

Metallica and Megadeth certainly have interesting histories. Metallica release an album, 'deth copies its style. Take for example the former band's debut 'Kill 'Em All. It's very fast and heavy and Mega match it and even outdo it in speed, with 'Killing Is My Business... and Business Is Good!' The former then release the more sophisticated 'Ride the Lightning, and MD similarly take a musical leap with 'Peace Sells... but Who's Buying'. When Metallica slowed things down with their self titled album, guess who once again mimicked their rivals with 'Countdown to Extinction'? However soon after all that, it was time for 'Tallica to get the their own back. It was they who perhaps copied their enemies with the more commercial 'Load', arguably in response to 'Youthanasia'. Similarly, when Mega decided to go back to their thrash metal roots, it was Metallica who copied them. A bit of a musical cat and mouse thing going on, right?

But which album in MD's career (I've done Metallica) do I review and why? Let's go for 'Countdown', simply because it's cool. Is it better than you know who's same era self-titled work? That's a tough one. Maybe M'talca have the edge over their fellow thrashers in terms of songwriting a tinsy bit, but what can't be denied is Deth's superior musicianship. In particular, Marty Friedman's crazy guitar soloing style that uses all kinds of weird Japanese, Arabic and Western scales. In contrast, Kirk Hammett mainly sticks to minor and minor pentatonic stuff, or Arabic stuff when he's feeling technical. He never really goes music theory wizard on the listener. But is any of that funny? No. So what do I write about in this 'comedy' review, now that I've 'set the scene'?

How about I bring up the fact that the album in discussion was the first recorded with a 'stone sober' Dave Mustaine? (The band leader and one of the guitarists, that is). If he was so level-headed back in that day, how did he come up with the lyrics to the super-mental 'Sweating Bullets'? One could only imagine what the song would have been like if the musician was completely off his face. The tune already says 'bloodstains on my hands and I don't know where I've been'. How can that be any worse? That's horrifying. It makes you wonder if that and prior albums names such as 'Killing Is My Business...' were based on genuine experiences and beliefs. If so, it's quite understandable how Metallica famously fell out with Mustaine.

I'm going to watch a 'KIMB' time Dave interview to see if he really did make money from murdering people before CTTE. Ok, I've watched one from 1984 and he certainly sounds hostile, to say the least but not necessarily homicidal. He probably wasn't. I'm sure he wasn't. Also, do I think that at that point in his life he was crazy enough to believe various ammunitions were leaking out of his skin or anything like that, perhaps inspiring him later? I doubt it, simply because he answered the interviewer's questions with such clarity. If he was out of his mind at the time, the way he hid his mental illness only makes him more terrifying. But then again he's a metal musician, not an easy listening jazz keyboardist. Therefore if he WAS really demented... Good.

However, obviously Dave isn't the only member of his band. Maybe his fellow instrumentalists wrote the lyrics to 'SB'. (They didn't according to Wikipedia). Ok, maybe they wrote the lyrics secretly and 'blamed' them on Mustaine so they didn't look crazy themselves. I shall be doing special research to find out if that is a possibility. That research involves having a look at other interviews. Aha! Proof that

Marty Friedman is crazy, at least. He thought his music was heavier than death metal, according to a Countdown era questioning! I can say with complete confidence that's wrong. Does his misinformed mindset make him dangerous enough to at least fantasise about killing people 'without him remembering', and to blame that on others? In my opinion, yes.

Ok, that's another review over, I hope you've learnt something. Maybe you now want to go out and buy the record. However, if you forget the name of the band and are at your local HMV or whatever, don't ask a staff member there 'do you have any music written by that nutter/those nutters?', as he will most likely direct you to Mayhem's music. Even bands like Guns'n'Roses had members that were a little unhinged. It's 'Megadeth' you want, remember the name, listen to the album and enjoy it. You can thank me later, possibly by buying a copy of my book 'The Danger of Proverbs'. Just a thought. Byeeeeeee. Oh wait, I give the release 10/10. Now  
bye. . . . .