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Dan Auerbach

Dan Auerbach is half of the raw blues-rock duo the Black Keys, which is on a world tour following the release in May of their eighth album, "Turn Blue."

READING I recently spent two days in Croatia and wasn't reading anything because nothing was in English. Driving around, no signs in English, it made just going to the grocery feel like James Bond. But the last book I read was "Knockemstiff," by Donald Ray Pollock. I've probably read it three or four times. It's like every sentence he's trying to outdo the sentence before. It takes place in southern Ohio and I'm from Ohio. I can see the places and characters. As absurd as they are, they still feel real.

LISTENING ASAP Ferg — "Work." Listening to it on repeat. I like Ferg's cadence. I like how the beat drops in the beginning. I like how minimal it is. I like the reverb on the background vocals. I can't be a normal functioning human and have music on because I'm paying too much attention to it. I end up not being able to have conversations with people. It's kind of annoying to my family.

WATCHING Vice documentaries on HBO. They're jaw-dropping and sort of horrific at times but I can't stop watching them. They are 25 minutes an episode, so they are nice and short. Some of the subjects

seem kind of ridiculous, but if they are doing a documentary about people in South America having sex with donkeys, they are absolutely serious about it. It's those people's reality.

FOLLOWING I love Byron Crawford's blog. He's always got some funny and sarcastic thing to say about some rapper. When you read about hip-hop culture, you rarely come across satire.

BOXING My cousin and I have been boxing together every day for the last couple of years. I built a little gym in my garage. We don't fight each other. We do boxing training. You know: heavy bags, mitts, speed bag, jumping rope, shadow boxing. Training for boxing hasn't changed much in 100-plus years. It's kind of like this ancient art form of working out.

There's definitely a rhythm to jumping rope and stuff like that. But when you're in the ring, it's probably best not to have rhythm because if you have a predictable rhythm, you're going to get punched in the face.

RIDING I have four or five old Harleys from the '30s and '40s. I had Hondas and BMWs and kind of worked my way up. Once you get on one and ride around, it's hard to go back. I rode my '37 Harley from Nashville through the mountains to North Carolina and back. I did it with a whole group of guys who were on prewar Harleys. It was 10 guys, 1,100 miles, in three days, and no one broke down.



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