



**108**  
**A NEW BEAT FROM A DEAD HEART**  
(DEATHWISH)

★★★★

If you were a metal-core act in the Nineties, chances are you sounded something like 108. Although the band broke up in 1996 when their guitarist Vic DiCara decided to dedicate his life to



Hinduism, the group's metallic-tinged brand of hardcore influenced an entire generation of bands. Unfortunately, despite the fact that 108's first disc since reforming in 2005 sounds

massive, thanks to producer (and Converge guitarist) Kurt Ballou, there's nothing that he can do to mask the fact that the band just sounds dated—*A New Beat* won't cost 108 their legacy, but it doesn't help extend it, either. **JONAH BAYER**

**The Agonist**  
**ONCE ONLY IMAGINED**  
(CENTURY MEDIA)

★★★★★

On this Canadian quartet's first full-length, blue-tressed beauty Alissa White-Gluz delivers clean, emotional harmonies much like



Evanescence front-woman Amy Lee, and her formidable screams rival those of Arch Enemy's Angela Gossow. Her acrobatic vocal range is well complemented by

Danny Marino's anthemic guitar riffs and the rhythm section's chaotic undercurrents. Her pro-environment, anti-corporate lyrics,

meanwhile, as displayed on songs like "Business Suits and Combat Boots," lend the *Agonist* a topical weight to match their sonic heft. It all makes for a compellingly imagined debut. **LUCAS AYKROYD**

**Angels of Light**  
**WE ARE HIM**  
(YOUNG GOD)

★★★★



As the mastermind behind Eighties post-industrial titans Swans, Michael Gira influenced countless metal bands, from Napalm Death to Pelican. After Swans folded in 1997, Gira

dialled back his former group's legendary volume and emerged as the quieter, though no-less-heavy, *Angels of Light*. On *Angels'* fifth album, Gira's repetitive, grinding riffs support his derisive vocals and morbid musings. And like the last couple of Earth records, *We Are Him* meanders like a Southwestern death march and employs a few non-traditional metal instruments. But if anyone can make violin, trombone, and hammer dulcimer sound downright doomy, it's gonna be Gira. **BRAD ANGLE**

**Balboa/Rosetta**  
**PROJECT MERCURY**  
(LEVEL PLANE)

★★★★★

Balboa and Rosetta, the two Philadelphian post-hardcore acts that share this split release, tread paths that are, **CONTINUED** ►►

PEEP SHOW

THE LATEST IN DVDS

**Avenged Sevenfold**  
**ALL EXCESS**  
(Warner Bros.)

★★★★

For all their headbanging virtues, Avenged Sevenfold are not much of a documentary subject—yet. The quintet's career is simply too young and its ascent too quick to make for a compelling, *Behind the Music* kind of story. A "stinky" early tour van? A bad first gig at the local club? Those are pretty lightweight hardships. Footage of a full-band guest appearance onstage with Metallica and singer M. Shadows singing with Korn are intriguing, at least, but we'll wait for the rest of the story. **GARY GRAFF**



**GG Allin and the Murder Junkies**  
**HATED: SPECIAL EDITION**  
(MVD)

★★★★★

Before Todd Phillips began directing mainstream comedies like *Old School* and *Starsky & Hutch*, he followed punk rock's truest soldier around with a camera to document all the violence, nudity, and drunken shit-eating the legendary Murder Junkies frontman could muster prior to ODing in 1993. Come for the blood-soaked brutality; stay for the scene in which a hooker pisses in GG's mouth. Packaged here with new artwork and commentary, this is beyond classic and essential. **J. BENNETT**

