

Rolling Stone

RED HOT
CHILI
PEPPERS'
ANTHONY
KIEDIS
CONFESSIONS
OF
PSYCHO
SEXY

IN SEARCH
OF THE
CURE FOR
AIDS

CRACKER
SONIC
YOUTH



RS679 ALL THE NEWS THAT FITS

ROCK & ROLL

WELCOME TO THE MACHINE *By Sue Cummings*... 15
Punk and rap rule the charts, but techno is what the underground is raving about.

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NEW MEDIA

ROM & ROLL *By Jon Katz*... 43
It's difficult to love CD-ROM. Expecting slick machinery, we get something cranky instead. Yet the significance of this new medium lies not in pie-in-the-sky technology but in the way we can use it to explore our own lives.

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Before the Red Hot Chili Peppers set off for Hawaii to begin work on their next album, ROLLING STONE Contributing Editor Kim Neely sat down with Kiedis to find out what the Peppers have been doing in the year and a half since Lollapalooza '92 — besides auditioning guitar players, that is. Turns out Kiedis is not the punk bonehead with raging hormones he seems — even if his girlfriend did just graduate from high school.

IN SEARCH OF THE CURE FOR AIDS
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When HIV was first described in 1983, the world may have thought that it was only a matter of time until a cure would be discovered. More than a decade into the fight, the search for a way to beat AIDS has yielded only more questions, and there's not even a consensus about where to look for answers. Can AIDS be cured in our lifetime? Probably not. Can lives be saved? Maybe.

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COVER: Photograph of Anthony Kiedis by Matthew Rolston, Los Angeles, February 1994. Hair by Cemal for Cloutier. Makeup by Gary Berkowitz for Cloutier. Styling by Danny Flynn for Visages Style, L.A.

CRACKER'S DAVID LOWERY *Illustration by Philip Burke*



THE HISTORIC CELEBRATION OF POPULAR AMERICAN MUSIC

R H Y T H M

Country

& B L U E S

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CLINT BLACK & POINTER SISTERS

Chain Of Fools

NATALIE COLE & REBA MCENTIRE

Since I Told For You

VINCE GILL & GLADYS KNIGHT

Ain't Nothing Like The Real Thing

AL GREEN & LYLE LOVETT

Funny How Time Slips Away

GEORGE JONES & B.B. KING

Patches

PATTI LABELLE & TRAVIS TRITT

When Something Is Wrong With My Baby

SAM MOORE & CONWAY TWITTY

Rainy Night In Georgia

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RALPH J. GLEASON (1917-1975)

Q

TONY BENNETT is loving life and not because his album *Steppin' Out* is selling like Florida lottery tickets. Nor is it because he has a

new-found cachet among the young folks (it seemed as if every artist at the MTV awards lined up to meet him). No, Tony Bennett is loving life because he's just that way. Spend enough time with him and you find yourself saying, "You're right, Sammy Davis Jr. was a beautiful person." As Bennett talks from the cozy confines of his New York City apartment, it becomes clear that he's a living repository of music history: After all, this is a man who mentions Pearl Bailey, Linda Ronstadt, Irving Berlin and Flea in the same conversation.

Why did your son-manager Danny start courting the alternative market for you?

He's of that age that he knows what's happening on the mod scene, the contemporary scene. So I was the first one that they did on *The Simpsons*. Then there's a rock station in Boston. Danny's very friendly with someone up there, and that was the first time that they put me on the air. It was unheard of for that kind of format. And we had fun, clowning around. Then the phones lit up. So every time Danny tells you you're doing something crazy like *The Simpsons*, you just say, "Sure, what the heck?"

[Laughs] I've learned to become very flexible about everything. Then you did a series of acoustic shows with acts like the Lemonheads and Teenage Fanclub, of all people. They call it "unplugged," but I've been acoustical for years, you know? So, I just showed up with my trio, and we did three or four numbers, and then in each area — Boston, Dallas, San Francisco — each one kinda stopped the show. It was like a football game. People were chanting, "Ton-EE! Ton-EE! Ton-EE!" It was terrific. The young people are a lot different than the older audience. They're really with it, they really know what's happening. What I love about it is that this kind of mass adulation from the young audience happened to me a long time ago, but I didn't know how to

handle it. I was pretty young and nervous as a son of a gun.

I was told you were nervous before you went on recently at an acoustic show in Virginia.

I always do that. It's so funny, I call 'em happy butterflies. But it's not nervousness, it's really caring.

What do younger artists say to you backstage?

Well, they're thrilled to meet me. Like me, they like to just go out and entertain the audience and just make everybody feel good. I don't like the cool school where an artist will say: "I don't care what they think. I'm going to do

a story in two minutes, because that's what I do with my pop songs. I'm a storyteller, really. And because I paint, I admire what happens on these MTV shows because of the graphics, the photography. I'm knocked out with all the innovations they've come up with. **What, exactly, is up with you and the Chili Peppers?**

I made great friends with them. That was really unusual.

You and Flea seem to have a special bond.

I really like him. I like Anthony, too. I can't believe it. When I was a kid, I saw the great Jimmy Durante, and he was so

off the wall that you wouldn't believe it. He was more far out than Flea and Anthony, but they remind me of him. When I won the Grammy, that's how I met them. Here I am standing around in a suit and tie, and Anthony is completely naked, and Flea had tattoos all over him. The only thing I could think of to say was "My mother likes you." Ever since then, we hit it off! [Laughs.]

