



CHRIS POLK / Associated Press

The Crue was here in 2006, and who knows if they're a band anymore, but they'd sure make it fun.



JAE C. HONG /Associated Press

If you think Judas Priest wouldn't burn the FeverFest grounds down, you've got another thing comin'.



Courtesy

The band enjoyed its widest acclaim in the '90s, but most metalheads are devotees of '80s Metallica.



JOSH KESSLER / Beyond Music

Anthrax would probably be the punkiest-sounding of the lineup — hard, fast and edgy.



E.J. FLYNN / Associated Press

July in Oklahoma is hot and sticky. What better way to cool things off than a "Blizzard of Ozz"?



JOHN D. MCHUGH /Associated Press

Lemmy and Motorhead in Pryor-freaking-Oklahoma? Please, oh, please, oh, please, oh, please, oh ...

Twinkle, twinkle metal stars

Here's a wish-list for the lineup at 2008 edition of Rocklahoma

By **MATT ELLIOTT**
World Scene Writer

I wish I may, I wish I might, have this my Rocklahoma wish tonight. Let the doubters dine on a meal of crow. The inaugural edition of the festival drew a horde of rock fans to that massive metal stage north of Pryor for four days of bombast. Festival organizers had estimated that about 30,000 people a day would show up, and for the peak days of the festival, July 13-15, that estimate appeared to be true. Next year is already being planned. Organizers are looking into bringing everyone from Def Leppard to Judas Priest — bands they tried to get this year. That got me thinking. Leather-sporting visions began dancin' in my still-throbbing head, visions of 1,000 dexterous guitarists soloing, feathered hairflying, pointy guitars gleaming, drum sets thundering, mile-high amps smoking and flicked Bic lighters burning like a candlelight vigil for rock. If the '80s metal/rock trend were to continue next year, here's my recipe for a show strong enough and loud enough blow us all back to the Stone Age.

Iron Maiden

Oh dear God, please let me see Maiden before I go deaf. I don't care about its latest album, last year's "A Matter of Life and Death." I want the band that put out "Powerslave." What better time is there than these sordid days of strife to hear cuts from 1984's epic concept album deyring the horrors of war? Maiden sold over 80 million records doing things like putting Samuel Taylor Coleridge's "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner" to music — the whole poem. Singer Bruce Dickinson, although vocally no longer the air-raid siren of his early years, is back with the band as is guitarist Adrian Smith. Up the irons! Please?

Judas Priest

The Priest. Is. Back. And Rob Halford at 55 is still the main reason to catch this band. I don't care if the English quintet looks like Spinal Tap. I've seen it twice, and each time, metal's Renaissance men put on a down-right majestic performance that wiped the floor with bands 30 years younger. The band has been doing it for more than 30 years and has sold millions of records, doing some of its best (and alternately worst — let us not forget "Turbo Lover") work in the 1980s. They wrote such songs as "Living After Midnight" and "You've Got Another Thing Coming," singles that won massive radio play. And the Priest's latest album, 2005's searing "Angel of Retribution," was the first

following Halford's return and showed the band returning to the break-neck stride it hit before he left the band about 1992.

Metallica

No '80s metal festival would be complete without the San Francisco quartet who composed their best work ("Ride the Lightning," "Master of Puppets," "... And Justice for All") in the era, but grew to dominate pop music in 1991 with its self-titled "Black Album." That album debuted at No. 1 in the United States and has become one of the biggest-selling albums of all time. The band's work since then has never equaled its halcyon days and has since descended into a mediocrity painfully apparent on "Load," "Re-Load" and the atonal "St. Anger." But Metallica still puts on an eye-popping (literally?) live show and still performs the old stuff. Metallica is still a big draw but, alas, this price tag may be too big to lift. But can't a man dream?

Ozzy Osbourne

His voice can't last live. His concerts are irregular and have been so since at least since I was in high school 10 years ago. His latest album, "Black Rain," seems like he's trying too hard. But no '80s metal festival would be complete without him. By that period, Ozzy had left Black Sabbath for a lucrative solo career, joining with the late guitarist Randy Rhoads. He subsequently cut hits such as "Crazy Train" (you can hear it at almost any sporting event today) and other songs from his iconic first solo record, "Blizzard of Ozz." And let's not forget his last inspired solo record, 1991's "No More Tears." He's one of the most recognizable faces in music. And maybe we'll be able to get guitarist Zakk Wylde to slow down and play some discernible notes. Additionally, I'm sure Ozzy has never been to Pryor.

Motley Crue

I don't care if the band is on a break or not this time — they can spend a couple hours performing at Rocklahoma. This festival must have the Crue. Seeing Vince Neil perform an uneven Rocklahoma set marred by sound problems on Saturday only made me wish that Nikki Sixx, Tommy Lee and Mick Mars could've kickstarted my heart.

Black Sabbath with Dio

Sabbath did its best work with Ronnie James Dio briefly in the 1980s. There. I said it. I catch myself listening to cuts from the Dio-era albums "Heaven and Hell" and "The Mob Rules" a lot more than I do Ozzy's stuff.

If the band is still touring together as they were this year, I say bring it. Dio can still sing, and Sabbath, this time with drummer Vinny Appice, can still put on a good show.

