

Anderson (vocals), Craig Locicero (guitar/vocals), Glenn Avelies (guitars/vocals), Matt Camacho (bass/vocals), and Paul Bostaph (drums), and hail from the South Bay Area, San Francisco. Like so many other "Bay Area" bands, these guys really deliver - hell, do they what!!! Strongly influenced by bands such as **Iron Maiden** and **Mercyful Fate**, they lean towards the melodic side of thrash metal, and this is where it's all happening at the moment. You've just got to listen to their track "Chalice Of Blood" to hear how much potential this band has, it's one of the best of this genre of metal you're likely to hear, infact all the songs are bloody superb.

It's real hard to stress how good this band is, they're excellent musicians, they write excellent songs, and still they manage to come out with a sound of their own - and really that's what it's all about. Vocalist Russ Anderson has probably the most to do with giving them their sound, and while in places he may come across a little strange (like on "Follow Me") it's certainly all their for him to make a name for himself - really everything is here to leave no doubt that this band are going to be huge.

Don't be put off by the fact they're influence by **Maiden** etc., in no way is their sound dated, cause if groups like **Testament** slip-up **Forbidden** will be in, and they probably won't even need to slip for it to happen. If you see anything by this band grab it cause this is the best thing since....well, sliced bread's got nothing on these guys!

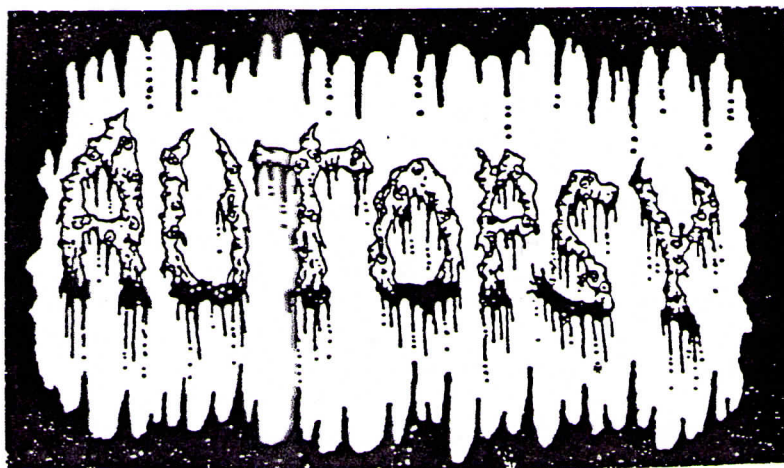
For more info write to:

FORBIDDEN

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PAUL



In most cases after death there's an autopsy - get where I'm coming from? This band features former **Death** drummer Chris Reifert, and yeah the similarities between **Death** and **Autopsy** are pretty apparent, even down to Chris's vocals, he's probably a little more high pitched, but get a load of those growls! That doomy **Death** atmosphere is everywhere here, listen to the way that "Embalmed" finishes and "Mauled To Death" starts. Elsewhere there's more really heavy slow riffing, the power of it is just that immense it just outweighs the band's thrashing. The productions a bit muddy but the guitars grind like no others, and really this is just so heavy. Chris writes most of the music

and the lyrics (which are in true **Death** style) and I think he's right drummer to pull this style of thrash off (obviously!). Guitarist Eric Cutler (who handles some real wild vocals on "Mauled To Death") is very capable, cool solos to, listen to the way he unleashes those real gory sounding notes. The rest of the band is (now) made up of Ken Sorvari on bass, who replaced Eric Eigard who played on the demo, and they have added a second guitarist since the demo, Danny someone (Chris doesn't know how to spell his last name).

Anyway, I needn't tell **Death** fanatics what to do, and there are slightish differences between the bands so this is well worth investigating if you like it totally intense and totally thrash. The tape was recorded almost a year ago now, but send US\$6.00 for this 4 track demo (the other 2 tracks being "Human Genocide" and "Stillborn") and get with it!!!

AUTOPSY

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Shihād

In no uncertain terms **Shihād** is the best metal band in New Zealand (though in all fairness I haven't heard **Anigma**'s new stuff), but more importantly they're the most modern sounding one. Traditionally N.Z. metal bands have been miles behind the times, some still are but this young three piece from Wellington display definite signs of progression as well as varied influences.

