

# NECROS



Thanx to Tesco Vee for the photo. Note old bassist.

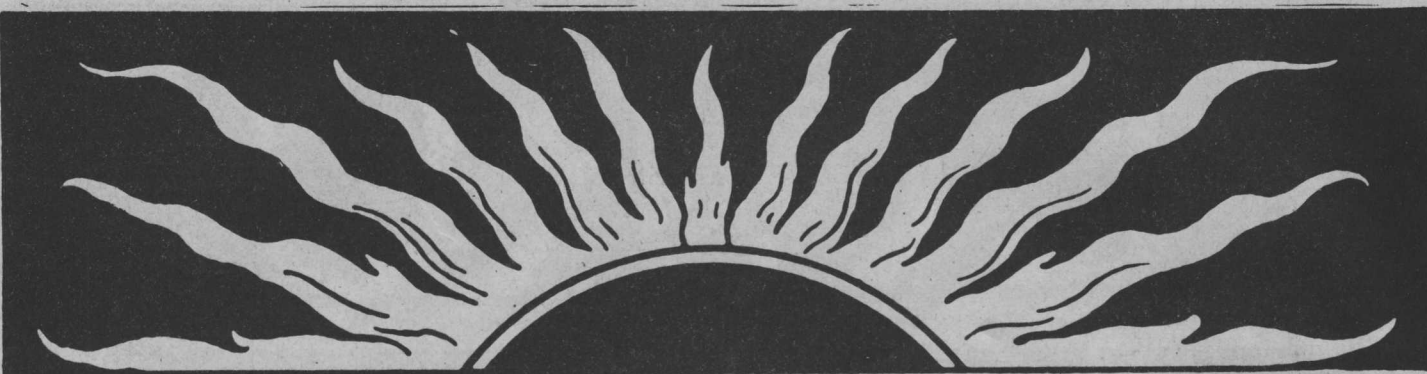
by Boz

An interview with Barry Henssler, singer of the Necros  
-- March 83

SR: What's going on with your LP?

B: It's being mixed. It's going to have 13 songs; 9 songs we did in Detroit and 4 songs from our spot sessions, and we have a single that should be out now...

SR: I read in one of the zines how you were saying that the sound of the band has changed. What's different from, let's



say, the stuff on the second EP?

B: It's heavier. The songs on our second EP are really old. I mean, I wrote some of those songs when I was a sophomore in high school. I like them for the time and I still like to do some of them, but alot of them are a little more naive than what I do now. I just think the sound on that record's just not very good. It wasn't our sound; we're more heavy... not heavy metal like Van Halen, but a heavy hard guitar, heavy drum sound.

SR: What are most of the songs about? Like alot of the old ones were about school and shit like that... What are most of the new songs about?

B: They're just like, you know... I spent alot of time in school, so I write alot about school. Now I'm not in school, so I write about what goes on around me... Alot of the new songs are about lackings in other people and myself that pissed me off to the point that I had to write about it... they are all just basically emotion songs; we're basically a personal beliefs band.

SR: What about some of the old songs like "Youth Camp" - did you have problems with people misinterpreting that?

B: That still gets misinterpreted cause we still do that song. That's another point as I've been finding out alot lately cause for every ten people you're nice to, three people you're not nice to scream and yell at you for what a dick you are. You know what I mean? The same goes for "Youth Camp," they don't read "Race Riot" which is straightforward saying condemning both races for being wrong and they take "Youth Camp" at face value... oh yeah, man... he wants to kill niggers... wants to kill Jews. That song was written about a conversation a kid had on a fucking documentary about an actual "Youth Camp" and it was like, I'm more American than anybody; I'm white, I'm American and how hypocritical all of that is. Rascism is basically a dead subject. Everyone in the punk scene has a pretty good line on your general politics like rascism, sexism...

SR: Yeah, I guess Black Flag went through that with "White Minority."

B: Yeah, but they dropped it. We don't want to drop "Youth Camp."

SR: What do you think of Maximum Rock and Roll, for example, that places alot of emphasis on a band's political view?

B: I think that magazine is more popular in the West Coast than the East Coast, whereas alot of people east of the Mississippi don't like that magazine. I take that at face value. As I read it I go: yeah... great... I don't have any qualms about it... I do think they did a terrible job on our interview. We did a really good job on it and Tim Yohannon asked alot of good questions and it just got chopped up. I didn't like it... I have no general feeling about it... I like it for some of its good points, but I think its bad points overshadow it and alot of people don't like it because of that. Tim Yohannon's a good guy, he gets alot of flack. I don't like what they did with our interview, they just chopped it up... really lame quotes.

SR: Why didn't you guys play down here with the Misfits?

B: We were in New Orleans and if we went down to Florida we would have been \$200 - \$300 in debt.

SR: How did you enjoy touring with the Misfits?

B: It was great. They're like our favorite band in the whole world.

SR: They seem to get alot of shit at time, like what happened out West...

B: They get alot of flack... like people... some people have a very shallow idea of what punk rock is. They have this little rule book that they read out of all the time. Oh, like the Misfits - they look like Kiss. They get alot of shit and they're not the kind of people that put up with bullshit. They're not gonna say "O.K., you can throw stuff at us."

