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THE TELEGRAPH COMPANY TO PUBLISH "MOUTHING OFF", A BOOK OF ROCK & ROLL QUOTES

"I'm not cool enough to be in this book." - Andy Partridge of XTC

Oh, what some rock stars will say! While some would beg to differ with Mr. Partridge's self-deprecating remarks, they will appear along with hundreds of other quotes compiled by journalist John D. Luerssen in **Mouthing Off: A Book of Rock & Roll Quotes** scheduled for publication in June, 2002 by the Brooklyn and Pittsburgh-based record label and publishing house, The Telegraph Company.

Luerssen calls the quotations "often obnoxious, sometimes introspective and remarkably honest musings of our globe's most cherished and acclaimed rock & roll personalities." The book is organized by subject matter, with topics ranging from the music industry to songwriting to drug use, with a broad cross-section of artists offering diverse commentary on each.

Weezer's Rivers Cuomo tackles Napster ("Go on Napster. We recorded nine other songs in addition to the ten on the record. Go download 'em, it's free."), Elvis Costello weighs in on rock critics ("There is nothing at all the matter with some journalists that a quick slap in the face couldn't sort out.") and Steven Tyler of Aerosmith sums up drug use ("I heard that your brain stops growing when you start doing drugs. Let's see, I guess that makes me 19.")

Luerssen first conceived this mammoth project during a telephone interview for *Rolling Stone* with former Big Star frontman, Alex Chilton.

"I've been performing in the public eye since I was sixteen," the Memphis-born Chilton said with his lazy Southern inflection. "In fact, at the time I was failing the tenth grade and I was going to have to repeat my sophomore year in high school, but I got lucky and had a No. 1 hit that summer. So my mom and dad were like, "Why don't you go ahead and give this 'rock' thing a try?"

Luerssen explains in the book's preface that this assertion by Chilton caused "the hamster on the wheel in my mind to start moving" and the concept for **Mouthing Off** was born. "I thought a quote book would be a great idea and when I saw that the market was wide open I just went about highlighting quotes that I liked. Outrageous things, revelations, opinions. Getting started was easy, because I had an arsenal of rock magazines dating back to the mid-1980s that my wife had been nagging me to get rid of, but I'm glad I didn't!"

One of the most unique aspects of **Mouthing Off** is that unlike other books that attempt to document candid moments with rock stars, this one casts sub genres aside and makes no distinction between superstars and underground heroes - Steven Tyler and Stephen Malkmus sit side by side creating a mass appeal for a title that any fan of rock & roll will want to own.

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Luerssen's exposure to musicians at all levels of the game through his writing for *Rolling Stone*, *Billboard*, *CDNow* and indie publications like *Rockpile*, *Pop Culture Press* and even teen rag, *Bop*, have allowed him to look to all corners of the rock & roll world for **Mouthing Off** material. The result is an up-to-the-minute set of unique and hilarious quotes from mega-stars like Bono, Michael Stipe and Bjork, as well as smaller, independent acts and young bands just breaking out into the mainstream.

Some of the strongest quotations are highlighted with photographs from rock photographers like Rahav Segev whose work has appeared in the *New York Times*, *Rolling Stone*, *Guitar Player*, and many other magazines. All of this comes together to make **Mouthing Off** stand out as the newest, most up to date, rock quote book on the market today.

About the author:

Mouthing Off author John D. Luerssen was born in 1968 and is a New Jersey lifer. Luerssen was weaned on punk rock when he discovered The Clash at age 12 and later fronted three bands through the mid-80's after which he turned to journalism. Twenty years after his introduction to The Clash, Luerssen's love of punk rock and journalism collided when he realized his dream of interviewing Clash guitarist Joe Strummer. A year later, Luerssen's first *Rolling Stone* byline appeared. He now lives in Westfield, New Jersey with his wife and two daughters. John is available for phone interviews, and in-person interviews in the New York/New Jersey area.

The book is scheduled for publication by The Telegraph Company in June of 2002.

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