

There's
Cale's
Fear and
Lou's Loathing,

but it's Moe Tucker
any of us really
give a damn about....



KT, MOE, & KERRY.... "I say hey Bo Diddley...."

...extensive rambling 'bout Moe, her family and especially her future punk starlet daughter, Kerry.

by KT Lee with thousand pardons to honorable Dr. HST

There was also the sub-cultural factor. Every now and then when your life gets complicated and the weasels start closing in, the only REAL cure is to load up on heinous chemically induced music and drive like a bastard from south florida to some one zit town in south georgia. To visit a rockandroll legend --the Velvet Underground's drummer, Maureen Tucker-- as it were, in the womb of american small townism. Just roll the datsun out and screw on it, grease the face with anti-no-see-um and move out with the Velvets at top volume, and at least a pint of Fresh Florida Orange Juice.....

Yea.

The inside of the car looked like a Richard Minor warehouse. Boots everywhere. Those tapes. Those goddamn tapes. Those tapes with the pretty red typeset jackets. Those 19 rare-as-blood-y-buzzard-teeth Velvet Underground (so-dubbed the) "Afterhours" tapes. Yea.

All this had been rounded up (I might add, prior to the release of Polygram's VU) over a period of years and years before, in a frenzy of massive tape/etc. collecting all over this miserable continent, not to mention many others -- by the founder/editor of *VUAS/What Goes On, Phil Milstein, not to mention many others. He picked up everything he could get his hands on. Not that we needed all that for the trip, but once you get locked into a serious tape/etc. collection, the tendency is to push it as far as you can.

A small town in georgia (But!! Which one? you weep!) awaited us at the end of our line. Ah! Yes! And Maureen Tucker, too!

No, this was not like watching Michael Stipe's hair curl in person. Nope, not even like an exclusive Bangles interview. No. This was more like kissing James Brown's face. Or getting on stage with the wicked Wilson Pickett, even. Yea. This was the REAL thing. This was meeting Moe Tucker! And her family!

Yup. Maureen Tucker today is a tad shy of that skin-thumpin'-shit-shovelin'-beer-swiggin'-mama that added more than her 25% worth to that early, Velvet Underground-o-rama-sound. Since those velvet days, Moe has (among other achievements) raised 5 amazingly groovy kids.

I'm not going to tell you anything about Maureen's post-Velvet/pre-1985 story, other than the fact that for the most part, she lived with her (at the time) husband, Steve Mikulka, in Pheonix, then Tucson, Arizona. During that time, she bore 4 Mikulka kids (upon entering conubial bliss, she had already had one child, her eldest, Kerry). Moe and Steve were recently divorced. Moe moved with all 5 kids to south georgia, where her mother of 4 decades lives. Moe is now looking to settle in the northeast.

No, No. No more data than that. No, it would spoil the fun. By the end of the year, the VUAS should be publishing the ALL MOE TUCKER issue, to coincide with de ALL STERLING MORRISON issue of What Goes On. The stories are much better when told in their own words. Each issue will feature a humongous interview with they, two of rockandroll's most enigmatic and formidable Ghosts (thanks, Wimmer).

To write about each of Moe's children, (Kerry, Ellas, Keith, Kate and Richard) would

probably take an article a kid, so this one is about Kerry. This is just a teeny overview/prelude to the huge empirically documented, hi-tech, sociological survey which is about to be written about the quirky musical relationship between Moe and Kerry. The article will bust its wrappings and will be printed in its entirety, including all of its cultural implications, in WGO #5, later this year (please see box).

If Kerry were a bloody yuppie, we could do a TV show. We would call it Familie Tys. Kerry is not a yuppie, nor is she a preppie, nor is she your typical-about-to-be-a-sophomore high school kid.

There's just no avoiding the topic. If we were to do a TV show about Kerry and Moe, it would be called, My Mother: The Original Punk and so am I. Meredith Baxter Birney wouldn't even have a shot.

Kerry likes Black Flag and Kraut and D.O.A. and just about anybody else whose good hardcore tape you send her. (Have a song or tape you want to send to the Feed Kerry Tucker Fund? Send them to me KT Lee, c/o the below address with a letter, and we will forward it along to Kerry!) Kerry likes to skate and has a really boss homemade hairdo for which most of the south georgian RedMan chewers (and that's only the gurls!) make fun.

You'd think that the original punk, Maureen would be toe-tapping and LP buying right along side to encourage her daughter. Well, Moe's musical tastes are on a slightly skewed plane in relation to Kerry's. To better understand Moe's music, we must venture back. Way back.

Aside from being able to type over a zillion words a minute (more like 110+), Moe's musical influence for the main part of her early days was the Big Bad Bo Diddley. Maybe now you can listen to those big velvet beats -- "Doo-Doo Whacka-Whacka-Doo-Doo-Whacka-Whacka" -- with a fresh ear. Go forward from the 50s, not back-

ward from the 80s.

