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# METAL FLOWS IN MY VEINS

MY MUSINGS ON METAL.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2008

## My Two Cents...

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Everyone else is chiming in (I'm surprised that McCain and Obama haven't put out statements), so I might as well do the same. Yeah, I was 14/ 15 years old in '82 and '83 when "Kill 'Em All" hit the streets; yeah, I was the first kid in my high school to have a vinyl copy of the album, which I clutched as if it were some precious heirloom; yeah, the relationship only blossomed with "Ride The Lightning" and "Master Of Puppets"; yeah, I felt the pain of Burton's untimely death (had he lived, I'm convinced that Metallica would be a very different band today), was mildly let down by "... And Justice For All", and all my fears of sell-out were realized with "Metallica", etc, etc, ad nauseum.

Fast forward to '08 and I haven't seriously paid attention to Metallica since '91 or so. I'm sort of proud to say that I've not heard one song off of "St. Anger", and I intend to keep it that way. However, you couldn't have avoided hearing through the grapevine about the supposed return to form, an album that will hark back to the '80s, an album that should've been made after "Justice", and so on about "Death Magnetic". I guess deep down, like a lot of us in my age bracket, we all sort of hoped that there was a chance that the last 17 years were some sort of bizarre experiment perpetrated by Ulrich and Hetfield, and the band really never forgot their roots. Yeah, most of you will say "get over it, get a life, asshole" or some such, but that's the way a lot of old

### ABOUT ME



DSCHALEK  
CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

A 40-year old metalhead since birth, I have a Master's Degree in Physics, a successful career, and marriage. Essentially, I view metal as protest music against organized religion. Organized religion, particularly Christianity and Islam, is the most destructive force at work in the world today (witness the geopolitical climate). In addition, religion discourages rational thought and any art form that criticizes (and attacks) religion should be applauded as being most relevant.

[VIEW MY COMPLETE PROFILE](#)

**CONTACT ME** if you'd like to have your band reviewed at Metal Flows In My Veins, or at Live 4 Metal. You're always welcome to drop me a line. Also, let me know if you'd

timers feel.

At any rate, like a lot of others, I'm underwhelmed by the album, which mostly comes across as a mediocre, sort of average thrash metal album which just sounds *tired* (probably, in part, due to a surprisingly bland production courtesy of one that we wouldn't have suspected it from). Yes, there are some good riffs, one of two pretty good songs, some bursts of speed and so on, but the passion and post-adolescent rage that fueled the band's first three full-lengths is dead and buried, only to be replaced by the encroachment and complacency of middle age. If there ever was a band now content to rest on their laurels; that is, their back catalog, Metallica is that band.

I'm revealing my inner geek here, but, as I've listened to the album over the last couple of days, I can't help but compare this album to the Star Wars prequels. Thirty and forty somethings, do you recall the sheer excitement you felt as the release of "The Phantom Menace" approached, only to nervously glance at each other with apprehension as you left the theater after seeing that movie? "Death Magnetic" feels the same way. Hetfield and Ulrich have become George Lucas.



I'll end up continuing to listen to "Death Magnetic" for the next few weeks, and, you may be surprised to hear, I've bought a ticket for Metallica's show at The Forum for December 18th (*Cosmo* will laugh uproariously, but my feeble excuse is that I want to see *The Sword*; yeah, I picked a lousy way of doing so). But, whatever excitement I felt is fading (hoping against hope to recapture the feeling of a 14 year old). To me, the experience is the same as buying the prequel trilogy in widescreen, only to watch it once in a great while. I'll stick to the original trilogy if you know what I

like an mp3 added to my Playlist below.

#### A RANDOM PLAYLIST

CREATE YOUR FREE  
PLAYLIST

POP-OUT PLAYER

#### OTHER WRITINGS...



#### METAL WEBZINES THAT I FREQUENTLY READ

[Chad Bowar](#)  
[Metal Injection](#)  
[Metal Review](#)  
[Brave Words And Bloody Knuckles](#)  
[Chronicles Of Chaos](#)  
[Metal Sucks](#)  
[Vampire Magazine](#)  
[All Metal Resource](#)  
[History Of Norwegian Black Metal](#)  
[Metal Bite](#)  
[Encyclopaedia Metallum](#)  
[Metal Reviews](#)  
[Deciblog From Decibel Magazine](#)  
[Moshking, The Southern California  
Concert Resource](#)  
[Blistering](#)

#### BLOGROLL

[Invisible Oranges](#)  
[Claudia Friedlander](#)  
[Heavy Metal Time Machine](#)

mean.

