

# HARD ROCK HEROES



**ROCK n' ROLL**  
COMICS



# METALLICA'S GREATEST HITS

OUR STORY BEGINS WITH YOUNG LARS ULRICH (BORN IN DENMARK, 1963). HE'S A ROCK FAN FROM EARLY ON - IN 1975, HE'S PUMPING HIS FIST IN THE SMOKY AIR AT A COPENHAGEN BLACK SABBATH CONCERT.



AFTER THE SHOW, LARS AND A FRIEND PLAN TO WAIT OUTSIDE THE BACKSTAGE DOOR FOR THEIR HERO.

STORY: JAY ALLEN SANFORD, TODD LOREN, TOM POTTS  
ART: MARSHALL ROSS, SCOTT PENTZER, LARRY NADOLSKY

Todd Loren PRESENTS

YOU LADS REALLY HOLD YER OWN IN A FLICKIN' MOB DON'TCHA? 'SA GOOD TALENT TO HAVE IF YA EVER GET FAMOUS AND FIGHT THROUGH THE LOOTS EVERY TIME YOU JUST WANNA GO TO A PUB!

WOULD YOU...WOULD YOU SIGN MY POSTER FOR ME?

SURE!

THROUGH HIS TEENS, LARS IS AN ACCOMPLISHED TENNIS PLAYER (AS IS HIS FATHER).



HE EVEN CONSIDERS TAKING UP THE SPORT AS A PROFESSION.



YAWN



SMOKE ON THE WATER  
AND FIRE IN THE SKY

HEY, LARS, QUITE A "RACKET" YOU'RE MAKING, HEH, HEH!

SO?! I'VE SEEN *YOU* USING A BROOM FOR A MIKESTAND!

YEAH, IT RELIEVES THE *TENSION* SOMETIMES, TO JUST JUMP AROUND AND ROCK OUT!

WHEN HE'S 17, HIS FAMILY MOVES TO AMERICA, SETTLING IN LOS ANGELES. LARS ABANDONS HIS TENNIS ASPIRATIONS GROWS HIS HAIR AND PRACTICES HIS DRUMMING. OH, YES, AND HE'S ALWAYS BEEFING UP HIS RECORD COLLECTION (READ "MOUNTAIN O' MUSIC").



I'D LOVE TO GET A BAND TOGETHER, BUT HOW'M I GONNA FIND PEOPLE INTO THE SAME KIND OF MUSIC I AM!? PEOPLE LOOK AT ME LIKE I'M CRAZY WHEN I SAY I'M THE HEAD OF A MOTOR-HEAD FAN CLUB, OR THAT I WRITE TO THE GUYS IN DIAMOND HEAD. THEY'VE NEVER **HEARD** OF BANDS LIKE THEM!



DISCOURAGED AND SEEKING INSPIRATION, LARS ERADICATES HIS SAVINGS WITH AN IMPULSIVE TRIP TO LONDON ENGLAND, WHERE HE HOPES TO MEET HIS FAVORITE GROUP *DIAMOND HEAD*.

HIS HEAT-SEEKING MISSION OF METAL TAKES LARS RIGHT FROM LONDON'S AIRPORT TO THE BACKSTAGE DOOR OF A CLUB WHERE *DIAMOND HEAD* ARE PLAYING.



LARS BECOMES THE BAND'S MASCOT OF SORTS, HANGING WITH THEM ON TOUR FOR THREE MONTHS. HE STUDIES THEIR SONGWRITING...



...THEIR PERFORMANCES AND THEIR ATTITUDE, PICKING UP DEFINITIVE INFLUENCES THAT HE WILL LATER BRING TO BEAR WITH *METALLICA*.

MEANWHILE, BACK IN LOS ANGELES, JAMES HETFIELD IS GROWING UP IN A WORKING CLASS FAMILY WHILE ATTENDING AN UPPER-CRUST LA BREA HIGH SCHOOL, PICKING UP A FEW INFLUENCES OF HIS OWN.





WITH PROPITIOUS TIMING, JAMES FINDS HIMSELF BETWEEN GIGS RIGHT ABOUT WHEN LARS RETURNS TO THE STATES. LOOKING FOR POTENTIAL BANDMATES, LARS ADVERTISES IN LOCAL PAPERS.

YOUR AD IN THE RECYCLER REALLY CAUGHT MY EYE!

"DRUMMER LOOKING FOR GUYS INTO EUROPEAN HEAVY METAL." I DIDN'T THINK ANYONE IN L.A. WAS INTO ANGEL WITCH AND THAT KIND OF THING!

HETFIELD AND ULRICH WRITE "HIT THE LIGHTS" AND RECORD IT ON A CHEAP 4-TRACK MACHINE. HETFIELD PLAYS BASS AND GUITAR, LARS DRUMS AND FRIEND LLOYD GRANT ADDS SOME LEAD WORK.

SLAGEL LOVES IT! WE'RE GONNA BE ON **METAL MASSACRE VOLUME ONE**!!!

LISTEN, I KNOW THIS GUY NAMED BRIAN SLAGEL...

HE'S STARTING HIS OWN HARD ROCK LABEL, **METAL SLAVE**, AND HE'S GOING TO LAUNCH IT WITH A COMPILATION OF UNSIGNED CALIFORNIA GARAGE BANDS.

AWWWRIIGHT!!

OF COURSE, IF WE'RE GONNA BE ON A RECORD, WE'D BETTER SETTLE ON A NAME!

THE PAIR SPENDS A LOT OF TIME HANGING AROUND RADIO STATION KUSF, WHERE THEIR FRIEND RON QUINTANA HAS A MIDNIGHT TO 8AM RADIO SHOW (LATER, THE STATION WOULD BE THE FIRST TO PLAY "HIT THE LIGHTS" AND HEAVILY SUPPORT THE GROUP).

RON, YOU SURE YOU WON'T GET IN TROUBLE BY LETTING US COME IN AND DRINK AND HANG OUT?

YEAH, I GUESS SO. WE'LL HAVE TO GIVE IT SOME THOUGHT...

NAH, ALMOST NOBODY LISTENS THIS LATE, AND IT'S JUST ME AND THE ENGINEER AT THE STATION...

