

verbicide

THE ORANGEBURG MASSACRE

"Moorea" – Pluto/East West – CD

Named after the Orangeburg Massacre, the infamous altercation in 1968 of the same name, the band lyrically ensures their listeners are exposed to the horrible truths of February 8th. Two hundred protestors stormed the campus of South Carolina State University to voice their frustration on segregation issues at a local bowling alley. Excessive force was used by state patrol officers, killing three and wounding 27. While many feel that this incident has taken a back seat to other similar events in history, it's apparent that the guys of The Orangeburg Massacre haven't forgotten. *Moorea* is emotional, passionate, powerful, and best of all, loud. Some bands get slammed for expressing their political views or writing songs about human-induced disaster and other such things, but I like something a little smarter, well thought out, and, dare I say, educational. Thankfully, Brandon Barron's raspy, raw screaming vocals are not lyrics of little importance; the lyrical content of each song on *Moorea* actually has purpose and tells a story. The Orangeburg Massacre have a distinctive knack for alternating tempos and loud and soft dynamics that make these songs sound relatively fresh and even just a little bit exciting. By halfway through this album, the listener feels sufficiently justified in expecting that further listening won't simply be more-of-the-same as if surprises could be lurking around the next corner. I would definitely recommend checking out *Moorea* if you're into any brand of metal whose suffix is "core". (Jenny Carter) (Pluto Records, PO Box 1201, McKinney, TX 75070)