1943-2008



POSTED BY DSCHALEK AT 4:16 PM 0 COMMENTS 

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2008

## Obituary DVD Review (a little late)...



Obituary- Frozen Alive DVD

(Metal Mind Productions)

This DVD was released by Metal Mind Productions in late 2006 and now winds its way into my mailbox, although the DVD has been

[Metal Bastard](#)

[Aversionline](#)

[Metal Over 30](#)

[Heavy Metal Librarian](#)

[Psychotic Philosophy](#)

[Metal Kult](#)

[Cerebral Metalhead](#)

[Metal Inquisition](#)

[Documents](#)

[Penguin Devil](#)

[UVTV Heavy Metal Videos](#)

[I'M THE MOST IMPORTANT FUCKING PERSON IN THE WORLD](#)

[The Metal Minute: Ray Van Horn, Jr.](#)

[Metal Cracker](#)

[Ripple Music](#)

[Extreme Music Blogspot](#)

[The Black Thrash Attack](#)

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OTHER MORALLY OFFENSIVE ITEMS THAT WILL PROBABLY PISS OFF RELIGIOUS WACKOS

[Skeptical Inquirer Magazine](#)

[Atheism grows in the public consciousness. Washington Times article.](#)

[A Washington Post article on the growth of atheism in America and Europe.](#)

[Infidels.org](#)

[Secular.org](#)

[Pit-Of-Doooom](#)

["Why I Am Not A Christian" by Bertrand Russell.](#)

[Interview with evolutionary biologist Richard Dawkins on atheism.](#)

[The philosophy of Heavy Metal.](#)

[Apophis! Where the Hell's that asteroid?!](#)

[Intelligent design?! Who do they think they're kidding?](#)

[Countering creationist nonsense. Scientific American article.](#)

[The Stranger](#)

[Godreah Records \(Crim\)](#)

[Ol' Shifty](#)



long since reviewed at [Live 4 Metal](#). Metal Mind from Poland always does a slick, professional job of shooting concert footage with clear sound and multiple camera angles including close ups, long shots, views from behind the kit, and a camera affixed to a boom that sweeps out over the audience. That high quality is present in spades on "Frozen Alive".

Obituary's first foray into an official DVD release took place after the band's reformation and during the touring cycle for "Frozen In Time". Filmed in Poland in August of 2006, 21 songs covering the band's discography are depicted, along with two intros, with the aforementioned top notch production values from Metal Mind. The footage does a good job of capturing the crushing intensity of Obituary on stage, and serves to increase my enthusiasm for the band's upcoming gig with Unleashed at the HOB Sunset Strip.

As you would expect, there are some extras including two separate interviews. The first is conducted with the Tardy brothers, who come off as well spoken and genuinely seem glad to be able to do the interview. Although two years old at this point, the interview allows the Tardy brothers to discuss the band's freshness and enthusiasm after the reformation. The second interview is conducted with Frank Watkins and Trevor Peres, who allow the fans a peek at the band members' lives away from Obituary.

Other extras include two video clips, "Insane" and "On The Floor", as well as a Donald Tardy drum solo from Romania, some backstage footage, and a throwaway documentary about the making of the video for "Insane".

Overall, Obituary has released a good DVD that's well worth the price for the concert and the interviews. I do wonder, however, how the band members may have come off differently after the events surrounding Allen West's departure from the band and the subsequent recruitment of Ralph Santolla.

You can read Chris Davison's original Live 4 Metal review [here](#).

Special thanks to Clint Weiler.