IZZAT TRUE. LOS ANGELES? NONNA YOU FLICKERS OUT THERE LISTENIN'?! HAW HAW!!

HEY, JAMES, COOL IT! LISTEN, COME ON OVER TO THE DESK. MAYBE YOU AND LARS CAN GIVE ME A HAND WITH SOMETHING.

I'M THINKING ABOUT STARTING UP A ROCK MAGAZINE, AND I'M TRYING TO PICK A TITLE. HERE'S A LIST OF POSSIBILITIES I WROTE UP.



LOOK IT OVER AND LET ME KNOW WHAT YOU THINK...



... I GOTTA DO THE NEXT INTRO.



THERE'S SOME GREAT NAMES HERE. **METAFORCE, METAL MANIA, METALLICA...**

**METALLICA?!**  
**THAT'S COOL!**  
**SOUNDS LIKE METAL AND VODKA!**

HEY RON, CALL YOUR MAGAZINE **METAL MANIA!**

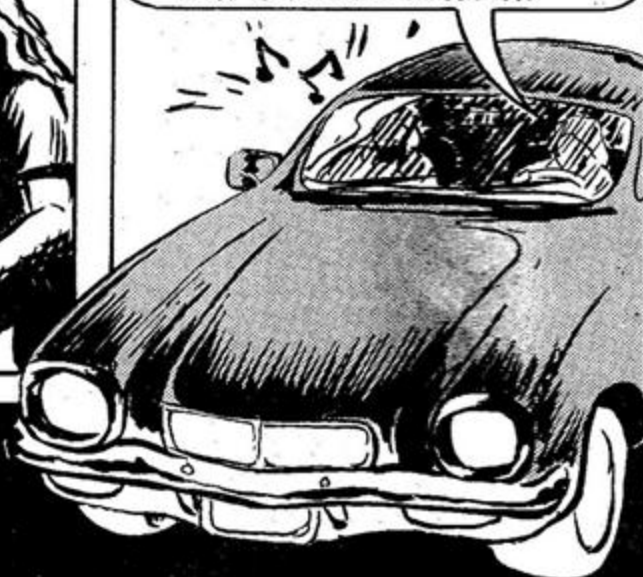


'CAUSE ~~WE'RE~~ GONNA USE **METALLICA!**



**HETFIELD DESIGNS THE BAND LOGO, AND THEN...**

CHECK IT OUT! OUR SONG ON THE RADIO! KUSF IS TREATIN' US RIGHT!



I HEAR THAT THE METAL MASSACRE RECORD IS DOING SO GOOD THAT IT'S BEEN LICENSED FOR CANADIAN DISTRIBUTION!



YEAH, WE SHOULD RECORD A CLEANER TAKE FOR THE RE-RELEASE.

I CAN TRY ANOTHER AD IN THE TABLOID PAPERS, SEE IF WE CAN FIND SOME OTHER PLAYERS WHO WANT TO METALLI-ROCK!



WHICH IS HOW THEY HOOK UP WITH SPEED FRETSTER DAVE MUSTAINE AND POWER BASSIST RON MCGOVNEY (WHOM JAMES HAD ALREADY MET). AT FIRST, HETFIELD IS ONLY THE SINGER, BUT WHEN A SEARCH FOR RHYTHM GUITARIST FAILS (EVERYONE WANTS TO PLAY LEAD), HETFIELD TAKES ON THE VOCALS AND THE GUITAR FILLS (ONCE HE LEARNS TO SING AND PLAY SIMULTANEOUSLY).



BUT RON ISN'T WORKING OUT ON BASS. SOON, LARS CALLS UP CLIFF BURTON, ACE FRETMEISTER FOR A BAY AREA BAND CALLED TRAUMA.

WELL WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF WE JUST SHOWED UP AT THE SAN FRANCISCO BUS STATION?



METALLICA HAS A DECISIVE BAND MEETING WHERE THEY UN CEREMONIOUSLY DUMP BASSIST RON MCGOVNEY AND AGREE TO MAKE THE MOVE NORTH, TO THE GOLDEN GATE CITY...

MAN, CLIFF KICKS ASS ON BASS! I'M GLAD HE'S DOING THE DEMOS WITH US NOW!

I LOVE THE WAY HE PLAYS WITH HIS THUMB INSTEAD OF A PICK! IT GIVES HIM A THUMPY BASEMENT SOUND!



WHEW, THAT TAKE WAS A REAL WORKOUT! SAY, WHERE'S DAVE?

HE'S PROBABLY GOT HIS FACE DOWN IN SOME BARROOM ASHTRAY AGAIN! HE CAN'T **HOLD** HIS BOOZE LIKE WE CAN.

THEY ARRIVE IN FEBRUARY 1983 (SEE RNR #2 FOR THAT FIRST BAND MEETING), WHERE THEY CRASH WITH A FRIEND NAMED MARK WHITAKER (WHO'D LATER CO-PRODUCE THEM).



IT'S NOT THAT WE **HOLD** IT BETTER...



... WE JUST KNOW WHEN TO **STOP**!



LISTEN, YOU GUYS WANNA GO TO A NEW CLUB?

CLIFF, YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE OLD ENOUGH TO GET IN! THE ONLY PLACES **WE** CAN GO ARE CLUBS WE'VE PLAYED AT, WHERE THE DOORMEN KNOW US AND THINK WE'RE **ZI**!



THE BAND MAKES A DEMO TAPE...



COPIES DO INDEED GET AROUND - IT BECOMES ONE OF THE MOST BOOTLEGGED AMATEUR TAPES ON THE SWAPPER'S MARKET.

MEANWHILE, 3000 MILES AWAY FROM THE LEFT COAST, IN NEW JERSEY, A YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR NAMED JOHNNY ZAZULA, ALONG WITH HIS WIFE MARSHA, IS PREPARING TO LAUNCH HIS OWN INDEPENDENT RECORD LABEL.



ONE OF THE FIRST BANDS I WANT TO CONTACT IS **METALLICA** OUT OF SAN FRANCISCO. THE TAPE IS DYNAMITE, REAL HEAVY STUFF!

