## **CAUTION! Metal Surface** Next 10,000km

Interview **BRUCE DICKINSON** IRON MAIDEN

One day last year, a postcard fluttered to the floor as another bag of letters, press releases and final demands were tipped out of the mailbag at the office. Addressed personally to the editor, the message on the back of the card read: "The Iron Maiden World Tour starts here ... August 9, 1984 ... Powerslave is

Now, more than nine months later, the Iron Maiden World Tour rolls around to the Antipodes. Powerslave the record got here long ago, but Powerslave the tour just made it. Maiden singer Bruce Dickinson calls up from Australia for The Interview; he's got the edge of man-of-

## **EXTENDS EP VALUE!**





Iron Maiden: Dave Murray (guitar), Clive Burr (drums), Bruce Dickinson (vocals), Adrian Smith (guitar), Steve Harris (bass)

the-world working class sophistication to his voice that seems common to heavy metal singers and always at odds with the requisite high-register howl that is the singing. A good sort of bloke who knows what he thinks.

Yeah, the postcard was marked "Warsaw, Poland". Warsaw, Poland?

"I can think of worse places to play, from quite a few points of view. People want to know whether the political thing over there made any difference and as far as I could see, no, not really. Because the kids over there are basically just like rock fans the world over. And there were no restrictions put on the band as far as what we

could say or do, on or off stage."

And there was no problem with getting permission to play in the first place?

"No — obviously our agents handled that but they really invited us in there. They wanted a rock band and ended up with us.

There seem to be a few bands playing behind the Iron Curtain these days.

Yeah, it's opening up, particularly countries like Hungary which is very Westernised now, they're starting to get a consumer economy and things like that. And people want to hear music."

Where do you most enjoy touring? Still on home soil?

"Yeah, England. That's why we always do three or four weeks in England every year, when it

would be very easy to do five or six big shows. We still do 20 shows every year in England, in the small theatres. It's sort of like charging up the old mental batteries, I always enjoy touring England. I enjoy touring the States because it's, y'know, very big and there's the huge arenas and stuff and you get a kick out of seeing so many thousand people go wally. But I enjoy the other places — I love Australia and this is going to be my first time in New Zealand so we'll see how it goes, I'm really looking forward to it. It's like a home away from home, you see. Because we've been on the road in America and it's daft things that you miss like a decent cup of tea, a decent sausage or

cheese. You can't get that sort of thing there."

What with the English tours and more or less an album a year for the last few years, Maiden would seem to be a very dependable band for

Yeah. Since Number of the Beast it has been about an album a year - probably one every 14 months, but there has been a 10 month tour slotted in between. So we've been working very hard for the last three or four years. So what we're going to do now is a live album, which should give a us a little bit of leeway and we can take a little CONTINUED ON PAGE 16



