

Gordon Liddy

Rock's new right-wing spokesperson speaks his mind

BY DEAN MARTIN

In this business it is the words that are important, not the music. Right wing rock star G. Gordon Liddy understands this better than anyone else working in the pop field today, and the results have been spectacular:

*His album *Killer* has sold 87 million copies in the two months since its release, throwing Michael Jackson onto the scrapheap of history along with other former superstars like Fleetwood Mac, Boz Scaggs, Carole King, Iron Butterfly, and the Dave Clark Five.

*He has become the first artist ever to sweep every single Grammy award, including a new category inspired by himself: Most Unusual Duet with a Flake of a Different Political Persuasion (for his team-up with Timothy Leary on "America the Beautiful").

*His "1984 - Right Now" world tour played to sold out houses everywhere, and grossed a record-breaking trillion dollars - almost one-third the GNP of the United States. This astounding figure greatly astounded the kind of people who are astounded by that sort of thing.

Like the Sex Pistols in their day, Liddy is a snarling rebel against the bleak, behavioral-sink, political climate of modern society. Out of his cathartic anger and frustration Liddy creates a violent and totally unique brand of post-new-wave rock. And like the Sex Pistols he has a burning contempt for today's complacent musical establishment.

As he sang in his now-rare "Monarchy in the US" single:

*God save the Gipper
A rock-star left-libber
made you a commie*

In interviews, however, Liddy has given grudging admiration to a few "political" rockers like Ted Nugent, Seals and Croft, and Barry Chapin, who never let mere musical considerations get in the way of the all-important message. Speaking to the *New Musical Express* in February, Liddy stated, "The important thing to the artist is his obsession. The problem is that up to now virtually all the obsessive types in rock were left-wingers, while the mood of the public has been steadily shifting to the right. I

tapped into that right-wing current and - pow! - here I am."

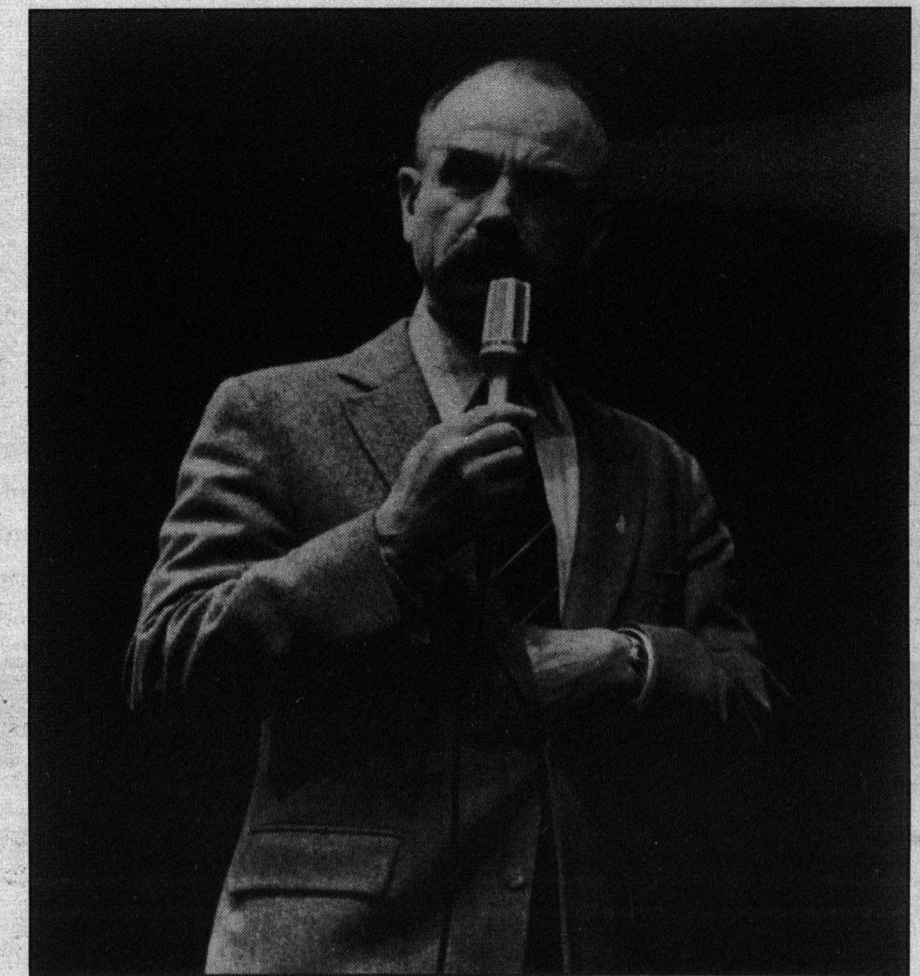
Liddy's right-wing stance has aroused controversy because of its unorthodoxy. Here at *Rotting Stone*, for instance, our progressive policies have raised questions about how to handle the Liddy phenomenon. When it comes down to basic principles, however, the fact remains that *Rotting Stone* needs the readership and the full-page ads. Hence Liddy must be treated with the same respect and seriousness we give to all three-day wonders.