THE THING IS, WE'RE ON SUCH A SHOESTRING BUDGET! THERE'S ALMOST NO CASH... I WONDER IF I CAN TALK THEM INTO COMING TO NEW JERSEY TO DO SOME RECORDING? WE JUST CAN'T AFFORD TO PRODUCE THEM LONG DISTANCE!



JOHNNY ZAZULA MAKES HIS CONTRACT OFFER IN MARCH 1983, AND THE BAND MULLS OVER THE PROPOSED OPPORTUNITY... AND RE-LOCATION.



FUCKIN' DAVE DOESN'T EVEN SHOW UP FOR OUR MOST IMPORTANT BAND MEETING EVER!

DAVE DOESN'T GIVE A SHIT. HE'S **BRILLIANT** WHEN HE'S ON IT, BUT HALF THE TIME HE'S TOO FUCKED UP AND DRUNK TO **DO** IT... OR EVEN WORK **TOWARDS** IT!



HE'S AN AGGRESSIVE PLAYER, BUT HE DOESN'T HAVE ANY SUBTLE, MELODIC SIDE AND THAT'S WHAT WE'RE STRIVING FOR!



HEY, IF THAT'S THE WAY YOU FEEL ABOUT ME, WHY DON'T YOU GO TO THE EAST COAST WITHOUT ME?

I DON'T NEED THIS CRAP! YOU JUST BLAME ME FOR EVERYTHING THAT GOES WRONG! AFTER I TAUGHT YOU EVERYTHING YOU KNOW!

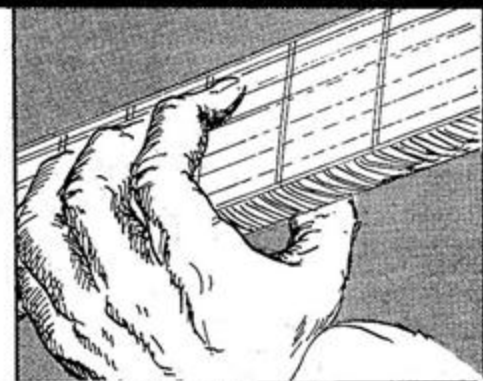


THUS, ON THE EVE OF THEIR EASTWARD MIGRATION AND THE RECORDING OF THEIR FIRST ALBUM, DAVE MUSTAINE IS OUT (TO FORM MEGADETH) AND METALLICA IS LIMPING ALONG WITHOUT A LEAD GUITARIST (A SERIOUS LIABILITY FOR A METAL BAND).



METALLICA'S CANNY DIVINING ROD COULDN'T HAVE SETTLED ON A MORE SUITABLE AXE-SLINGER, A PERFECT METALLURGICAL MATCH. KIRK (BORN IN SF) STUDIED GUITAR WITH ACE WIREWIZARD JOE SATRIANI (ALSO STEVE VAI'S INSTRUCTOR).

KIRK IS INDOCTRINATED INTO A DISCIPLINED, ALCHEMIC WORLD OF BLISTERS, GUITAR HARMONIES, MODES, APPREGIOS, THREE OCTAVE SCALES AND LOTS OF TECHNOLOGY THEORY.



IN MAY 1983 (TWO MONTHS AFTER BEING SIGNED), THE GROUP ENTERS THE STUDIO TO RECORD THEIR FIRST LP, *KILL 'EM ALL*, WITH PAUL CURCIO PRODUCING (METALLICA LATER SUMS UP HIS CONTRIBUTION AS "A GREAT COFFEE GO-FER").



THEY RE-RECORD THEIR DEMO SONGS, PLUS SOME NEW COMPOSITIONS AND, OF COURSE, "HIT THE LIGHTS" ONCE AGAIN (THEIR THIRD VERSION IF YOU'RE COUNTING).

I'VE GOT A GREAT IDEA ABOUT WHAT TO CALL OUR FIRST ALBUM... **METAL UP YOUR ASS!**

SOMEHOW, I GET THE FEELING THAT AN INDIE COMPANY LIKE MEGAFORCE WOULD HAVE TROUBLE SELLING A RECORD LIKE THAT.

THEN WE'LL GO WITH OUR ORIGINAL TITLE, *KILL 'EM ALL*, AND USE A MORE SUBTLE COVER. MAYBE A Mallet LYING IN A PUDDLE OF BLOOD!

OH, *MUCH* MORE SUBTLE, LARS!

THE ALBUM IS OUT IN THE SUMMER OF '83 (ON THE NEW *MUSIC FOR NATIONS* LABEL IN ENGLAND, WHERE METALLICA HITS #1 IN *KERRANG* AND *SOUNDS* READER POLLS).



**KILL 'EM ALL**



AFTER THE TOUR, IT'S TIME FOR SOME SERIOUS DECISION MAKING.

WE'RE READY TO HOP SOME OCEAN!

WE KNOW WHERE YOU'RE GOING WITH THIS, LARS! YOU'VE TALKED SO MUCH ABOUT **DENMARK** THAT YOU'RE STARTING TO SOUND LIKE A TRAVELOGUE!

I TURNED ON TO THE BEST METAL MUSIC IN THE WORLD WHEN I LIVED THERE, AND I HEAR THAT **SWEET SILENCE STUDIOS** THERE IS THE PLACE TO GO!

THEY RELEASE A THREE-TRACK 12" SINGLE (**JUMPING IN THE FIRE - GOOD LUCK FINDING IT!**)

AH, MY RECORD COLLECTION! I MISSED YOU GUYS! WAIT'LL YOU SEE THE NEW FRIENDS I BROUGHT YOU FROM EUROPE!

WE'VE BEEN ON THE ROAD **TOO** LONG HE'S TALKIN' TO HIS ALBUMS!

THERE'S FINALLY TIME FOR A BRIEF BREAK, OVER CHRISTMAS. LARS AND JAMES HEAD FOR THEIR EL CERRITO DIGS, TEN MINUTES FROM SAN FRANCISCO.

I KNOW WE'RE ON BREAK, BUT WE MIGHT WANT TO DO A LITTLE SONGWRITING FOR THE NEXT ALBUM. **AFTER** I 'BOARD THE NEIGHBORHOOD, THAT IS!