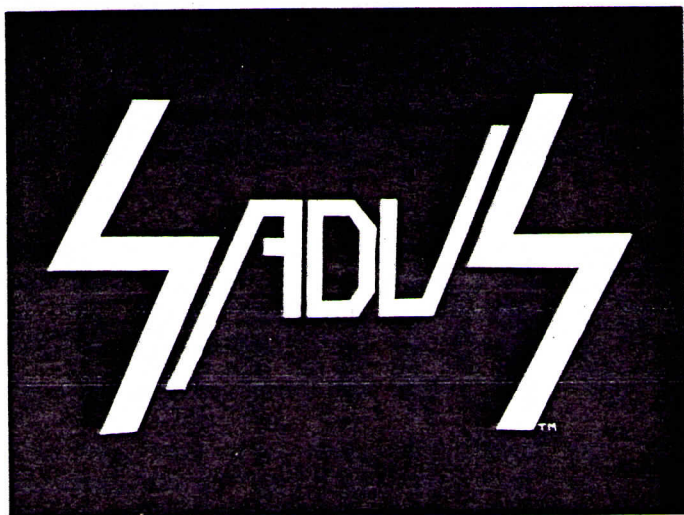
Shihād (which roughly translated means "we listen to a lot of **Metallica** records" HA HA) are made up of Tom Larkin (17) drums, Jon Toogood (16) guitar/vocals, and Phil Knight (15) lead guitar. Like myself, these guys are sick of the old boring style of N.Z. metal and the feedback they've rec'd from their 3 track "DEAD AND BURIED" demo has indicated to them that this is the shot in the arm our metal scene needs. Recorded at Crescendo Studios in Wellington on the 8th and 9th of September this year, the band have benefited well from their 10 hours of recording time and the fact the the engineer, Malcom knew just what kind of sound they wanted. I love the full-on guitar sound, though the drums could be a bit "fatter".

Don't let the age of these guys fool you, they play an intense **Metallica** style with traces of **Onslaught**, **Megadeth**, and the new **Kreator** sound. After the acoustic intro you may yell "**Metallica** clones" but don't be too hasty. There's a lot of cold, steely, melodies and tons of ominously eeiry guitarwork. They don't fall into the misleading trap of out and out speed, instead writing well balanced songs, all 3 songs are really great. Listen to "Tengu", this starts out like **Megadeth** before slipping into some **Kreator** inspired speed. Both "Dead And Buried" and "It" carry heavy **Metallica** influences but still they manage to weave in bits of their own already developing style. Jon's vocals are good, it's apparent in places that he molds himself around James Hetfield,

a little more work on his voice and there's the makings of a strong, forceful vocalist here, at the moment there's a little depth in his vocals but I'd like to see a little more. Both guitarists are certainly adequate, and quite impressive considering their ages.

Jon Toogood writes all the music and Tom helps to arrange it. "It" is based on the Stephen King book by the same name, while "Dead And Buried" is based on Jon's favorite writing topic - revenge. "Tengu" is based on another book (Tom: "We like books!") by the same title written by Graham Masterton. The lyrics are generally good - catchy, but a little cliched in places - nothing really bad though and it isn't too noticeable. The songs are really well put together, they've definitely got their heads screwed on tight!

We'll keep you up-to-date, in the meantime write (or call (04) 753-022) and check these guys out for yourself.



Formed in late 1984 in the Californian Bay Area, **Sadus** consists of Darren Travis (lead guitar/vocals), Steve DiGiorgio (bass), Rob Moore (lead guitar), and Jon Allen (drums). The name **Sadus** does not need to mean anything to anyone except the band and it's music. The band have been going for a while now, getting good reviews, but as yet no record deal. Are they too extreme for some labels to handle? "Probably" says Darren. "We're getting excellent responses now but we've built a name for ourselves."

They have played many gigs all over the West Coast with bands such as **Testament**, **Exodus**, **Dark Angel**, just to name a few of the better shows they've done. "We are headlining now, but lately we gigged with **Dark Angel**."

The band released a very successful demo "D.T.P." which sold around 1000 copies, drawing good worldwide response. Also two demo tracks "Kill Team" and "Twisted Face" were featured on a compilation entitled "RAGING DEATH". This appearance has resulted in label approaches but as Darren says "We are negotiating but labels just aren't willing to give a good deal." Lately the band have been working on getting their LP out. "It was recorded a month ago and should be out in around two months - what label? - we don't know yet! **SADUS RECORDS** or someone big, we're shopping for a

They haven't played any gigs as **Shihad** because Tom says "We have FUCK ALL equipment (except his drums, one amp and a couple of guitars). The demo was done with a couple of borrowed Marshall amps and a whole heap of other borrowed things, so this is holding up our entry onto the pub scene - as well as the fact we're so young."

Anyway, they're pleased with the demo, which unfortunately they've decided not to sell at this stage, but if there is demand for it they'll release it - so you know what to do! A real good band with a lot of potential, and a lot of time as well. **Shihad** - THE NEW GENERATION OF NEW ZEALAND METAL.

Write to:

SHIHAD

C/- Tom Larkin

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cool label as of now."

What songs are on the LP? "Certain Death, Undead, Sadus Attack, Torture, And Then You Die, Hands Of Fate, Twisted Face, Fight Or Die, Illusions, Chemical Exposure." - all which he says are "self explanatory".

Eddie from **Savage Thrust** said underground, total death metal is just going to die out, the only band he can see getting any bigger or making it is **Slayer**. What do you think about this cause **Sadus** would fit that category? "Well we'll never change and most big bands are seeming to change - **Slayer**?"

As far as bands not making it unless they drastically change their style, Darren says "Things are going pretty good - actually - Fuck him anyway!"

"We are going to get our LP out and hit the road so if you want to see us live buy our LP!! Please!"

Their "D.T.P. (Death To Posers)" demo is now completely sold out, but they've got "Twisted Face" shirts for US\$14.00 and with every order there's flyers, stickers, and info, or get 3 stickers for US\$1.00. Write to:

SADUS

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PAUL