[Metal Mind](#)

[MVD Audio/ Visual](#)


[There is still progress in the world, I eagerly await data reduction in early 2009...](#)



## RECENT LISTENS AND RECOMMENDATIONS





POSTED BY DSCHALEK AT 6:50 PM 0 COMMENTS 

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 05, 2008

## Three Blasts From Pulverised Records

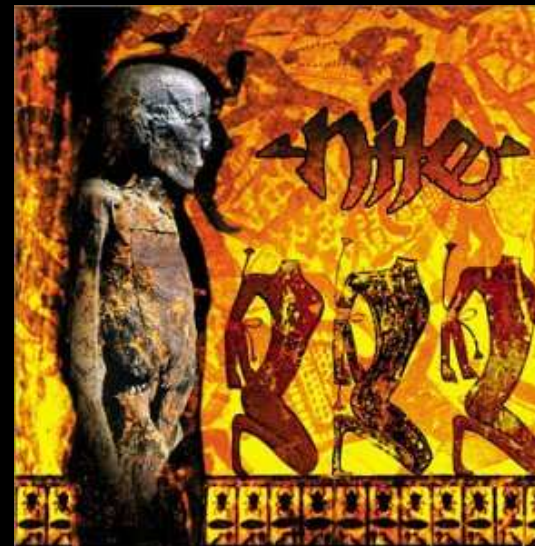
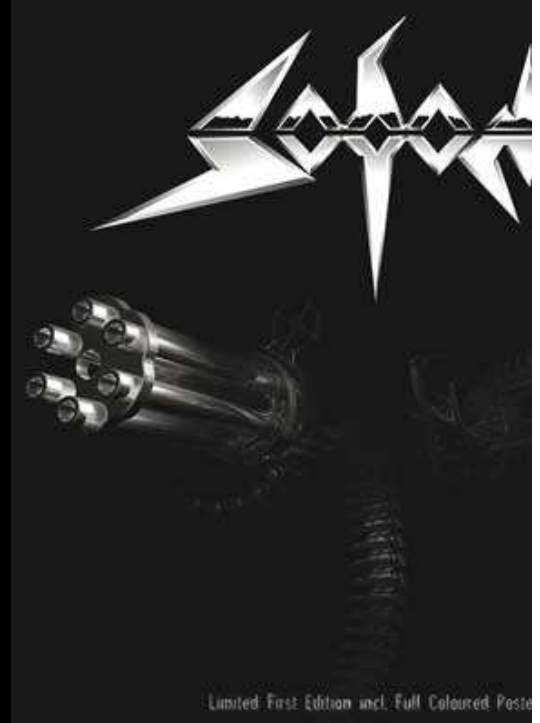
Three promos from [Pulverised Records](#), a Singaporean label with which I'm not familiar, arrived in my mailbox not too long ago. Unfortunately, all three albums were already covered by other writers at [Live 4 Metal](#). So, here's my brief take on each.



### [Impiety](#)- Dominator

Naturally, I'd expect Impiety to be a part of Pulverised Records' roster, given that the band is a well established act from Singapore (and with some past connections to Mexico). At any rate, Impiety have always been a ferocious beast with their version of dirty, blackened war metal. "Dominator" is the new EP from the band and is the first release of original material since their last full-length, "Formidonis Nex Cultus", from 2007.

I sort of lost track of Impiety after the classic duo of "Skullfucking Armageddon" and "Kaos Kommand 666". Both albums are blistering and "Dominator" certainly continues that trend with a 5-song EP that doesn't let up for a moment. A masterful cover of "Black



[CURRENT REVIEWS AND REVIEWS IN THE PIPELINE](#)



Vomit" by [Sarcofago](#) is included. Hmm... it's time to track down Impiety's releases since "Kaos Kommand 666"...

Here's Crin's [review](#) of the EP.

[Impiety Official](#)

[Slaughtererror Superiority](#)



[Netherbird](#)- The Ghost Collector

Next up is Sweden's Netherbird with "The Ghost Collector", the band's debut full-length. Essentially a melodic, symphonic black metal band with Gothic overtones and a bit of a doom/death base, Netherbird very much reminds me of early Cradle of Filth (well, that's the only Cradle of Filth with which I have any familiarity) with high pitched, screeched vocals, keyboards, melodic guitar work, and variations in tempo. The album, to me, seems a bit under produced for the requisite bombast of the style, and is not really my thing, anyway. However, for the genre, "The Ghost Collector" seems to be well-written. Judge for yourself below.

You can read Crin's review [here](#).

