Book probes heavy metal genre

AP — Heavy metal records consistently sell well, but the musical genre is much maligned and misunderstood.

Bands like Metallica, Skid Row, Guns N' Roses and Def Leppard have had albums make their debut at No. 1 on the Billboard charts in the last two years. Still, heavy metal draws the fire of such disparate detractors as the Parents Music Resource Center, the Parent-Teacher Association, fundamentalist religious and critic Lester Bangs.

And while Bangs and others note how the music is associated with violence, aggression, suicide, sexual perversion, alcohol and drug abuse and Satanism, heavy metal counts legions of fans.

In her book, "Heavy Metal: A Cultural Sociology," sociologist Deena Weinstein attempts to unravel the myths, misconceptions and truths about metal.

A professor at DePaul University in Chicago, Weinstein said she tried hard to maintain her objectivity. But as she pointed out: "What would objective be — saying that it's half devil-worship and half not? There's no real middle ground to take any 'mealy-mouthed center on.'"

The book takes a detailed look at heavy metal — its history, fans, dress code, the artists and themes prevalent in the lyrics. It discusses metal's detractors on the left and the right, the metal media and the phenomenon of the metal concert.

While writing the book, she would test her theories on fans, bands and record-industry people to make sure her interpretations were on track.

"I really wanted to write a scholarly book, not a fan's book," she said. "I'm into postmodernism theoretically, and one of its major tenets is that people don't have the same reading (of things). So I tried to get what a fan's reading would be and what the industry('s) and the artists' (reading would be)."

The term "heavy metal" has various origins. Bangs popularized the term in his writings for Creem and Rolling Stone in the 1970s, but the term was also used in William S. Burroughs' story "The Heavy Metal Kid" and in Steppenwolf's song "Born to Be Wild."

Weinstein credits two British bands, Led Zeppelin and Black Sabbath, for being the pioneers of metal and calls England its birthplace.

Heavy metal music, Weinstein said, has three dimensions — sonic, verbal, and visual — and its lyrics fall into two categories — Dionysian themes and themes of chaos.

Metal bands can also be categorized into "lite" metal (Poison, Def Leppard), "classic" metal (Judas Priest, Iron Maiden) and "thrash-death" metal (Metallica, Slayer).

Dionysian lyrics deal with romance and sexual pleasure and the gratification found in intoxication and in the music itself, topics most beloved by the "lite" groups.

Lyrics dealing with chaos are more prevalent in thrash and classic metal and deal with "the absence or destruction of relationships, which can run from confusion, through various forms of anomaly, conflict, and violence, to death."

The typical heavy metal fan is a young, white, blue-collar male.

Even though he's commonly known as a "burnout" in school, he's an astute critic of the music and often highly knowledgeable about a band's history — no different, she said, than what "a very elite classical music audience" member is able to do.

Metal and its fans will never be hip or cool, according to Weinstein. The working class has never been hip, nor do people see them as hip. They are "retreatists from the political scene and that's not hip either," she said.

So music, particularly heavy metal, gives these people an area in which they can show their expertise and get esteem from other people, Weinstein said.

"They (metal fans) don't have any faith in school, or their parents, or the mass media, or religion to give them wisdom, and so all of the major institutions of society seem not to have anything to say to them," she said.

"They see metal as a place where wisdom and goodness, where true beauty and power, all come together."

That fan profile, Weinstein believes, is the basis behind the criticism leveled at metal.

"If heavy metal was beloved by people with college degrees who are good, upstanding members of the community with small children, then I think it would have a very different kind of criticism," she said. "Partly by damning metal, what they're doing is damning the kids."

"Heavy Metal: A Cultural Sociology," published Lexington Books, an imprint of Macmillan, Inc., has a suggested retail price of $24.95.

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Deena Weinstein

-On the Town-

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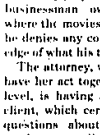

LeANNE ROGERS

A pornographic movie producer gets the tar beaten out of him by the irate father of a teenage "actress" in the opening scenes of the thriller "Defenseless." The battered man and his assailant both disappear, serving as red herrings as the plot unwinds.

Barbara Hershey is an attorney representing the wealthy businessman who is being sued over the production of the pornographic movies. Smarmily played by J.T. Walsh, the businessman owns the building where the movies were made though he denies any connection or knowledge of what his tenants were doing.

The attorney, who clearly doesn't have her act together on a personal level, is having an affair with her client, which certainly raises some questions about her professional conduct as well. He's "married in name only." Sure, and the check is in the mail.

To further complicate matters, Hershey runs into her best pal from college, played by Mary Beth Hurt, who happens to be married to Walsh. That leads to an incredibly awkward dinner with the couple and their teenage daughter in their gleaming white house.