It is this writer's opinion that Moe had little interest with post-VU music. That is, until she heard the likes of the mighty Half Japanese (among a few others.) (Sorry, Tropical Depression, some people out there have taste. And Hey! Anymore of those cheezy, incongruous and totally incorrect Jewish references, and I'll come rub my schiksah ass all over your anti-semetic, collective face. Next time you open your minds and poison pens, try taking a little peek into your heart and ears, too!)

Yea, Moe's taste in music is far from conventional (e.g., Jonathan Richman makes her sweat happy bullets...) but it seems she has a hard time relating to many thrash/HC/punk things.

"What's the one that goes, 'C'mon, just gimme a pepsi...'? I like that one! It's pretty good." Sez Moe. So, she likes Suicidal Tendencies. She likes the Violent Femmes and many of the recent covers of VU tunes. Yay to Charlie's "White Light" and REM's "Pale Blue."

Moe is far from closed minded (just take a listen to her solo LP and work work with the Fair brothers). Kerry is given fair freedom. But, perhaps Moe's intense bouts with motherhood (five kids'll do that to ya) have given her just reason for concern over Kerry's hardcore tendencies.

Talking with Kerry, I get the impression that her interests go beyond teen-age-superficial-trend and punk style (understandably one of Moe's most paramount fears). Kerry just really likes music.

Mom's favorite music lends ample area in which Kerry can explore. It was fun playing guitar to the tune of "Bo Diddley" first with Maureen, then later with Kerry. Another fun thing was that the first time Kerry realized there was a skull shadowed in the murky black of the WL/WH LP cover was the day we visited. Funny.

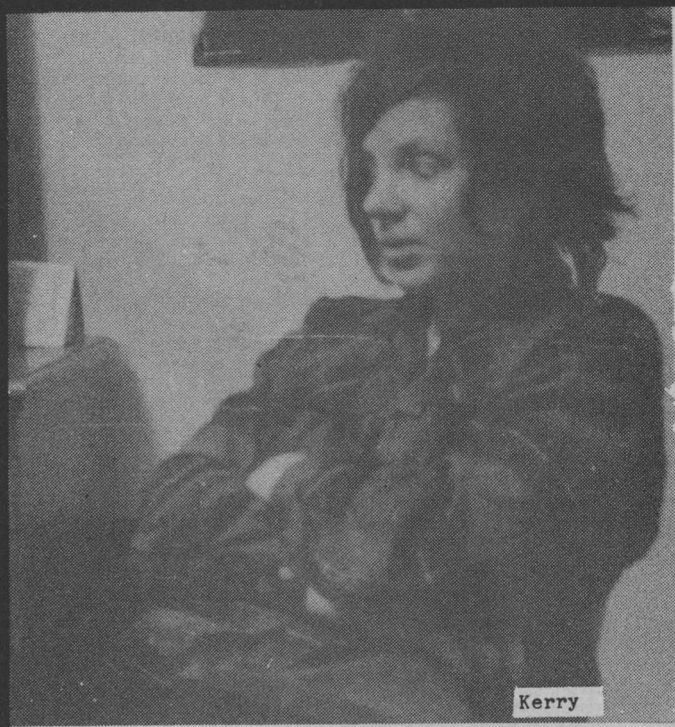


Especially for a kid who decorates her room with very many!

Well, the article ends here, but the story does not. Issue #5 of What Goes On will have complete, current interviews with Moe and Kerry (with real live quotes and everything!) about their relationship.

They looked at me, but said absolutely nothing. By this time, I was laughing crazily. It made no difference. I was another fucked-up critic with a good heart. Shit, they'll LOVE me at SubLapse. I took another hit of OJ and by the time I got in the car, my heart was full of joy. I felt like a monster reincarnation of the Duchess...a woman in the groove, and just sick enough to be totally confident.....

*What Goes On is the whenever-it-gets-published-it-gets-published publication of the Velvet Underground Appreciation Society. The VUAS is a not-for-profit organization. The money given to the VUAS in exchange for services/products/etc. goes right back into producing more VU goodies. At this time, the VUAS has still available issue #3 of What Goes On, 52 pages crammed with reviews and articles by fine folk, like Bangs and Meltzer. There's plenty of Nico, Lou, Warhol and everyone, even Angus MacLise! Hell there's even a cover drawing by Jad Fair! Plus, the VUAS can put you in touch with some hot, rare tape connections, at prices which do not exceed retail Maxell UDXLII (and even some wholesale) costs!! Soon to come! VUAS T-Shirts! Reprints of WGO issues 1 & 2 together with a complete, updated critical guide to ALL VU recordings, as compiled by smart guy, M.C. Kostek II. All in one issue! Issues 4 & 5 of WGO will follow later this year, after the 1 & 2 big bonus issue later this summer. All WGOs are only \$3.75 postpaid. Cheap. Hey, Stipe has done it, Menry Rollins has done it. Jeez, even Patti Smith does it! You should, too. Any purchase puts you on the permanent VUAS worldwide (thous-



Kerry

ands of subscribers!!) mailing list. Hey! I almost forgot! Now available! The complete set of lyrics for the first 4 VU LPs can be yours for only \$2!! Here's the address suckers: M.C. Kostek, 5/21 S.E. Laguna Ave., Stuart, Florida 33497.

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