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M. F. A. T's Rating System From Hell!

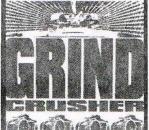
M M M M M − Excellent!!!: A must for all metallers!

IM M M M — Pretty Good!: Great for a party!

M M M − It's Okay!: Worth checking out!

M M − So-So: Try if you dare!

- Total Cheese!!! Avoid at all costs!



GRINDCRUSHER "Various Artists" (Sony)

Better late than never! Sony has finally domesticated an album chock full of the creme de la creme of the grindcore/death metal crop. Available a few months back only on import, Grindcrusher contains, through its selection of acts, many of the vital elements that make this scene so exciting. Napalm Death, Morbid Angel, Bolt Thrower, and Entombed are all present, along with 19 others, making this an essential purchase for those inquisitive buyers just new to this style of music. But, for those who want to

pursue these acts further, it remains to be a teaser 'cause none of the full lengths, from which these tracks are taken, are available domestically, and less than half are available as U.S. imports. But for the Canadian metal scene, and fan, this is a step in the right direction. If this collection of early releases prove to be worthwhile for Canadian labels, we may see more domestic titles of this nature reaching our shores. In the long run, sales of this album could inject life into this scene as a viable music form to Canadian fans, which, in turn, will insure domestic releases at cheaper prices, and more tours. So a double reason to buy this record - great music, and to show your vote of support.

METAL TIM HENDERSON





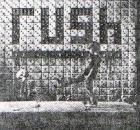
RATI "Ratt & Roll 8191" (Warner / Atlantic)

First off, this is not an obituary for one of L.A.'s finest heavy rock acts. Suddenly, Ratt are NOT breaking up - they are continuing as a four-piece following the departure of guitarist Robbin Crosby. Now we have that cleared up, this is an incredible headbanging-fest of tunes from their self-titled debut EP, right through to their very underrated last album Detonator and includes the track "Nobody Rides For Free" from the Point Break

soundtrack. They're all here, all re-mastered, all ready for you to snatch up. Enuff said, this is a priority buy for any faithful rocker.

METAL TIM HENDERSON





RUSH "Roll The Bones" (Anthem / Sony)

Last year's Presto album was probably the first Rush album in years that I took a real liking to. And seeing them live on that tour really brought home the love and affection for Rush. Simply, they can do no wrong. And on Roll The Bones, I feel they surpass several of their last efforts by the sheer fact that this album is both entertaining and experimental. From the way cool "Ghost Of A Chance" to the catchy title track, to the instrumental "Where's

My Thing", Rush sound like they're rejuvenated — meaning, they're having fun. And, important for me, Alex Lifeson plays a larger role than of late. Rush at its modern best **DREW MASTERS**