

LIVE AT THE CROWBAR: HARDCORE MAYHEM



Story By Justin Anthony Lutz
Photos By Steven Shearer



I had ticket number 146 secure in my pocket while standing in a long line on a cold evening, April 17, 2001. The show took place at the Crowbar located in State College. The doors opened at 8:00 p.m. The Hope Conspiracy opened the show, followed by Death by Stereo and then Boy Sets Fire. Sick of It All was the headlining band.

The Hope Conspiracy took the stage around 8:30 p.m., and put the audience in a headlock and didn't let go until the final note. Their set was fast and furious with heavy guitar riffs, angry bass tones, thunderous drums and destructive vocals. The pit was moving like a chaotic ocean.

Next, Death by Stereo gripped up the crowd with Van Halen-influenced guitar sounds and metal riffs, a belting bass, magnificent drum beats and angry vocals with meaningful lyrics. They got the crowd moving, moshing and cheering.

Next, Boy Sets Fire came out and got the audience moving and thrashing by starting off with the song "Rise." Everyone was yelling along with the chorus, "Where's your f---ing anger? Where's your f---ing rage?" You could feel the anger, the discontent, the rage.

Finally, Sick of It All took the stage and laid down the law.

They are New York hardcore's finest with fast, hardcore punk guitar riffs, blistering bass tones, ripping drum beats and eardrum-damaging vocals. They represent and express anger and hatred to the fullest level as well as the other bands on the bill. The audience loved it and seemed to be eager for more and more and more.

If you missed the show, then I recommend you find out when any of these bands are playing again and go. It's an experience you don't want to miss.

I'm glad I went.