THERE'S ENOUGH ROOM IN THE GARAGE TO SET SOME RECORDING EQUIPMENT UP.

TONITE **SOLD OUT** METALLICA

THE 2ND LP, **RIDE THE LIGHTNING** (OUT IN AUGUST 1984), SELLS 100,000 COPIES AND HITS #154 ON BILLBOARD'S CHART... UNPRECEDENTED FOR AN INDIE LABEL LIKE **MEGAFORCE'S**. THEY TAKE RIGHT OFF ON THEIR FIRST EUROPEAN ROAD TRIP, CONCLUDING WITH TWO NIGHTS AT LONDON'S FAMED MARQUEE CLUB. CONTINENTAL METALLICATZ MAKE THE TOUR A NEAR-TOTAL SELLOUT.

I ADDED A FEW GEMS TO MY COLLECTION, TOO! **DANZIG**, THE JACKSON FIVE, ENYA, MINISTRY... IF WE EVER NEED WORK, WE CAN ALWAYS BE DJ'S OR SAMPLERS!

# METALLICA

THE SIX MONTH TOUR IS SPENT BACKING THE BADDEST BAT BITER IN BABYLON, BUT BOLIS BELLOWER OZZY OSBOURNE.

THEY ENTER THE STUDIO WITH SIX COMPLETED SONGS COMPOSING THE REST AS THEY RECORD FROM SEPTEMBER THROUGH NOVEMBER, AFTER BEING IN L.A. *MASTER OF PUPPETS*, THEIR FIRST LP IN TWO YEARS, IS RELEASED IN MARCH 1986 TO NEARLY UNANIMOUS CRITICAL ACCOLADES (IN THE MAGAZINES THAT COUNT ANYWAY, LIKE RIP AND POWER METAL). IT HITS #29 STATESIDE.



ONE OF MY MOST MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES WAS SEEING YOU AND SABBATH IN COPENHAGEN IN '76.



AHHH, YEAH, YEAH, THOSE WERE SOME WILD FLICKIN' DAYS, EH LADS?



YOU MUST ALL HAVE *SADUSSES* FER LIVERS! Y'VE SUCKED DOWN ENOUGH ALE TO SINK A BATTLESHIP!

YOU LEAD, OZZY, AND WE'LL FOLLOW!



YOU BOYS GOT *HOMES* TO GO TO AFTER THIS ENDLESS BLOODY TOUR WRAPS UP?



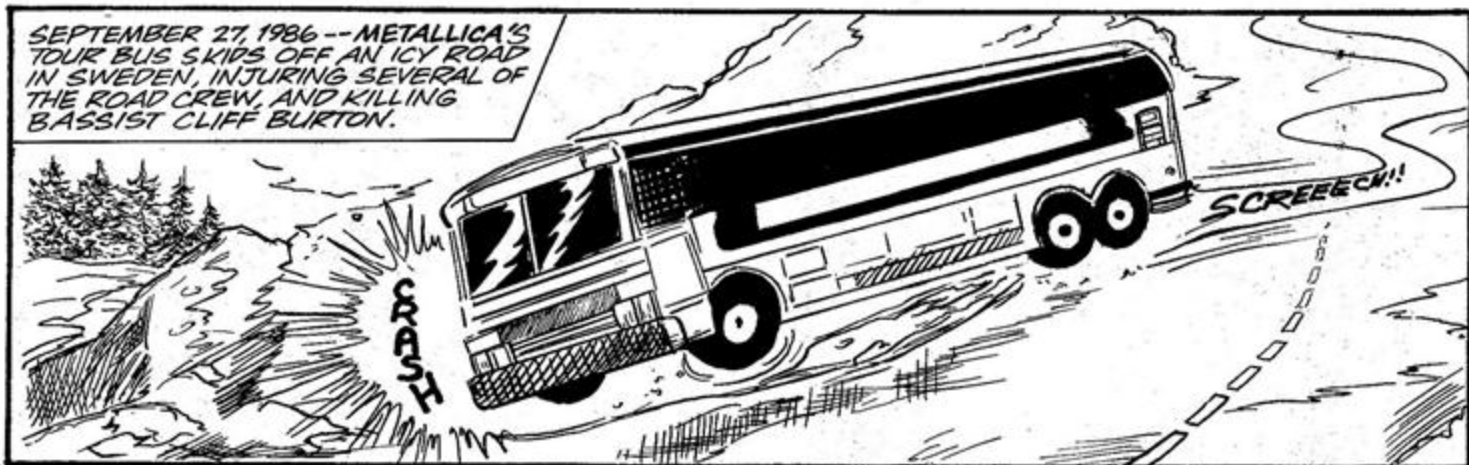
WHEN PEOPLE ASK WHERE WE LIVE, I JUST POINT TO THE BUS! THAT'S ABOUT THE TRUTH OF IT! FOR US, THE ROAD TRIP IS NEVER-ENDING!



THEY FLY TO EUROPE TO BEGIN A *HEADLINE* TOUR IN SEPTEMBER 1986. IT WAS TRULY THE BEST OF TIMES, THOSE EARLY DAYS. METALLICA WAS GIDDY WITH THEIR FIRST MASS ACCEPTANCE, AND THE WHOLE WORLD WAS SPREAD OUT AT THEIR STINKY FEET, RIPE FOR SONIC PLUNDERING. WHILST IN EUROPE, HOWEVER, THINGS WOULD CHANGE UNALTERABLY, USHERING THEM NEWLY-BORN INTO A *NEW* EPOCH.



SEPTEMBER 27, 1986 -- METALLICA'S TOUR BUS SKIDS OFF AN ICY ROAD IN SWEDEN, INJURING SEVERAL OF THE ROAD CREW, AND KILLING BASSIST CLIFF BURTON.



BACK HOME, THE RESPONSE FROM FANS IS INCREDIBLE!

YOU GUYS GOT A LITTLE BIT OF READING TO DO HERE!

WAIT! THERE'S MORE!

I CAN'T BELIEVE CLIFF IS DEAD. IS THIS THE END OF METALLICA?



THIS IS UNBELIEVABLE! NOBODY WANTS US TO CALL IT QUITS!

NEITHER WOULD CLIFF.



LET'S GO!

WHERE'RE WE GOING?

