# Allotus

volume two \* rumber two



WHY
THE LONG
WAIT

\* Album Review

\* An Exclusive

All Of Us BC Interview

\* Shopping

An Interview With

A British Guy!



# Dear Folx

Once again, I find myself asking "where to begin?" ... So much has gone on since the last issue. I guest the appropriate place to start would be with an applica for the extended delay in getting this tissue ont. There are a myraed of reasons for the wait, including,—this not limited to a personal tragedy, waiting for the release of WITE getting my computer set up and my subsequent addiction and then later overcoming that addiction) to America Online, and yes, I admit it, maybe about 10% lazinest. Anyway, now the financies in one my the proper and the start of the financies of an hour's drive away), I am on-line (see "E-mail"), we are seriously "on track", and I hope that the content of this famine will make up for the by wait.

Well, for those of you who have been with me for arbitis, this issue marks the fruits of my labor (and if m one than happy to share the first with VDI, Ifyou' by my labor (and if m one than happy to share the first with VDI, Ifyou' by my labor (as this ITHE issue to start with Inside, you II flad my WTLF review, news, an interview with the band-exclusive to All Of U., one fars it brough interpretation of a BC ison, an interview with my U. friend David-while III fill you in on a lot of coal things about the 'Little Big Country', and lots of etc.' In other words, this is one biggest and best issue to date.

As of this writing, as per lan and a nice fellow at Pure records, All Of Us will be listed in the liner notes of the US release of WILF Fantastic, right? Of course! But - while I'm absolutely elated to have this dream come true, you fans (those of you who have dealt with me on a personal basis at least) must realize 2 thines:

1) I'm gonna be busier than ever before.

2) the cost of All Of Us is going up - quickly and sharply...

As of now, one year's dues will be \$1.2. All of you whose dues are up, I don't expect proment until September 13th, so while dues twee gone up, you've got a nice extension on the due due. To be honest, I don't hink I have been breaking even since I 've been putting out All OfUs, so I simply had to rate the cost. As for frequency of formers, I will make a commitment for a least 4 issues a year! I can do more. I will. Also, I think I debater set up a "hot new" system like I am has (at least for those of you not traversing the information superhiphony). Peace sen droverer many SESE's as you like when I get news of rour dutes, etc. I'll send that info out to you. I should have tour dates pretty early, now that I as is given us a so gold deal of support.

I trust by now that everyone has <u>some</u> form of WTLE. As for the 1 m Nost Ashamed single. I've tabled to foke even recently who duth even know it scated. Without offending these foke, I'd like to repeat what I've been saying <u>all elong</u>: GOLDMINE. Goldmine (also VCE) is where you'll have about the first, because it is their <u>beausers</u> to been you with matic releases! And now that IIA has been de-ledd. Jobs better snorth "mu p! For those of you who 've never heard of Goldmine, until III out be ledd. Jobs better snorth "mu p! For those of you who 've never heard of Goldmine, until III out be collabine coupon here in this issue you may want to photocopy it and seed it of for a free sample size. I can't ducerbe Goldmine better than just to say it I cover to cover with add from record shop; and there can be no better estimated him that of Jews is Crow. who said Goldmine to get a copy of Deh and there can be no better estimated him that of Jews is Crow. who said Goldmine to get a copy of Deh more of the form of the proper of the Boldmine of the copy of the honderly doubted in the Re Collegine. Out alone it less of now in pay a torse. Goldmine has single-handedly doubted in RC Collegine.

In the UK. You Droamer is set for release on August 21st and 28th, Part L and Part 2, respectively. Here in the states, tast work as simply "August". As per my course, I sull not be released as a commercial single here in the states. So, get ready to check the promo bins (well, hoppfully they''' the a bit more scarce because, hoppfully, the radio stations will be USING them!"). WITE is set to bit US stores in September BUT A COPT. Even if you have the UK Acl. by the US release to show them that there are thying fain here in the States. And for more info on how to support BC here in the US, see the AOU interview herein.

Well, that's about all for now, it's Thursday, August 3rd, and this is going to print tomorrow. I appreciate all the support and help. Please, all of you, feel free to send in your thoughts, opinions, and ideas, however large or small. And I'd like to say thank to my girlfriend. Dawn, and my friend Dan for helping me proofread this here rag. Until next time, STAY ALIVE... Big Country Are!

