



Nevada Beach

Courtesy of Metal Blade

## 'Zero' jumps, falters, speeds

By Cinda Timperley  
Staff Reporter

Nevada Beach  
'Zero Day'  
Metal Blade Records

Great guitar gods, it's an AC/DC wanna-be.

Nevada Beach, hailing from the New England area where rocky beaches are and Nevada is not, is the latest band to hit the metal scene.

The quartet jump starts its debut album "Zero Day," with the powerful "Rough House." Grinding chords from Hank Decken's lead guitar combine with his snarling vocals to gun the mood for the entire platter. Then he turns absolutely evil when he whines through "Waiting for an Angel," in the style of AC/DC's Brian Johnson.

Leading the mélange of sound is Geoff Safford on guitar, supported by John Murphy on drums, and a clean and simple bass line à

la Tony Rivers.

"On Zero Day" is a spooky, crunching picture painted with heavy guitars depicting a post-apocalyptic world where politics and greed have as equal a chance at survival as does anything else. Nevada Beach then crashes through "Action Reaction."

"Only the Fool," co-written by Bob Halligan Jr. and Hank Decken,



is a shadowy lament about a broken heart—a man kicking himself in the shins for leaving his lady.

Besides being an adept guitarist, Decken also proves he can write. Except for "Only the Fool," he penned all the verses for this mighty concoction.

But lyrics such as "Are you lis-

tening/Or have your cars gone blind/ We're not talking about the world of TV crime," from "Stand" indicate that there is always room for improvement.

"Back for Blood" starts out with pounding drums and vicious guitars, promising an auditory assault from side two. Nevada Beach continues the pummeling onslaught through "Walking Dead" and "Stand."

The band loses speed—only momentarily—on "Big Zero," but it is enough to dampen the energy of side two. "Zero Day" concludes with "Gagged and Bound," a fast-paced metal thrasher that reclaims the punch that opened the album.

Nevada Beach has the potential of becoming a powerful force in the '90s. The band could grab today's rock 'n' roll by its big hair and drag it back to its ass-kicking feet. But Nevada Beach also balances on the edge of being pigeon-holed with the rest of the "Head-banger's Ball" circuit.

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