

CHICKEN NUGGETS

Wherein Chicken John
- GG Allin's disgruntled
ex-guitarist and
mastermind behind the first
traveling punk rock circus -
serves up tasty morsels
of misinformation

By Aphid Peewit



Answers To Some Questions You Might Have Before You Decide Whether to Waste Your Time Reading This Interview.....

Okay, now who is this kook?

- This is John Rinaldi, son of Victor and Patricia Rinaldi. He is better known in punk rock/fringe art circles by the name "Chicken John."

Why should I give a rip about anything this guy has to say?

- I'm not sure. If nothing else, he's an interesting guy with plenty of interesting things to say.

What makes him so interesting?

- Well, for starters, he once played guitar in GG Allin's band, the Murder Junkies - at the time, quite possibly the most low-down, scuzzed-out terrorist band in all rock'n'roll. Eventually Chicken had had his fill of blood and shit and broken teeth and he quit and became one of Mr. Allin's more outspoken critics. He later appeared briefly in Todd Phillip's famous documentary on GG called "Hated" and stood out from all the fawning toadies interviewed for the film when he explained that GG's tendency to smash his microphone into his head repeatedly was "not that big a deal" and then proved it by balling up a fist and opening a can of whoop-ass on his own face. He has more recently put together a traveling troupe of sociopathic performers called the "Circus Redickulless" that criss-crossed the country in the 90s, amusing and frightening audiences with "circus" acts that defied typical definitions of "entertainment." He has hosted a bizarre game show called "You Asked For It," has worked as an auto mechanic and has an e-newsletter that has over 2000 subscribers. The whole list of strange, inspired, provocative projects that he's involved himself in is too lengthy to include here. For further documentation of his "interesting-ness" curiosity seekers are advised to check out his website: www.dammit.org

So what's with your GG Allin fixation?

- Good question. It's kind of embarrassing. I haven't been able to figure it out. Maybe that's why I keep tracking down people like Merle Allin (GG's brother) or poor Chicken John and pestering them with all these GG questions. I seem to find the social hemorrhage known as GG Allin and his many projected images to be a fascinating and surprisingly relevant puzzle; like a human mobius strip that seems to be fake or authentic depending on how you twist him - but it's really all the same. Or something like that. I don't know. Maybe I should move on. I think it's getting on people's nerves.

How did this interview come about?

- Appropriately, because of misinformation. Misinformation due to an alcohol-clouded memory (imagine that.) Some of us Worm folks went to a show in the Entry in late July to see the Hostages and the Coffin Cheaters and other notables in something called the "Trashed Fest." During the show, an unannounced troupe of tattooed weirdos took the stage and danced around naked and pissed in Foster's cans and did all sorts of interesting stuff. Later that evening, when we were trying to remember where we parked our cars, we bumped into the weirdos in the parking lot across from First Avenue and we talked with them for a while. Unfortunately, because of the puddle of alcohol sloshing in my head at the time, the only thing I remember of the encounter is that one guy decided to entertain us by sticking a screwdriver up his dickhole and that one of the females had a heavily tattooed face and a ridiculously hot body in a tiny red dress. I thought I remembered them saying that they were the "Circus Redickulless." So, once I sobered up, I scoured the internet for any information I could dig up on the "Circus." Eventually, I turned over a cyber rock and Chicken John scuttled out. He was friendly and funny and was willing to do an email interview. And so it was that I came to find out that those colorful, exotic naked punk gypsies were not the Circus Redickulless but a rogue band of imposters. Or so says Mr. Chicken John.

Anything else I should know?

- Just that Chicken John is either a horseshit typist or a bad speller or maybe both. So some of this stuff might be misspelled. He is, on the other hand, a master bullshitter. So some of this stuff might be misinformation. For example, when I asked him about Evan Cohen's GG Allin book and accidentally referred to the author as *Mark* Cohen, Chicken failed to correct me and went on to say how tight he and "Mark" used to be. But he had warned me in an early email: "You will be surprised at my answers, as it is my calling as master showman to have everyone always doubting everything, including their own memory." And then he concluded, "You will not be disappointed."

He was right about that.

- A. Peewit

How did you get the name "Chicken John"?

I ran from a fight when I was 12.

How Long were you in the Murder Junkies?

About a year.

What did you do - what bands did you play in - before joining the Murder Junkies?

I was in a ton of bands, Letch Patrol, Youth Gone Mad, Rats of Unusual Size...and on and on...I was in a lot of not punk bands, as I can actually play the instruments, I went to music school. I have done a bunch of session work for jingles and scores and stuff. But I always was in punk bands since 1980. But now I just play in a Devo tribute band and I do my one man band a few times a year. Now I only play for fun, I don't tour anymore. I'm just too old to sleep on the ground. And I'm not interested in trying to get a deal, so with no deal, no money. No money, sleep on the ground. I found that doing other performance is

more fun and I can just play music in my house, when I have one.