They're gonna hit you; they're physical people. We've been their #1 fans for 3 years and we're still their #1 fans.

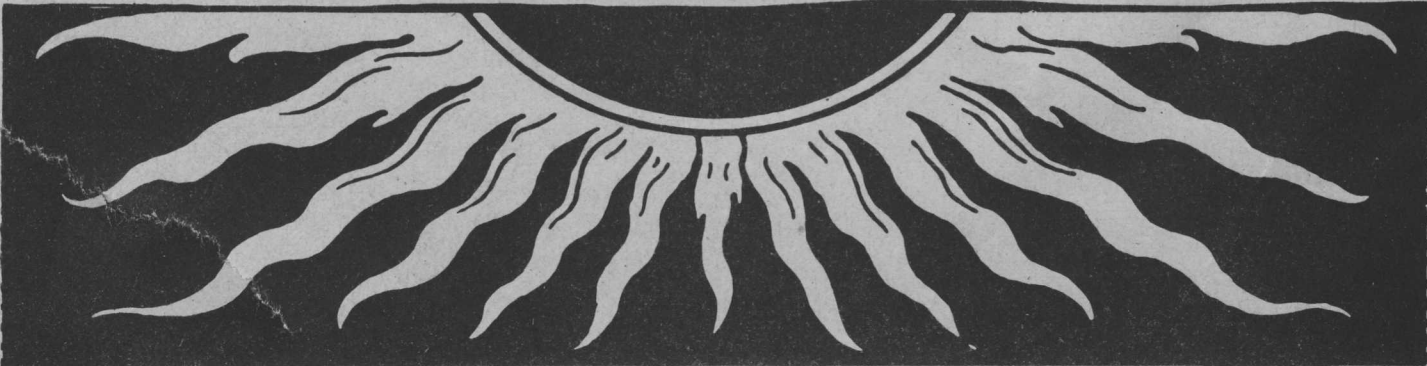
They're a great band... there's nothing else you can say.

SR: What was it like playing out West? What kind of reaction did you get?

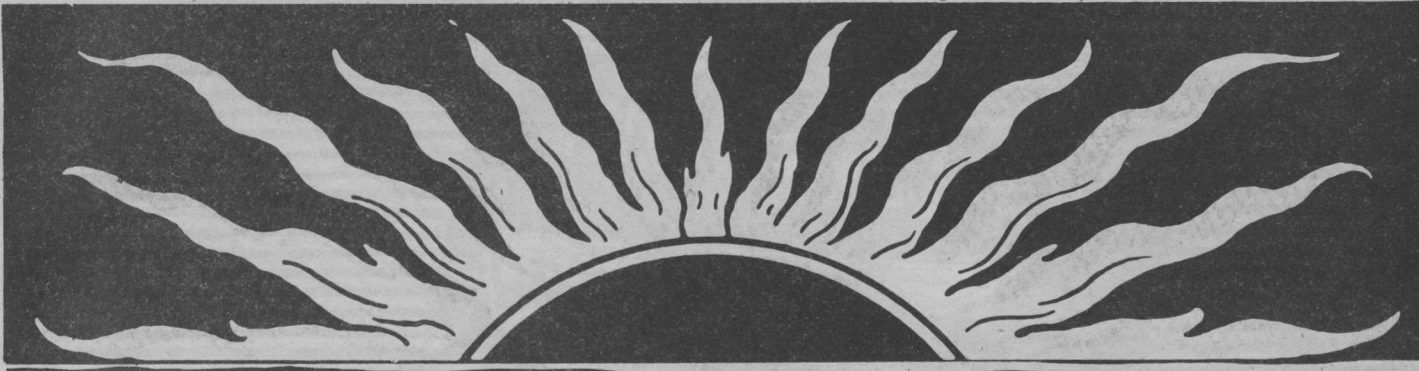
B: We got a really great reaction in L.A. We were mobbed.

SR: Was the crowd familiar with your songs?

B: Yeah! They sang along... they weren't familiar with alot of the new stuff cause we like to do mostly new songs live. We opened with new stuff and they just went nuts from the word go. L.A.'s just really cool.







SR: How are the crowds in the Midwest?

B: Good. They're really into sing-alongs. Like "Ready To Fight" (Negative Approach). That's like a real sing-along. "Race Riot" is another real sing-along, and they're into a lot of participation.

SR: Do you get many girls, or is it mostly guys?

B: It's mostly guys, yeah, I'd have to say. The girls who are into it are real into it... making magazines... and there are starting to be girl bands cause I was really worried that there wouldn't be any... It is mostly guys, it's pretty bad. But it's getting better. It used to be if a girl ever did a stage dive, she used to get her shirt ripped off.

SR: I guess a lot of girls feel intimidated.

B: But... it's a pretty good scene. It's slowed down a little. It's not growing as much.

SR: So, besides the Misfits, what are some of your other favorite bands?

B: American?

SR: O.K.