Besides, as the hypsters slyly ask, "Isn't it true that 87 million Liddy fans can't be wrong?"

To answer these and other rhetorical questions, *Rotting Stone* recently talked with Gordon Liddy.

RS: *You swept every Grammy from C&W Single to R&B Single. Some people allege that in producing your music you cheated by using the new Litton Rearranger...*

Liddy: The Litton Rearranger, when fully developed, will eliminate all forms of



Liddy at his Madison Square Gardens concert singing a soulful rendition of "I Did It My Way" and reaching for his gun. He climaxed by firing it into the air. The dramatic gesture ignited the sold-out audience, most of whom sported buttons reading "Roll Over Eric Clapton, Gordon Liddy Is God".

my music, not the Litton Rearranger, which has not, incidentally, been perfected yet.

RS: *... as far as we can tell from the secretiveness surrounding the invention. But there is also the fact that all the session musicians credited on your album have mysteriously died, disappeared, or been killed in the half year since the album was recorded.*

Liddy: Pure coincidence. These things

member tried and failed, shouldn't there be room for forgiveness, and maybe an attempt to persuade them to your side with reason?

Liddy: Reason? Don't make me laugh. It's like Jens Andersen (Editor's note: an obscure Canadian right winger) says: some people just can't be educated. It is no use trying to talk sense to them, because they just won't listen. The only logical thing to do is to kill them. That'll teach them.

RS: *But some people say it's you that can't be educated. But they don't advocate killing you.*

Liddy: (Laughs) Not yet! Good thing there are laws against that sort of thing.

RS: *What is your goal now that you've achieved success?*

Liddy: Well, I'd like, for once and for all, to cure rock artists - the remaining few - of their concern for irrelevant and obsolete concepts like personal expression, emotional honesty, irony, humor, and crap like that. What is important in rock music today is ideological correctness and single-minded, unswerving devotion to it. Even left-wingers, for all their numerous stupidities, understand that much.

RS: *And if your crusade for a better America fails?*

Liddy: Hopefully we'll meet again in a better world than this.

**My nose
Runs,
My feet
Smell,
I'm all
Mixed up.**

- Thomas Dylan

Watergate weltanschauung pushes frontiers of punk one step further. Liddy shoots and scores.

musical theft and formula songwriting, since you will be able to plug any piece of music into it, twiddle the dials, and out will pop a completely original piece of music. This little machine will be a great boon because the user can manipulate everything in the music, right up to its evocativeness.

This eliminates the main bottleneck in producing rock music: musical inspiration. Let's face it, musical inspiration is the scarcest thing in rock, and the thing rock musicians are least interested in. Still, one has to have *some* kind of music behind the words, and so over the years they have developed all sorts of tricks for "borrowing" old musical ideas and adopting them to one's own needs, with a minimum of strain and aggravation for the borrower.

It was these methods I used in creating

happen all the time. All the nasty rumors were started by the kind of people who began the McCartney death stories.

RS: *In your film Return Engagement you said you wouldn't hesitate to kill any member of your family if they betrayed America the beautiful. What do you mean by "betray?"*

Liddy: Oh, you know... aiding communists, voting Democrat, or working towards some form of government I don't approve of.

RS: *But if one of your family succeeded in setting up a new form of government, killing that person wouldn't make much difference, would it?*

Liddy: True, but I've always thought that even if you can't get the form of government you want, you should still be able to get revenge.

RS: *On the other hand, if that family*