TO MAXWELL, CALIFORNIA. IT'S CLIFF'S FAVORITE PLACE, AND THAT'S WHERE WE'RE SPREADING HIS ASHES.



MAXWELL, CALIFORNIA...

REMEMBER WHEN WE SAW THAT BAND FLOTSAM AND JETSAM.

YEAH, I THINK THEY'VE GOT AN ALBUM OUT.

JASON NEWSTED TURNS OUT TO BE THE NEW METALLICA BASS PLAYER.

THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY WE'RE GOING TO GET THROUGH THE NEXT FEW WEEKS.

YEAH, WE GOTTA GET OUR SHIT TOGETHER.

GET A NEW BASSIST.

LET'S GO.

THEY HAD A REAL GOOD BASS PLAYER.

YOU MEAN JASON NEWSTED? YEAH, HE'S A GOOD SONGWRITER, TOO.

SO, WHAT NOW?

WE CAN'T PUT OUT AN ALBUM JUST YET, BUT THE FANS WANT SOMETHING NOW!

I DON'T KNOW...THERE'S A STUDIO IN MARIN COUNTY. LET'S GO REHEARSE A BIT. MAYBE SOMETHING WILL COME TO US.

THE GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE, THE CONNECTING LINK BETWEEN SAN FRANCISCO AND MARIN COUNTY...







NOW WE CAN USE THIS STUDIO TO PUT TOGETHER AN EP. Y'KNOW, SOMETHING FOR THE FANS!

YEAH, WE CAN DO ALL THOSE COVER TUNES WE'VE BEEN PLAYING EVER SINCE WE STARTED.

BUT WHAT IF PEOPLE TAKE IT SERIOUSLY... THINKING IT'S MEANT TO BE A SERIOUS ALBUM?

THAT'S THEIR PROBLEM! IT'S NOT REALLY A METALLICA ALBUM... IT'S METALLIKATS!

TO TIDE THEM OVER UNTIL THE NEXT ALBUM?

BEFORE WE DO ANY RECORDING THOUGH, WE REALLY OUGHT TO DO SOME KIND OF TRIBUTE TO CLIFF. DON'T YOU THINK?

THAT REMINDS ME... I JUST GOT OFF THE PHONE WITH A BOOTLEG VIDEO DEALER IN DETROIT. HE'S GOT SOME EARLY FOOTAGE OF WHEN CLIFF JUST JOINED THE BAND

THE VIDEO, CLIFF 'EM ALL, AND THE FIVE SONG EP GARAGE DAYS RE-REVISITED, ARE RELEASED.

LET'S MAKE A COMPILATION OF BOOTLEG VIDEOS FEATURING CLIFF!



METALLICA TOURS EUROPE WITH THE EUROPEAN MONSTERS OF ROCK. THEY DO EVERYTHING FROM IMPROMPTU SETS AT SMALL CLUBS, LIKE LONDON'S 100 CLUB, (CAPACITY--300)...





...TO HUGE STADIUMS, LIKE DONINGTON... CAPACITY-70,000.



THE BAND THEN PLAYS THE U.S. MONSTERS OF ROCK AT WHICH THEY FREQUENTLY STEAL THE SHOW. THEY SHARE BILLING WITH VAN HALEN, SCORPIONS, DOKKEN, AND KINGDOM COME.



ENTRANCE

WHEN IT'S TIME TO COME UP WITH A NEW ALBUM, IT'S AN INCREDIBLE 2-RECORD SET.

OKAY, WE'VE GOTTA GO OUT AND MEET THE PRESS.

YEP, WE HAVE TO PUSH THE NEW ALBUM...



...AND JUSTICE FOR ALL

WHY DID YOU RELEASE A DOUBLE ALBUM?

OH, WE COULD'VE PUT IT ON ONE DISC, BUT IT WOULD'VE SOUNDED LIKE SHIT. MOST PEOPLE BUY CASSETTES THESE DAYS... BUT WHY SHOULD ALBUM BUYERS BE PENALIZED WITH A LOWER QUALITY PRODUCT?

THERE'S SOME TALK THAT YOU'LL BE DOING A VIDEO. DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU'D NEVER DO THAT?

WE SAID THERE'D BE NO POINT IN DOING IT. BECAUSE NO-ONE WOULD PLAY IT. NOW THAT METAL HAS BECOME MORE ACCEPTED, WE DECIDED THE TIMING WAS RIGHT. BESIDES, THIS VIDEO WILL BE DIFFERENT FROM ANYTHING YOU'VE SEEN OR HEARD BEFORE.



THE GROUNDBREAKING INDUCTIVE LP, WHEN RELEASED, IS CERTIFIED PLATINUM IN THE U.S. WITHIN TWO WEEKS OF ITS RELEASE. AGAINST ALL EXPECTATIONS, IT'S A TOP TEN SELLER STATESIDE AND IN THE U.K.



