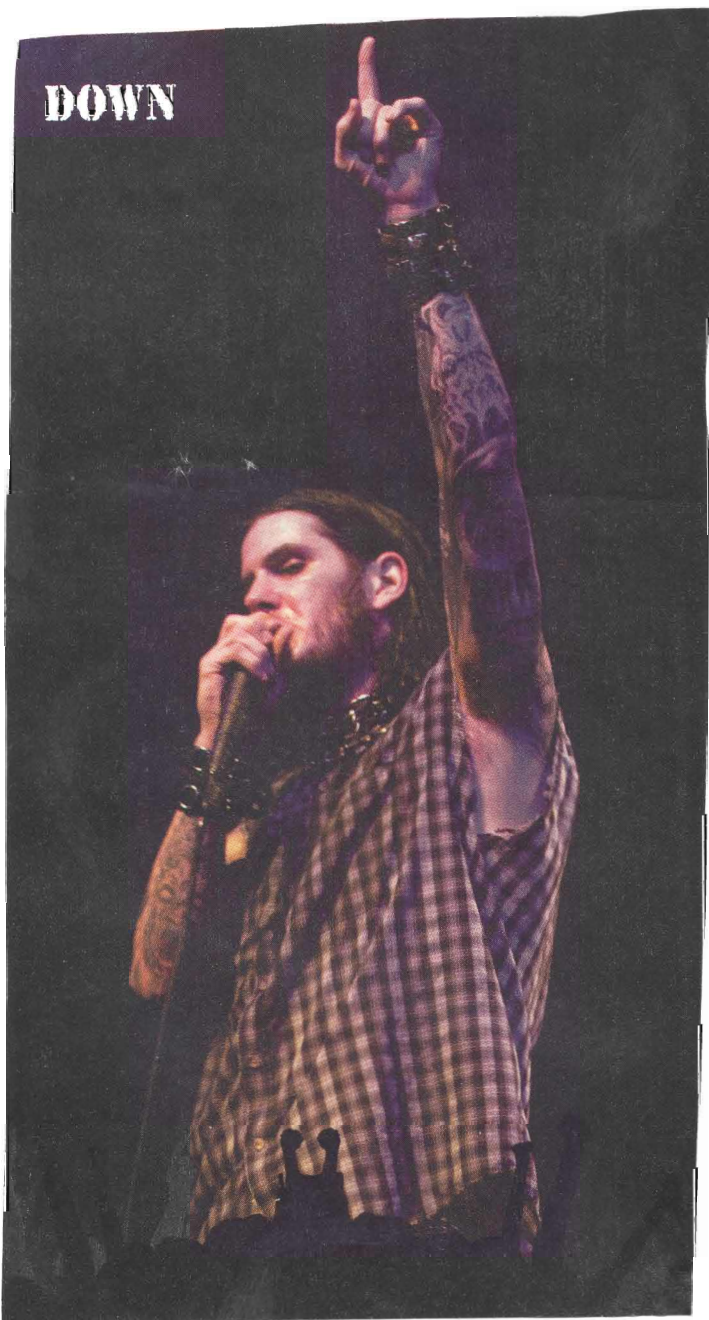


HIT PARADER

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77. DOWN:

Life is mighty sweet these days for the veteran rockers in Down. With its members now all apparently healthy, clean and sober (quite an accomplishment for this legendarily hard-partying crew) it seems as if 2008 is shaping up as a great year to get down with Down. For vocalist Philip Anselmo (ex-Pantera), guitarist Pepper Keenan (Corrosion of Conformity), bassist Rex Brown (ex-Pantera), guitarist Kirk Windstein (Crowbar) and drummer Jimmy Bower (Eyehategod), the success of *Over The Under*, their third disc—and first in five years—reaffirms the belief they've long held in the brand of guitar-heavy, wall-shaking music they favor. And their recent tours (which included opening spots on Heaven and Hell's initial road outing) have won rave reviews from everyone who has witnessed them. While initially the strident sounds made by Down both on their new album and on-stage, may seem somewhat out-of-place in these unpredictable metal times, the fact is that this supergroup's Sabbath-inspired approach, and '70s-styled recording techniques have introduced a new generation of headbangers to hard rock's gloriously down-and-dirty roots.