# All Of Us

```
ritch and diane adams -
    lowell austin jr -
          heather blandford -
     shea broaders -
       ellen bunch -
            iill bunch -
 steve chapman -
     lewis crow -
   cameron davis -
      steve deasley -
      lance eagen -
   bill goldsmith -
        carl gryzbek -
                 ken hastings -
    ms marty jackson -
       laura jankowski -
           tom kercheval -
       cole lauber -
       stan lenkiewicz -
   robert linguar -
        art love -
     jennifer mccarty -
         nora mchugh -
        roman c mangapit -
          russ marlow -
  jeffrey marsh -
             donna miller -
      frank i noonan -
           mr lyn noricks -
    eric orseck -
    chris raaths -
               steve rist -
   les schriber III -
            fran seal -
 howard shapiro -
 tom stieber -
      sherry wallace -
         andrea weeks -
         edward weeks -
      john weigel -
      ierri wilmore -
         clive young -
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# All Of Us T Shirts!

s m 1 xl \$16/each

xxl \$18/each

100% cotton, white t shirt with Big Country design and All Of Us info prices include shipping

'live' big country

in the march 17th issue of Entertainment Weekly, an article about the appearance of the band IIVE on MTV Unplugged made this reference - Forsaking the soggy publiism of so much 90s rock IIVE serves up the kind of lush, uplifting thunderbolts over the moors anthems that havent been heard since the 80s heyday of U2 and Big Country.

#### A Skids biography states:

A Scottish quartet which emerged with a raw-edged sound in 1978. Cemented by singer and writer Richard Jobson and featuring the guitar of Stuart Adamson, the band recorded two albums of propulsive rock, before changing to a more art-rock sound. The Skids disbanded in 1981, guitarist Adamson forming Big Country. - David Sztamary

### A Big Country Biography says:

Scottish group Big. Country Isurt onto the 1982 rock scene with a uniquely expansive twin-guilar sound (made by Sturat Adamson In.) 1938 04 11. Manchester, England, formerly of the Skisk, and Bruce Watson Ib. 1961 03 11. Timmins, Ontario, Canadal) that at times recalled baggipes. Bassis Tony Buller (h. 1975 07 21 13. London, England) (whose cerdis included the Presteders and Pete Townheed) and fortumers. Brezeiski, (h. 1957 06 21, Slough, Buckinghumshire, England) (also Townshend) provided an aggresively supplerythmic foundation.

The Chris Thomas-produced debut effort "Harvest Home" didn't chart, but THE CROSSING, cinematically produced by the innovative Steve Lillywhite, captured the band's sonic vision perfectly. It contains the band's first (and only significant stateside) thi with "In A Bie Country"

Big Country followed THE CROSSINO with an FP containing the fine "Wonderland," which basically schooled the give for "Ha Big Country." In England, meanwhole Big Country scored a brief stripe of the gaining enough popularity to sell out two nights at I nodnon Wenthley Studium in December of 1984. This was further aided by the release of the although STEELTOWN, which entered the British charts at H. Alther Country released THE SEER. "Look Away," was a 1986 British hit, but only received moderate attention on 1S root raids. The rather generic PEACE BY ONE TIME, released in 1986 on a next attention of 1S root raids. The rather generic PEACE BY ONE TIME, released in 1986 on a new the Reprise, was a misguided redirection of their sound, disching most of the qualities that made the band so appealing, Big Country nearestrated on Fox Root Air 1993 with THE BUFFALO SKINNERS, which failed to chair in the U.S. - Rick Clark

both biographies found on the "All Music Guide" via the internet

#### Where The Rose Is Sown: A Closer Look. by Lewis Crow

US army general William T Sherman made a succint but profoundly true statement when he said "war is hell." That hell, unfortunately, is something which young men have regularly faced for thousands of years. Moreover, as long as there has been war, poets, artists and songewriter have struggled to sum up "the war experience" in their work. The task is dusting live does one convey the many phase and emotions of what a man or a nation goes through in times of war? It is my helief that Where The Rose This issessy will explore that helief through a deconstruction of Shurit Syries and a general examination of the music. The song begins with an ever-rising metody and martial beat, not unlike an approaching army coming over the brinch. Lef's look at the first stanza:

WE'RE AT WAR
WE WILL WIN
I READ TODAY
WE ARE STRONG
WE ARE RIGHT
WHO STARTED THIS

The structure of the verses is significant, but I will return to that in a moment. The first line— "We're at war, all the papers say"—immediately throws the listener back to the time of World War I (before radio), and World War II (when radio, although important, was not the largest news source). In those days, papers were the most important providers of news and offered the most detail. Special editions were common for events like the outbreak of were

This point becomes important when we consider the structure of the versus. On the left we see what the newspapers reported or implied in their patriotic tones. On the right is how the arrartor responds and what he thinks. He certainly believes what he reads. Note his last two thoughts: "It wann't us. Who started this." Already the country's patriotic tone has gripped him. He's convinced that his nation is on the said of right, will juin, and is not the agreesor. Now the second stanza:

LEAVE YOUR WORK I JUST LEFT SCHOOL
LEAVE YOUR HOME I AM NO FOOL
TAKE UP ARMS IT LEFT ME STRONG
SOUND ALARMS THE SCHOOL BELL RINGS

Again, we have unique structure. On the left are the nation's reactions to the news of war, and on the right, our narrator's response. In effect, the people are issuing a call for men to mobilize and get ready to fight. We learn mow that our narrator is a young man fresh out of school. He agrees with the general call-to-arms ("1 am no fool") as school lets out for what may be the final time for him. Class diminised: 1-4's you foilst.

These first 2 statuzes add to an understanding of the war experience by emphasizing the often overlooked areas of popular modizization and attitude-shaping hat goes on long before any men march to the battlefront. The psychology of getting our impressionable narrantor to buy into the particular is equally interesting, repartless of the nobility or giposility of the cause. The cause of the war is curiously omitted, though knowing Stuart as we do, we can safely assume he does not consider this particular war a using too. The content of t