[Netherbird Official](#)

[The Beauty Of Bones](#)






### Those Who Bring The Torture- Tank Gasmask Ammo

The last of the promos is from Swedish death metal act Those Who Bring The Torture with their second full-length, entitled "Tank Gasmask Ammo". An unrelenting slab of war themed death metal with elements of grindcore, Those Who Bring The Torture combine all out blasts with catchy, slower tracks with a bit of a Sunlight Studios sound. The result brings to mind, to these ears, "Harmony Corruption" from Napalm Death. An excellent album from some veterans in other Swedish acts.

You can read Sam Thomas' review [here](#).

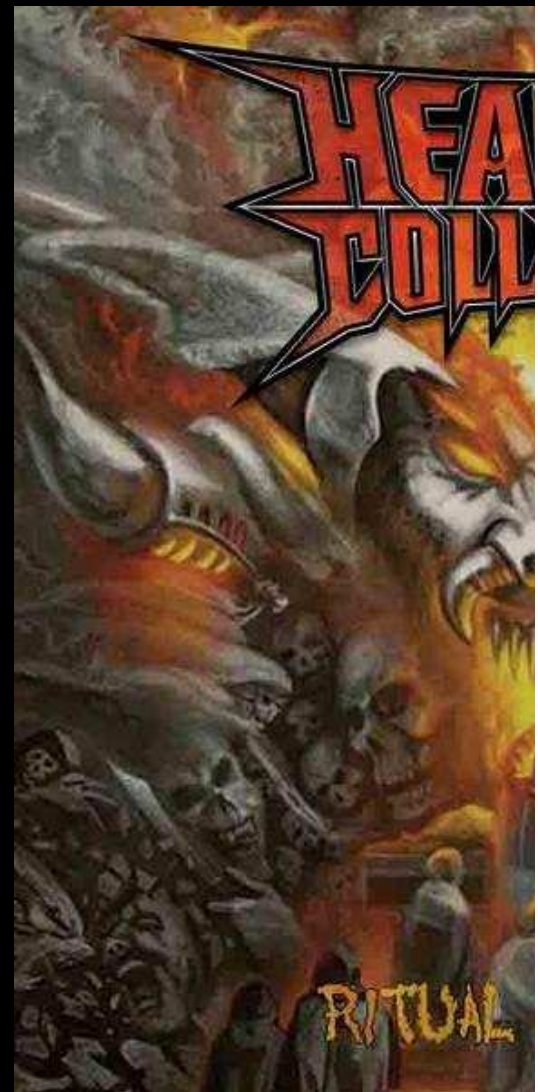
[Those Who Bring The Torture Official](#)

[Riders On The Mushroom Cloud](#)

POSTED BY DSCHALEK AT 4:06 PM 1 COMMENTS 

SUNDAY, AUGUST 31, 2008

### Metal Masters Tour Review!



## Metal Masters Tour

Bands: Judas Priest, Heaven And Hell, Motorhead, Testament

Venue: San Manuel Amphitheatre, Devore, California

Date: August 30, 2008

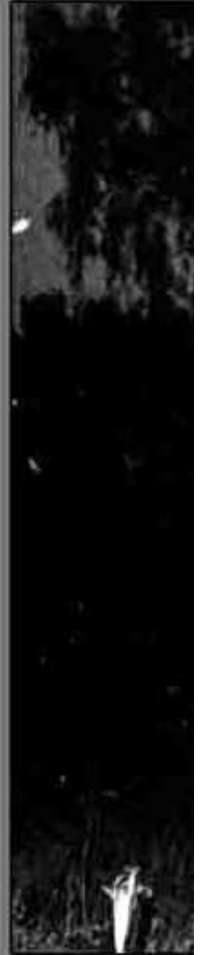
The amount of legends all on the same bill makes this tour an absolutely must see. With that in mind, I was willing to shell out a few bucks for a seat about 100 feet or so from the stage, and drive 75 miles out to the desert's edge in Devore, California, a suburb on the far eastern edge of the Los Angeles metropolitan area. The list seems to be endless: Rob Halford, Tony Iommi, Lemmy, Chuck Billy, and so on. Needless to say, anticipation was in the air as the amphitheatre was filled to capacity.

