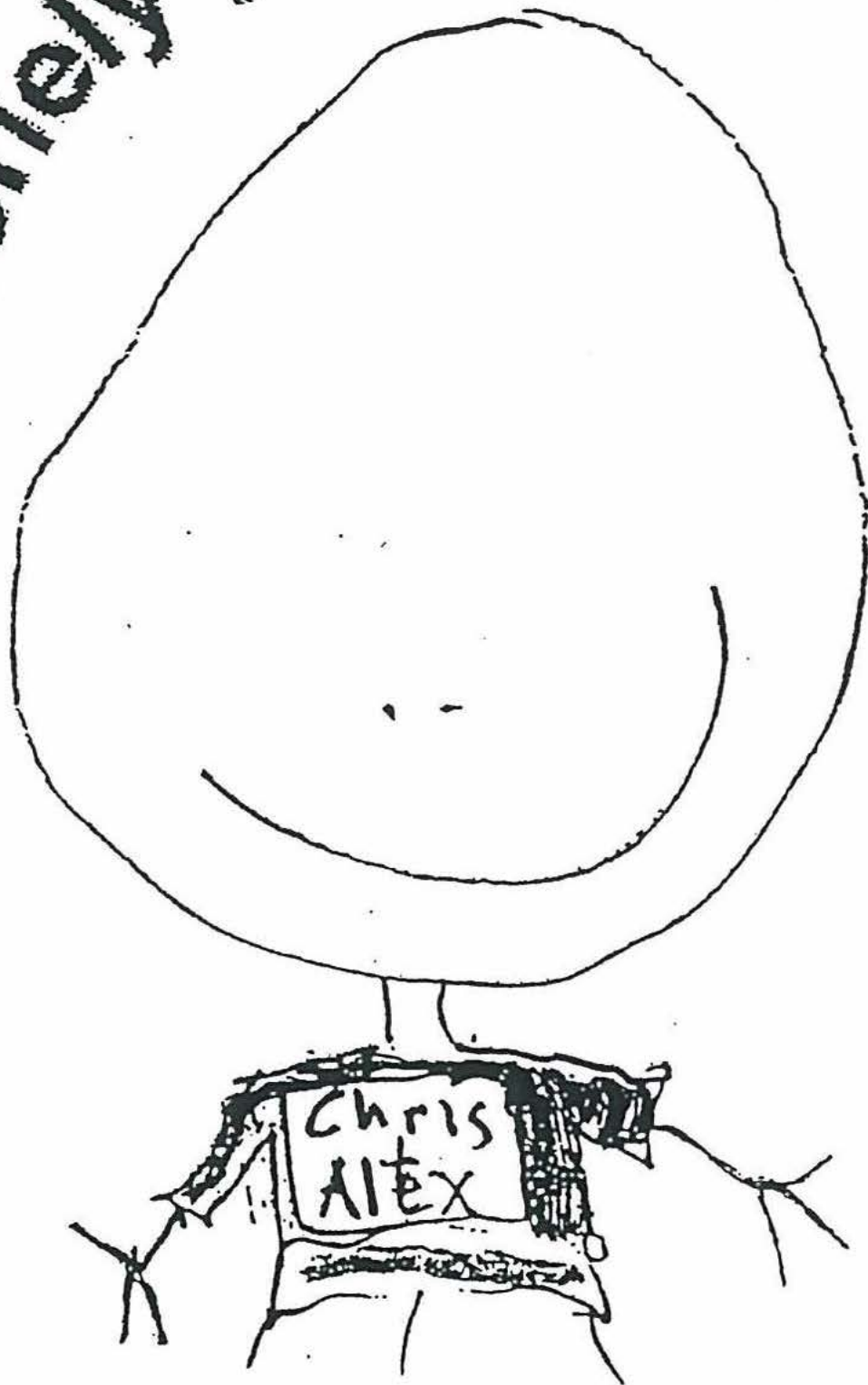


LONELY PLANET BOY

The first release **Lonely Planet Boy** is six-degrees-of-separation concerning all things Big Star. The kickoff song is "Country Morn" by **Chris Bell**, who is revered in "Christopher Bell" by Norway's **The Chairs** (who also unwittingly provided the cover art by including the image included in a snail-mail letter's salutation.) Memphis is again represented by **Van Duren & Tommy Hoehn** (performing "Cuba" which was co-written with Chris Bell), along with **The Scruffs**, and **Sid Selvidge** doing blues (his Peabody label originally released Like Flies on Sherbert.)

"Evergreen" by Ed Wenn's **Big Ray** combo is an all time fave song of mine. Bernie Kugel, who published the pop zine titled Big Star in the 70's, is here with his band, **Mystic Eyes**. **The Knobs** and **Paranoid Lovesick** were always solid. J'adore **Outrageous Cherry** (Matt Smith wrote "Boxtop" about Alex and later does it again with "Last Rock Star" on Teenster!), San Francisco's **Yuji Oniki**, is here with a song from his Shonen Blue album which rightly got props from both LX & Scott Miller on the album's cover sticker, while Vancouver homeboys **Sister Lovers** round out the lucky 13 songs.

lonely planet boy



