

Hail ! How are you today ? Let's start the int' !!!
Greetings Eric, I am doing great. Thanx for the interview

Dave can you remember how you met Terry Sadler in your teenager years ? Did you attend to the same gigs and were at the same school before forming the band ?

Yeah man actually me and Ron met Terry through his brother. There was a local record shop called The Record Peddler where every Metal head hung out....Terry noticed our homemade Motorhead and Venom patches/buttons and asked his brother who we were and we met after that.

Terry played in many other bands previously to SLAUGHTER, were you into his combos such as Metal Fatigue, Blissmass, Blind Illusion ?

Actually Terry was in those bands when me and Ron were like 10 years old. We heard the tapes after we met him. Terry used to drum and sing for different bands. I think he was a better singer than a drummer hahaha

Could you explain how and who get the idea to print the split 7EP with Nunslaughter ? Were you in contact with Horror Records before releasing this split ? And what do you think of Nunslaughter's cover ?

I have been friends with Don from Nunslaughter for a long time...I can't remember if it was his idea or Horror Records idea to do the split. It came out amazing and the Nunslaughter cover of "Nocturnal Hell" truly KILLS !!!

This split actually gathers 2 tunes, "Children Of Fire" and "Hell Hath Returned" from rehearsal between August and December '84. These two tunes featured in your first "Metalcleaver" demo, as I've never heard the original demo, I was wondering if the sound was better in your demo ? By the way, why did you choose these 2 songs for this split ?
Nah the songs are from a pretty crude rehearsal tape.....now that you mention it I think Don picked those songs for us. He is a total old school freak !!! One of the heaviest dudes ever !!! He totally lives for METAL !!!

Where did you take the picture of this dead lady covered with blood in your "Bloody Karnage" '84 demo from ?

I took it from a special effects book



school library...There was 3 different shots so I just ripped the page out of the book and we each had a different cover.... Later on we used the art that Ron drew of a Metal guy killing a poser.



SLAUGHTER was created in '84 in Toronto and was one of the first Death/Thrash Metal from this country, you mixed a bunch of old school Thrash with Punk music. In the same time Exciter was in the circle since a bit, but your music was drastically different from them, sounded less N.W.O.B.H.M, so did you create Slaughter to compete with Exciter and show a the rawest side of Metal you could ? How were the relations between these tow bands in the beginning ?

No we never created Slaughter to compete with Exciter or any other band. We actually just played our sick Metal/Crossover style for ourselves !!! We never played with Exciter...even though I would have loved to...the first 2 albums rule !!! "Violence And Force" was killer !!!

Readers from Franang zine paper issues may remember the praise I have for 80's Canadian combos as according to me Canada was one of the heaviest underground scene in the 80's. Indeed bands such as Exciter, Razor, Piledriver, Sacrifice had such a huge impact on me through their records, and we mustn't forget SLAUGHTER who had a real punk attitude and true to the bone Thrash Metal ideas in their materials. SLAUGHTER influenced so many other new bands and had such an interesting background that I wanted an interview with Dave Hewson (guitar, vocals) since nearly 5 years. And it nearly took all this time to finally get a feed back from Dave. I must thanks him thousands time for his answers and this brainstorming !!! (august 2008)

What was you reaction when Chuck left the band and created his own DEATH, did you think that he wanted to show to everyone he was able to handle a band by himself ? Honestly speaking, "Scream Bloody Gore" was (and still is) an awesome piece of D.M, few bands could equal them in melting this musical skill and this fast riffings, so did you see this album as another further step in brutality ?

To be honest we never felt that he would stick around. We had some good times and some really heavy rehearsals but I am glad he left to do the Death thing. "Scream Bloody Gore" is an amazing album....

I'd like to know your views on the different Metal scenes that exist these days being the Thrash Metal come back with all star bands return, the Black Metal and Death Metal ones, or even gothic Metal scene and bands such as Epica, Evanescence, After Forever ?

I think it is great with the new wave of old school Thrash !! All the bands from the 80's are reuniting and releasing great music....you can't kill Thrash !! Thrash kills you !!! Hahahah (fuck you're sooo right !!! - ed)



How are your everyday Metal activities right now ? I mean what are the albums you always listen to and do you still practice guitar ? I guess that rehearsing so much with SLAUGHTER helped you to develop a way of playing you can't drop anymore, even now ?

I still play guitar....not as much as I should. My son, who is 18 blows me away and is better than alot of guitarists !! He is total old school and is constantly on my ass about playing again etc.....if I ever decided to reform

from my high

SLAUGHTER I know who my lead player would be !!

I listen to mostly stuff from the 80's...Venom, Metallica, as well as other shit like Opeth.

I'd like to know your definition of \$Thrash Metal music ? According to you which are/were the bands that sum(med) up the best this attitude ? Was there a band you really want to be equal as them while you were playing with SLAUGHTER ?

