is this band bringing the Swedish sound to the States? Methinks so! The stamp print of Gothenburg death metal just oozes off this release, from vocalist Steven Sagala's gruff, yet melodic delivery (think of Jeff from latter day Carcass) to guitarists Joe DeGroot and Steve Stell's many harmonizing moments and arpeggio sweeps. Enforsaken's hooks are many, and the catchy moments are in abundance. While Arch Enemy et al release, perhaps this Chicago band is ready to climb atop the heap and challenge for the melodic death throne. —*Brad Mitchell*

FOREVER IS FORGOTTEN
THE ARCHITECTURE IS STILL BURNING
THORP



Learning their take on hardcore from listening to a few Hatebreed albums, Forever Is Forgotten have a decidedly crisp production on *The Architecture*...

Throwing in a bit of off-time riffing and wanky guitar lines over staggered drum beats is actually a solid bonus. It splits up some of the head-pounding and spices up the overall offering which is something most "play on 11" bands could learn. Occasionally this takes a left turn and almost borders on emo-ness, but when you have something this blood-letting on your hands, you can excuse a few slips into introspection. —*Jimmy Finch*

FRAGMENTS OF UNBECOMING
SKYWARDS U A SYLPH'S ASCENSION
METAL BLADE



Blending just enough hardcore delivery into their In Flames-ish metal, FOU have hit a solid

mark with this album. Each track is lovingly spiced with riff variations, enough blastbeats to remain furious and breakdowns that would make Suicidal Tendencies cry for joy...or envy. Vicious vocal domination also makes for a listen that is energized and adrenaline-pumping. Basically, while you think that most bands of this ilk are only bullshitting about being dark, depressed and evil, you kind of believe it here. The songs are way too painful to mistake for being otherwise. —*Jimmy Finch*

GATHERING
SLEEPY BUILDINGS
A SEMI ACOUSTIC EVENING
CENTURY MEDIA



You'd better get yourself an



DESTRUCTION
METAL DISCHARGE
NUCLEAR BLAST



Thank God there are still old school thrash bands flying the TRUE flag of metal. Destruction

pleasantly surprised me with this one. (As a sidebar, I have heard a few new tracks from Exodus' Tempo Of The Damned, and it shreds too!) You can have your newest Metallica, Megadeth, Anthrax, and even the most recent Venom releases (but I will keep Slayer, thank you very much) and I'll let these hard working thrashers deliver the goods. Destruction spews forth their thrash at break-neck speed, but never let the songs get away from them. The pace is frantic, yet quite under control of this three-piece. There is really no stand out track, nor any duds. Metal Discharge is full of solid, no bullshit thrash metal with very little deviation from that formula. And when the CD is this solid, who the hell cares? —*Brad Mitchell*



DOCUMENTARY (DVD)
DEATH METAL
MVD



The rather daunting task of making a death metal documentary has been accomplished by Bill Zebub, Grimoire Of Exalted Deeds mag

front man. Completely explaining where and when this genre of music started would have been impossible. The scene is too intertwined to ever get it all covered. The reason why the documentary hits gold is because it lets the musician tell the story of death metal rather than having a single subjective opinion on it. Immolation, Malignancy, Mortician, Suffocation, Amon Amarth, Seance, James Murphy, Dan Lilker, and Peter Steele (on his days in Carnivore) are some of the scene's stars that provide the meat for this documentary. Not only do the bands tell the story of death metal, but they also share what this scene means to them, what it meant to get their band signed, how music downloading is affecting them, and what the future of death metal will bring. Mixed in with the interviews are live shots of the featured bands as well as a few of the more extreme videos from this genre. Even though most of the bands featured on here are more "underground," leaving out the heavy weights such as Morbid Angel, Deicide, Death, Napalm Death, Cannibal Corpse et al, the documentary is a great start to this scene. Even the uninitiated may apply! —*Brad Mitchell*

EMMANUEL 7
MACHINES IN ROUTINE
THORP



The name is as weird as the band's eclectic blend of hardcore, emo and death metal, but you

can't deny that Emmanuel 7 bust some serious chops with *Machines In Routine*. When they finally do get around to the blast beats, they're scorching and speaker-splittingly heavy. Of course, if you're a hardcore purist, you might take issue with some of their lighter-tare passages here and there but overall there's certainly enough bombast to make this effort worthwhile. Half-time riffs have more solid weight than a thousand Clutch albums