Breaking off her relationship with Walsh, Hershey stops by his office after hours the next evening. When she discovers he has also lied to her about his involvement with the pornographic movies, she explodes and wails on him.

After she realizes she ran off without her keys, Hershey returns to find the businessman has been murdered.

The irate father is a good suspect but the dead man's wife turns out to be an even better suspect. Hershey, a material witness to the murder, is able to overcome that conflict by means the audience never sees and ends up representing Hurt on murder charges.

From there, the movie goes into a plot reminiscent of "Jagged Edge." I won't reveal who murdered the businessman but by this point it's pretty obvious.

Just about everyone in this picture is screwed up in some manner. I've never seen a film with so many characters whose lives are in shambles. Hershey sort of sums her character up with a comment that she often does things without thinking. That's kind of an understatement and lands her in some deep trouble. I have to give the movie credit for showing Hershey as a competent, if not somewhat gullible attorney. She even dresses like a working attorney, no skintight leather suits.

The most interesting character in the movie, although none are really examined to much depth, is a detective played by Sam Shepard. This guy is sly he is always watching and digging, piecing things together. He uses a certain amount of personal bonding in trying to get what he wants, which is the truth about the murder.

You, and Hershey, can't be sure if he's taking a personal or professional interest in the lawyer. Watch for the scene when the two talk in a car after she has gotten a few licks in while cross examining him. There's a lot of stuff going on.

I've seen better suspense films than "Defenseless" but I've also seen a whole lot worse. If you can overlook some of its clumsier plot devices, it's enjoyable.

"Denfenseless" is available on video cassette at your local video store.

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620 Men Seeking Women

ACTIVE, ambitious, trim 31 white professional male looking for late female friend 24-30. Concerts, music, outdoors, fun times, seeking person with same qualities. ☎ 44128

AFFLUENT, white, gregarious business man, boater, non drinker/smoker, 59, degreed, seeks sharp, youthful, functioning under 45 female of good character. ☎ 44093

ASIAN/ American, educated hard-working gentleman, seeks woman below 40, independently living single, children OK. No drugs. For Companionship and friendship. ☎ 44125

A TAKE CHARGE ROMANTIC: 39, tall, dark, handsome, dominant white male, seeks attractive female for dining, movies, theatre, friendship, passion. Answer all/W ☎ 44056

ATTRACTIVE SCIENCE professional, white, 38, 5'11", 200lbs, has good sense of humor, down to earth, seeks soul mate, 25-38 for summer romantic eyes. Race irrelevant. ☎ 44069

ATTRACTIVE single white male, 5'10", nice guy, 37, 150 lbs. Seeks slender attractive white female, 21-35 for quiet nights, romance, talk companionship, etc. ☎ 44051

ATTRACTIVE 32 yr old 5'5", caring with a sense of humor, seeks a female 30-40 who enjoys children, sports, quiet evenings, for an honest relationship & more. ☎ 44121

BORN AGAIN CHRISTIAN male, 38 yrs old, 6'2", 250 lbs self employed seeks slim female with Christian beliefs 34-38. Must be family & work motivated. ☎ 44079

CARING, NICE, fun, humorous, intelligent, attractive white & out, white, young 37, 5'7", 160-lbs seeks working out buddy, movies, companionship. Seeks attractive, fit caring partner. ☎ 44086

CARING, SINCERE 5'9", 185lbs, 44 yrs, white jewish male seeking long term companion. No drugs, no manipulators. Must have a passion for life. 37-45 kids OK. ☎ 44019

CLEAN CUT 27 yr old male interested in outdoors activities, movies, quiet evenings, looking for friendship with female 22-35 to develop this friendship. ☎ 44107

DIVORCED BLACK Male 30, attractive, honest, fun loving, interested in good movies, concerts. Seeking sincere, honest, good looking woman 25-40. Race no barrier. ☎ 44037

DIVORCED white male, attractive 27, 6', seeks attractive woman, 21-32. Enjoy sports, movies, dining, quiet evenings. Inspiring country singer. ☎ 44091

DIVORCED WHITE MALE, 5'6", 155 lbs 44 yrs young degreed, professionally employed, homeowner, seeks trim, warm-hearted lady under 35 to share interest in racquet sports, fitness, dancing, theatre, music, reading. If you can live, love & laugh call. ☎ 44065

DIVORCED, 32, white handsome WM custody of 2 great kids & B 10 $-10 physically fit, non-smoker. Professional home owner. Canton Corridor. Intelligent, progressive, sincere, honest. Varied interests. Seeking slim, attractive, energetic, professional woman, 25-37. ☎ 44119

