

HARD ROCK HEROES



ROCK-ROLL
COMICS



STORY
SPIKE
STEFFENHAGEN

PENCILS
DAVE
BRIGGS

INKS
NATHAN
ERVING

EDITS
JAY ALLEN
SANFORD

LETTERS/COVER COLOR
HEATHER
CHENEY



SOMEWHERE USA, THE EARLY 80'S: A YOUNG BAND IS EN ROUTE TO NEW YORK FROM SAN FRANCISCO TO RECORD THEIR DEBUT ALBUM.

GET UP, DAVE. C'MON. WE NEED TO TALK.

WAKE UP MAN!

FUCK YOU!! I'M ONE OF THE MAIN WRITERS IN THIS BAND. YOU'LL STINK LIKE WET CRAP WITHOUT ME!!!

WE'LL CUT THE CRAP AND GET TO THE POINT. YOUR ATTITUDE SUCKS. YOU ARE CONSTANTLY LOADED AND YOU'RE A DICK TO EVERYONE AROUND YOU.

MAYBE. BUT THAT'S BETTER THAN PUTTING UP WITH YOU. ME AND LARS SPRUNG FOR A BUS TICKET BACK TO L.A.

UPON ARRIVING IN LOS ANGELES OUR INTREPID HERO SETS ABOUT MAKING NEW FRIENDS.



HA, THAT'LL GET HIS ATTENTION!



THAT'S BETTER!!

GRRRR!





AS THE TWO GET ACQUAINTED OVER DRINKS...



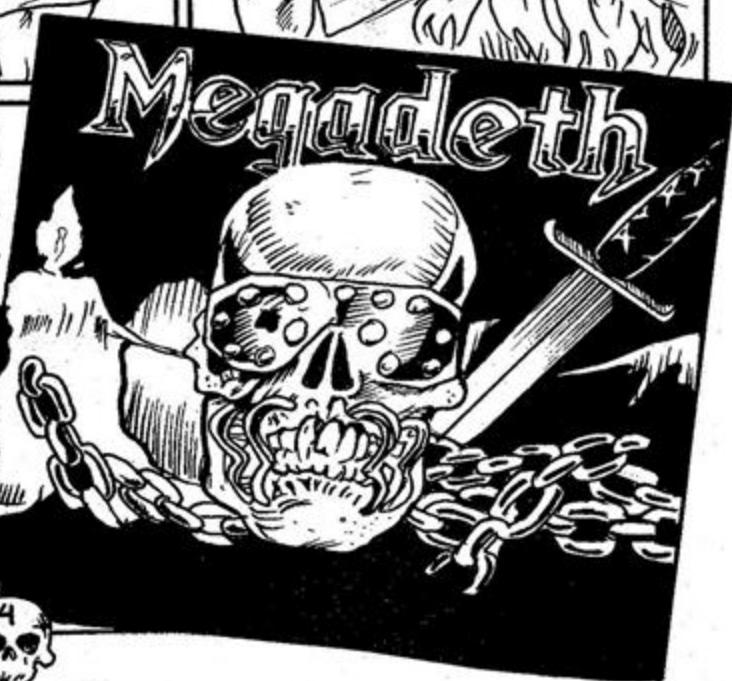
IN MID '84, DRUMMER **LEE RAUCH** IS RECRUITED TO PERFORM ON A THREE SONG DEMO. SEEKING A MORE STABLE LINE-UP, THE TWO DAVES RECRUIT DRUMMER **GAR SAMUELSON** AND GUITARIST **CHRIS POLAND** FROM A JAZZ-FUSION GROUP.

*LOTSA DETAILS IN ROCK'N'ROLL COMICS AND HARD ROCK COMICS #1.





INSTEAD OF A SONG TITLE, THE BAND PICKS UP THE MONIKER. IN EARLY '85, THEY MAKE THEIR RECORD DEBUT ON THE MUSIC FOR NATIONS COMPILATION "WELCOME TO THE METAL ZONE" WITH THE TRACK "SKULL BENEATH THE SKIN". SHORTLY AFTER COMBAT RECORDS RELEASES "KILLING IS MY BUSINESS... AND BUSINESS IS GOOD."



ALREADY; INTERNAL PROBLEMS THREATEN TO DESTROY THE BAND... ASK DAVE AND CHRIS.



LATER, WITH JUNIOR:



I MEAN, IT'S BAD ENOUGH THAT THEY'VE USED MY SONGS,

BUT THEN OUR OWN RECORD CO. PUTS THAT STUPID STICKER ON OUR ALBUM PROMOTING ME AS "EX-METALLICA GUITARIST"!!



CHRIS RETURNS TO THE FOLD TO BEGIN RECORDING THE SECOND ALBUM.



