

Heavy-metal guitarist killed in plane crash

RANDY RHOADS, THE twenty-five-year-old lead guitarist for heavy-metal gross-out king Ozzy Osbourne, was killed March 19th when a plane in which he was taking a ride clipped Osbourne's tour bus, cartwheeled through a pine tree and exploded into the garage of a mansion forty miles north of Orlando, Florida.

Also killed in the accident were the group's hairdresser, fifty-eight-year-old Rachel Youngblood, and the plane's pilot, Andrew Aycock, who also served as the band's bus driver. Osbourne and other members of his group were inside the bus at the time of the crash but were not injured.

The bus, which was transporting

the band from a concert in Knoxville, Tennessee, to a scheduled show the following night in Orlando, had parked next to Flying Baron Estates, an airfield that also served as home base for the bus company. While some minor repairs were being performed on the bus, Aycock apparently invited members of the entourage to ride with him in his Beechcraft Bonanza plane. The Federal Aviation Administration has not yet ruled on the cause of the crash.

The group's tour has been suspended until a replacement is found for Rhoads, who in 1981 won *Guitar Player's* award for best new guitarist of the year.

—JOHN HAMLIN

Randy Rhoads in a photo taken earlier this year