DOCTOR Castlerine professional divorced white male seeks non smoking, non drinking female 25-52 who is attractive, sensitive, gentle, honest, humorous - just like me! ☎ 44037

FEELINGS must passion - spiritual words that describe 50 year old single white man who enjoys life. Looking for friend, lover & spiritual committed partner. ☎ 44067

FUN LOVING black male 5'8", 160lbs mid 40's honest, romantic educated intelligent positive seeking sincere lady, 30-40 warm fun and no drugs clean. ☎ 44065

GOOD LOOKING attractive 24 year old white male 5'8" 150 lbs health oriented, non-smoker, likes sports, movies, dinner etc. Looking for a fun fun fun! ☎ 44022

GOOD LOOKING rugged yet gentle outdoors man seeks that blue eyed 5'-7" trim 115 lbs successful professional. Late 20's. Would appreciate a sweet lady. ☎ 44098

HANDSOME EXECUTIVE Aryan/Caucasian late 40's, trim & slim, good health, intelligent, seeks pretty degreed professional lady. ☎ 44083

HANDSOME, Muscular 5'11", 175, 32, non smoker, traditional values, never married, honest, ambitious, likes exercise, conversation, monogamy, seeking petite, under 5'4" woman 22-32. ☎ 44102

LAST AMERICAN VIRGIN! Young, successful, attractive attorney, 5'8 145lbs searching for slim fair maiden 20-27 with traditional family values. Romance, commitment, marriment & fun are guaranteed with the right person. ☎ 44064

620 Men Seeking Women

INTERESTED in meeting a neat guy? I'm 32, nice, attractive, & easy going. I enjoy boating, music, moonlight walks & adventures. Seeking attractive female, 23-35. ☎ 44111

IS THERE AN ATTRACTIVE, slender 22-35 year old, single or divorced white female out there who would like to meet a handsome single male? ☎ 44118

MACHUS to MacDonald's. Hamtramck to Hedelberg, Bloomfield to Vatarik, SW with MsT in so, this 53 year old white engineer, no dependents, 5'10" muscular build, blond hair, blue eyes, honest, educated, whom enjoys dining out, travelling, partying, drinking beer, seeks the progressive realization of a F + with similar interests. ☎ 44133

MARVELOUS MARV, 5'8", 175 lbs seeking outgoing sensitive humorous caring women 38-53 non smoker for romantic relationship. I am easy going. ☎ 44043

NICE GUY, 28, white, tall, slim, professional, enjoys sports, movies, concerts, travel, quiet times, social dining etc, non-smoker seeks slim 22-28 female similar interests. ☎ 44014

NICE LOOKING white male, 25 yrs., 5'9", 160 lbs. Interests music, sports, outdoor concerts, dancing. Seeking attractive white female 21-29 with same interests. ☎ 44085

Professional 27-athletic-intelligent-honest-sensitive, seeks smart-pretty female 24-30, non-smoker, who's good company with sports-movies & ready for relationship. ☎ 44052

SAVED BLACK 36 year old sport loved Christian male seeks a sport loved female for friendship, fellowship & fun. ☎ 44078

SINGLE male 40, financially secure, tall, slim & handsome, home owner. Likes dancing, kids, swimming & gardening, would like to meet attractive female 20-30. ☎ 44141

SINGLE white male 35, no dependents, enjoys some sports, movies, dining out, quiet evenings at home. Looking for good hearted woman for possible relationship. ☎ 44075

SINGLE, white male, 27, 6'3", 230 pds looking for white female, 21-45, for monogamous relationship. Must be honest, a non-smoker, marriage minded & enjoys life. ☎ 44060

SINGLE White male 35, handsome humorous, 5'8", 170 lbs resembles Robin Williams. Amateur comic. "I'm ready to commit" Seeking petite but buxom white female 25-40 under 130 lbs that is professional & have sense of humor. ☎ 44097

SINGLE white male, 40, handsome, italian, 5'9", 155, looking for petite, nice looking, good hearted female, 26-42, for possible relationship. ☎ 44094

SINGLE white male, 38, thoughtful, quiet, 5'10, 175, successful business owner, would like to meet attractive woman, 25-45, with wide range of interests. ☎ 44127

SINGLE white male 35, Polish Catholic, self employed, looking for nice female, 25-38. Like festivals, bowling, motorcycling and the country on weekends. ☎ 44123

SPECIAL 24 year old white male 5'8", works but ridiculously hard, smoker, college educated, likes adventure, romance & the great outdoors. Looking for someone similar. ☎ 44077