Starting right on the dot at 5:30pm just as I arrived in the broiling heat, first up were Bay Area giants Testament, who have made a strong statement with "The Formation of Damnation", the band's recent, highly regarded full-length (the band that Metallica should've become, but that's a whole other Oprah). Playing a short set that drew heavily from that album, Testament were obviously giddy to be included on this bill, and were energetic and focused for their half hour slot. The theater was already filling as they began, and the crowd formed a pit all the way up on the lawn, hundreds of feet from the stage. I now make it a point to see Testament in a more intimate setting.

Next up were Motorhead, whom I haven't seen since about 1984 or so (I know, I've been remiss). Fellow scribe Chris Davison was on my mind as a hugely invigorated Motorhead blew through a great set that drew from all over the band's career. Lemmy's son Paul joined the fun on stage as a second guitarist for a rousing rendition of "Killed By Death". Set closers were "Ace of Spades" and "Overkill".

Graciously playing below Judas Priest were the Dio-fronted version of Black Sabbath, Heaven And Hell. Drawing from the three full-lengths with a mammoth stage set, highlights included "Heaven And Hell", "The Sign of the Southern Cross", and the encore "Neon Knights" ("Voodoo" was absent, however). An excellent set as Dio's pipes were on full display and he shows no sign of diminishing.

Opening with "Dawn of Creation" and "Prophecy" from the double album "Nostradamus", Rob Halford and Judas Priest take the stage amid smoke and huge lighting effects. Keeping the banter short,





Judas Priest were focused as they mostly hit a string of classics and generally stayed away from “Nostradamus”. A huge highlight for me was the inclusion of “Dissident Aggressor”, which I absolutely did not expect. A large amount of older material was included, with “Metal Gods”, “Electric Eye”, “Painkiller”, and “The Green Manalishi (with the Two Prong Crown)” being highlights. The expected “You’ve Got Another Thing Comin” closed out the evening.

How often do you get a chance to see so many legends, essentially artists that started the art form that we all worship, all in the same place? Enough said.

Crap pictures...

Testament



Motorhead



Heaven And Hell

# This Is Black Metal



**Cradle Of Filth  
Emperor  
Borknagar  
Celtic Frost  
Morbid Angel  
Venom**



**Bonus Feature  
Black Metal Parking Lot (The Movie)**





Judas Priest



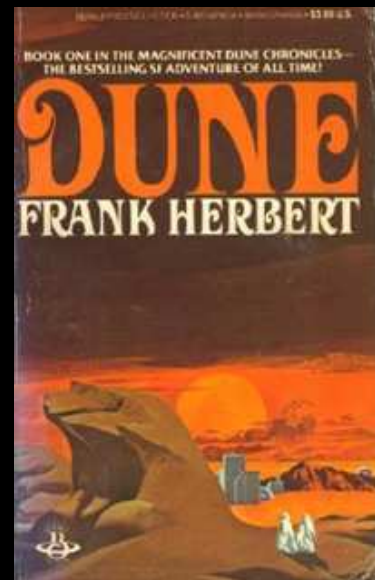
Judas Priest



The t-shirt haul...



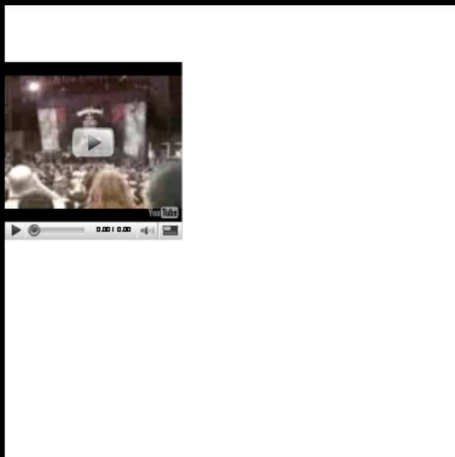
RECENT READS AND  
RECOMMENDATIONS



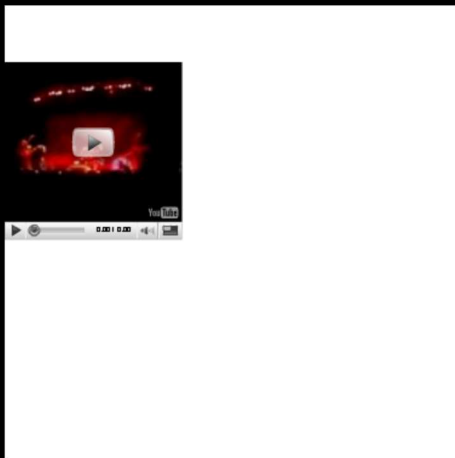


Even worse video...