Have you read the GG Allin biography “I Was A MurderJunkie” by Mark Cohen [sic]? If so, what did you think of it?

Me and Mark used to be tight when I lived in NY. I’ve lost touch with him and everyone else since I moved. I’ve never read the book. I didn’t even know it got published, but I knew he had a plan to write it. Did it sell? Maybe I’ll write one. Or two...

Playing onstage with the MurderJunkies, did you ever slip on GG’s shit?

You are sounding like an AM radio morning show host. I think it’s fair to say I have stepped in, and probably accidentally got in my mouth every liquid that came out of Sirs’ body.

When the made-for-tv movie (ala “Sid & Nancy”) of GG Allin comes out, who would you like to play you? Who would you like to see play GG?

I think I’d have a pretty small part in the movie. Sir should be played by a bum they find in the street the first day of shooting.

What do you think of the GG-less MurderJunkies?

It’s like Sha Na Na without Bowser. Absolutely the lowest human event I have ever had the displeasure of knowing about. A perfect example of Merle poisoning. That guy will do absolutely anything for a buck. It occurred to me, while Sir was alive, that when he died the band should continue to play, but with no singer. Just set up a mike and let anyone from the audience sing. That would have been cool. But that would have been inspired and Merle is not the inspired type. He’s not a bad guy, I think he’s just clueless. And I’m sure he won’t mind taking a little jab here or there from me; he hasn’t had a nice thing to say about me for 10 years. Jeeze, he still owes me money.

On a cold night, did you eversee GG’s dick totally pop back up inside his body? If so, how did he get it back out?

Come on, I thought this was a serious interview! OK, yeah, it was a problem; we had a slut travel with us to suck his dick out when it popped in like that.

What do you think was GG’s real motivation for slicing himself open and eating his own dung in front of an audience? Was he really the Punk Rock Martyr trying to save rock’n’roll from its state of stasis - or did he just like the attention?

Well, I think - and this is just my opinion - that Sir started out on a righteous path. But he lost his way at some point and couldn’t find his way back. I mean, he tried so long to get people to hate him, then everyone liked him; worshiped him like a God. I think it was confusing. I think that in the last 3 years, things changed. I do believe that he liked the feeling of Satori, if I can use that word in this context. Enlightenment. Time control occurs when you’re closer to death, so he lived his life close to death. Kinda like the feeling you get when you know your car is gonna crash, everything slows down, and you can see clearly and there is a comfort in interconnectedness. A little deep, maybe. Sir was about living in the moment, just being. But then his religion was challenged and I think he stopped understanding what it was he was doing. So to answer your question, I think it was both and so much more. To challenge the boundaries of physical human-ness is reason enough to do anything. Sir just did it in an odd way. We all appreciate it in different ways.

About a year ago orso, Mike from the Jack Saints produced a one-off zine called “I Am Right!” and in it he did an interview with Jeff Clayton from Antiseen. At one point in the interview, Mike says “I just got home from seeing the ATROCITY(caps his) that was Chicken John’s ‘PG Allin’- something Merle needs to kick his ass for.” Clayton then replies, “Chicken John....what a piece of shit.” What the hell is “PG Allin” and what do you think about the obvious hostility these gentlemen seem to hold foryou?

They hold hostility not for me, but for Todd Phillips’edit of me. They don’t know me. Neither one has ever met me, to my knowledge. They know me the same way you do, from “Hated.” I was interviewed for 45 minutes, cut up into 2.5 minutes,

then served on a platter. It’s true, my opinions were at some points derogatory, but if you were to edit this interview, you could have me saying whatever you want, and in video it’s even easier. I take it as it comes and care not what anyone would think. I am as I am, Sir doesn’t edit his speech, why should I? None of those that would have a negative opinion of me from watching a movie could ever qualify as a friend in my book anyhow, so it’s no loss to me. Actually, it helps in the weeding out process. Honesty isn’t just not telling lies, it’s about not editing your speech for the purpose of misdirection. I only know this from not always being so straightforward. PG Allin is a one off band I put together for a night that did GG’s songs, but we changed the lyrics. It was just for fun, and I gave all the money to the drummer who just had a kid the week before. It was like \$120. There was almost no one there, just for fun. We turned “I Kill Everything I Fuck” into “I Like Crayons.” “Cooties,” “Be Kind To Small Animals” and “Ding Dong Ditch” were a few of the songs. We only rehearsed once and we sucked pretty bad, but had a good time. Me and my friends have been talking about it for years. Get it? PG, like Parental Guidance? I’ll probably do it again, if enough people get angry about it. Sir would like that.

