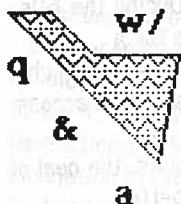


Under The MUSHROOM

ONE



Left: An atomic bomb test at Yucca Flat, Nevada (J.R. Eyerman, 1953).



Henry Rollins

A
N
D



Clark Kissenger

and
MORE....

25
cents

A FRIENDLY(?) CHAT

This interview was taken before a less-than-recent Black Flag performance. Despite rumors that Henry would beat us up and then poke our eyes out, when approached Mr. Rollins proved to be a perfect gentleman. (Unless, of course, we "provoked" him.)

UndertheMushroom: Is Black Flag taking the direction that you wanted it to?

HenryRollins: We have no direction. I mean you know, we do what we want. I wouldn't really like to work in any kind of direction.

utm: Has your music stayed the same since you first began?

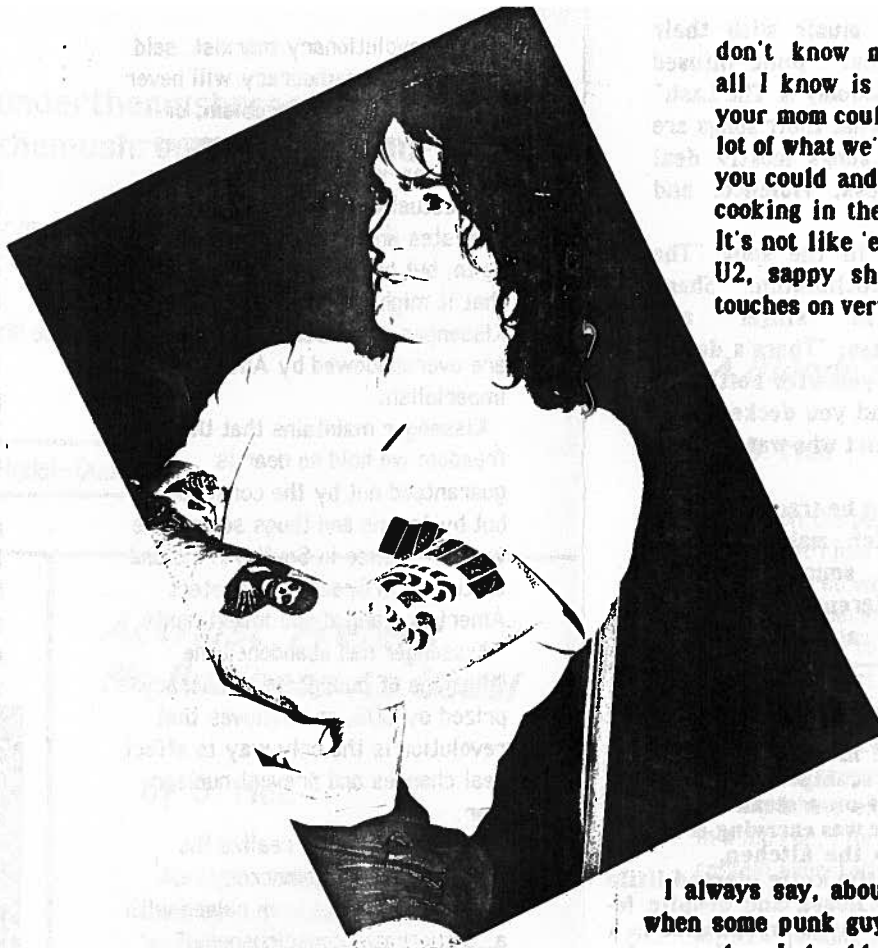
hr: The drive of it, yeah. It changes, you can tell...there are always different ideas, but maybe the same overriding concept...just the basic feel.

utm: What made you decide to write for SPIN?

hr: I knew Ed Ras en, the executive editor, and he called me up one day and said 'we're having people in bands write stuff, 1000 word essays for the magazine, would you be interested?' So I said 'sure I'll do something,' and I did and it worked out real good.

utm: Why so many Pettibone covers for the albums?

hr: That's Greg's younger brother, so it's kind of in the family in a way, but don't be surprised if you don't see any more Pettibone covers. It's not a real set thing, we've done stuff without Ray before, we just feel that he



embodies a lot of what were about in his drawings. I'd rather put art on the cover of a record instead of a picture of a band, who cares what the band looks like. I hope no one starts caring what I look like. Too many people do care what you look like. You know, they don't listen to the music, they're too busy combing their hair, or shaving it or whatever.

utm: Do you think now, that the people Black Flag represents don't have to have mohawks?

hr: I don't know much punk rock...or mohawks...or anything. I

don't know much about attitude, all I know is my attitude. I think your mom could probably get into a lot of what we're saying, as well as, you could and I could, and the guy cooking in the kitchen back there. It's not like 'everyman' music, like U2, sappy shit like that, it just touches on very real feelings.