THE COUNTDOWN TO SELF DESTRUCTION BEGINS IN EARNEST.



IN LATE '86 "PEACE SELLS.....
BUT WHO'S BUYING" IS RELEASED
ON CAPITOL RECORDS.



A VIDEO FOR THE TITLE TRACK ATTAINS
POSITIVE REACTION.



SEPTEMBER, 1986



THE DEATH OF METALLICA BASS PLAYER CLIFF
BURTON PROMPTS FORMER BAND MATES TO
PUT FEUDS ASIDE.... FOR NOW.

HEY, MAN. WE
CAN AT LEAST BE
CIVIL TO EACH OTHER,
LARS.
ENJOY THE SHOW.

THANKS,
MAN.



LARS! DOES
DAVE KNOW
YOU'RE HERE?

YEAH. I JUST
TALKED TO HIM.
EVERYTHING'S
COOL.



I'M SORRY
ABOUT CLIFF. THAT
REALLY SUCKS.

YEAH. WE'RE
REALLY STILL IN SHOCK.
WE'VE DECIDED TO
CARRY ON, THOUGH.



UPON HEARING OF THE ATTEMPTED BASSIST SWIPE, DAVE IS LESS THAN PLEASED.



WHO'S GOING TO REPLACE HIM?

THAT'S WHAT I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT...

WHAT THE FUCK?!?



I THOUGHT I'D LET BY-GONES BE BY-GONES, BUT NO!!

YOU WALTZ IN HERE AND TRY TO SNAG MY BASSIST!

* OF COURSE DAVE DIDN'T REALLY HAVE AN AXE, THOUGH HE WISHES HE HAD!



THAT'S CRAP. HE WAS BEGGING TO JOIN.

FACE IT. NOBODY CAN STAND TO BE AROUND YOU FOR LONG!



LISTEN YOU LITTLE WIMP,

I'M SICK OF THIS! I WAS WILLING TO CALL A TRUCE, BUT SINCE YOU BROKE IT...

CHUNK!

I'LL TELL YOU TO QUIT RIPPING ME OFF!!



YOU'VE BEEN HITTING THE DOPE A BIT MUCH!

KRAK!

YOU DON'T HAVE A SINGLE SONG WRITING CREDIT ON "MASTER OF PUPPETS"



YEAH! IF YOU BELIEVE THE CREDITS!!

BUT LET'S TALK REALITY

"LEPER MESSIAH"? I WAS THE ONE WHO LISTENED TO BOWIE. I WAS THE ONE WHO WAS ALWAYS TALKING ABOUT THE LEPER MESSIAH!

AND WHAT ABOUT THE MUSIC? "THE HILLS RUN RED", HUH LARS? MINE!



1987 SEES THE BAND ON THEIR FIRST REAL TOUR, SUPPORTING ALICE COOPER.*



*HIS STORY IS IN ROCK'N'ROLL COMICS #18

AT THIS POINT, DAVE IS GIVEN THE CHANCE TO DEFEND HIMSELF AND VENT HIS ANGER AT HIS FORMER BANDMATES.

HOW DO YOU JUSTIFY YOUR SATANIC LYRICS AND SONG TITLES LIKE "DEVIL'S ISLAND"?



IF YOU HAD BOTHERED TO LISTEN TO THE RECORD, YOU WOULD SEE THAT THE SONG IS BASED ON THE MOVIE "PAPILLON".

WHAT ABOUT "WAKE UP DEAD"?

I WROTE IT ABOUT A GIRL I WAS LIVING WITH.

IF SHE HAD WOKEN UP AND SMELLED SEX ON MY BREATH, SHE WOULD HAVE KILLED ME.

I'D TELL HER I WAS GOING TO PRACTICE OR WHATEVER AND GO SCREW THIS OTHER CHICK.



DO YOU FEEL YOU'VE USED YOUR AFFILIATION WITH METALLICA TO GET INTO THE INDUSTRY?

HUH? WELL WHAT THE FUCK!

SO WHY NOT?

THEY'VE USED MY SONGS TO GET WHERE THEY ARE,

THE REMARKS, TRUE OR NOT, CAUSE A NEGATIVE REACTION WITH HARD CORE METALLICA FANS.

HETFIELD! HETFIELD!

WHAT ARE YOU BLIND?



YOU GOT SOMETHING TO SAY TO ME?

YEAH! I DON'T LIKE THE STUFF YOU SAY ABOUT METALLICA!





YOU PUNK!!
YOU DON'T
KNOW WHAT
THE TRUTH
IS!

I
ACTUALLY
RESPECT
JAMES...



... HE'S
RIPPED
ME OFF
RATHER
WELL.