SPONTANEOUS, Zany, irreverent at times. If J. Detmit Services, Inc. as a happens strikes your funny bone this single white male, 35 could cast? ☎ 44143

TALL THIN WOMAN (24-35). A tall (6') attractive gentleman 175, 33, handsome, disease professional (MS) never married. Enjoys movies, theatre, travel. Seeks a long lasting relationship. ☎ 44070

TALL 30 yr. fit, dynamic, Christian, professional who enjoys outdoor activities. Desires lady 20-30 to build good, honest relationship. Non-smoker/drug-drinker. ☎ 44103

VERY HANDSOME professional black male 27 wishes to meet slim attractive woman 24-41 any race I enjoy concerts, movies, swimming etc. Must be humorous. ☎ 44104

WHITE male 29, 5'10", tired of game players open minded, honest, good listener. Likes cuddling, sports. Up North. You? Non-materialistic set. Loose, non-smoking, romantic 5'10 or under weight proportionate 22-35 yrs. ☎ 44056

WHITE MALE, 32, 5'10", 180 never married no children. Working for public utility. Likes fishing, going up Canton. ☎ 44131

29 YEAR OLD single black male looking for honest relationship with attractive woman who seeks romance, fun and enjoys the outdoors & indoors. ☎ 44095

621 Women Seeking Men

ALWAYS "UP", 42 yrs, sensuous full figured woman loves to camp seeks camp, humorous man for stimulating relationship. No moody couch potatoes please! ☎ 44084

ATTRACTIVE, black female, 5'7", size 14, enjoys movies, concerts, comedies, & talking. Seeks trim, professionally employed, nonsmoking, drug free male, age 28-40 for friendship. ☎ 44062

ATTRACTIVE black female, 52, looking for that special someone who enjoys the simple things in life. If interested please give me a call. ☎ 44012

ATTRACTIVE, black female 24, pre dependent. Loves dancing & sports. Seeks single male 30-50, 6 ft. & over for friendship. Divorced dad, Race no barrier. ☎ 44024

ATTRACTIVE bundle of joy, 45, 5'7" black female, sm not thin, seeks a gentleman 40-60 who enjoys a fuller sized woman & doesn't mind showing it. Shall we talk? ☎ 44045

ATTRACTIVE divorced white female 24, no children, 5'8" seeking tall professional, male 24-30 who enjoys country music, dancing, romance & love for the moment. ☎ 44106

ATTRACTIVE FULL figured but nicely proportioned white female 29, self employed seeks single white male 29-38, 5'9 or taller for friendship and dating. ☎ 44049

ATTRACTIVE, Spiritual, Black Female, 40, 5'3", trim, seeking friendship with professional 45-55 who loves life, God and people. All races considered beautiful. ☎ 44100

ATTRACTIVE, 40ish, white female, full figured & fun loving, seeks a romantic, smoking man, 35 plus for dating & companionship. ☎ 44061

BLACK FEMALE, very attractive, 30 years old seeking professional gentleman with sense of humor. ☎ 44145

BLACK FEMALE, 22 yrs old, 5'3", 115 lbs, looking for single male, 25-45, with fun in mind. No long term commitment please. ☎ 44119

BLACK JEWEL, mid 40's seeking stable honest fun loving male. Likes travel, golf, boating, fishing, theater. No race barrier. ☎ 44050

BORN AGAIN, divorced, attractive, intelligent, white female, 50, with good job, active in Baptist church looking for same in a non-smoking gentleman 45-55. ☎ 44062

Cosmopolitan, Stellar blond. Business exec., great conversationalist, good listener. Loves tennis, boating, Mozart & Rock 'n Roll, seeks funny counterpart 35-50. ☎ 44118

DIVORCED black female, pretty, tall, full figured, 39, loves to laugh, loves life, seeks a gentleman of substance, a 1-woman man, 38-55, to build a solid foundation. ☎ 44041

DIVORCED, full figured white Libra female, 48, empty life, daughter, family & friends, seeks secure white male, 40 plus with same values. ☎ 44023

DIVORCED WHITE FEMALE 38, 5'8", athletic, fit with intelligence & humor, enjoys concerts, plays, art, good food, for secure, caring man 32-45 to share friendship possibly more. ☎ 44076

DIVORCED white female 36, likes country music, football, baseball, Eddie Money & Bob Seger, seeks friend to develop a long lasting relationship. ☎ 44109

DO NORMAL MEN EXIST? Successful 29 yr old seeking fabulous man 29-32, must be 6ft +, honest, ambitious, athletic. I'm 5'10 dark blonde green eyed model. ☎ 44096