What do you schlep around the house in?

I have a painting outfit when I paint; it's full of paint. And I have some nice, cozy slippers.

How often do you paint?

Oh, every day. I use watercolors on the road; they're not messy.

I saw a sketch you did of Sting.

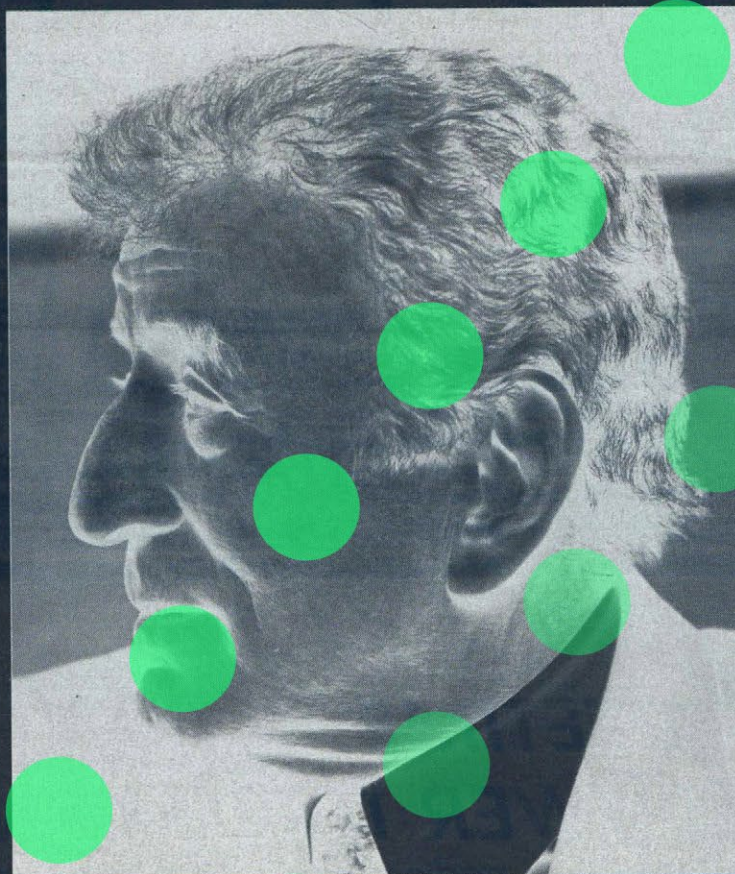
He's fantastic. Fantastic. **You travel all over. What do you think is an underrated U.S. city?**

Cincinnati. Family val-

ues are still very important. Minneapolis is good, too. And there's a renaissance going on in Chicago. There's no graffiti. Beautiful suburbs. More than that, I've been accepted there as a painter almost more than as a singer. They gave me a Tony Bennett day on my birthday.

You're so positive. What's your secret?

This is really the best age I've ever encountered. I really know what's happening as far as entertaining an audience. Then to have all this enthusiasm thrown at me — I'm having so much fun, because I know just what to do, which is have a good sense of humor about it. It's just the best time of my life.



TONY BENNETT

BY JANCEE DUNN

what I do, and if you don't like it, you can shove it." I like performers like Louis Armstrong or Sinatra.

You never succumbed to bad musical trends, did you?

I don't mind anything trendy, as long as I know it's gonna last. See, there's two people that interest me, the late Johnny Carson [laughs] and Merv Griffin. Both of them have sustained longer than anyone else as talk-show hosts. They've always got a tie. They've always got a great band. If you're going to learn something, learn from the virtuosos.

Of recent talk shows, you went on *The Jon Stewart Show*, too, right?

Boy, he's got a lot on the ball. He's going somewhere. He's very with it.

Do you watch MTV?

Oh, yeah. I like the fact that you can tell

A

Raves

SHANNON HOON
OF BLIND MELON

Luscious Jackson *In Search of*

Manny Jill Cuniff and Gaby Glaser have sexy voices. It sounds like they're sitting in the corner of a room with their hands half over their mouths. It makes me all giddy inside.

Syd Barrett *Opel* Great head candy.

I like driving the band up the wall with Syd Barrett. He gets under their skin. Pink Floyd's doing another tour. Ehh. It seems to me kinda weird without Roger Waters. It's like *The Price Is Right* without Bob Barker.

Neil Young We just got off tour with him. We would watch every bit of his show. When he would do "Helpless,"

I would sit in the stage manager's seat — six feet behind Neil's piano bench. You would be behind the curtain but in the same air. Like sitting in the front seat of a rollercoaster.

"Bad Lieutenant" (UNCENSORED

VERSION) It doesn't get any better. Harvey Keitel's life goes downhill. I like the truthfulness of the movie. I don't believe that all police officers are as honest as we would like to think they are.

Sun Tzu *The Art of War* (SHAMBHALA

PUBLICATIONS) It's about winning battles without conflict. The deeper I get into it, the more I realize I've lost something along the line. That's what I need in my life: an avoidance of conflict.

Velvet Underground Lou Reed is

brilliant. There's nothing polished about them. That's all you ever want.

Tom Waits *Rain Dogs* I was driving

cross-country in my big 1973 Ford LTD listening to it. There are so many good songs.

Robert Hunter Blind Melon went to

his house and hung out one afternoon. Just to have an in-depth conversation with him is something I'll never forget. Words to live by. His take on things is very therapeutic.

Meat Puppets The last time I bought

a T-shirt was at a Meat Puppets concert. They make you feel good.