> SONS OF MEN WHO STAND LIKE GODS WE GIVE LIFE TO FEED THE CAUSE AND RUN TO GROUND OUR HEATHEN FOE OUR NAME WILL NEVER DIE

THIS TIME WILL BE FOREVER

The first line clearly refers to the previous generation who fought nobly to defend the British

Empire. Until the latter half of this century, the military veteran was held in high esterm in Great Britain,

especially among the aristocrays, Military imeages of 3 and 4 generations were not uncommon,

young man, it seems, did "his part" in service to the crown. The second line is self-explanatory. The cause

is more important than life, though Stuart's phrasing gives 'the causes' the character of an anatom

machine with an instalable appetite. Line three cehoes an attitude present since the Crusades-the enemy is

a faceless, subhuman pagan of artherity who needs to be eliminated. In line Grun, the narrator assumes

in generation will be remembered and admired as much as their fathers are in line one. Line five expresses

beattreachine may be and ordinions.

Every time is the last time, the thinking has gone for ages. President Woodrow Wilson called World War I "the war to end all wars." In the 1920's the League of Nations "outlawed" war as an instrument of national policy. The third starza sets up another duct.

JOIN UP HERE I WAVE GOODBYE
WE NEED YOU MY BREAST SIGHS
HAVE NO FEAR I MUST TRY
GOD WILL BE WITH BRAVER MEN

The first three lines on the left are a call to enlist in the military for this noble undertaking. The right shows our young narrator joining up with a sense of duty, but reluctantly leaving behind his home life. Line four is not a duet, but a complete thought. The gap has been bridged, and our narrator, however tenuously, has accepted his "duty." There is a subtle shift in tone in stanza four:

TAKE THE VOW I KNOW IT'S RIGHT PRAISE THE FLAG THE GOOD FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT WE'RE AT WAR I'M ON MY WAY WE WILL WIN WHY DO I PRAY

Stanza three illustrated the persuasive appeal used by the military and political folk to convince our narrator to '60 the right things' Now in number form use sen illustra commands ("Take the vow", "Praise the flag") ethod with a sense of urgency. The narrator's words seem to be a halfbearted effort to psych himself up and slake to the inevitable and natural face reperienced by a young man going into battle. The last two lines in the voice of the military repeat the first lines of the song, but the narrator seems much less convinced that all is right ("Why do J pray") now that he's skattley involved. Next is a repeat of the chorus and an instrumental bridge of moody guitar and marching drums that suggests the chaos of conducts Marca free follows:

I WAIT HERE IN THIS HOLE
PLAYING POKER WITH MY SOUL
I HOLD THE RIFLE CLOSE TO ME
IT LIGHTS THE WAY TO KEEP ME FREE

Combat has been described as "hours of boredom followed by minutes of sheer terror." Our narrator nervously sits in his foxhole, all the while feeling that he's gambling with his life. In boot camp he was doubtless taught to hang onto his gun at all costs, it being the difference between life and death. He learned well, as indicated by lines three and four. The sixth stanza finds the narrator coming to grips with

> IF I DIE IN A COMBAT ZONE BOX ME UP AND SHIP ME HOME IF I DIE AND STILL COME HOME LAY ME WHERE THE ROSE IS SOWN

the possibility of death:

In basic training, the drill sergnant uses a series of call-and-response chants to keep the men marching in rhythm. One of these actual cadence calls appears as the first two lines of the stanza. In line three the narrator realizes he could die without being found, but in line four he makes a simple request to be buried in a beautiful, tranquil place at home. Perhaps lines three and four are a letter to his sweetheart or mother.

The song ends with a repeat of the chorus and an instrumental coda of scaring bagping guitars and clanging drums which again suggests the ferocity and eacopheny of battle Left urresolved, of course, is whether or not the young man survives. Since the coda segues into the mountful "Come Back To Me," narrated by a young woman who lost her man in the war, the inescapable conclusion is that the narrator of "Where The Rose is Sown" perished and the following song is his love's lamen.

In a five minute song, Stuart has captured the panorama of the war experience for a man and his society. Its lyrics are at once personal and universally applicable. No other song that I've run across has said so much and said it so well.

# wildland in my heart

lycics by street admost cat by come have and no one cared even her. Friends were wannare that's how it is when they lose track i always say hey don't look back

lassic got loose and made it home no one had even telephoned that's how it is out of the pack i always tell her you don't look back

sometimes it think of how things were right at the start when she made a wildland in my heart

the seven returned and no one carred we don't think you're magnificant round here even if you look great in black i should have told then don't look pack

sometimes it tink of how things were right at the start when they made a wildland in my heart

i was yong and i didn't care i would have followed then anywhere you know i was yong and i didn't care i would have followed you anywhere

the ranger is Linally on his own tente get married and went home that's how it is when your First name's lone keep on the track, hey don't look pack

sometimes it think of how things were right at the start when you made a wildland in my heart





photos taken and submitted by Tom Stieber



# Four Guys on TOUR

## as quoted from a recent fax from Ian

A FEW ANECDOTES FROM THE BAND'S PAST WEEK

In Dublin last Thursday, Mark Brzezicki suffered from a severe bout of food poisoning prior to going on stage at Dublin's Point (sold out 8000 punters) opening for on stage but after the first song Mark runs off the stage, but after the first song Mark runs off the stage, of the stage of th In Dublin last Thursday, Mark Brzezicki suffered

Stuart's day was made when JIMMY informed Stuart how much he enjoyed his performance with JERRY LEE LEWIS at Hammersmith Odeon some four years ago. (Stuart's first gig was a LED ZEPPELIN show in Edinburgh c: 1971 which inspired Stuart to

learn the guitar). middle of night after partying, Bruce needs to relieve himself. He gets out of bed and uses the

needs to relieve himself. He gets out of bed and uses the room door as opposed to the bathroom door and finds himself naked in the corridor and his room door has closed behind found two cushions to hide his provide to an once he has found two cushions to hide his provide to a startled porter eventually escorts him to his room.