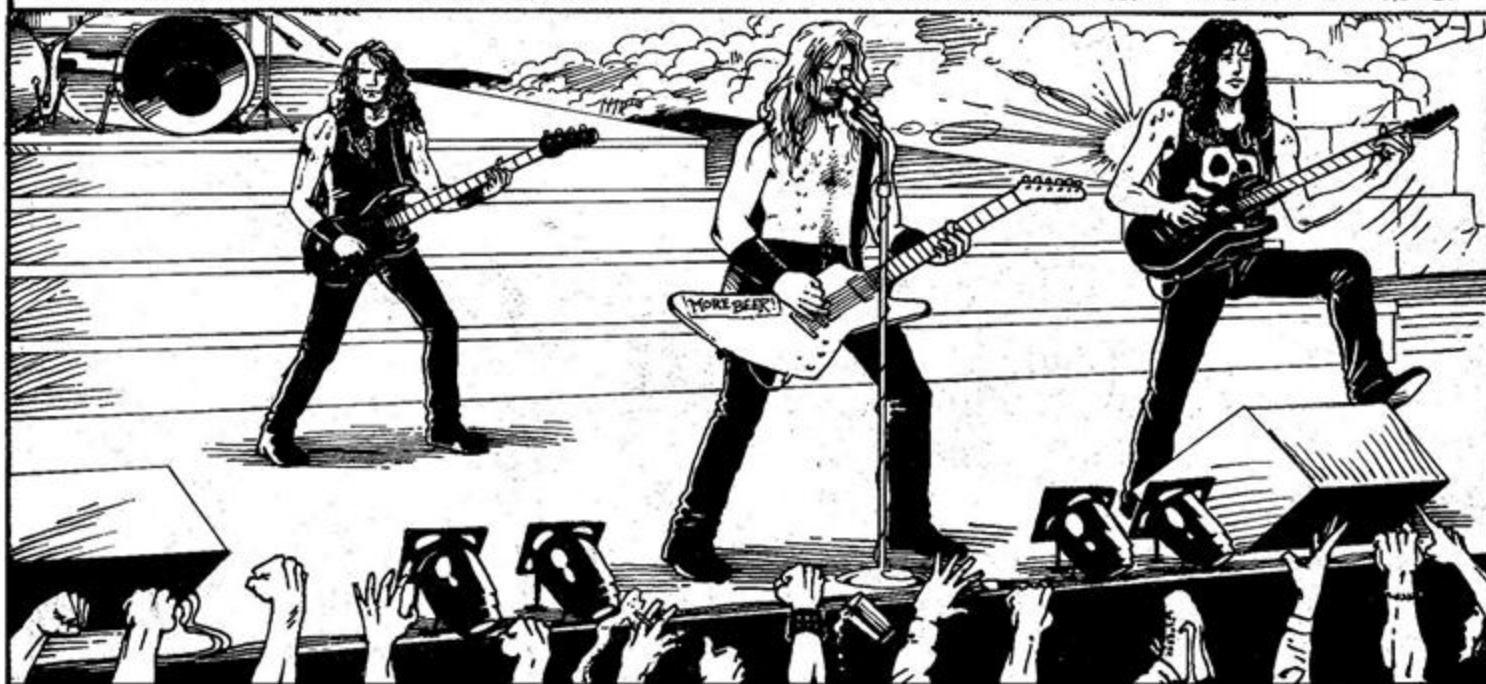
IT PEAKS AT #6 IN THE U.S.



THE LENGTHY TOUR RUNS NEARLY A YEAR AND COVERS TWENTY-TWO COUNTRIES. IN THE U.S. ALONE, THEY HIT ALL FIFTY STATES, EVEN DOING SMALL HALLS IN HEARTLAND MARKETS LIKE LOUISIANA, INDIANA, AND KENTUCKY (PLACES WHERE POISON DARE NOT TREAD.)



THEIR AUDIENCE IS COMPOSED OF A MASS OF CRACKED, FLEXING LEATHER AND JEANS, OUT OF WHICH THOUSANDS OF BLAZING EYES MARK THE PERFORMANCE AND PASSING OF FOUR METAL GODS.





IN ARENAS LARGE ENOUGH TO ACCOMMODATE HER, LADY JUSTICE (DORIS) ADORNS THE DECAYING GREEK TABLEAU, ONLY TO BE BLOWN UP DURING THE SONG "...AND JUSTICE FOR ALL."



THE ENDLESS TOUR IS VARIED EVERY NIGHT (THEY HAVE TO MIX UP THE SET, TO KEEP FROM SUFFERING A TERMINAL BURNOUT).



THAT'S NOT EXACTLY ARENA BEHAVIOR, IS IT? ENCORING WITH OBSCURE B-SIDES. I LOVE IT!



WHAT A SET! THAT'LL KEEP THOSE METALLI-FUCKERS ROCKIN' INTO NEXT YEAR!



HOWEVER, THE VIBES IN THE CITY OF ANGELS ARE A LITTLE OFF CENTER.

THE SHOW'S  
NEARLY SOLD OUT,  
BUT THE VENUE DOESN'T  
WANT TO HIRE EXTRA  
SECURITY!

LONG BEACH  
ARENA  
STAGE  
ENTRANCE

I HOPE  
THEY REALIZE  
JUST HOW JUMPIN'  
OUR AUDIENCES  
CAN GET.



JAMES IS NOT USUALLY PRONE TO UNDERSTATEMENT, BUT IN THIS CASE "JUMPIN'" HARDLY DOES JUSTICE IN DESCRIBING THE RIOTOUS L.A. METALHEADS.



WHAT THE  
FLUCK?!

BAND SPOKESMAN LARS TURNS UP ON AN L.A. RADIO STATION THE NEXT DAY.



ON THE AIR

I UNDERSTAND  
THAT THE KIDS DID  
\$150,000.00 WORTH OF  
DAMAGE AT THE ARENA.

YEAH, AND I  
GOT SOMETHING TO  
SAY TO THEM...



I DON'T WANT TO TELL YOU WHAT  
TO DO, BUT SINCE YOU CREATED  
THIS GIANT MOSH PIT, WE MIGHT  
NOT BE ABLE TO PLAY HERE AGAIN!  
MAYBE NO BAND WILL BE ABLE TO!