A CD-ROM disc is shown from a top-down perspective. The disc is white with a clear center hole and a silver outer ring. The text "lonely planet boy" is printed in a bold, black, sans-serif font, following the curve of the disc's inner edge. Below the center hole, the text "a BOAC compilation" is printed in a similar bold, black, sans-serif font.

lonely planet boy

a BOAC compilation

Lonely Planet Boy

CHRISTOPHER BELL "country morn" (Bell/Chilton/Bell)

OUTRAGEOUS CHERRY "boxtop" (Smith)

c/o Third Gear Records <herv@rust.net>

PARANOID LOVESICK "feelin' alright to drive" (Maracz)

<blinky12@aol.com> PO Box 470168 Cleveland, Ohio 44147-0168

THE KNOBS "cut out bins" (Healey)

1615 North Scott St. Wilmington, Delaware 19806

THE CHAIRS "christopher bell" (Osmundsen)

<josjohn@online.no> Nils Juelsgt 71 4008 Stavanger, Norway

TOMMY HOEHN "cuba" (Hoehn/Bell)

c/o Frankenstein Records #8 - 1429 Oak Manor Drive Memphis, TN 38119

VAN DUREN "nothing's too good for my baby" (Duren)

c/o Microphone Bounce Music 235 Montelo Road Memphis, TN 38120

SID SELVIDGE "torture and pain" (Selvidge) <sidsel@bluespeak.org>

THE SCRUFFS "Number One" (Burns)

<northheights@earthlink.net> PO Box 111197 Memphis, TN 38111-1197

YUJI ONIKI "cover" (Oniki) <yujionik@socrates.berkeley.edu>

SISTER LOVERS "radiator girl" (SL)

BIG RAY "evergreen" (Wenn) <big.ray@nerd.oaktree.co.uk>

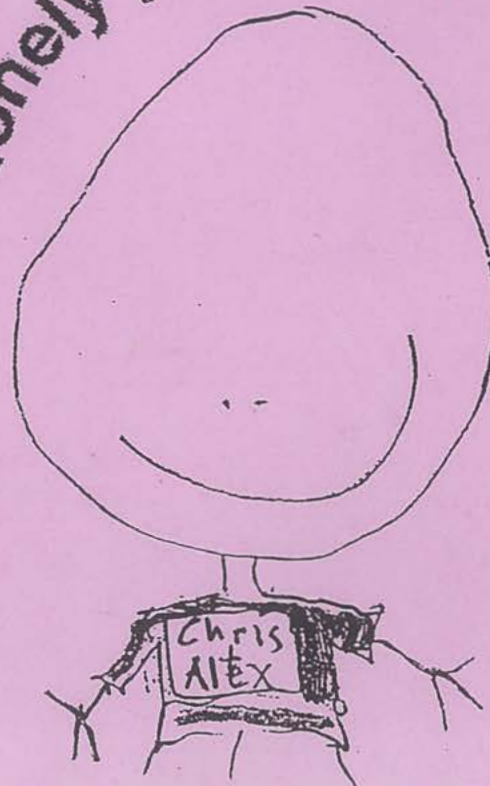
Mama Sink 11 Moffat Avenue Ipswich/Suffolk IP4 3JG UK