FUN,LOVING, attractive 32 yr old woman seeks male 30-35. Physical fitness dancing, movies, theatre, etc. Must be honest & willing to build lasting relationship. ☎ 44126

FUN,LOVING white 42 yr old, seeks white male, 40+, enjoys walking, sports, sense of humor. Up North but go home? Seeking outdoor type country music. ☎ 44122

HELLO You big tall hunk of man I'm beautiful, sweet, voluptuous, full figured & fun I enjoy sports, outdoors, kindness & smiles. I'm employed, educated & outgoing. ☎ 44037

IM DIVORCED 46 year old white female looking for nice guy, romantic, similar age, who is a good dancer to all music (likes to sing). enjoys the outdoors. ☎ 44038

IN YOUR DREAMS I'm what you are looking for. Sensitive, caring and spontaneous 40 yr old white lady seeks sincere gentleman 38-48 for possible relationship. ☎ 44002

OUTGOING divorced white female 38, blonde, full figured, 1 teenager, seeking fun loving employed white attractive woman who seeks romance, dinner for companionship/relationship. ☎ 44054

621 Women Seeking Men

NEW IN TOWN, single, white female, 32, petite, 5'3", auburn hair, hazel eyes, very attractive professional, enjoys walking, swimming, biking, camping, anything new, looking for a 50 something single white male to make this summer fun. ☎ 44091

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PHYSICIAN WANTED warm, sensitive, attractive, unopposed, for pretty blue eyed blonde 5'8", 125, divorced 42, bright, warm. Interests: psychology. Waiting Uncle's one. ☎ 44114

PRETTY Catholic Teacher 41, white 4'10" petite. Enjoys outdoors, dogs, sports. Seeks professional, white, non-smoking, never married male with similar interests. ☎ 44132

PRETTY, SENSUOUS single white female wants to meet a classy, successful man, 50-60 for a fun & serious relationship. This bright blonde, professional in 5'3", slim, educated with personality & charm is a delight to be with. ☎ 44041

SLIGHTLY Overweight single white female, 23, seeks non-smoking single white male 20-30 for fun, love & romance leading to marriage & a family. ☎ 44064

SWEET, SLIM beautiful blond seeks handsome, fit, refined gentleman. Call only if life-partner material. Dynamic, get fun loving, 47 ish, degreed, clubbed, travelled. ☎ 44087

VERY ATTRACTIVE, divorced professional, non-smoker white female 5'5", slim brunette early 50 s looks late 30's, outgoing, seeking the white male 40-63 professional business type, attractive, 5'8" taller, sense of humor, kind, romantic. ☎ 44054

VERY ATTRACTIVE 46 year old, seeking professional, gentle man with sense of humor. ☎ 44129

WARM, outgoing, intelligent, confident, slim, attractive, 45, 5'6" blond enjoys people, arts, films, travel, outdoors. Seeks enthusiastic, educated woman of same qualities & similar. Opt. Open communication essential. ☎ 44046

WHITE FEMALE WIDOW, 30, brunette, 5'4", slim, one son (5). Enjoy the outdoors in many aspects. Have variety of music tastes, cooking, easy to laugh. Enjoys difference in others & good conversation. Seeking male with a positive personality (28-35 yrs.) ☎ 44099

WHITE FEMALE, 42, looking for male 35-45 who likes movies, auto racing, bowling, travel. Become friends first then - who knows! Light social drinker. ☎ 44082

45 YEAR old working widow, seeks long term relationship with male companion, 45-65, from Plymouth Canton area, who enjoys dining out, travel movies, baseball, cooking & quiet walks by the lake. Professionally employed. Well traveled. Baltic to Barbados, we read. Likes most sports. Wish to meet take person. ☎ 44089

622 Sports Interests

TALL HANDSOME divorced white male, 38, bright creative honest, optimistic, humorous. Seeking attractive, sensuous, classy babe who enjoys tennis, billiards, dancing & play time. ☎ 44120

WHITE MALE, educated professional, 5'11", 45, seeks individual female who doesn't mind a guy who plans ahead in fear, but around in tears. ☎ 44117

623 Seniors

CLASSY, attractive, sincere, young at heart, non-smoker, blond, single white female seeking handsome tall caring, fun loving single white male age 63-75. ☎ 44068

STRAWBERRY BLONDE, 5'4", trim non-drinking/smoking, 62 seeks Christian from Bloomfield Hills around, enjoy meeting gentleman friend early 60's in auto. ☎ 44090

624 Travel Companions

SINGLE, Classy 65 year middle type female, informed, creative, sensitive, warm, personable, spirited, charming, carefree, financially secure, seeks looking for "the" most sought after bachelor. ☎ 44124

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