SATURDAY IN KARISARIUA, GERMANY. One song into the set (again) and the heavens open. It's monsoon time. Within no time there's 12 inches of water. The catering tent collapses. The dressing room tent is under water. Lightning and thunder add to the special effects. The crowd don't leave. They are soaked to the skin, lots become naked. The highland fling and congas break out amongst the mud throwhighland fling and congas break out amongst the mud throwing and body slamming. The back drop blows away. Stuart
jumps into the crowd, losing his shoes. He is unaware that
there is so much water on the ground. This gig will go down
as a German rock and roll legend. We have TV footage of band
and crowd as living proof.

THE ALM SUGMISS.

JEREM THE STANDING THE STANDING DISTRIBUTED THE STANDING DISTRIBUTED CARRIED
VOCODO TIEMS WHILES THE DUBLIN. EG A PACCOONS CHOSENDED,
ALLIGATOR TOOTH, CRAB SHELL, HUMAN BONES AND PIG BONES.

That's if for this week.

That's it for this week...

# ALL OF US

many thanx to Ian Grant for setting this up, via fax, and also to the band for taking time out of their busy schedule to answer.

#### THE QUESTIONS

- what is your favorite of the new tracks, and why?
   what would be your least favorite BC track
   of all time and why?
- 3. what should US fans expect from you on tour next year (stage set-up, venue size, energy, etc.)?
- 4. did stuart's move complicate things at all as far as communication, gigs, studio, etc.?
- 5. FOR STUART: was the US, in general, or the move to it, any inspiration for any of the new material?
  - 6. what can US fans do to support our
  - 7. what artists are currently in or around your cd player &/or tape deck?
  - any major equipment changes for this tour?
     FOR MARK: WTLF seems a departure from your "established style" did you consciously avoid the "galloping toms"?
    - 10. FOR STUART: would you say that the gradual change in your vocal style, from more raw to more smooth and refined,

has been just a natural evolution, or have you played any intentional part in it? ...also, I noticed last tour here that you tend to go

low where you used to go high - vocal strain?

11. please tell my US fans what you are looking forward to most regarding the future release and especially the tour over here, and what are your favorite/least favorite things about the states?

## THE ANSWERS



#### Stuart:

- There is a lot of the new material I'm completely satisfied with and it's difficult for me to single out one track, If I was to pick a couple, then Send You and One In A Million are my current favourities.
- 2. River Of Hope I really liked my demo version of this, which was an acoustic song, and I don't like Peter Wolfs' production of it.
- 3. One of our favourite weapons is surprise... and fear.
- 4. Not much different for me than living in Scotland, other than a little more travel.
- 5. It's hard to say as I always have felt the songs are written inside my head, not in any geographical location. I did love being there though for a lot of reasons; weather, radio, environment.
- 6. Buy the records, see the shows, call your local radio station, let people know.
- , 7. Offspring, Gin Blossoms, Leonard Cohen, Patsy Cline, Nine Inch. Nails. Flaming Lips. Kate Bush. etc.
- 8. None at all.
- 10. All I've really tried to do is tighten up my tuning and express the lyric the way I feel it. Sometimes it's not possible on tour to go as high every night as you can in a one-off studio performance, so I sometimes reinterpret the vocal to forestall any problems.
- 11. hits and great shows hopefully. most favourite; the possibilities.

least favourite: the religious right.

#### Tony:



- In particularly like: One In A Million, You Dreamer, and God's Great Mistake. All 3 tracks demonstrate a range of emotions and melody that I have not heard for a long time.
   I don't have a least favourite track because I feel every track on.
- an album is there for a good reason.

  3. A great band, a great night and I'm available for any parties after.
- 4. Not personally.
- 6. An album and a ticket is a good start. Also, tell your friends.
- 7. Led Zeppelin. 8. no.
- 11. I'm looking forward to touring the States again because I don't feel we've spent enough time there to establish ourselves. There are a lot of people out there that need to hear BC. favourite thing - going to the states.

least favourite thing - going home (not really).

#### BRUCE:

- Post Nuclear Talking Blues It has an earthy sound similar to some of the songs "The Band" were doing in the early seventies. Also the lyrics are very humorous.
- A couple of songs on PIOT suffered at the hands of Peter Wolf's synclavier. Not that they sounded bad, it's just that they didn't sound like how we performed them live.
- 3. Can't answer that until anything has been confirmed. Phone our agent. 4. Not at all. We always work away from home anyway.
- 5 n/a
- Buy the records and come to the shows.
- 7. Page/Plant. Neil Young. Bonzo Dog Band. Half-Man-Half-Biscuit.
- 8. New beard trimmer.
- 9. n/a 10. n/a
- 11. As always I'm just looking forward to being there. least forward things are the distance between A & B. favorite things oh anything lewd and libidinous.



### MARK:

(who was nice enough to TYPE his reply!)

1. YOU DREAMER, SLIGHT CHANGE OF DIRECTION MUSICALLY AND HARMONICALLY. IT'S ALSO AN OBVIOUS SINGLE.

 NO SONGS BUT THE PRODUCTION ON STEELTOWN WAS FAR TOO MUDDY AND HARD IN YOUR FACE, SUCH THAT THE INTIMACY OF SOME SONGS SUFFERED.

3. EXPECT THE UN-EXPECTED - (POSSIBLY MORE NEW LIVE SONGS AND LESS OLDIES) WHO KNOWS?

- 4. NO. IT'S A SMALL WORLD IN THE MUSIC BUSINESS. WE ALL LIVE APART ANYWAY AND A FLIGHT IS LIKE TAKING A BUS. 5. see Stuart
- 6. BUY TEN COPIES OF EVERYTHING INSTEAD OF ONE AND BRING TEN FRIENDS ALONG TO GIGS AND DON'T TRY THE GUEST LIST (JOKE) RING YOUR LOCAL RADIO STATION. REQUEST THE RECORD INSTORE. GET A FRIEND OR TWO TO SUBSCRIBE TO 'ALL OF US'.
- JIMMY SMITH (HAMMOND ORGAN SOUNDS) ABBA, POLICE LIVE, CHICAGO, GINO VANELLI, DIXIE DREGGS, PRIMUS.
   NONE.
- 9. PLAYING THE SONGS IS MOST IMPORTANT AND WITH THE SPACE FELT MUCH MORE COLD ON THIS, BUT IT IS VERY ME. (PS CHECK OUT SOME OF MY SESSION WORK FOR THE BIG PICTURE) 10. see Stuart
- 11 DOING SOME GREAT GIGS, IT'S ALWAYS GREAT TO BE THERE EVEN THOUGH THE LONG DRIVES TAKE THEIR TOLL. LEAST FAVOURITE IS GETTING UP EARLY FOR LONG DRIVES.

### \*\*From OOR magazine\*\*

(meaning "ear" - it's the biggest music paper in Belgium and Holland)