web: <http://www.nerd.oaktree.co.uk/bands.html>

MYSTIC EYES "turn and kiss me goodbye" (ME) <DKugel@aol.com>

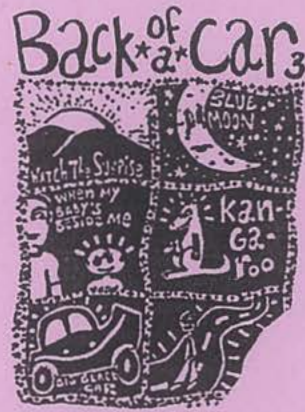
Sonic reducer: Bud Bremner @ Coastal Mastering Vancouver
cover model courtesy of THE CHAIRS (his other shirt sez JODY and ANDY)

lonely planet boy



The first issue of BOAC debuts in Fall of 94. This is the original cover (1,000 copies) and when I ran a second printing I moved the "big star" graphic to the middle of the page, where it looks more uniform in representing a group. Ken Stringfellow contributes a day by day tour diary of life on the road with the reunited Big Star (14 day epic!). Gtr/lyrics to—what else!—"Back of a Car" and lyrics to The Replacements "Alex Chilton." Fiction by Canada's Crad Kilodney and profiles on cartoonists Colin Upton and Ian Boothby. Cover art by LESTER SMOLENSKI is an interpretation of Charlie Gillett's well-known original photo.

The second BOAC came out Fall 1995. The Chris cover is JULIAN LAWRENCE's drawing of a photo taken by David Bell in London at their apartment (dig out your liner notes to *I Am The Cosmos* for David Bell's wonderful recounting of times spent with his brother) The issue comes with a flexi-disc from Evatone in Florida (the only people in North America I know of that make these floppy little 45's). Interestingly enough, between issues the price of making a flexi skyrocketed so I decided to include a *vinyl* 45 with the third issue. I visited Memphis in May of 95 and people may go on about the heat but its the rainstorms that are staggering. I listened to Jr Kimbrough every single day for months.



Flash forward to Summer 1997 and the third BOAC appears. Finally. My small zine about my profession as a telephone operator *voice on the wire* has also begun. The vinyl single features Tommy Hoehn and Van Duren performing songs recorded in the late 70's co-written with both Alex and Jody (yow!). The issue also comes with colored posters of Jody drawn by three female cartoonists (get this: Mary Fleener, Roberta Gregory and Shary Fleniken) Nick Drake, Box Tops, Big Star family tree, tons of Memphis material. Cover art an original by the magnificent DELAINE. Cartoonists rule.

THE BACK ISSUES OF boac ARE READY AND WAITING FOR YOU TO GIVE THEM A GOOD HOME. EMAIL OR WRITE FOR THE GORY DETAILS: beeman@istar.ca
THE BOAC PAGE IS HERE, DEAR: <http://home.istar.ca/~beeman>

Why the title? "Lonely Planet Boy" is my fave New York Dolls song. The saddest, softest melody they ever wrote about longing and rejection: "I'm so all alone/whoa whoa whoa yeah"—heart crushing material. Gimme more!
At times I hear such sadness at the core of BIG STAR, don't you?

Lonely Planet Boy is limited to a run of 1,500 copies. My contributors, who love Big Star as much as I do, have been generous. *Lonely Planet Boy* contains the beautiful "Country Morn" by Christopher Bell plus four other Memphis heavyweights and a few originals written specifically for this collection.