Judging by the scene in “Hated” where you punch yourself in the face over and over, you must have a high tolerance for pain. Could Merle really “kick your ass”?

I’m sure he could. He could kick my ass and take my lunch money. Then my mother would call his mother and say that we shouldn’t play anymore. I’ll never see Merle again, so I don’t think the answer is relevant. As far as a high tolerance for pain, the point of the hitting my head was to demonstrate that it doesn’t really hurt that bad, there are fewer never endings in your whole head then in one finger. But that didn’t make it in the movie. Neither did any of the other relevant, intelligent things I said. Surely the audience’s loss...I don’t think I could take Jeff Clayton, though. He’s big...but I’ll pin Mark Cohen to the mat any day...

While many of the people interviewed in “Hated” spoke fondly of GG, you come across as the little kid in the “Emperor’s New Clothes” fable of yore. But not everyone sees it yourway. How do you feel about yourcritics who say that you are nothing more than an egotistical opportunist who realized he could generate some notoriety by becoming GG’s “Judas”?

Well, I’d like to say that if I thought the movie would have ever been released I would have maybe thought about what I said more, but would have come to the

conclusion to speak my mind clearly. As far as ego, we’ve all got one. And opportunity came knocking at my door, I didn’t seek out a GG movie to be in. They presented to me that they wanted to report the facts, I gave them what I knew. They edited it to suit the needs of their movie, which by the way cost \$100,000, and my part in the movie helped them. It hasn’t helped me, really, I mean, I get to do an interview once a year about it and maybe it made my press kit a touch bigger, but for the most part it has been the source of questions. But I’m glad I’m not lumped in with those others. I appreciated GG and I supported him with my time and resources, before and after I was in his band. But I didn’t think he was the end-all be-all, but he was a pretty nifty human. Notoriety? Come on, like it’s gonna help me get laid? None of that went through my mind, I can assure you of that. I’ve done a lot of things in my life, that was one of them. It seems as though some people who aren’t as fortunate as I and who haven’t had as diverse a life tend to look down on anyone who isn’t of their opinion. They will have to just fuck right off...

You said in “Hated” that GG “belonged in a circus” and now you’re running your own circus. If he were alive, would there be a place for GG in the Circus Redickless?

Ummm, yeah. He could have sold t-shirts.

Did you go to GG’s funeral? If not, did you send flowers?

I was specifically asked to not attend. I did plan on attending, but Merle didn’t want me to go, so I didn’t. I would have, and I would have punched Todd Phillips face if I saw him. Filming the funeral was disrespectful. I didn’t appreciate it, especially the tasteless way it was done. Could have been beautiful, he was a friend to many. But not to Todd.

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Is Dino Sex (Murder Junkies drummer) as much of a trippy, dippy space-head as he appears to be in "Hated" or was he just hamming it up for the camera?

Dino, unfortunately, is scary. He is a lunatic. He was my discovery, I brought him in the band. I didn't know him very well. He was convicted of molesting his own child. He is not like us. Reagan's budget cuts is why he is out on the street. I wish he was just weird, but he's scary. I have funny stories of him, but no fond memories, as they are tainted with inappropriate behavior. I wish him well, though, as I knew he has no idea what it is that he is doing. He's totally out of his mind.

Many of GG's moon-eyed admirers are viciously protective and, some maybe, are even a little mentally-imbalanced. Do you ever fear that Jeff Clayton or some cranky GG groupie will attack you at a performance and exact their revenge?

They all speak poorly of me behind my back, but respect me to my face. I have an odd sort of charisma. A lot of people hate me, but respect me for my ability to accomplish a lot of stuff. Again I remind you, I've done a lot of things, this is just one of them. People more want to hear stories, which I'm happy to tell. When they meet me, the anger and disgust seems to disappear. I don't know, it's an odd question. To answer, no, I don't fear that a cranky GG fan will clock me at a show. I'm in my 30s, these things don't come to my mind anymore...

Who is your favorite boy band - N'Sync, Backstreet Boys or 98°?

Definitely Backstreet Boys. Weird Al did that song and I thought it was very clever.

In "Hated" you said that GG was nothing more than a "spectacle," a gimmick without a cause. What do you think of the modern-day "corporate GG" Marilyn Manson?

I, of course, know that they exist, but have never heard the music. I'm sure it's awful. Are they like GG in ways? I wouldn't know. It's probably like safe rebellion.

In a recent SPIN magazine listing the "100 Sleaziest Moments in Rock," the fratboy writers took turns taking shots at GG, calling him a "wuss" for not killing himself onstage. Do you take any satisfaction in that?