"Ummistakably Big Country - already after the first
couple of bars of "You Dreamer," it is obvious that Stuart
Adamson and his men haven't changed a bit. The first
song is as strong as iron and sets the tone for the rest of
WTLF, an avalanche of well-known Celtic guitar riffs,
working man's rock from the rough Scottish land.

With rolled sleeves they again tear one epic after another out of Adamson's inexhaustible musical brain. Straightforward, no frills, and every now and then a romantic contemplation about women and life.

In the past, Big Country has tried to sail another course (for example, with PIOT), but blood starts running faster after a strong portion of WTLF - "You Dreamer," "Thunder and Lightning," "Blue On A Green Planet," and especially "God's Great Mistake" (hopefully out as a single soon) - every one of them exciting songs with a very high stage potential for their live concerts. Big Country is back from never having been away."

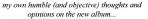
# \*\*From Algemeen Dagblad\*\*

(the largest daily newspaper in Holland)

"You are surprised that some bands still exist. Big Country is an example of this. With exactly the same band members as in 1983 during the recording of "The Crossing," there is again out a new cd from this Scottish quartet, their seventh already! Loud guitars which sometimes sound like bagpipes have always been the trademark of former punker Stuart Adamson and his friends. Big Country makes raw, typical Scottish rock music with songs featuring a lot of rain, thunder, and lightning. "You Dreamer," the first song on the cd, is one of the most balanced songs Big Country has ever written. "Post-Nuclear Talking Blues" surprises as an exciting honky-tonk folklore. The other twelve songs are solid as a rock, but do not add much to what the band has produced in the rast."

(thanx to Peter Hornberg for both of these reviews)

# WHY THE LONG FACE





You Dreamer - Pretty classic BC intro, when the chorus kicks in, you get a very good indicator of the rest of the albumespecially vocally; the harmony vocals here kick strious ass. The chorus is extremely memorable, the one-wise high-end drone throughout the chorus is simple and very effective. The third verse is the highlight for me, I hove the "induana jones" bridge, As for it being the first US single, I feel a better choice could not be made. Solid Big Country.

Massage Of Love - Low the turns quest basis by FLSA (\_\_inst bidding), Musically, I adore this turn = trock. I especially take the one most guite makes in the Jud period the werea, I presently - fine for with 12 HIV. The fine with 12 HIV. The lay on at the transport who will be the one most guite times in "we needlewalt as a nessage of low". Let me deborate: 1984. The Creating, what the imagen? the more, rep., (see, for fire, ruin, flowers, etc., see, there were endounce, has for the most part were were expected to things, and enotions such as logs, low, loss, and pain were more alluded to rather than addressed. The same will be finely and enotions such as long, low, loss, and pain were more alluded to rather than addressed. The same will be finely made of the results of the first beard Hold The Heart, I was all for the Crying their hand at renames. But time that allows, the song how been increasingly more of non-video these vayoue notion, more on this case the review good on ...) which to me come off as need-almostic - and I have to nelly one, nelsofamus sizes I low on my last. I really like the one mellow line of chorus tomouth the end that stebs beck in on the second line. And I like the copied layer at the red at lot.

I'm Not Ashamed Mellow into, thee classic Mark segues into a had lead from Smart bringing this number to it it is assisted polying uniform. For the contractions of the property of the contraction of the great season contractions to me = T and a lead of the strings that were the rank season contractions to me = T and a lead of the strings I'w down. The close to season contractions to the season of the strings I'w down. The close to love, and you down to season the first things you had not been season to season the first things you had not been season to season the season of the season to the season the season that the season go get in the UKI I love to be green from the season of contributed our links gender. Thing claimst seems on efficient the season goes in the late I'k I love to be green from the season to the season the season in the desert. And the lines "we led constructs the shown we led constructs the season the season in the season

Sall tens Northings—Let me says without tonges in clocks, that I am wholebastrately gleal that this cony use disquisible for move? in the manage for rat US single. In arms, figh, that right were a where I pain may miller coading, and it says "warmer, medicarity- next 3 roads." Here's the good points—romy beats work in the warse introa and, one of the two or three "internations" in Sill paint in which has to offer, the "international deplays and the road them to the externed relieves the case and one of the two or three "internations" in Sill paint in which has to offer the "interplays beginning being in the road in the real them to the case of the control of the real charge for me, that I now guits to abbone behand the charaes sounding not which some ne. no single me and describe the real charge for me, that I now guits the sounding with the next 2 roads would make jine b-sale, but a historiera ulbom trock, Brazially, what I now apply the control of the real charge for the real charge for the white has complicated the whole have you believed to the sounding the sale of the sounding that the sale of the sa

Seed You. I like the term, but I will having after its holding only the minor plading of the wrest progression, feeling the allie gipped. Here "hey high "Freighc comes in and I'm hading the product on the road again, and I'm date fight behavior, feeling the charas and Sharet & Co. three one of their curveballs its the fight bridge in today his performance of IABC. Also the the charas and Sharet & Co. three one of their curveballs its the fight bridge in today his performance of IABC. Also the the charas and Sharet & Co. three one of IABC. Also the the charast its state of the charast I following the recommendation of IABC. Also the the charast its state of the charast I following the recommendation of IABC. Also the the charast its state of the charast I following the recommendation of IABC. Also the the characteristics will be second personal of the charast I found it move one necetive from this allows, that it I like the "creative his the second personal condition of the characteristics" have a problem with the pice, but at many that suggestions are the creative from the second personal control point in the middle... ok., I admit it, this song is FINE—pate rease that Ind.