A TOUR OF EUROPE FOLLOWS.
DESPITE SOLD OUT VENUES...



EUROPE
SUCKS!

?!?

AFTER THE TOUR, CHRIS
BECOMES INCREASINGLY
IRRITATING TO DAVE.*

I'M SORRY, MAN.
BUT THE BAND IS
DRIVING ME
NUTS.

LEAVE ME
ALONE!!

HELLO... ... AWW MAN!
IT'S THREE
IN THE
FUCKING
MORNING!

I
CAN'T
TAKE
IT!

THIS IS
THE THIRD TIME
YOU'VE CALLED ME
TONIGHT!



*SENSING A PATTERN HERE? J



SHORTLY AFTER, DAVE SUFFERS THE FINAL STRAW FROM HIS ACCOUNTANT.

CHRIS POLAND CALLED. HE THOUGHT YOU WERE SCREWING HIM OUT OF MONEY.

HE WANTED TO KNOW YOUR FINANCIAL STATUS...

HE WOULD HAVE MORE CASH...

IF HE HADN'T BLOWN IT ALL ON HEROIN!

CHRIS IS FIRED. DUE TO HIS TIES WITH GAR, THE DRUMMER FOLLOWS

YEAH, RIGHT.

YOU MEAN I RAN OUT OF DOPE...

...SO DAVE DIDN'T WANT ME AROUND.

GAR'S DRUM TECH, CHUCK BEHLER, REPLACES HIM.

HEY, YOU'RE PRETTY GOOD.

WANT A JOB?

RECORDING COMMENCES FOR THE THIRD RECORD.

THE FANS THINK IT'S COOL THAT I'M AN ASSHOLE.

THAT'S WHAT THEY'RE GOING TO GET ON THIS RECORD!

JEFF YOUNG IS RECRUITED FOR GUITAR.

MORE TENSION OCCURS OVER THE CHOICE OF COVER SONGS.

WE'RE GOING TO DO "PROBLEMS"

BY THE SEX PISTOLS.

THAT'S RATHER NEGATIVE.

WHY DON'T YOU DO "ANARCHY"?

OH YEAH, THAT'S SUCH A HAPPY FLOWER GROWING SONG!!

WE'LL DO A MEDLEY OF BOTH.

WE'LL SEE.

NOW ABOUT THE TITLE...



THE ALBUM IS RELEASED.

MEGADETH

SO FAR...

SO GOOD.

SO WHAT!

ALONG WITH A TOUR, THE BAND ALSO MAKES ITS FILM DEBUT IN "DECLINE OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION PART II: THE METAL YEARS".



GOD!
THIS FRONT
LINE IS
RIDICULOUS.
TWO COOL LOOK-
ING GUYS AND
A BARBIE
DOLL.

"THREE
MEN AND
A BABY!"

CHUCK BEHLER BECOMES
A PROBLEM ALSO. THE
DAVES ARE INTRODUCED
TO DRUMMER NICK MENZA

WE LIKE YOUR STYLE.
COME ALONG AS
CHUCK'S TECH.
WHEN HE SCREWS
UP, YOU'RE IN.



DAVE AND JUNIOR RECRUIT NICK TO
RECORD A COVER OF ALICE COOPER'S
"NO MORE MR. NICE GUY" FOR THE FILM
"SHOCKER". THE FILM VERSION IS AN UL-
TRA SLICK PRODUCTION BY DESMOND CHILD.

TO PROMOTE THE FILM, DAVE
IS ELECTROCUTED BY ALICE
FOR THE BENEFIT OF FILM
CREWS. *



*NOW IF THEY'D HAD JAMES HETFIELD MANNING THE SWITCH...
-JAY-



YEAH, BUT WE'LL
SNEAK IN LATER
AND FIX IT!



WITH THE DRUMMER'S THRONE FILLED, THE BAND SETS OUT TO FIND A REPLACEMENT FOR JEFF YOUNG.

WHAT ABOUT MARTY FRIEDMAN?

HA HA!
THAT'S A
CLASSIC
NAME!
NO WAY.

I'M
SERIOUS
THIS
GUY
IS
HOT!

MARTY LIVES UP TO THE REPUTATION HE GARNERED IN GUITAR HERO BANDS SUCH AS **HAWAII** AND **CACOPHONY**. HE EASILY LANDS THE JOB AND THE BEST MEGADETH LINE-UP THUS FAR IS STABILIZED.



YOU'RE
LEAVING?

NAH!
YOU KNOW
HOW TO
PLAY.

I'M GOING
TO GET
SOME
LUNCH.

I THOUGHT
YOU'D
BE
HANGING
OVER ME

TELLING
ME WHAT
TO PLAY...

