

# Rollins looks forward to Eugene show

Henry Rollins will head to Eugene on the heels of the February release of his 'Live At Luna Park' DVD; he'll perform spoken word next week

By Ryan Nyburg  
Senior Pulse Reporter

Henry Rollins first came into the lime-light during the early 1980s when he was chosen as the lead singer of the seminal Los Angeles hardcore punk band Black Flag. After recording a half dozen studio albums, the band broke up and Rollins went out on his own to form the heavy-metal oriented Rollins Band. During the 1990s he recorded a number of albums with the new group, and he also released several books and spoken word albums. He also made appearances in films such as "Lost Highway," "Heat" and "Johnny Mnemonic."

He will perform spoken word at the McDonald Theatre on March 18.

**Emerald:** A DVD of your spoken word performances was recently released. How did that come about?

**Henry Rollins:** That was recorded in 1999. I did a couple months of this club in Los Angeles and we recorded a few nights of it. We shelved the material, but last year we took a look at it to see if it was any good. We had the woman who shot it all make an edit of it and my manager chopped out about a quarter of that, and what was left became the "Live At Luna Park" DVD.

**Emerald:** Spoken word has become a major aspect of your career. Are you moving away from music entirely or finding a balance between the two?

**HR:** I'm doing a lot of both. I tend to split the year in half, half talking, half music. I've done about 80 talking shows this year. I don't know what I'll do musically. Maybe make a record, but I don't know about touring.

**Emerald:** Does that mean working with the Rollins Band?

**HR:** I have to decide what I'm going to do musically this summer. I don't know if I'm going to work with those guys or not.

**Emerald:** What can you tell me about the spoken word performance? What kinds of subjects do you cover?

**HR:** I usually tell stories from the previous year, I also cover some current-event type stuff.

**Emerald:** Like what?

**HR:** Well, it's an election year and there is the war in Iraq. Lots of stuff like that to talk about. The president, you know, he's doing a lot of speaking these days, which makes for great material.

**Emerald:** I get the feeling you're not a big fan of President Bush.

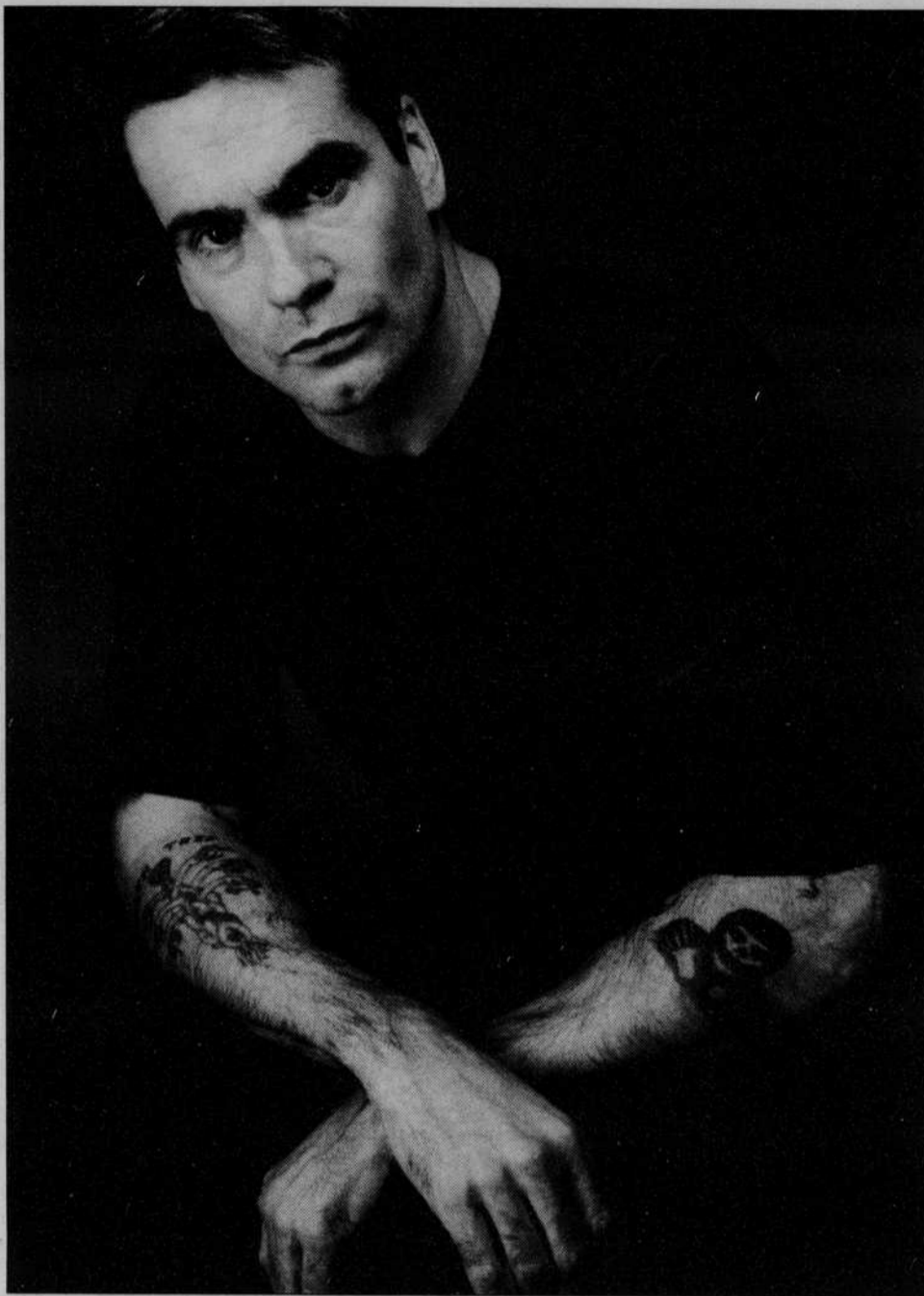
**HR:** Loving America and being pro-American, I can't love Bush at the same time. They seem to be the antithesis of each other.