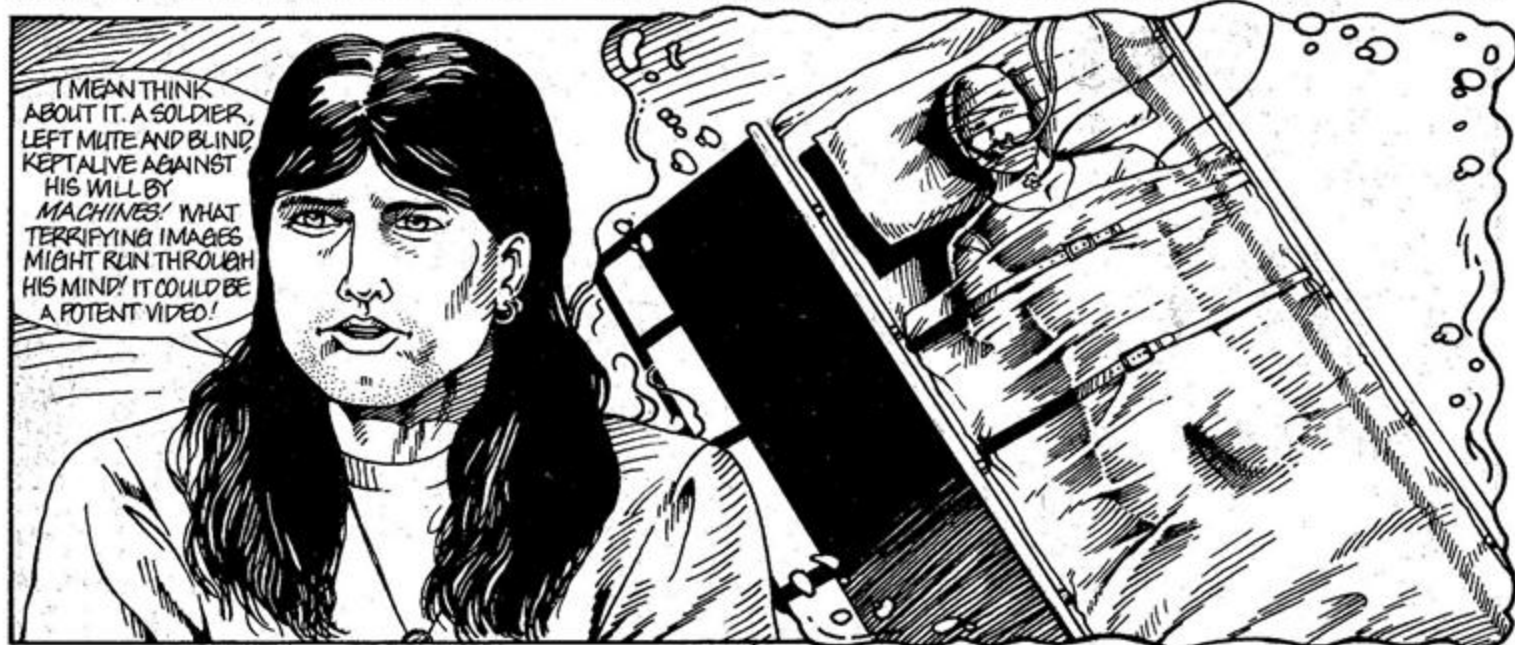


ON THE AIR

DOES THE  
INSURANCE COVER  
THE DAMAGE?

NO, AND THE  
PROMOTER DOESN'T  
PAY THE COST EITHER.  
METALLICA  
DOES!













IN OCTOBER 1989, THEY'RE FINALLY FINISHING THE "DAMAGED JUSTICE" TOUR. PRODUCER BOB ROCK (THE CANADIAN HOT-SHOT WHO'D RUIN BOARDS FOR MOTLEY CRUE, LOVERBOY AND CINDERELLA) CATCHES ONE OF THOSE FINAL SHOWS.











ONCE THE METALLIHEADS ARE ALL IN ONE PLACE AGAIN IT'S TIME TO BEGIN WORKING ON A NEW RECORD.

WELL, THAT NEW SONG WAS A CHANGE! A BALLAD!!

WE WERE HARMONIZING LIKE THE BEATLES AND EVEN MY TINNITUS EAR-PROBLEM DIDN'T HURT THE MIX. MAYBE WE CAN THROW IN AN ELECTRIC GUITAR SOLO WHEN WE GO WRITE IT UP?



THAT'S WHAT WE NEED FOR THIS NEW RECORD. A FRESH APPROACH A CHANGE IN OUR SOUND.

LET ME WRITE DOWN THE LYRICS WHILE THE JAM IS STILL FRESH IN MY MIND. I'LL CALL IT "NOTHING ELSE MATTERS."



GUYS, THIS IS THE FIRST NEW SONG WE'VE DONE IN AGES! THE NEW ALBUM HAS OFFICIALLY BEGUN!



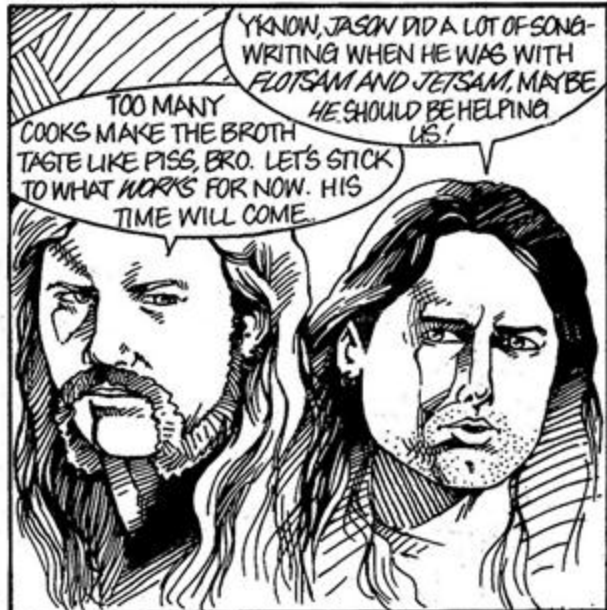
THIS BEGINS A TWO-MONTH PERIOD OF SONGWRITING (WITH LARS AND JAMES DOING THE BULK OF THE COMPOSITION, AS PER USUAL, THOUGH KIRK SITS IN ON A FEW SESSIONS).

THE DEMOS SOUND OKAY SO FAR, BUT I'M NOT SO SURE.



Y'KNOW, JASON DID A LOT OF SONGWRITING WHEN HE WAS WITH FLOTSAM AND JETSAM, MAYBE HE SHOULD BE HELPING US!

TOO MANY COOKS MAKE THE BROTH TASTE LIKE PISS, BRO. LET'S STICK TO WHAT WORKS FOR NOW. HIS TIME WILL COME.





OCTOBER 1990: THEY BOOK OPEN-ENDED STUDIO TIME IN L.A., TO RECORD THE FINAL AGREED-UPON TRACK LIST.





THEY SPEND A MONUMENTAL TEN MONTHS PERFECTING THE NEW LP.



JAMES' VOCALS ARE CUT OVER AND OVER AGAIN.



STOP TAPE! TRY IT AGAIN, JAMES, WITH A LITTLE MORE 'DOOMPH!'



JAMES IS COAXED INTO PLAYING ELECTRIC SITAR ON "WHEREVER I MAY ROAM."