My definition of Thrash Metal would have to be "Kill'em All". To this day there is NO better Thrash release !! Metallica were always my favs and I always wanted to equal their impact on the scene...not necessarily to sound like them but to kinda have the same attitude of METAL UP

YOUR ASS !!! That sums it up, people always say that "Master Of Puppets" or "Ride The Lightning" is their best, not a chance. "Kill Em All" is the blue print for all Thrash to this day....and it will never be topped by anyone.

Back in the early 80's, were you aware your band was a way ahead from the others when it comes to brutality and concept ? I mean, not that many bands can playing such raw Metal ? Did you have enough maturity to take advantage from this high light side of SLAUGHTER ?

We knew that we were raw and noisy and there is no denying that we were ultra heavy. We were too young to fully understand what we had created and failed to take full advantage of where we could have possibly gone with SLAUGHTER...

I guess as many you saw Spinal Tape movie that shows all the troubles a band goes through, do you sometimes fell that SLAUGHTER's difficulties to keep the band alive was similar to Spinal Tapes ? What are the funniest stories you could tell about SLAUGHTER's "way of life" ?

I wish we could have had the success of Spinal Tap, hehehe. There are far too many stories about the crazy ways we lived. We all had different personalities, some were into drugs, some booze, some both and that always ended us up in deep shit. One member (no names hahaha) would always get his own private hotel room because he knew of the craziness that would be going on in the bands room. When we played with Kreator for a few shows we were kicked out of our hotel for destroying it and ended up sleeping in Kreator's rooms on the floor !!

Could you tell us some words about Green Giant Music contact ? Is it your label or even a Metal shop ?

"Greengiantmusic" is just my seller name on eBay...I was cooking dinner one night and opened a can of corn which just happened to have the jolly green giant on the label. Him being the mascot for the company, I thought it would be a funny name and even had someone draw me up a logo and design with the jolly green giant giving the horns...it looked great !! Hahahahaha

In many pictures you hold an Ibanez guitar or a BC Rich, were you endorsed by any guitar trademark ? Which was your favourite guitar to play, the tightest one ?

I wish we had been endorsed by those guitar companies !! I had many guitars over the years from Ibanez, Bc Rich, Gibson, Schecter, Dean and ESP. My favourite all time guitar is my ESP "Viper" with EMG's. No guitar I have ever played sounded like this....it is so fast and tight !!

Did you ever get any contact with the Glam Rock band from USA which name is also Slaughter ? By the way, do you like their music ?

We never directly spoke with anyone from that Slaughter. We did find out years after we had broke up that they were willing to pay for the recording of our second album if we agreed to change our name and no I can't stand their music. Of all the Hair Metal, Glam 80's shit they definitely were at the bottom of the pile....complete crap !! (hahaha you're soo fucking right man !!!-ed)

It seems Terry was always pushing the band forwards, writing tons of lyrics, spreading your name around and thanks to him you get the first deal with a

record label, is that right ?

Yes totally....he would record like every rehearsal and mail them out for free to everyone. Me and Ron would get so pissed off because we wanted to record a proper demo etc and have that represent the band but thank god he did do all of that !! He definitely got the band name out there and we are forever grateful that he did.

"Bloody Karnage"

was recorded on New Years Eve 1984 with Rob Urbanati and Joe Rico from Sacrifice in their rehearsal room, as far as I read, nothing was really scheduled for this tape. You just recorded it once drunk, that sounds pretty funny to see the band started during a drunken night... Even though you shared time with Sacrifice, your music was not as, let's say, "Death Metal" as them if you see what I mean, and I guess you were both influence for each other, discovering new Metal ideas, am I right ?

Well we did that tape in our rehearsal space which was Rons parents basement. We all were pretty drunk, being New Years and all. It was just another jam for us and we had no idea that it would turn out to be our "first" demo and it actually got us signed !! Honestly I think SLAUGHTER is far more Death Metal than Sacrifice....they were more Thrash and Speed Metal like Slayer and we were Death Metal (which really didn't even exist yet) with a huge hardcore punk influence, real punk though G.B.H. Broken Bones, Discharge, The Plasmatics etc I do think that we were influenced by them and vice versa. I love SACRIFICE, every release !! They are amazing guys and a great band !! We were all the best of friends, the first two real Metal bands from Toronto. Both bands created the Death/Thrash scene in Toronto and both bands influenced a lot of others !!

Brian Taylor from CKLN radio signed you for his label Diabolic Force and actually you were his first production that is really amazing. How did you happen to sign for a label that hadn't any releases before you ? Actually we saw an ad for a compilation album that was going to be put out by Diabolic Force/Fringe Records. We sent in "Bloody Karnage" and Brian Taylor freaked and was desperate to get us in the studio !! We did "Surrender Or Die" first and then Sacrifice did "The Exorcism". Pretty impressive for a new small little label to sign two of the heaviest and cult underground bands !!

Thanks a lot for your times and answer. End this meeting as you wish.

Thanx for a great interview Eric....and thanx to all of the tortured souls for their great support over the last 20 years.....1,2 FUCK YOU!!! (you're more than welcome man, SLAUGHTER is one hell of a fucking great band !!!!-ed)

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