BOAC #4636 MPO Vancouver BC V6B 4A1

CHRIS BELL

"Country Morn" (3:13)

I introduced myself to David Bell (Chris' big brother) while the first issue of BOAC was being written—I wanted him to know my upcoming magazine was to be a loving, fun tribute to Chris and all things related to BIG STAR. David liked the premiere issue so I gathered my nerve to inquire if there was a Chris Bell original in the vaults that BOAC could put out. It just so happened there was! I had the privilege to release "Country Morn" as a flexi-disc with the second issue of BOAC. Yes, it's the music to "Watch The Sunrise" with different lyrics by Chris. For quite some time I originally thought the title of this song was "Country Mourn," as I discussed the song with David over the telephone and only heard the word pronounced. It seemed plausible...

PARANOID LOVESICK

"Feel'n' Alright to Drive" (4:11)

I first came into contact with Cleveland's PARANOID LOVESICK when they sent BOAC their six song ep *Molly* (which features a song titled "Big Star") Like the song sez "Cleveland rocks" and so do Paranoid Lovesick. "Alright" catches the melancholic side of the group, and fits this compilation well.

THE CHAIRS "Christopher Bell" (1:41)

A trio from Norway wrote this sweet punky tribute to Chris that zooms by in well under two minutes. Vidar Osmundsen (on vocal/git as he puts it), Gary Lubovich (bass/vokal) and Jan Kyvik (drums, on this recording) have been THE CHAIRS since Fall 1996 and have two singles and an album out. It was rather astounding to open up a package from Norway and have the Christopher Bell single appear (lovely yellow vinyl). I was delighted, yet a little uncertain just what was being sung. Vidar passed on the lyrics:

Hey there Mr. Bell can you see me running after your records?
 hey I saw your name next to Alex Chilton
 Hey there Mr. Bell can you hear me in heaven rock and roll heaven
 or maybe Mr. Bell do you live in hell?
 Christopher Bell xxx

I saw you on my way home I was on a trip I couldn't see that cosmos
 I saw you on my way home but I was on a trip

TOMMY HOEHN "Cuba" (3:33)

Slowing things down a bit we have "Cuba" which Tommy and CHRIS BELL wrote together. It's a bit of an epic, I'd say. Much top-notch pop such as THE SCRUFFS and VAN DUREN came out of Memphis in 1977 but topping my list from that time is TOMMY's *Losing You To Sleep*. Long out of print it includes the Chilton/Hoehn collaboration "She Might Look My Way" and many other gems. In 1996 Frankenstein records released *Of Moon and Fools* a collection of rarities which includes "Cuba". Tommy has been writing with VAN DUREN and they plan to record together.

OUTRAGEOUS CHERRY

"Boxtop" (1:35)

An action packed minute-and-a-half. When not fronting the wonderful OUTRAGEOUS CHERRY (three crucial discs, start with the first) MATTHEW SMITH also plays with the country-tinged VOLEBEATS. Matt has a way with words and what he can do with the word "teenage" moves me. "Boxtop" was written for this collection.

**THE KNOBS "Cut Out Bins" (3:53)**

THE KNOBS from Delaware are led by PHILIP HEALEY and their debut *Happy Sad Drunk* (Mood Food) is something you must get your mitts on. Picture a joyfully-twisted non-surfy BEACH BOYS with CHILTON-esque tendencies and knockout fluid guitar lines. Couple that with Phil's muted, expressive vocals—spookily great.

SID SELVIDGE

"Torture and Pain" (3:37)

Perhaps best known to BIG STAR aficionados as the fellow who released Alex Chilton's infamous *Like Flies On Sherbert* album on his own Peabody records, SID is also a member of the extraordinary MUD BOY and THE NEUTRONS and has had a long solo career playing music in Memphis. Good genes dept: Sid's son, Steve, is a member of the phenomenal hiphop-jazzy-rawk group BIG ASS TRUCK.

