



September 18, 1982

The Stone, San Francisco

This was The night. The heaviest band in the U.S. of A., METALLICA, rampaged into the City By the Bay and spread more havoc than the 1906 Earthquake. Unfortunately, they were sandwiched between two of the worst bands to ever step on a stage, BITCH (the headliners) and local popsters HANS NAUGHTY.

Originally, CIRITH UNGOL were to have supported BITCH but due to transportation problems, had to pull out four days prior, so the mighty METALLICA were called.



Due to poor publicity and the reputation of the headliners (when BITCH played S.F. in June they bombed with a capital "B") The Stone was only half full. However, a small contingent of METALLICA fans were present to do some serious headbanging with "the young Metal attack." We weren't disappointed.

Despite being busted earlier in the evening by the S.F.P.D. for carrying open cans of brew on the street, METALLICA entered the stage at 10:30 sharp and immediately slammed into *Hit the Lights* and the 'eadbanging commenced. Next came the spine-cracker *The Mechanix* and the dark onslaught of *Phantom Lord*.

Their sheer intensity was incredible! Fusing the pile driving madness of MOTORHEAD and VENOM with their own insanity, the band devastated with a non-stop, fast and ultra furious set of Heavy Metal. The superb rhythm section of Lars Ulrich (drums) and Ron McGouney (bass) set the neck-breaking pace, while the searing, precise leads of Dave Mustaine and the rhythm work and outrageous vocals by James Hetfield set the mood.

Following a chorus of requests, the group ripped into the fiery inferno of *Jump in the Fire* and then slowed things down to Mach 10 for their love song, *Motorbreath*. Next they showcased a new song entitled *No Remorse* that shook the dust off the rafters fine. Following was the firestorm that is *Seek & Destroy* and closing the regular set was the ode to rivitheads everywhere, *Metal Militia*.



The already hoarse 'eadbangers down front demanded more and were rewarded with fantastic versions of two DIAMOND HEAD songs, *Am I Evil* and *Prince*. Unfortunately, they then had to relinquish the stage to BITCH, LAHM's answer to a live S&M show.

Upon the completion of METALLICA's act of sonic destruction, The Stone rapidly emptied of those acquainted with BITCH who refused to be subjected to Betsy & Co.'s boring, unimpressive, and unprofessional material and stage presence. I must declare, I was one of those who beat a hasty exit, having witnessed their tedious showing in June (Sorry all you BITCH fans out there).

As for METALLICA, they'll be featured on the *Metal Massacre II* album later this year and then play to lay down tracks for an album of their own. A planned EP was postponed in favor of a complete LP. Those who only know them from the *Hit the Lights* track on *Metal Massacre I* should be informed that this is not a true representation of the band. The song was badly produced and features the old, original line-up of Lars Ulrich, James Hetfield, and former guitarist Lloyd Grant.

By BRIAN LEW