THE LITTLE
PRICK
YOU
REPLACED
WAS A
DIFFERENT
STORY.

HE WAS ONLY
INTERESTED IN
LOOKING BETTER
THAN EVERYONE
ELSE.



WITH THE RELEASE OF "RUST IN PEACE", MEGADETH HITS THE ROAD, OPENING FOR JUDAS PRIEST. THEY ALSO PARTICIPATE IN THE "CLASH OF THE TITANS" TOUR IN EUROPE.



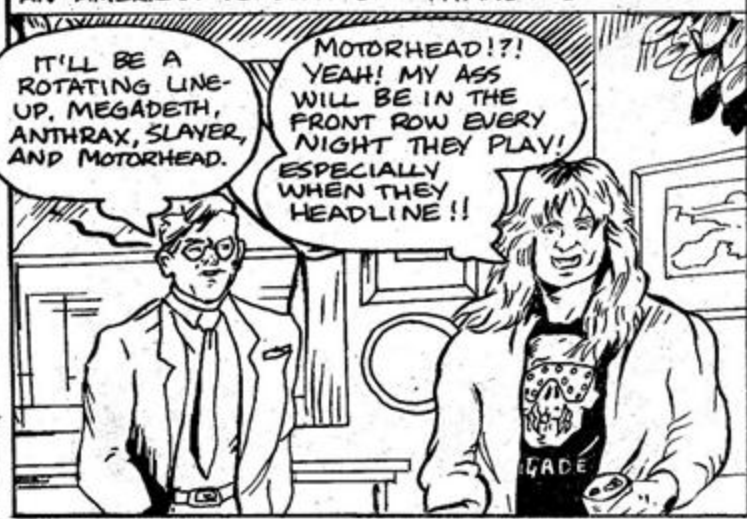
BUT I'VE FOUND SOME NEW THRILLS! SKYDIVING IS A BIGGER RUSH THAN ANY DOPE I'VE DONE!



AN AMERICAN VERSION OF "TITANS" IS PLANNED.

IT'LL BE A ROTATING LINE-UP. MEGADETH, ANTHRAX, SLAYER, AND MOTORHEAD.

MOTORHEAD!?! YEAH! MY ASS WILL BE IN THE FRONT ROW EVERY NIGHT THEY PLAY! ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY HEADLINE!!



OH NO! THEY WON'T GET A CHANCE TO HEADLINE. THEY'RE STRICTLY OPENING THE SHOW.

WHAT? WHY THE HELL NOT?!



THEY ARE JUST NOT AS COMMERCIALLY VIABLE AS THE OTHER BANDS.



THAT'S CRAP!! THEY'RE THE GRANDDADS OF THE WHOLE SCENE!

IF THEY DON'T GET A SHOT AT HEADLINING, YOU CAN COUNT ME OUT!!



AS USUAL THE PRESS ASKS ANNOYING QUESTIONS.

NOW THAT YOU'RE
CLEAN, WILL
YOU BE
DOING
ANTI-
DRUG
SPOTS?

NO

BUT YOU HAVE
A RESPONSIBILITY
TO PEOPLE
WHO LOOK
UP TO YOU.

I'M NOT
GOING TO
PREACH
AGAINST
DRUG ABUSE.

IF SOMEONE
WANTS TO GET
SOBER, I'LL TELL THEM
HOW I DID IT.

I WILL, HOWEVER,
DISCUSS THE IMPORT-
ANCE OF VOTING.
I EVEN COVER THE
DEMOCRATIC CON-
VENTION FOR MTV.

IN THE SUMMER OF '92, THE ALBUM "COUNTDOWN TO
EXTINCTION" IS RELEASED AND IMMEDIATELY BEGINS
ASCENDING THE CHARTS.

MEGADETH

#5

AFTER TOURING WITH PANTERA AND MORE
LINEUP CHANGES (AS WELL AS A 7-WEEK REHAB
STINT FOR MUSTAINE), MEGADETH RELEASED
"YOUTHANASIA" (1994) AND "CRYPTIC
WRITINGS" (1997), THE LATTER ALSO
ADAPTED AS A COMIC BOOK.

NEXT CAME "RISK" (1999) AND "THE WORLD NEEDS
A HERO" (2001), BOTH OF WHICH FLOPPED SO BAD
THAT MUSTAINE DISBANDED THE GROUP (THO
THERE WERE SEVERAL DVDS AND COMPILATION
ALBUMS). HE REVIVED THE MEGADETH NAME FOR
"THE SYSTEM HAS FAILED" (2004), "UNITED
ABOMINATION" (2007) AND "ENDGAME" (2009) ...

END

...THO THE BAND IS NOW BASICALLY
A MUSTAINE SOLO PROJECT.