THE SCRUFFS "Number One" (2:35)

Shortly after making the acquaintance of Memphis' STEPHEN BURNS (Scruffs lead vox/songwriter) I wound up happily writing the liner notes for *Angst* a collection of the earliest Scruffs material. Stephen's Northern Heights label, re-released the Scruffs debut *Wanna Meet The Scruffs* and *Angst* early in 1998. "Number One" from that collection was an easy choice for *Lonely Planet Boy*. To view the liner notes I wrote: <http://www.geocities.com/soho/6770/scruffs.html>

YUJI ONIKI "Cover" (3:59)

When I discover truly special music I do all I can to find out about the performer (what else exists, etc). Hence, in mid-1994 I found myself phoning directory assistance across the country for anyone with the last name "Oniki" as in YUJI ONIKI the mastermind behind the exquisite, wonderfully titled *Shonen Blue* (a 1988 independant release). A few short calls later and I was chatting with Yuji's somewhat bemused brother who put us in touch with each other (Yuji lives in San Francisco). There's a brief, amusing BIG STAR-ish connection to all this: Yuji sent out advance tapes of the album to ALEX CHILTON and SCOTT MILLER (Game Theory). Both Alex and Scott took the time to send in very similar quotes: Alex raved "Real Good" while Scott exclaimed "Real Good Stuff." These comments made it onto the record sleeve. When a local record store clerk pointed out *Shonen Blue* in the used section I thought I'd give it a try. The atmospheric album whumped me on my butt with it's enigmatic, quietly sad yet hopeful grace. Charming. Yuji has remastered *Shonen Blue* with five new tracks so the album may find a new release in the handy compact disc format.

SISTER LOVERS

"Radiator Girl" (2:47)

You must know why these lads are here. My Vancouver pals Mark Kleinz, Petey Wheatjeans, Jay Star and Andy Pants played the launch party for the first issue of BOAC along with PLUTO. Kleinz is now in JUNGLE who have the cutest loin-cloth wearing drummer you could imagine and also an ep which includes a cover of "Hey Little Child". My fave SISTER LOVERS track is this winner.

BIG RAY "Evergreen" (3:57)

In the late 80's the German based City Slang label released an excellent compilation titled *Slanged*. It featured Yo La Tengo, Sebadoh, Hole and a few other less well known names such as Seam, Love Child and Big Ray. I fell hard for BIG RAY's excellent contribution which features great singing, abstract vocals and a very sharp musical twist. I haven't a clue what Ed's talking about, but the stories this song plays out in my head are really quite something. Thanks to the internet I wound up getting in touch with Ed, who lives in London, and we've hit it off. Longtime BIG STAR fans (one reason for their moniker was to be in the "B" section with you-know-who), Big Ray's second album *You Get What You Deserve* has recently been released on a budding French label. C'est vrai! Keep a lookout for *Naked* their out of print City Slang debut.

MYSTIC EYES "Turn and Kiss me Goodbye" (3:35)

BERNIE KUGEL is the vocalist for these East-coast garage rawkers. In the late 70's Bernie published three issues of BIG STAR magazine named after BIG STAR. Big Star chronicled all things punk rock of the day. A nice ending for *Lonely Planet Boy*. Adieu!

VAN DUREN & GOOD QUESTION

"Nothing's too good for my Baby" (4:42)

I took the Big Star pilgrimage to Memphis in May of 1995 (during the Memphis in May event in which a specific country is profiled—fittingly that year it was Bangkok). Splendid city, yet kookily hot to this Northerner. If and when you go check to see if GOOD QUESTION is playing. Good Question features Van Duren on lead vox/guitar, and they often play various bars around town (sets usually include a few BIG STAR numbers) Van's 1977 release *Are You Serious?* proved him to be a champion of romanticism and this new song shows he's still in love with love.

