

# BLOODGOOD IN THE MEDIA



Publication: Rip  
 Issue: June 1988  
 Title: Fresh Blood  
 Author: Laurel Fisherman

Mark Welling's pounding drums dominate the prelude to the pure speed-metal climax of the live performance of Christian rockers Bloodgood. Guitarist David Zaffiro and bassist Michael Bloodgood assume their positions onstage. Singer Les Carlsen is offstage, putting on the red-velvet cape and silver-leaf crown that transform him into the biblical character of Pontius Pilate. Once costumed, Les strides center stage authoritively. David and Michael mount two separate sets of stairs leading to seven-foot risers. They ascend, backlit in silhouette. The spotlight comes up on Les and the mini-dramatization from the Gospel of Luke, with metal accompaniment and screaming vocals, ensues.

Midway through, Les becomes the character of Jesus. As a strobe light flashes, Les-as-Jesus is whipped by the head-stock of David's guitar. The voices of Roman soldiers and the mob shouting come over the p.a. system, and David and Michael throw Les around the stage, slapping, kicking and hitting him. After the vocals build, Les once again becomes Pilate. "Take him!" he screams. The music stops cold, the stage blacks out and Bloodgood's "Crucify" comes to its dramatic conclusion.



The message may be salvation, but the medium is loud, unadulterated, hard-driving metal. And, as Michael explains, "A good story is a good story." Bloodgood likes to "give audiences more than just music to remember the band by." They believe "music is a neutral force, and you can put any kind of momentum behind it. Regardless of our words, the music stands on its own. Of course, we're glad when our lyrics have a positive effect on people." On a television call-in talk show in their hometown of Seattle, a teenage girl called in to say how Bloodgood's song "Alone in Suicide" actually saved her from taking her own life.

"We definitely try to have something there for every metalhead," Michael says. "Our fans aren't necessarily Christians, and we don't play just to stroke ourselves. The audiences are what get us off. The row-dier they are, the more we like it! Our attitude is, 'Hey, we know you came here to have fun; so we're gonna' have fun!'"

Last year Bloodgood had nine months of fun touring the U.S., Canada and Europe. Their Detonation album recently got picked up for distribution by Capitol. All the basic tracks on the LP were recorded live, to preserve the feel of Bloodgood's stage show. Currently, they are in preproduction for their next album and planning another European tour. "When we play," says David, "we put everything we have into it. We'll rock you, we'll blow your face off with the music and won't hold back." Amen.