"Worm" and I'm out!"

One In A Million - Let's talk done show. Remember To Scaren's Nor THAT was show work. How done Let's training, and, me show work. It has made to the heart accessing to be that neuron. Addinger, almost proved, by we want to either get technical or get a better idea of what I mean, break out The Creating and check out those to mee. Second to either idea of what I mean, break out The Creating and check out those to mee. Second the chose near the color meet to be a second to the chose on the chose is media, the chose is second to the chose of the chose is second to the chose of the chose is second to the chose is sec

God's Great Mistake - Love the intro to this number, but think it would sound even more "earthy" without the drums plodding away... let's face it, some fans will have a problem with this song because of it's basic message (see chorus) - in some opinions and polls I've seen, this song is a recurring "least favorite". I'm not going to get into the ideologies expressed here, just the basic song, I love it. This is BC the way I like 'em - LOUD & ANGRY! A lot of fans love BC's more mellow stuff, and I'm fine with that stuff too, but frankly, nowadays. nothing beats BC kicking some serious ass. This is a full-on guitar assault from both sides. Stuart's leads - the fingertapping, all the little one- and two-note touches here and there, the little seventh-style chord that sharply underlies the second run of the bridge, I hear Mark in the chorus, slipping in that of early-eighties, yeah-discodied-but-I-still-got-some-in-me highhat (I like that stuff, by the way). Basically, I think this song is a great opener for "WTLF - part 2". And Stuart ends the song by giving us more of what we love best - amazing solo work, coming to a frothy abrupt end, leaving me reaching for a cigarette (I don't smoke) and asking "was it good for you?,"

Wild Land In My Heart - Before I start rattling stuff off, I just wanna tell you that this quickly has become one of my favorite tunes on WTLF. In the opening drum sequence, I love the vibrato-drummy sound (real articulate, eh?) that hides behind the main run (listen closely). While the opening chords didn't thrill me at first, BC go on to better define this progression later in the song... we'll get there, hang on... lyrically, I absolutely ADORE this tune: it touches that little-kid-saturday-matinee in all of us I think. Though I'm not familiar with the subject matter in the first verse. I have heard it's regarding a movie entitled "Cathy Came Home", and the plot of it is somewhat covered in the verse. Then the 2nd verse; one of my all-time fav-o-rit shows is Lassie. Just the John Provost era. please - he was the king of the "Lassie kids"... when I caught that Stuart was saying "Lassie" (2nd or 3rd listen), the little hairs on the back of my neck stood up (this is a common occurrence with BC music)! On to the Magnificent Seven. Love the way he says "mag-ni-fa-cent!" The chorus is just as catchy as anything else on this album. The way that Stuart uses light humor and sprinkles the song with the sparkle in a little kid's eye, the sone just becomes a nice slice of nostalpia. Nowthen - the musical progression is stripped down and, as I said, re-defined in the 4th verse, with Tony plodding the coolest bassline this side of the Appalachians; leading us through to the bridge, which by now, you're wildly singing along to, which heads stright into the "don't look hack" outro fade - a sone which utilizes the best in all four of 'em ... it's a winner!

Take You To The Moon - While I like this song, I can't help but think it's yet another chapter of songs already written. Don't get me wrong - this song stands on it's own... but with the first listen, I surmised that this tune sounds a lot like "Ships" & "Pink Marshmallow Moon" tossed into a blender. Stuart sets the mood of the song appropriately in the 1st werse by putting us in a place we've all been; driving home, late at night, just the radio and thoughts that can't help but run around in circles in your brain. The chorus brought me to my earlier songhybrid theory, especially the little lap-steel sounding interlude inbetween each line, reminding me a LOT of "Ships" ... lyrically, it reminds me of "Pink Marshmallow Moon". Ask yourself this - with, say, Travis Tritt, or maybe Alan Jackson, sitting in on vocals, could this song not be a Top 40 country hit?? I think so (by the way-

that's not a complaint - it's an ideal).

Far From Me To You - This sone doesn't really call out to me until the "sometimes in the darkest sky" bridge. I'm impressed with Stuart's harmony vocals (as I am on each song here). While I find the "tell me can ya hear me" break very obligatory and redundant lyrically, I really groove Tony's quick bass run there. The song picks up as it goes. I enjoy the lead: it's crying high notes reaching deep and pulling you to the final yerse, dropping you down to a more sedate plateau - only to kick you right off to see if you can fly thru the bridge and chorus... a slow-down landing approach, and you're safely back on solid ground - Thanx for flying BC airlines, and here's your complimentary bag of peanuts!

Charlotte - This has pretty much been my favorite song since the 2nd listen. "Wait a mother-lovin' minute, there, james!" you say - "I thought you weren't big on BC's mushy ballads and vague notions!" Well. I'm not but that's not what this song's about. This song isn't all "hey, babe, the house burned down but we can make it, let me love you forever" - heck no - it's all about the reality of flings and affairs! It's all about this girl, Charlotte, who makes some bad judgement calls - we've all met people like this. live-for-the-moment, regret-it-inthe-morning type people. little things that set this song apart from the vague numbers are tangible lines, like "he used to buy her underwear, she loved to wear them too" - we get a tangible thought (tongue in cheek here) to access. "They saw the world together, but only in the dark - 3 hours in a limosine, to find a place to park"... that pretty much sums it up. This is the calssic case of a girl who mistakes physical affection for emotional attention. Unfortunately, this stuff happens all the time out here in the real world. We get even more insight when we see that this is a family man she's toying with (sorry, folx, I get wrapped up in stories such as this one). Anyway - there's some e-bow in there! really! Listen closely, you'll hear it... if you try really hard. The chorus is another slice of reality, served up with vigor, tact, and chocolate. Love Stuart's singing on this one (again, especially the harmony vocals), and the highlight, for me, is the vocal-string rake-drum break with that extremely cool echo on the vocals; that makes the song for me. I don't know what else to say, except, "you've got your chocolate in my ballad - two great tastes that taste great together!"