Megadeth, Anthrax and Slayer

You can't have Metallica without this trio of 1980s thrash-metal innovators. Megadeth was started by former Metallica guitarist Dave Mustaine, whose curious vocals and exotic scales gave the band one of the most recognizable sounds in a sound-alike genre. And the title track from Megadeth's 1986 album "Peace Sells ... But Who's Buying?" got heavy rotation on MTV back when the channel still played music. As videos from England's Download Festival earlier this year showed, Megadeth can still kick a hole in the speakers. Similar to Metallica and Megadeth, Anthrax drew upon punk rock and metal to create an aggressive, fast-paced sound that emphasized melody and its hair-metalish singer at the time, Joey Belladonna. John Bush from Armored Saint later took over for Belladonna, doing albums such as my personal favorite "Sound of White Noise" in 1993. But its work with Belladonna and its 1984 debut of "Fistful of Metal" made it one of the bands that defined the genre. And Belladonna was back with the band last year for reunion shows. What about Slayer? The quartet hasn't done anything original or compelling since 1990's "Seasons in the Abyss" and its Satanic imagery no longer scares anyone. But the band, with 1986's "Reign in Blood" and 1988's "South of Heaven," almost single-handedly spawned the subgenres of Scandinavian black metal and death metal. And they still have a rocking live show.

How 'bout some fresh metal?

Add to that mix the still-burning Motorhead, Dokken, Mercyful Fate, Queensryche, Iced Earth, DragonForce, Dio (if he's not with Sabbath) and W.A.S.P. And don't forget Twisted Sister, because they absolutely killed as the final act of Rocklahoma on Sunday. And for the love of thrash, no more *&@#% tribute bands. Thanks to radio, I've heard "Sweet Child O' Mine" and "Welcome to the Jungle" enough to remind me why I never want to hear those songs again. No one wants to hear that anymore. Instead of that, let's have some solid local bands that deserve better set times than 11 a.m. on a Saturday, such as Tulsa's power metal wonder Down for Five, the bawit and the fiery Crooked X. That'd be some fine metallin,' ladies and gentlemen.

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Name: Ricky DeRennaux
Hometown: Moore
Invention: HT Custom Build Racers
Show: "American Inventor"
Where: ABC, channel 8
When: 8-10 p.m. Wednesday
Watch DeRennaux's audition on YouTube: <http://youtube.com/watch?v=Njn77XqwMH8>
DeRennaux's MySpace site: <http://www.myspace.com/rickyderennaux>

High tech creativity

Oklahoma man a finalist on 'American Inventor'

By **ALTHEA PETERSON**
World Staff Writer

This is what could be called America's thinking reality show. While some reality shows test the singing or outwitting abilities of contestants, "American Inventor" is about ingenuity and passion. One of six finalists on "Inventor" is one of Oklahoma's own, high school teacher Ricky DeRennaux, 45, of Moore. DeRennaux auditioned for "Inventor" in Los Angeles last March, where he was selected as the top inventor out of all who auditioned in that city. His invention, HT (High Tech) Custom Build Racers, is a computer program and kit to encourage learning. "With my invention, a teenager can design, engineer and build remote-controlled — anything," DeRennaux said at his audition. "When they create these things, they learn design, engineering and science." DeRennaux said the kit comes with a DVD to design a car, truck, airplane or boat on a computer, then print out the design. Excluding the motor, the entire model — from the body to the wheels — is made of paper. How many models does a kit make, a judge asked? "How much paper do you have?" DeRennaux responded.

The invention impressed all four "Inventor" judges, including former heavyweight boxing champ George Foreman, SPANX founder Sara Blakely, entrepreneur Pat Croce and British businessman Peter Jones. It also impressed former "Inventor" judge and Eureka! Ranch founder Doug Hall. Hall, an inventor who has worked with such companies as Nike, Disney and American Express, said DeRennaux has a winning invention. "It could excite kids about the possibilities of science," Hall said in a phone interview. "There's a wonderful sense of accomplishment from it." Hall, who described HT Custom Build Racers as "simple" and "clever," said DeRennaux has obviously put a lot of time and thought into the invention, and said he hopes DeRennaux wins. "I wish him the absolute best of luck," Hall said. "(He should) talk about the overt benefits of the product for the customer."

The last show with DeRennaux featured his students and family greeting him at Bethany High School for the presentation of a \$50,000 check, to be used to perfect his invention. This week's show at 8 p.m. Wednesday on channel 8 will feature DeRennaux and the other five finalists. One of these six inventors will claim the top \$1 million prize, based on viewer voting, which will begin after Wednesday's show. "I've worked hard on this," DeRennaux said at auditions. "I've given up a lot of time and about \$20,000 and I just keep going with it." DeRennaux is director of Oklahoma High School program Tech-Now at 31 Oklahoma middle and high schools, including Central, Edison, Memorial, Nathan Hale and Will Rogers high schools in Tulsa. Will he be the season two "American Inventor" winner also? "You can't do things like this on your own," DeRennaux said after finding out he was a finalist. "You've got to have those supports to make things happen and I've got the best support group there is. "Thank you so much for helping me get to this point, but I'm ready to go to L.A. and finish this thing up."

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CHRIS CHAVIRA / ABC

DeRennaux's HT Custom Build Racers kits show enthusiasts how to construct mechanical models out of paper.