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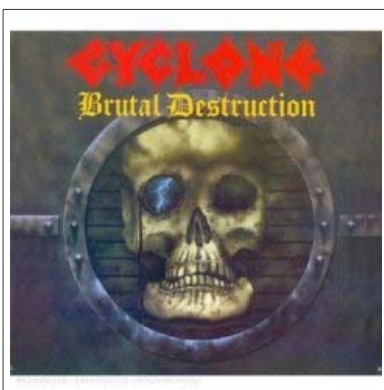
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2008

CD Review: Cyclone - Brutal Destruction reissue

Cyclone - *Brutal Destruction* reissue

2008 Metal Mind Productions / Roadrunner Records

Ray Van Horn, Jr.



It's amazing how cruel time can be, not just because of age acceleration and the airs of neglect and forgetfulness associated with keeping up with the here and now. In some cases, time really dates something that was strong and meaningful of its era, causing a frequent antiquated feeling to those living in the new. Watching *Logan's Run* the other night, I could see just how *dated* that movie is, even though it was considered cutting edge visualization for 1976, and admittedly, it stands up rather well for a mid-seventies sci-fi flick that probably appears primitive to younger eyes accustomed to CGI.

Such is the case with music. At one time Howlin' Wolf sounded like a pure radical of the underground as did Ozzy Osbourne and AC/DC years later. How "Crazy Train" and "Back in Black" lost their danger elements over the past couple decades to the point they actually sound tame and primed for classic rock assimilation is beyond comprehension. Ditto for certain old school metal and thrash albums. Today's metal scene is generally set at a much faster pace and the tech is far superior to the eight track analog recording methods of the eighties, so much that to revisit albums that were considered pioneers of the genre, albums that were the heaviest metal had to offer at one time, now sound shockingly domesticated by comparison.

The joy at finding an old friend like Cyclone's *Brutal Destruction* in the promo pack this past week brought me back to the days of tape swapping and recording, so much that nobody really complained because the music was spreading around and getting these bands noticed and the reason nobody bitched was because eventually we all wanted our own crisp copies with the artwork and (hopefully) lyrics after gnawing the pilfered copies through hungry tape players. Ahh, the glory days...

What struck me upside the head while spinning *Brutal Destruction* was how astonishingly dated it sounds. Goddammit, this was one of the heaviest thrash albums of 1986 and

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