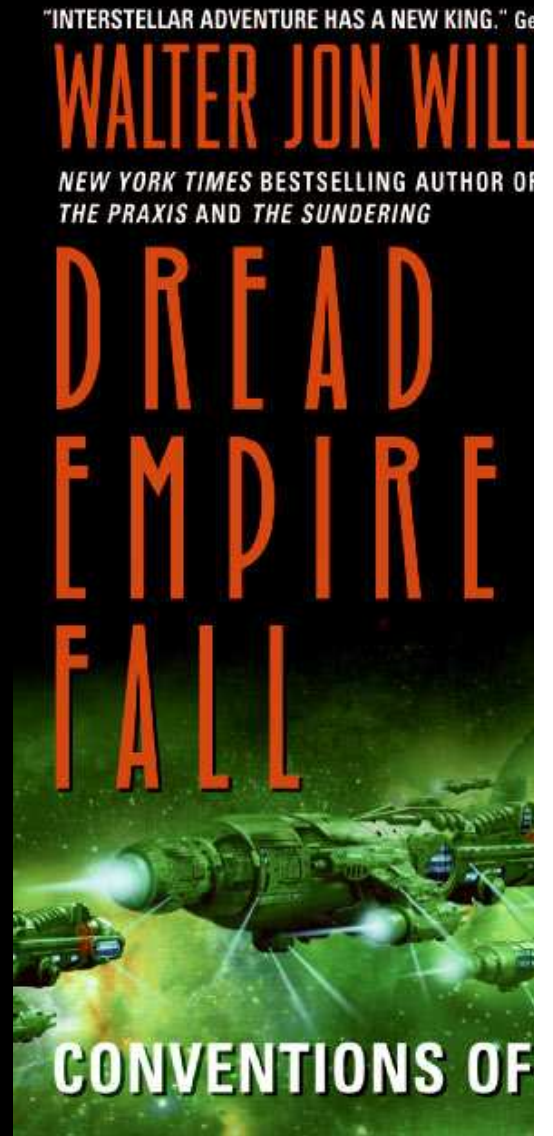
Motorhead



Heaven And Hell



Next up (probably)...



DECIBEL & NECKLINE PLANT  
EXHUMED TO CONSUME TOUR 2008





Speaking of Motorhead, the trio's latest full-length, "Motorizer", has been getting critical acclaim. An invigorated Lemmy and company continue to release high quality album after album, and that continues with "Motorizer". Hell, even the album cover artwork kicks ass, as usual. I urge you to read Chris Davison's review [here](#).