Post-Nuclear Talking Blues: This song is basic, US simple, US "carthy" (what other word describes it), It's mother one of my finvorties. Stuart chimes in as the "Everyman" character, piloting us thru the trials and troubles of everyday life - connecting us all with at least one thing we can relate to. I love the line about the customs men, it's good to see Stuart's sense of humon Musically. How it - full of musiclon, ince clean acoustic guitar castainet-speed percussion from mark, and that incredibly cool slide guitar play underlining the entire song. The 'drowning man' segment gives the song an che break, and makes a lot of sense in the process. Don't mins the "cha" right before the last verse. ... And it all comes around once more before "that's all."

Blue On A Green Planet - Fasten those seat belts, folx! The opening drum blast sets the mark for the journey, ...just last night I saw on the german BC Mailing List that someone else has the same idea on the opening riff as me, so I'm not alone in thinking that the very first line in the opener (which continues throughout) is very similar to the main riff in the Psychedelic Furs' "Pretty In Pink". The lead comes in and I'M THERE! Again - aggressive, full-throttle BC, no holds barred. Why, a curse word! Wow, Stu's fed up with this (fictional) chick! There's a reference to the old alka-seltzer commercial ("plop without the fizz"). I think this is the best choice for last song on the album. I like the rythym guitar during the verse, giving us grubby little chunks of chords, with scratchy intensity. The mention of the "joint account," again, ties us to some tangible ideas. Then we're given the "what more can we say..." break, complete with lush backup vocals, only to lead us into what I consider to be another of those reminders of the old BC - the "chigga-chunk-chunk" behind the "but I'm blue on a green planet, with you" part, Remember those little hairs on the back of my neck? They're back up! Nowthen. while we get that little jolt of old-fashioned BC, we're also reminded quickly that times have indeed changed - want proof? Try this little exercise: grab the sleeve to your old Steeltown LP. Now see if you can find any room in the lyrics for these lines: "I'm not that lazy, but I just don't need the work. I'm not the proper type to be one of those physical jerks" - tough, huh? That's exactly what I mean. But, following that comes a nice portion of logic - "Some people say you have to change to stay the same - I guess we tried so hard to stay the same we changed." That's profound stuff, folx. After that, it's just non-stop driving 120 mph, thru the curvy, rollercoaster solo to the elaborate ending, which is cool, because it sounds very much like the endings Stuart tacks on frequently in concert, so it gives it kind of a "live" feel. Which is what I'm ready for - WTLF live! bring it on! This album ends with Stuart's last note and then the finger slides down the fretboard and that's it. Fini.

## The Overview:

I can't say (right now) that I like this album quite as much as Buffalo Skinners. But I certainly like it more than NPLH, and probably more than PIOT. Buffalo Skinners, to me, was the "comeback" album (if I had to choose one as a comeback album). It was for me kind of The Crossing: The Next Generation. Not that it's musically or lyrically similar, just that the underlying energy is on the same high level. It's this "energy" that we need to discuss here. I think WTLF has a LOT of energy backing it - and more to come! I'm excited about the whole WTLF handwagon: the album, the tour, this fanzine, working with Ian and Pure Records, t-shirts, posters, and the excitement from you fans, too. I want to be right there with you folk: front row center screamin' my lungs out, passing out AOU flyers before & after the show(s), and phoning and faxing the radio stations. It's time to put BC on the map here in America. It's not just about WTLF, it's about the Big Country Experience - or, as Stuart would say, the Big Country Extravaganza! BC fans are a special sort of people... not in the same way that guys who wear their Spock ears to work are, I'd like to think, no sir, What I mean to say is we have a certain 'ear' for music. A discerning ear. In a way, we're sorta like that big, lovable doberman gracing WTLF; we hear things that other people don't. Or, perhaps, they just haven't heard it YET. We can change that. Right? Right.





great photo taken and submitted by tom stieber!



# The Big Country Adoption Agency

ok folx, it's time once again to help find some good homes for some Big Country 12 inches, thanks to our good friend David Wight over in the U.K.

here's what we have this time around:

East Of Eden UK 12" Wonderland UK 12" Harvest Home UK 12"

The Terms:

only one per person
 first come-first served
 é4 for postage and handling
 out don't alread, own a con-

you don't already own a copy
 ...that's it, free 80, what more could you ask for??
 simply send me a cheke no morey order made out to chanes of Brich,
 and if the 12" you request has already been sent out,
 I will reindure you immedially.



I asked my UK friend David Wright about some topics that we, as Americans, might not be very familiar with. His explanations of some aspects of typical British life may surprise you!

#### TELEVISION -

MOST POPULAR US TV SHOW -

Roseanne is still popular as was the repeat run of Cheers. NYPD Blue has just finished and got good reviews. Star Trck (new & original) still attracts good audiences as does the New Adventures Of Superman. None of these programmes are shown at peak viewing times. One of my own favourites from a while back was Taxi.