B: I like Black Flag, Minor Threat... the Meatmen were great. Blight were great. Let's see, D.C. bands... when their bands break up they have really good bands to replace them. It seems like D.C. has a really good scene. I base a scene on the bands. I used to base a scene on hanging out and stuff, and I still basically do. But first and foremost are the bands, and D.C. replaces its bands really well.

SR: Who do you hate?

B: Bands?

SR: Sure

B: I don't want to say. I don't want to piss too many people off. The bands that I hate everyone knows I hate.

SR: What about British punk?

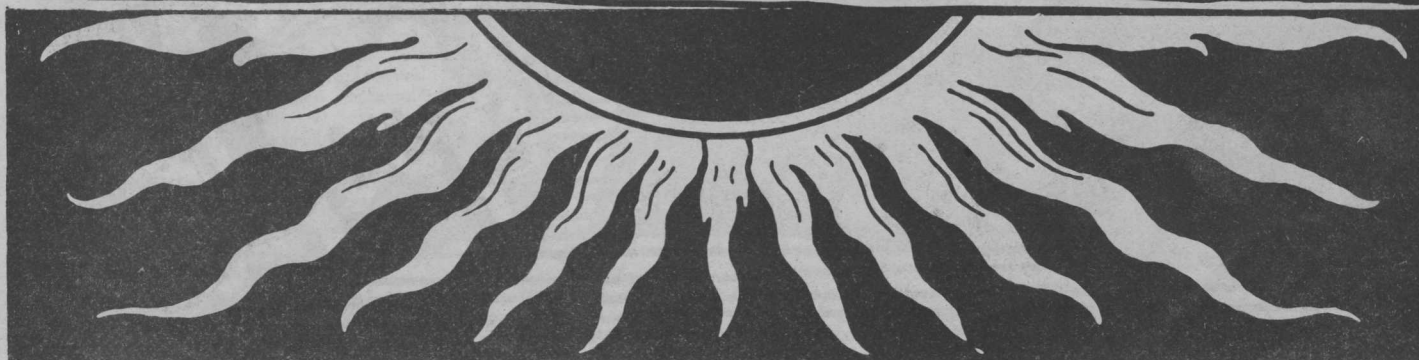
B: Most of it's pretty lame. Any American punk band can blow away any British punk band.

SR: Are there any British bands that you like?

B: Yeah, but they're not punk bands. I like Dance Chapter; Joy Division were good. All these bands like Vice Squad, like lame... all these bands with about 800 belts on...

SR: What about anarchist bands like Rudimentary Peni?

B: I like those bands musically and soundwise. I just



don't agree with some of the things they say. Living here it just doesn't relate to me...

SR: What about the Dead Kennedys?

B: I like Jello, I'll say that. I think, like... there's people I know that are real pissed at them for maybe stealing ideas, like the newest Dead Kennedys' record is called "Halloween."

SR: The Misfits...

B: The Misfits have had that song for a long, long time.

SR: But it's a different song.

B: Totally it's just the whole... like the end of "California Uber Alles" is like a Black Sabbath song. I don't know...

I'm not into the bigger bands. I think a bigger band that has retained everything they started out with is Black Flag, and the direction that they're moving in is that much harder, that much deeper... they're not based on shock value. I'm not into bands based on shock value... you know, the Dead Kennedys — everybody's heard of them, you know: "Hey, the Dead Kennedys 'Too Drunk to Fuck' Ha! Ha!"... You ask your mom to name a punk band and she'll name the Dead Kennedys.

I'm not putting them down for that, I'm just saying that Jello has good ideas. Jello's a nice person, but that scares me — that he's a nice person to everybody.

SR: Why?

B: Well, he's got to have... I just think, there's something about him I don't trust... there's something about big business. I mean, the guy's nice — he's always been nice to me.

He got my band on bills. They're a good band... could sell a million records, but that doesn't mean that I have to buy those records or collect them or say "Yeah man, they're great." I don't think they are great.

SR: So tell us about your record collection.

B: I try to be as extensive as possible, and I like to get records. I like to get rare stuff for as cheap as possible. Like I got "Six and Change" EP by the Pagans for a copy of "Jan's Room" by the Fix.

SR: So what's happening with Smegma Journal?

B: That was like real active at one point and it's like in limbo... there's a cover to the new one. The new one will be something that can't be dated... it's in the planning and all



the people that sent for it will get their issues. There's an envelope with their name in it.

SR: What do your parents think of your band?

B: They're really into it, totally into it.

SR: Do they understand what you're doing?

B: Yeah, Fuck! I'm a product of the hippie generation and my parents are like hippies... not hippies in a commune... you know what I mean... politically active. They understand what's going on now, more or less. They're basically proud of me. They don't see my inadequacies.

SR: So Corey does Touch & Go Records now?

B: That's right.

SR: Is Tesco no longer involved?

B: Tesco is involved more on a consultant level. Nothing will be on Touch & Go until Tesco hears and approves it. My involvement with Touch & Go records consists of me helping them with art layouts, folding sleeves and ...

At this point, there was more talk about Touch & Go, their new subsidiary label, the bands, record sales, and then we started talking about "generic" HC bands, hamburgers, and... well, that's about it...