**Emerald:** Is there a lot of politics in your shows?

**HR:** There's some politics. It comes from being an American. Everyone here is somewhat hardwired to the political situation just by the nature of living in this country.

**Emerald:** What about the personal aspect of your show? What do you talk about?

**HR:** I did two world tours last year, saw a lot of stuff and met some interesting people. So the highlights and greatest hits of that will be in the show.



Courtesy

Henry Rollins will be giving a spoken word performance at the McDonald Theatre March 18. The former Black Flag frontman released "Live At Luna Park" in February, which was compiled from Los Angeles performances in 1999. He also performs in the Rollins Band and writes books.

**Emerald:** What kind of differences do you see between touring for spoken word and touring with a band? Any advantages or disadvantages to going at it alone?

**HR:** There are no advantages or disadvantages — they're just different. The talking shows are harder because there is no band to hide behind when something goes wrong. I mean, the songs are the songs; they don't change a great deal. If it's just you on your own then there's nothing else but you and your wits. And so of course, the pressure is on more than it would be with a band, which is fine with me. I enjoy the audience. But it's different than playing with a band and maybe a bit more taxing.

**Emerald:** Do you find that people still associate you more with music than spoken word?

**HR:** I don't know. It seems different with every person I meet.

**Emerald:** Are people receptive to what you have to say?

**HR:** Yeah, sure. I do these tours all over the world and we draw the crowds in pretty well.

**Emerald:** You were in Eugene last year for a spoken word show. How did that go?

**HR:** It went well. I used to do Eugene a lot in the 1980s. I haven't been there in awhile. When it came up on the itinerary I was happy to see it. I'm looking forward to the show, that's for sure.

The McDonald Theatre is located at 1010 Willamette St. Tickets for Henry Rollins are \$18.50 and are available at TicketsWest outlets. Doors open at 7 p.m. and the show begins at 8 p.m.

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# MTV shows distorted, dignity-free experience

Spring break might be one of the best vacations ever invented. No school for an entire week. Nevertheless, it has been distorted and commercialized.

Spring break is a chance for students to get away from the educational establishment. It's a way to break free from the monotonous schedule of classes, and let loose after hours of homework. However, it seems that spring breakers are just substituting one institutionalized agenda for another — the agenda of corporate television.



Helen Schumacher

Notes from the underground

Spring break programming is threatening to ruin the tradition. The occasion has become synonymous with wet T-shirt contests, drunken hookups and bad music. For an entire week every year, MTV is overrun with dudes wearing Puka shell necklaces shouting Kid Rock lyrics into cameras (who am I kidding — these tools overrun the channel most days of the year). Even without cable television, these images still plague society through movies and advertisements.

Students need to rebel against this tyrannical force and make up their own minds about how to spend the free time. Part of the excitement is exploring the possibilities for yourself. It's unnatural to have your whole vacation scripted on a TelePrompTer.

What irks me the most about spring break programs is the way they encourage the participants to give up all dignity for two minutes on television. Especially troubling is how misogynistic these shows are. The behavior is like something from the Dark Ages. The only difference between an episode of "Total Request Live" taped in Cancun, Mexico, and an episode of "The Jerry Springer Show" is that the people actually take the Cancun footage seriously. Both are equally absurd.

There is so much pressure to act a certain way even though these pressures are completely unrealistic. The action always seems to play out the same way. A man, full of false machismo and backed by a posse of his "bros," hoots and hollers while improbably proportioned women take off their bikinis and make out with each other. Then, this behavior is broadcast to middle- and high-schoolers, who will in three years time be compelled to act even more audaciously. At times, you can physically see how uncomfortable these people are as they fulfill the party-animal stereotype.

It's ironic that, while many of these participants seem to think they're proving how cool they are, what they're really doing is competing to see who can embarrass themselves the most and act with the least amount of self-respect.

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