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ANS-The Process Of Stoking Out (Thrashbastard/multi-label)

There have been lineup shifts with this band over the years and vocalist Chris Wall is the constant. An interesting band—Black Flag via Bl'ast is an obvious inspiration here. Chris even has a bit of Clifford from the latter band's cadence and the results are often explosive, such as the sonic torrents they unleash for "No Connection" and "Disable Me." In something of an odd twist, three of the songs here are instrumental—well, "Walk Down My Way" has some spoken vocals in the background but the other pair, "Pull The Trigger" and "Transition Emission," have almost a surfy flavor, especially in the guitar playing. And while these guys are obsessed with skating, they're not so caught up in that to ignore what's going on in the world—"Seeing 20/20," for instance, presents a laundry list of global evils. Some intense sounds. (Warschauer Str. 57, 10243 Berlin, GERMANY, thrashxbastard@yahoo.de)

CIVIC PROGRESS-Petroleum Man (No Wire, 7" EP)

St. Louis band sharing members with Cardiac Arrest. Much like that band, this is a full-tilt hardcore barrage. Fuzzy bass and guitar merge into a formidable roar and the production is raw. I just hope the Secret Service doesn't get on their case for "Kill The President," which ain't no allegorical exercise—"Let's fucking kill him/I really mean it/Let's end his term like Mussolini." The next song is "Crimethinc. Is A Joke" and quite a vicious slam: "Fight the system you depehd on with stupid dance and funny clothes." OK, that's not very open-minded but, having seen a couple Crimethinc. Nimrods disrupt a Severed Head Of State show in Boston some years back, right on boys! Never mind a bike being a pipebomb? This record is the *real* fucking pipebomb. (civicprogress@hotmail.com)



DEGENERICS-Generic Record Collection (Soulrebel, CD)

Just what it says, collecting this Jersey band's vinyl releases, comp songs, a few unreleased songs, a demo track and live stuff. A strong, often dramatic sound that blended hardcore ferocity, including some Die Kreuzen-ish touches, metal ("Rising Sun Experience," for instance), reggae and ska. The latter adds to a song such as "What'll You Do." The main emphasis, though, is burn and sting. Craig's vocals were ranty but also exuding an impassioned purposefulness. There's a clear evolution from their 7"s to the album although, even in their embryonic days, the full-tilt hardcore was already incorporating diverse influences. An occasional misfire, such as the straight reggae (only a few songs) but far overshadowed by the power of the vast majority of songs here. And some good news—they've started playing again. (<http://www.myspace.com/thedegenerics>)

DOA-Smash The State: The Raw Original DOA 1978-81 (MVD, DVD)

Oh hell yeah—a collection of DOA performances during their early years, when they were at their best. I never got to see the lineup that included Randy Rampage and Chuck Biscuits and, along with Joey Shithead and Dave Gregg (for most of the songs), they were absolutely smokin'. Their stage presence and slam-bang, catchy punk ranks among the best that time period offered and these clips perfectly bridge the original punk era and birth of hardcore. Biscuits, in particular, is incredible to watch. He was 15 when he joined the band in '78, according to Joey's book "I, Shithead" and is a powerhouse of brawn and finesse. Goddamn I wish I could have seen this lineup but I never did—I even had a chance in '81. I had just picked up their "Something Better Change" and "Hardcore '81" albums and was stoked to see they'd be playing at the Paradise in Boston. That show got canceled because of low ticket sales and, unknown to me, it got moved to a smaller club down the street.

Getting back to the DVD, the live stuff consists of single camera shots, varying in quality but watchable. The best performance, I think, is from the On Broadway in SF, where they were opening for another band (DK's?) and the opening song "New Age" sounds the clarion call. There's also a TV studio performance of "The Enemy" that has Simon "Stubby Pecker" Wilde on bass, doing his best to mimic Rampage's bounce-around exploits though not quite nailing it. The earliest stuff is

from a show they played at the Anarchist Anti-Canada Day in July of '78. Joey is interviewed and doesn't exactly articulate himself well, although he does act punk as fuck by shoving a cigarette up his nose. The audience looks silly and the "norms" and cops are amused. They almost didn't get to play but the authorities relented. Even at that point, DOA were fairly solid although they'd improve dramatically in the next few years. Finally, there's a conceptual video of "World War 3" with that lots-of-white background, live in the studio feel and a TV report about the punk scene in Vancouver. No extras and this isn't a documentary, it's just them playing live. Fine with me. Any video that gives you the "wish I was there" feeling doesn't need anything else. (PO Box 280, Oaks, PA 19456, www.mvdvisual.com)

DEATH SENTENCE-Until The End Of The Sentence (Burrito, CD)

This is the Aussie Death Sentence and the recordings date from the mid to late 80s. A complete anthology and including a number of unissued/rare recordings. This band traded in ultra-fast hardcore, sometimes coming across as disjointed but never flagging in energy. Death Sentence did show some evolution, even as the band had a number of personnel changes and endured the death of one of their drummers. Reading the liner notes, written by their manager Maureen, it's obvious this was one bad-ass band, especially their vocalist Peter McGrath. He's lived a self-abusive punk rock life and has apparently paid the price for it. There are some punkier sounding songs in later batches—"My Love" and "Bitchin'," for instance. The sound quality is spotty at times, especially the unreleased '85 recording and rehearsal tape from '86, both of which sound like a later generation tape copy. We're talking about hardcore, though, and pristine sound quality isn't mandatory and there aren't problems elsewhere. This was one raw-sounding band. These guys were doing something similar to what Heresy were doing in the UK. Looking towards the States and adding a more extreme speed element. An intense whirlwind of cacophony. (PO Box 3204, Brandon, FL 33509-3204, www.sounddeadistribution.com)

86 MENTALITY-Final Exit (Deranged, 7" EP)

This is probably it for one of the meanest-sounding bands in hardcore. Six new burners and it begins with the slow build up of their "Outro" (which is an intro, to be specific) and then the musical brass knuckles come out. Raw, bruising hardcore punk with catchy properties and having a street punk/oi feel, as well. Boots stomping around the dance floor, a tough vibe but not in the spin-kick/martial arts manner. In the liner notes for the Negative Approach "Total