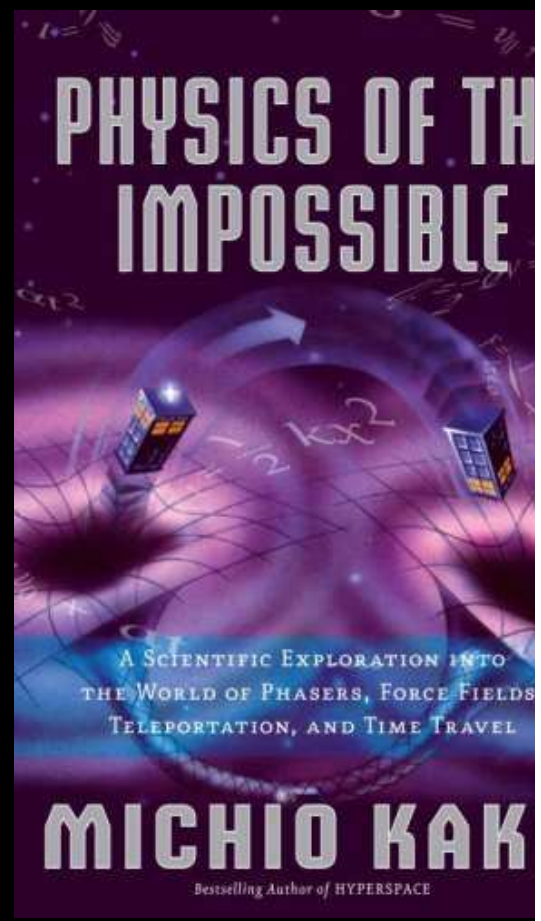
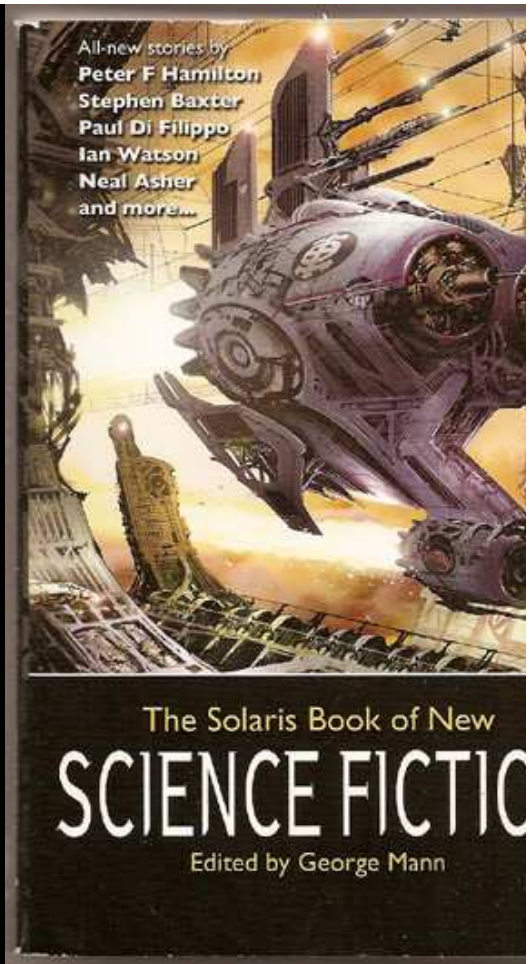
[Motorhead Official](#)

[SPV](#)

Sorry, song removed.

POSTED BY DSCHALEK AT 3:13 PM 4 COMMENTS

MONDAY, AUGUST 25, 2008



## The Metal Flows In My Veins Italy Travelogue...

My recent trip to Italy had nothing to do with metal. Instead, it was all about family, friends, wine, and so on. However, I did manage to find items that fit the themes of Metal Flows In My Veins.

Siena's Museum of Torture...

Note the future metalheads



### SURVEY RESULTS

100% Total Metal Head



I Die For Metal

Take the  
Metal Head Test  
@ FualiDotCom

### CLUSTER MAP



DOOMSDAY CLOCK, IT'S FIVE MINUTES TO MIDNIGHT



Astronomy Pic of the Day



Gadgets powered





San Gimignano's Museum of Torture



Florence's Museum of Serial Killers

CURRENT MOON



Waning Gibbous  
87% of Full  
Thu 18 Sep, 2008  
moon phase

Recent Concert Videos



Heaven And Hell 7

Heaven And Hell 6



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PREVIOUS POSTS

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[Obituary DVD Review \(a little late\)...](#)

[Three Blasts From Pulverised Records](#)

[Metal Masters Tour Review!](#)

[The Metal Flows In My Veins Italy](#)





Documents (from the replica in a Florence piazza near the Uffizi)...



Travelogue...

Another Brief Blast...

Lake of Blood... and an interesting juxtaposition....

Relapse Contamination Tour!!! I Die For Metal!!!

Brief Blasts From Finland...

Utter Crap... Summer Slaughter 2008

#### ARCHIVES

November 2005

December 2005

March 2006

April 2006

January 2007

February 2007

March 2007

April 2007

May 2007

June 2007

July 2007

August 2007

September 2007

October 2007

November 2007

December 2007

January 2008

February 2008

March 2008

April 2008

May 2008

June 2008

July 2008

August 2008

September 2008



ShinyStat™

Today visits

4

Tot. visits

9842



The Crypt of the Capuchins...



### THE CRYPT OF THE CAPUCHINS

Church of the Immaculate, via Veneto 27  
Capuchin Friars in Rome - Tel. 06.4871185

*In 1631, the Capuchin friars - so-called because of the "capucbe" or hood attached to their religious habit - left the friary of St. Bonaventura near the Trevi Fountain and came to live in the present one, of which only the church and cemetery remain. The remains of the deceased friars were transported from the old friary and laid to rest in this cemetery, underneath the present church.*

*The bones were arranged along the walls, and the friars began to bury their own dead here, as well as the bodies of poor Romans, whose tomb was under the floor of the present Mass chapel. Here the Capuchins would come to pray and reflect each evening before retiring for the night. Over the years, until 1870, further alterations transformed this burial place into the work of art we see today. Its message is clear: death closes the gates of time, and opens those of eternity.*

This guy was awesome. A street performer in a piazza in Rome...