FOR A REALLY NEW METALLITOUCH, BOB ROCK BRINGS IN A CELLO SECTION FOR "THE UNFORGIVEN" AND ORCHESTRATION IS ADDED TO "NOTHING ELSE MATTERS" BY MICHAEL KAMEN (WHO'D WORKED ON PINK FLOYD'S THE WALL).



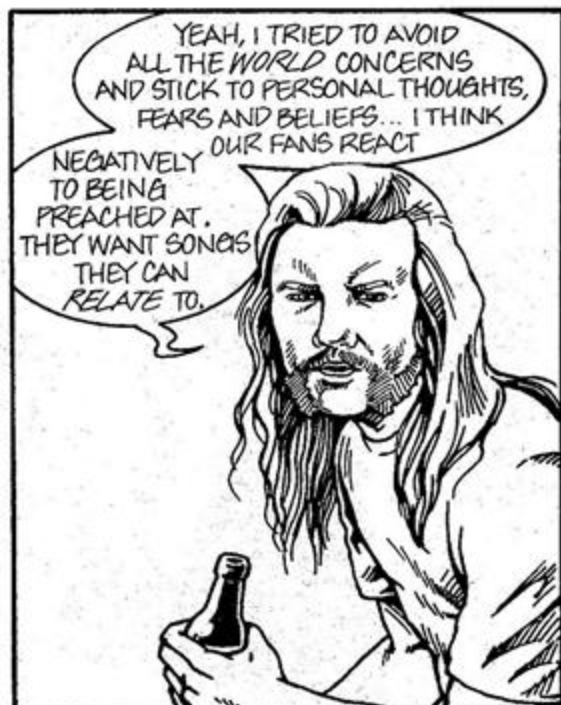
WELL, WE'VE GOT TWELVE PRIME NEW TRACKS.

YEAH, WE CAN SAVE THE LEFTOVERS FOR ANOTHER ALBUM! WE'RE NOT SHOVING TWO DOUBLE-ALBUMS IN A ROW DOWN THE FANS' THROATS!



I REALLY THINK WE'VE ACHIEVED THE GOAL WE LAID OUT, BOB. A HUGE, FAT AND THROBBING SOUND!











DON'T GET ME WRONG, BOB. I LIKE THE TAPES SO FAR.

CONFLICTS ALSO ARISE BETWEEN THE BAND AND BOB ROCK.



THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT YOUR STYLE THAT'S, LIKE, MAJOR HARD-ON! AND A LOT OF YOUR SUGGESTIONS ARE PRETTY GOOD!



YEAH, WE LIKE WHAT YOU DID ON CRUE'S "DR. FEELGOOD" BUT TO TELL THE TRUTH, WE WERE ORIGINALLY GOING TO JUST BRING YOU IN TO MIX THE RECORD.

THEN WE DECIDED YOU MIGHT MAKE A GOOD PRODUCER FOR US, BUT BE CAREFUL.

\*ROCK-N-ROLL COMICS #4-



WE WANT YOU TO PRODUCE US, NOT JOIN THE FUCKING BAND! EVEN IF SOME OF YOUR SUGGESTIONS DO WORK!

ACTUALLY, MOST OF HIS SUGGESTIONS WORK, BUT JAMES IS TOO PROUD TO ADMIT IT!



RECORDING TAKES PRECEDENCE OVER ALL ELSE DURING THOSE LABORIOUS MONTHS, THOUGH LARS OCCASIONALLY SNEAKS OUT TO THE MOVIES.



THIS IS THE THIRD TIME I'VE SEEN THIS FLICK! I SWEAR, IF JAMES HETFIELD WERE YOUNGER, HE'D BE THE REIN-CARNATION OF JIM MORRISON!



FINALLY, IN JUNE 1991

THE RECORD'S  
FINISHED!

ALL RIGHT!!!



NOW WE JUST NEED A  
NAME FOR THE ALBUM.



WELL, IT'S OUR FIFTH  
ALBUM. WE COULD JUST  
CALL IT "FIVE".



SIMPLY  
"METALLICA,"  
JUST LIKE THAT.



CERTAIN ELEKTRA EXECUTIVES ARE NONE TOO FOND OF THE  
NO-FRILLS PACKAGING PLAN.

JUST  
"METALLICA"?! WITH AN  
ALL-BLACK COVER?!?



THE EAGERLY ANTICIPATED RECORD IS SCHEDULED FOR AN AUGUST '91 RELEASE.

WELL, THE ALBUM WORKS! IT'S BOUNCING OFF THE WALLS!

I DON'T WANT IT TO BE AS LONG AND COMPLEX AS THE LAST ONE!

WE'D END UP HORIZONTAL SOMEWHERE, PROBABLY IN CASKETS IF WE TRIED THAT AGAIN.

NOW WE HAVE TO CONFIRM THE TOUR PLANS.

THE "ENTER SANDMAN" VIDEO IS OUT SHORTLY THEREAFTER, WITH MORE NEW AND STRIKING VIDS TO FOLLOW.

ON AUGUST 17TH, BEGINNING AT CASTLE DONINGTON, THEY JOIN THE MONSTERS OF ROCK TOUR TO BLAST EUROPE, ALONG WITH AC/DC, QUEENSRYCHE, MOTLEY CRUE AND THE BLACK CROWES.

"METALLICA" IS RELEASED AND BREAKS AT #1 ON THE BILLBOARD ALBUM CHART.



THE BAND TRIES OUT OLD BLUES LICKS & NEW HAIRCUTS FOR "LOAD" (1996) & "RELOAD" (1997). NOT ALL FANS APPROVE - THEN, IN 2000, METALLICA SUES THE NAPSTER WEBSITE OVER UNPAID ROYALTIES.



"SAINT ANGER" (2003) SUFFERS COMPLAINTS OVER THE DROP C TUNING, WONKY DRUM TRACKS, AND A LACK OF GUITAR SOLOS. FILM FOOTAGE OF THEM WORKING WITH A SHRINK HAS MANY SCRATCHING THEIR HEADS, BUT "DEATH MAGNETIC" IN 2009 IS A HIT - THE BAND HAS SOLD 100 MILLION RECORDS!!