I always say, about how I dress, when some punk guy's giving me a rap on how I should be looking like him, I say 'well why don't you just go to East L.A. and see how bad you really are. In East L.A. If you walk around with your outfit you'd probably get your head cut off. How would you like it if you walked into a show and someone said you didn't look right? I've been having people telling me I'm not right forever.

utm: Is it important for Black Flag to have a live audience, instead of just selling out in record stores?

hr: We play live all the time, people come, lots more don't. Millions of people don't...all over the world. We just go and play. Hopefully what we do inspires someone to turn on to themselves.

The last thing I need, or want, is someone digging me. It's fine if they say 'yeah Black Flag's cool...Henry's cool,' that's cool cause I'm a fan of a ton of bands myself, but I would hate for someone to hold someone other than themselves in higher esteem. There's too much of that kind of thing going on.

utm: Have you been writing poetry for a long time?

hr: No, I never wrote any of that stuff. I just write...that word is so icky-sounding, you know, 'he's a poet, he cries a lot, he drinks cappuccino, he hangs out in San Francisco and sneers at people.' I just write...I think, I travel a lot, I get in front of a lot of people, a lot of people get in front of me. I'm in an extremely unique situation, doing what I do, it makes me think a lot, and I write it down.

exclusive scoop!!!

watch for Henry on the big screen, in a movie by Nick Cave and friends. WOW!



ARTS

underthemushroom is looking for
a few good writers, artists, and/or
ideas. If you have any
contributions or criticism please
submit to:

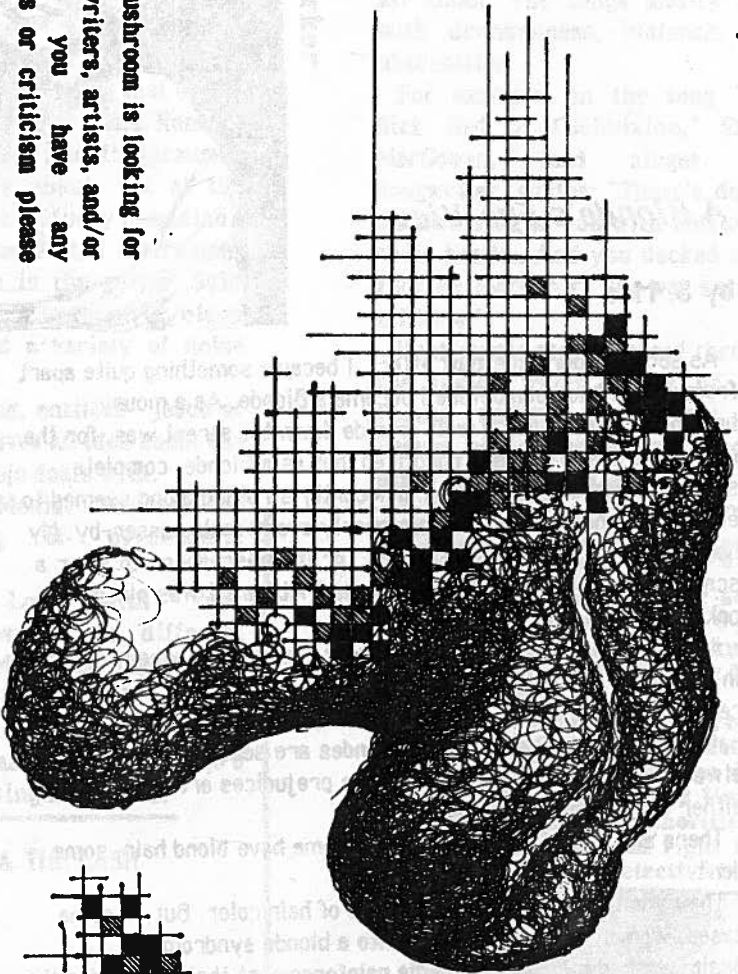
J. Gruener

c/o utm

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Under the Mushroom

By
Bethina Single