I guess my answer is I'm glad he didn't take anyone else with him. Don't read SPIN, it makes you ask dumb questions.

Largely because of "Hated" you are now known as the ANTI-GG. But obviously, you must have been okay with him and his act at one time, because you were willing to play in his band. What was your original impression of him and why did it change?

I started writing to GG when he was in jail and I was a teenager. Being invited to play for his band was my coming of age. My impression of him never really changed, although you would think that it had after watching that movie. Again I remind you, you're not interviewing Todd Phillips' edit of me, you're interviewing me. I'm smart and tricky and full of buddhist rhetoric. I just wasn't as selective with my words as I am now. I loved Sir dearly, but was disgusted by Merle and the whole money thing. Who woulda think it, I quit the Murder Junkies over money. Gross.

How would you describe the Circus Redickulous to those who, like myself, know little or nothing about your strange little troupe of performers?

I wouldn't bother. 7 years, 5 national tours, 187 performers, 7 dogs, 13 vehicles and over 300 gigs. You want a soundbyte on that?

So were you the guy we saw stick a screwdriver up his dickhole?

Nope, not me.

After the "Trashed Fest" in the Entry last summer, a few of us Wormblower

people had the good fortune of running into some of your Circus people in the parking lot across the street. Everyone was very friendly and, as I've mentioned, one fellow in the troupe entertained us by sticking a screwdriver up his dick. But a law enforcement vehicle happened by and you guys all took off. Without incriminating yourself, of course, explain to me why it is that the sight of a cop car makes the Circus Redickulous performers scatter like cockroaches when the lights go on?

Well, here we are at the end of the interview and you would like for me to explain why Circus Redickulous performers scatter at the sight of cops. I don't remember once when that happened. Ya see, I run a tight ship, and there are no drugs allowed on my tour. A rule that is never broken, as I, the driver of the bus, have 2 strikes. It's also funny that I have done this interview, which has mostly been about Sir, but the Circus Redickulous last traveled in '98. I don't know if the End of the World Circus was using the Circus Redickulous name to generate more press/interest or if you're just a dumbass and got your circuses mixed up. Either case is fine with me as I had a feeling you were more interested in Sir. I first started the Circus in '93, when most of the End of the World people were pre-teen. I'm glad they have their own show, and really glad they have their own acts now. So, it's actually imprudent that you ask me questions about the circus that traveled through your town this summer. I don't know them well, and like many others they have little love for me; but freely admit that had I not done what I did when I did it, they would be doing something else now. Which is more than enough for me. I wish them luck and Chaos and hope they find a home in their own original ideas. I told you I'd surprise you! You're a good man, Aphid.

I've spent my life studying people; hands, feet and heart. I'd like to tip my hat to an honest man when I meet one, I've enjoyed answering your questions. It's a little therapeutic for me to talk about Sir...

How did Dr. Ducky Doolittle (aka Knockers the Clown) link up with the Circus? She seems very frisky and like she'd be a lot of fun - is she?

Me and Ducky were married for 7 years. She is a lot of fun, we have a 6 year old child named Sunshine.

What do you think of the Genitorturers or the Jim Rose Sideshow?

I've never seen the Genitorturers or another circus.

Is the circus on the Circus Redickulous video actually the Circus Redickulous - or are they also impostors?

Yes, it's us. The real McCoy. The original troupe of the first ever traveling punk rock circus.

What is the End of the World Circus and are they friends or foes?

The End of the World Circus is not the original troupe of the first ever punk rock circus. They are definitely not friends, but I would not call them foes either. With an average age difference of ten years, we just can't relate to each other. I am, as always, interested in the sociology and the system of things. They are interested in, well, other interests. I don't want to dis them or speak for them, but my show was crafted in misrepresentation and showmanship, they seem to be more interested in fun and survival. Or something. They are more of a Crash Worship type thing, we were more of an art dropout thing. Different. Especially different when they decided to stop doing my acts.

Your writing is amusing and alternately enlightening and confusing. Have you ever been approached to write for a punk zine like Flipside or Hitlist?

I used to write for Maximum Rocknroll in the mid 80s, but I wouldn't be interested in writing for any of those now. I write almost full time now. I do essays on people, mostly. Good thing I don't need any money, or I'd have to write for some weekly paper or something. Jeeze, that would suck...I'm writing a book on religious theory. I hope you get a laugh out of that one...

What is the state of punk - in your estimation?

Oh, Grasshopper, it is not for me to say the state of something that exists only in your mind. Many people have worked very hard to ensure that only a fool would answer that question. I think that you have asked me a trick question. Now you're going to hell for sure...