POSTAL SYSTEM— There are 2 class of post. First class post usually guarantees delivery anywhere within the UK in 24 hours. For a letter thin costs about 0.25p. Parcels and packages are dependent upon weight. 2nd class post guarantees delivery anywhere within the Kimisel 3-days. For a letter it costs 0.20p Fer postages coversas, weight and destination affect the total charge. For example the 12° singles 1 sent syst recently cost around 85. Each area in the UK gets a postal delivery by the Royal Mail cach day except Studies, Steme higher areas get 2 deliveres. The Royal mail is the sole delivers of letters and the main deliverer of parcels. Some independent companies offer a parcel service but this is generally more experience. All the multi have just here serin the arcedom in eA. The most important part of any UK address is the post code—in my case, NO16-30E. This intentifies my address within the Notingham area. Unlike this 1000 to 1000 to 1000 could be 1000 to 1000 t

The main national music station is ACDIO 11M, which is operated by the BBC. This station has a major influence on whit types of music the UK hear. If It should can get on it's dyning polytis it has a much better chance of chart success. Radio 1 also broadcasts the "official" UK chair. This takes account of any record sales made from chart success. Radio 1 also broadcasts the "official" UK chair. This takes account of any record sales made from chart success. The success of the succ

AVERAGE COST OF -

TELEVISION - about \$200 for a portable, about \$650 for a standard set. You can go much higher than this if you want a really big screen, say, \$1800.

CD PLAYER - anything from \$350 upwards.

CD - penerally about \$20.

CASSETTE - generally about \$14.

VINYL RECORD - getting harder to come by, even over here, but usually a great value at about \$12.

US CD - not generally available in shops, normally through specialist magazines such as Record Collector (our equivalent of Goldmine). Anything from \$27 upwards, more if promo - \$35 plus.

US CASSETTEXINVI, RECORD - very difficult and extremely collectable. A collector like myself would will-

ingly pay \$60 plus for certain US LPs, and \$40 for similar cassettes. HOW BIG COUNTRY ARE RECEIVED IN THE UK -

Radia apples on RAJIO ITMs is virtually non-existent. All albems and singles chart which is no mean achievement producing the ITM of the producing the ITMs of a plaqued by the first that their round was soo distinctive and the mine; press can not not be by this. The hand have a loyal line following and can pencally fill gig up to a capacity of 1000. Promotion of recent releases has been poper and this is with the band as been program that the sign is shown that the producing the thing will be a so the producing the sign will be a soon popular that give all the producing the sign will be a soon to see that the band has been together for 12 years - how many other bands last this long and retain a high level of success. The peak period for Big Countary in the UK would have been from 1883 to 1986.

#### THE PERCEPTION OF US BANDS IN THE UK -

Difficult to answer this one as it depends on your musical tastes. Green Day are quite popular at the moment as are Norman Ethinks, bows a grateral variety of music in the states which probably mastes; you more open minded than 10 firsts. I understand that you have stations decleated to certain types of music, eg. country and western. Gardin Robosk is popular with the UK C&W firms. On the other hand, I polish that nussic in the UK has a more raw feel to it whereas US firms is caused and any appear over-produced. This is probably why Foreigner are more popular in the states than been in the UK Another popular is Cas in Aeromath. Like I say, this is a difficult question.

WEATHER- 'Yes it does rain a lot! Particularly north of the border in Scotland. The summer(?) starts around May June and ends about September Even then, the temperatures rarely get above 25 degrees Celcius. This is why we need a sense of humour.

# Mmmm... sour grapes!

fels, I always love to tip BC fars off to decent music shops. I also like to tip you off to any truly disappointing ones I come across. Well, a little while ago, I sent to a company called Mranum. that claims to stockpile large quantities of rarrites well, I coredred 2 Crossing backstage lannimates (for \$12 cach), since all I ever found was the cloth stick-on patches, what I got was 2 of the cloth stick-ons that had been cheesily run thru a lannimator - they punched a hole in the top and ran a shoestring thru it! Sometimes we gotta learn the hard way I suppose. Beware - when it seems too good to be true, they probably MADE it!!

# You Pick The Ultimate Big Country Set List

Here's an Idea:
Let's let BC know exactly
what we want to hear on
the forthcoming WTLF
tourl All of you who have
the gumption, send me a
list of TEN SONGS, prior
to WTLF, that you want to
hear when BC hit you
town. Draw it up just like
the set list to the right, on a
seperate piece of paper. I
will forward all the responses I get to lan Grant
and well Isse lif we can't

make an impact!

God's great mistake

long way home
eail into nothing
eend you
ehipe
inwarde
thunder & lightning
I'm not ashamed
look away

one in a million blue on a green planet restlese natives we're not in kansas

> wonderland alone mannish boy fields of fire

# B C SHOPPER AND PAWN INC.

### FOR SAIF

FOLX, PLEASE REMEMBER THAT, UNLESS A LISTING IS FOR ANOTHER FAN, YOU'LL WANT TO CONTACT THESE PEOPLE TO RESERVE AN ITEM FIRST. FROM JEFF MARSHSKIDS UK 2X7:
MASQUIERADEJOUT OF TOWN



ANOTHER EMOTIONAFTERMATH DUB ARMOURY SHOW UK 7: CASTLES IN SPANNUINGLE OF CITIES ARMOURY SHOW UK PROMO 7: CASTLES IN SPAININNOCENTS ABROAD ARMOURY SHOW UK 7: NEW YORK CITYWHIRLIWIND

NEW YORK CITYWHIRLWIND

ARMOURY SHOW UK 7°.

GLORY OF LOVE/HIGHER THAN THE INSTRUMENTAL

ARMOURY SHOW UK 7°.

SAME AS ABOVE ITEM - PROMO

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FIELDS OF FIRE, ETC, ETC - RUNNING TIME - 90 MINUTES - \$9 - INCLUDES POSTAGE FROM DAWN MARTIN
MARCH 1984 ISSUE 95 OF TROUSER PRESS, W/ COVER STORY ON BC - IN SO-SO CONDITION

(THERE'S SOME STAIN DAMAGE TO THE COVER, BUT THE ARTICLE INSIDE IS FINE) - MAKE AN OFFER FROM GOLDEN TREASURES - THROUGH A BIG COUNTRY CD - \$22

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SEALED JAPANESE LP - FIELDS OF FIRE - \$30 (I ASSUME THIS IS THE JAP. SINGLE)

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12" UK PEACE IN OUR TIME - BIG 712/872 361-1 CD5 UK PEACE IN OUR TIME - BIGCD 7/872361-1 CD5 UK BROKEN HEART (W/ MADE IN HEAVEN) - BIGCDR 6/872 223-2 FROM ERIC ORSECK -

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## Get on the Web!

If you have access to web capabilities, do yourself a favor and check out John N. Underwood's web page, entitled The Crossing. It's an updated page with all sorts of info - lyrics, news, tour dates, etc! You can find it at: http:://www.cs.clemson.edu/~junderw/ music/bc/ ... And you can e-mail John at:

# 'e-mail

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