The instruments that changed the world...



The evidence that the Catholic Church refused to believe...



Galileo's [final gesture to Catholicism](#)? Not my picture, though.







My humble pilgrimage...



Yes, you guessed it, the t-shirt haul!






From...



The Opeth shirt came in handy on the plane ride back from Rome. Strangely enough, [Neurosis](#) were on the same flight! The shirt got notice from [Steve Von Till](#), who commented on my hammer tattoo as we stood next to each other in baggage claim...

POSTED BY DSCHALEK AT 8:31 AM 1 COMMENTS 

THURSDAY, AUGUST 07, 2008

## Another Brief Blast...

Once again, I recently received a promo that has been subsequently covered by another writer at [Live 4 Metal](#). This time, the album is "Flesh Inferno" by Blackwinds, from Sweden. Here's a brief review...





Blackwinds- Flesh Inferno

(Regain Records)

Sweden's Blackwinds deliver their second full-length, entitled "Flesh Inferno" on Regain Records. For those not familiar, Blackwinds play unabashedly symphonic black metal that take just about every trick in Dimmu Borgir's playbook, run with it, and toss in a bit of latter day Behemoth (and maybe a little bit of Marduk) for good measure. A slick, professional production, bombast with keyboards galore, the same sort of hockey-pad style leathered spike getups, the works. Throw in rasped vocals that are almost a dead ringer for Mortuus from Marduk, a huge guitar sound, and you have a band that just screams "clone". They do it all with panache and flair, though, ultimately resulting in an enjoyable, if utterly forgettable, release. Judge for yourself. You can read [Crin's review here](#).

[Regain Records](#)

[Blackwinds Official](#)

Sorry, song removed.

POSTED BY [DSCHALEK](#) AT 11:31 AM 1 COMMENT

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TUESDAY, AUGUST 05, 2008

## Lake of Blood... and an interesting juxtaposition...

The following review will appear soon at [Live 4 Metal](#), but [Milkweed Records](#) asked me for a review of the debut EP from [Lake of Blood](#) through Metal Flows In My Veins...







## Lake Of Blood- Heed The Primal Calling

(Milkweed Records)

Lately, I've been taking more notice of emerging bands from Southern California with some impressive newcomers in the form of Ruines Ov Abaddon (blackened death metal) and Reciprocal (technical death metal). Add to that list Lake Of Blood, a slightly melodic black metal band with the release of their debut, four-song EP entitled "Heed The Primal Calling" on Milkweed Records.

Comparisons to the ecologically themed bands of the Pacific Northwest, such as Agalloch, Blood Of The Black Owl, and, maybe, Wolves In The Throne Room come to mind with environmental themes present in the music and a melodic take on the genre without the use of keyboards. Fast riffing, variations in tempo from a mid-pace to all out blasts, and some guitar melodies with acoustics are all present on "Heed The Primal Calling".

Although not as mature as some of the aforementioned giants, what is notable about "Heed The Primal Calling" is that it is the first release from the band; that is, no known demos have been circulated (at least, according to [Encyclopaedia Metallum](#)). The songwriting and musicianship are solid, as is the deliberately rough production, and all point to a talent to take note of for future releases. Overall, "Heed The Primal Calling" is an excellent first impression.





### Lake of Blood Official

Sorry, song removed.


Also, I encourage you to read the following articles. I find it interesting that elements in Western countries, supposedly tolerant and encouraging towards self-expression and political commentary, label heavy metal as for the mentally ill.

### Report: Heavy Metal Fans More At Risk of Developing A Mental Illness

The following appeared in today's Washington Post. Interesting that the epitome of intolerance, radical Islam, is beginning to find common ground with metal.

### Islam and Heavy Metal

I welcome your thoughts and comments...

POSTED BY DSCHALEK AT 11:02 AM 3 COMMENTS 

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